



# THE SPIRIT TRUMPET

IBM Ring 96' Newsletter



Jan 2024

## December Meeting Round-up

On Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> Ring 96 met to hold its annual holiday party. We had a pre-meeting workshop facilitated by Joyce Basch. Joyce taught our members a sponge ball routine. The workshop was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Soon it was time to start the meeting properly. We started off with a magic show put on for our guests. The show went well and lasted just over an hour.

President John Piercy was our emcee for the night and welcomed everyone to our Holiday meeting, and the last meeting of the year.

Our first performer was former Ring President, Paul Case. Paul took three old copies of the "Linking Ring" magazine and linked them. He got some applause and laughs for this sight gag use of our magazine.

Larry "Zeezo" Campbell came to the stage and started out with his famous color changing knives trick. He ends by putting a pocket knife into a volunteer's

hand, and the pocket knife turns out to be Larry's business card.

Larry brought up a young volunteer and did the "Two coin" trick. Coins go into his hand, and into his pocket, but always there are two coins... Until the end when it becomes "no coins" as both have vanished.

Alan Hansen took the stage and began by tearing up a piece of white tissue paper. Then he restored it. Once restored the formerly blank paper no had a Santa Clause image on it. Alan brought out four rubber ducks, each one

### Next meeting:

Jan 20th... 7 pm

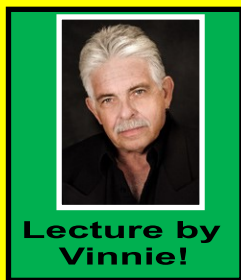
"Lecture by Vinnie"

North Senior Center

3333 Saint Cloud Drive.

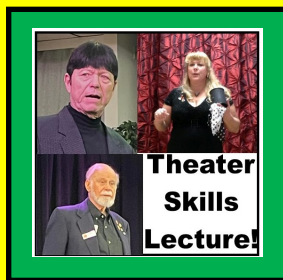
Seal Beach, CA

## Coming Soon to Ring 96



Lecture by Vinnie!

Jan 20th



Theater Skills Lecture!

Feb 17th



Everyday carry

March 16th

being dressed as a different Christmas motif. A volunteer was invited to take two ducks away; she did. Another volunteer was invited to take one duck away. This left one duck. The remaining duck was placed in a large Santa stocking, and vanished. The missing duck was found wrapped in a gift box that had been under a Christmas tree at the far side of the room the entire evening.

Brad Erickson arrives with a coloring book style Santa Clause in a picture frame. He pulled the drawing out of the frame and Santa was fully colored in.

Brad continued by laying out eight bells on the table. He invited up four children and prompted them which bell to ring by tapping them on the shoulder. They ended up playing "Joy to the World" in honor of Christmas.

John Engman called up a young girl and performed the Malini Egg Bag for her. The volunteer proved to be a wonderful assistant.

David Fisher brought up two

youngsters to assist him. He had three different colored bags, and three sets of large plastic jelly beans. He placed the orange jelly beans into the orange bag. Three green ones into the green bag and three blue ones into the blue bag. Magically they had all suddenly changed places so that one of each color was in each bag.

John Piercy closed out the magic show by telling a sad story about a broken candy cane. Luckily he was able to restore it, and then produced an 8-foot-tall candy cane from a very small bag much to the amazement of everyone.

But wait, there's more.

We held our officer elections. This year we will keep all the same officers in place. Next was our prize drawings. The audience was invited to stay or go as they chose, at this point and we ended the evening with our white elephant grab bag.

Another exciting evening at Ring 96



## **New Photo Style...**

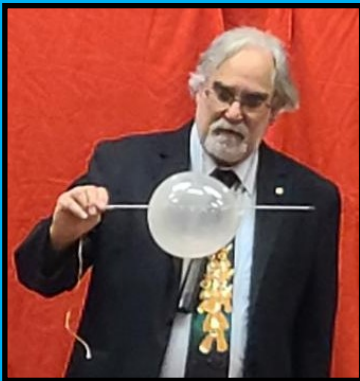
If you look at the next page, the one with 13 photos taken at our last meeting, you may notice something new. We set up a 6' x 6' backdrop behind the performers. We think this looks much better than the large clock, two doors and tired beige paint background that we usually get. Now, we set it up, but did not bother to tell anyone about it, so not all the performers knew where to stand to use it, but even so I think we did pretty well.

