



THE SPIRIT TRUMPET

IBM Ring 96' Newsletter



November 2020

October Meeting Round-up

On October 17th Ring 96 held our annual Halloween meeting. Usually we would call this a "Night of weird magic and mentalism." Due to the quarantine, we went in a different direction. We had Dennis Forel come to give us a lecture. Dennis has earned a living from balloon art for 45 years working at amusement parks, and primarily the county fair circuit. He is also the author of a book and video on the subject. Dennis calls

himself the master of the "single" balloon. By doing single balloon animals instead of multiple balloons, he saves both time and money. He also describes himself as an entertainer more than a balloon artist. He tells interesting stories as he twists the balloons to keep the crowd enthralled.

Dennis opened by creating a poodle. He explained that a poodle is a credential. Everyone expects a poodle from a balloon artist and so they get one. After that, they know he has his chops and will be more attentive

to what he is doing. That is why he always starts show with that simple twist.

The second animal was a giraffe with a small balloon ball inside. Dennis told a story of how giraffes eat leading to an apple swallowed whole. The story is not true, but it is very entertaining.

Dennis spoke about "The silent act," where a performer uses music for patter, and for timing as well. He uses his story telling for timing as he makes the animals. Dennis felt he was not funny, but interesting. He feels that audiences watch him because he is interesting. →

Next meeting

Nov 21st

"Jeff McBride"

Online:

Via "Zoom"

Coming Soon to Ring 96



Nov 21st



Dec 19th



Jan 16th

(Note: At times, we found his dry humor very funny)

Dennis made a mouse, because people like it and thought it was cute.

Dennis felt he succeeded when he worked in Japan as his work was in line with the Japanese ideas of caricature and origami.

Next came a snail. He pointed out that there are certain animals he can make that are known by specific characteristics. As long as those characteristics are met, the audience will accept the finished product. The snail has a protruding head and a spiral shell.

A squirrel has a short head, short legs and a long tail. Dennis made two different versions, one holding an acorn.

He told us a bogus story about a friend living in the Arctic Circle as he made a penguin. Penguins are in Antarctica.

Next came a short history of the balloon, including its

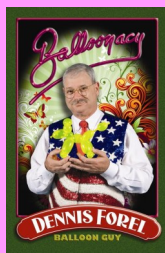
invention by the famous physicist Michael Faraday. When the process of vulcanizing rubber was invented, the balloon industry really benefitted. Balloon twisting pretty much started in the early 1960's

Next came a fascinating story about the difference between failing and making a mistake. In his quest for a frog, he made a turtle, a hippopotamus and a fish. He uses this story in library shows as an inspiration for young people.

Dennis shared his story of how he auditioned and earned membership at the Hollywood Magic Castle as a balloon twister.

He showed us how to make a snake and a dinosaur.

Dennis addressed how he blows up balloons by pure lungpower and does not need a pump. It comes from the diaphragm. He shared his five rules for blowing up balloons.



Welcome our newest member, Phillip Henderson.

and does not need a pump. It comes from the diaphragm. He shared his five rules for blowing up balloons.

Dennis touted Gayla Industries, a company that makes balloons out of Houston Texas. They have 144 balloons in a bag, rather than 100, which is more standard, and they sell by the case as well.

Dennis says he uses about 14,400 balloons in a normal year.

At the end of the lecture, there was a strong interest in Dennis coming back after the quarantine, to lead a workshop in balloon twisting.

Another great night at Ring 96.



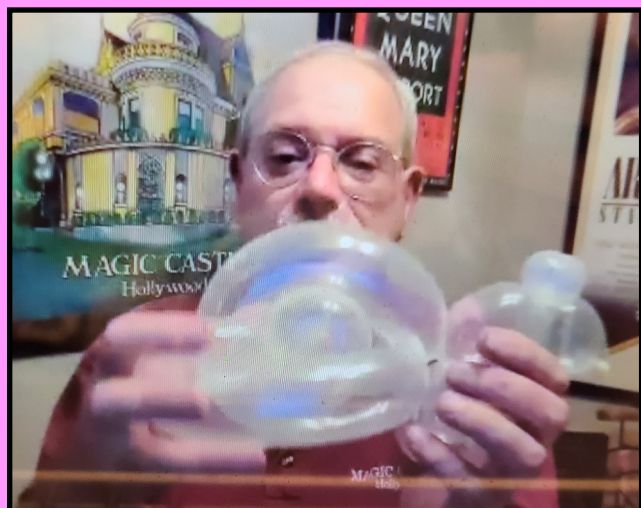
Victor Cohn Estate

If you go to the Ring 96 website, specifically to the newsletters page, you will find not only links to past newsletters, but also links to the listings of Victor's magical estate. Check it out.

<http://www.ring96.com/newsletters>

"First rate magicians perform first rate magic effects, second rate magicians perform third rate magic effects." – Amit Kalantri

Lecture by Dennis Forel!



Coming in November



Jeff McBride