The frame and background we used can fit just about any color and style of fabric. This makes me think of someone doing close up magic at a table with a green screen behind that could become any background. Lot's of possibilities here. Think about what you might do.

Also, special thanks to *Denise Hanson and Judy Case* who also contributed photos for our newsletter.







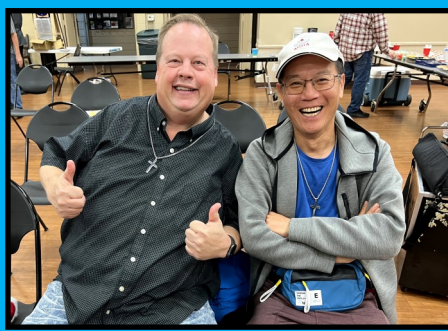
**Holiday  
Party  
2023**





# Holiday Party 2023

## Photo Credit: Denise Hanson





**Welcome new  
member...  
Wayne  
Mitcheltree!**

**Holiday Party 2023**

**Photo Credit: Judy Case**



## **Our Drawing Needs You!**

Would you believe it? We are actually running out of magical objects to use in our drawing. Did I mean the raffle? No, Raffles are illegal in California, and opportunity drawings are legal.

Can you help? Our drawing brings in a major portion of our funds that we use to pay our expenses and our speakers. If you can donate some nice items that would be appreciated. Just bring them to the next meeting.

What should you bring? Magic tricks that are complete and have instructions. Magic based DVD's are nice, though VHS are not so useful anymore. Magic books are fine, although old copies of the Linking Ring are not needed now. Just think about what kind of item you would bid on and like to win, and you will soon know what from your magic drawer to bring to donate. So, you bring yours and I'll bring mine. See you in January!



## **The Power of Video!**

I was performing at the Willmore Elementary School show with the Ring 96 team. I had a specific plan for a specific move that I felt would go well during the end of my set and final bow. From the applause and cheers from the audience, it seemed to me that all went well. At least that is how I felt... Until I saw the video.

It was plain for me to see that I specifically looked in a place I should not have and may have spoiled a surprise for the audience.

I would never have known this had it not been for the video. Remembering the old magician idea that they will look where you look, I now know that I need to practice and rehearse not putting my eyes on the dirty work at one specific point in my routine.

What can you gain from recording yourself, or even practicing in front of a mirror? Perhaps there is much to see and learn, and that fits in well with our goal of improving magic this year.





## Sponge ball Workshop

The pre-meeting workshop featured the world famous Joyce Basch teaching her exciting sponge ball routine. Joyce, who is also known as Ms. Gician, has traveled around the world doing magic, and has performed on all seven continents.

The routine Joyce taught was based on a simple "count to ten" system. Each number is a different move in the sequence, and of course the routine ends with multiple sponge balls in the spectator's hand.

The workshop was well attended and well enjoyed by all.

Next month... Thumb Tips!



## Practicing vs. Rehearsing

by Jon Strum



Among magicians, the terms “practice” and “rehearsal” are often used interchangeably, yet they represent distinct stages in the development of a magical performance. And understanding the difference between these two concepts is crucial to transforming even the simplest trick into a memorable, magical moment that captures the imagination of an audience.

Practice is the ongoing process in which a magician learns and refines the basic skills and techniques required to perform a specific trick. Practice is a solitary activity focused on mastering the fundamental elements of magic, like sleight of hand or learning the mechanics of a new stage illusion. Magicians spend hours practicing these basic skills, developing the *muscle memory* that ensures they can perform them flawlessly and without thought.

For example, a magician learning a card trick will practice shuffling, cutting, and controlling cards. They’ll repeat these actions

thousands of times until they can perform them unconsciously. Practice is about the self-discipline that ultimately leads to truly magical performance.

Rehearsal is about taking the skills honed during practice and integrating them into a complete, polished performance. Rehearsal involves working out timing, scripting, and overall flow of a trick. Rehearsal is the point in the development of a trick when misdirection and audience management are added. Rehearsal includes applying stage craft (to stage, parlor, *and* close-up performances) and making the necessary choices that will create the best possible audience experience. Whether a magician is performing for an audience of one or one thousand; whether that magician is on stage, standing in a living room, sitting at a table, or holding court in the break room at work, spectators will look where the magician looks. When does the magician focus their gaze to the right? When do they look to the left? Where are their hands? When does a magician lean forward at the table?

When do they cross the stage? When do they make direct eye contact and call a spectator by name, forcing them to look up? Each of these simple, subtle actions will have a major impact on the quality of a magical performance. The magician who chooses to ignore making these choices during rehearsal and, instead, waits until they are actually performing a trick is choosing to be lucky instead of good or even great.

It's important to note that practice and rehearsal aren't linear stages; they often overlap. A magician may go back to practicing a specific technique when, during rehearsal, they recognize that a technical aspect of a trick must be changed.

The title of this essay is “Practicing vs Rehearsing”, but that’s a bit misleading. It should be “Practicing *and* Rehearsing” because without incorporating both practice *and* rehearsal into the development of a trick, that magician’s performance will be less compelling, less engaging, less fooling, less entertaining – less magical.





# The new year is here, pay your dues now please.



**Great News!**

**No raise in dues this year!  
\$35 for an individual member  
\$45 for a family membership!**

How to pay your dues...

Hand Jon Strum cash or a check at a Ring meeting

Mailing a check to Jon at 4951 Castana Ave Apt 40, Lakewood, CA 90712

Paying Jon via Venmo -- [jonstrum@gmail.com](mailto:jonstrum@gmail.com)

Paying Jon via Zelle -- [jonstrum@gmail.com](mailto:jonstrum@gmail.com)

Paying Jon via PayPal -- [jon@jonstrum.com](mailto:jon@jonstrum.com)

**Remember: you are not a Ring 96  
member in good standing  
until you have paid your  
dues and joined I.B.M.**

**<https://www.magician.org/join-the-ibm/join>**





# Excelsior!

Excelsior is the Latin word for "higher," or as many might put it, "onward and upward."

The board of Ring 96 is working constantly to improve the Ring in every possible way. One way is "YouTube."

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheSealBeachMagicClub96>

This will take you to a page where there are only a couple of videos... Today. Still, please subscribe to that channel.

Tomorrow? There could be more. Some might even be yours. Did you want your video on YouTube? You can advertise it being there! Share it with your friends etc.

Please get the videos you would like to post up to Cliff, [cliffg37@proton.me](mailto:cliffg37@proton.me) and we will review them for quality (both magic and video) and hopefully post them up for you.

This could be a benefit for you and for the Ring as well. Hopefully, this will work for you.



## Want More Magic?

Ring 313 — Hybrid meeting

<https://www.ring313.org>

Orange County Magic Club

<https://theocmc.com/>

The Hollywood Magic Castle



January Birthday's

Larry "Zeezo" Campbell

Daniel Hurtt

## Quote of the month!

**When people say you can't do it - that it's impossible - never lose hope. Just because they couldn't doesn't mean you can't.**

**- David Copperfield**

### Ring 96 Officers' Contact Info

|                 |                |  |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| President:      | John Piercy    | <a href="mailto:thinkonthis@msn.com">thinkonthis@msn.com</a>             |
| Vice President: | George Reis    | <a href="mailto:Reis@imagingforensics.com">Reis@imagingforensics.com</a> |
| Treasurer:      | Jon Strum      | <a href="mailto:Jonstrum@gmail.com">Jonstrum@gmail.com</a>               |
| Secretary:      | Cliff Gerstman | <a href="mailto:cliffg37@proton.me">cliffg37@proton.me</a>               |
| Sgt. At Arms:   | Judy Case      | <a href="mailto:madmonsterparty@yahoo.com">madmonsterparty@yahoo.com</a> |
| Past President: | Paul Case      | <a href="mailto:madmonsterparty@yahoo.com">madmonsterparty@yahoo.com</a> |
| Member At Large | John Engman    | <a href="mailto:jeng8man@gmail.com">jeng8man@gmail.com</a>               |
| Member At Large | Dan Habel      | <a href="mailto:magicdano@aol.com">magicdano@aol.com</a>                 |
| Member at Large | Paul LaGreek   | <a href="mailto:plml2k@verizon.net">plml2k@verizon.net</a>               |



# January 20th at 7 PM

## A Lecture from Vinnie Marini

### The Godfather of Magic

*"Vinny Marini, the "Godfather" of Magic will make you an offer that you cannot refuse... If you want to see a different point of view and learn some great stuff, take a look at Vinny's work!" - Paul Green*

*"With Vinny, you will see a lecture that is full of new material and great personality. This is one lecture I would highly recommend watching. He is always working and performing, so this should prove his material is audience-tested and very practical. I highly recommend it! This is a lecture you can't refuse." - Sal Piacente*

*"Vinny's life is creating magic for and sharing his skills/ideas with others. You won't be sorry you made contact*

#### **Effects Vinnie is known for and could teach us...**

**G Wave** - An ungimmicked, small packet effect.

**Wild Time Revisited** - A wild card routine inspired by the legendary Shigeo Takagi.

**Ambitious Card and Coin** - Coins and cards find each other in an impossible manner.

**Marini Money Maker** - A sure-fire coin flipping technique.

**Coin Crimping - Multiple coin sleights utilizing the Crimp** - Coin Toss, Put and Take, Retention Vanish, Click Pass, Drop Vanish, Color Changes, Flip Change, Squirt move

**Signed Coin Thru Glass** - A signed coin penetrates through the bottom of a clear glass.

**Scent of a Woman** - Script based on the famous Pacino movie. 3 cards are torn and placed into a bag...the Godfather is blindfolded and divines the selected pieces.

**Bill in Balloon** - \$100 Bill transposition based on an idea by Mark Jenest.

**Arlene the Psychic Elephant** - A spectator is able to find another spectator's selection using some help from Arlene, the Psychic Elephant!

#### **What will Vinnie actually teach us? You will have to come and find out!**

*Vinny has been creating, sharing, and performing magic his entire life. He learned sleight of hand from Bruce Elliot as a teenager in NYC and has been in love with magic ever since. He is the author of multiple DVDs, the inventor of numerous original sleights, and collaborates with magicians from all over the world on his website ([www.vinnymarini.com](http://www.vinnymarini.com)). He performs private shows regularly in the greater Los*



join us for a Ring 96  
**Session of Sessioning**

**Monday, Jan, 29th at 7 pm.**

**Hof's Hut in Seal Beach**

**Just buy dinner at Hof's,  
and bring your cards,  
coins, or other close up magic.**

**Last month we had 6 attendees,  
and we had a great time!**

**See you there!**



**<http://hofshut.com/locations/seal-beach>**

**12489 Seal Beach Blvd.**

**Seal Beach, CA 90740**

**(562) 799-9552**

**On February 17th at 7 PM  
Ring 96 Presents**

# **A Theater Skills Lecture**

**How to stand correctly  
Where to put things  
Parts of the stage  
How to project your voice  
Blocking & coreography  
and more!**

**Presented by...**



**John Engman**



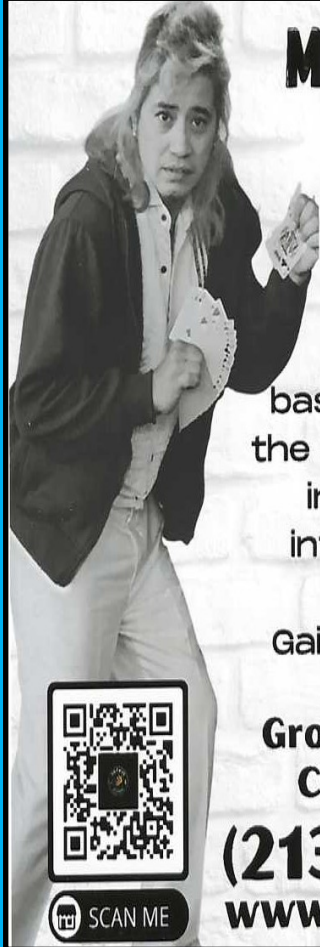
**Kim Hallinger**



**Michael Mezmer**



# Magic around town!



## MAGIC CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS of all ages

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Gain confidence while having fun.

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Classes available**

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SCAN ME



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**<https://www.absolutonbrewingcompany.com/>**

On the first Saturday of the month, multiple magicians from **The Magic Castle** will amaze sud-sippers from 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM with their sleight of hand.

**Magic Thursdays**

**6 - 8 pm**



**560 El Camino Real**  
**Tustin, CA 92780**  
**714-929-7427**



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