



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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Classic Magic

Happy New Year to all! Coming up at our January meeting will be our Classic Magic night. We want to see what classics all our ring members have! Linking rings, doves, illusions, cups and balls, rope routines, you name it. Anything you think is "Classic" will apply. The only rule is, NO CARD TRICKS! Yes, we know that there are hundreds of "classic card tricks", but for this one night only, please be prepared to present your classic non-card tricks. If you are interested in performing, please contact Syd at bt16380@aol.com. Thank you!

— Syd Segal

Editors Note: If you absolutely insist upon doing a card trick, a presidential dispensation can be obtained from Derek Ostovani.

Another "Finger Lickin' Good" Extravaganza!

Our December meeting was our annual Holiday Banquet. This year's banquet was a potluck dinner, with entertainment provided by Kevin Viner. The doors opened at 5:30, and by 6 o'clock, our meeting hall was filled with more than 80 Ring members eagerly eyeing a spectacular buffet. Mago Ruly and his family provided festive seasonal music and singing in both Spanish and English.

The feast began at 6:30, and included the traditional turkey and roast beef, provided by members Richard Ustick and Terry Lunceford. We are again indebted to: Richard Ustick for coordinating who-brought-what, and for bringing the servicing supplies; Syd Segal for arranging the entertainment, and Bob Meigs for providing beverages and making coffee.

Near the end of the meal, Belinda Kaesler, Derek Ostovani, and Sal Barajas conducted a raffle with numerous magical prizes. And the prizes were numerous! Thanks to an anonymous donor, there were enough prizes for all!

Kevin Viner provided an entertaining blend of mentalism and comedy, including a very entertaining approach to Magic Squares. Thank you, Kevin, for a great show!

And thanks to all the members of Ring 76 who have made 2012 a very entertaining year, and a very Happy New Year to you all.

— Bob Meigs

Close-up Contest!

Next month, February, is our annual close-up contest. The caliber of last year's entries was exceptional and we are looking forward to seeing some great magic this year as well.

This year's edition will see a change in the judging procedures. Each performer's score will be composite of voting by the membership and scoring by a panel of judges. The judges will be reviewing each performer on such areas as technical skill, showmanship, and originality.



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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER — EDITOR@RING76.COM



President's Message

Welcome to 2013 and Happy New Year to you all!!! Hope you all had a wonderful end of the year filled with friends, families, and loved ones. I'm sure some of you went away on vacation, hopefully you all were safe and came back with a hunger to do some great Magic! So we had a GREAT year so far at the Ring and everybody has done terrific in participating and performing at the meetings lets keep that up! And I think it is safe to say we all had a terrific time at the Banquet, thank you to our performer Kevin Viner as well as our anonymous member who donated over 75 wrapped gifts!!!! It was fantastic to see both new and old faces!



So this will be the 1st months meeting of the New Year and we have our classic theme, Classic Magic! So come prepared to do some great card, ball, and dove manipulation!!! Ok, just kidding this can be open to your interpretation of what Classic Magic is. We encourage no cards. but as always ALL magic is welcome! In addition, this month, we also have our swearing-in ceremony to celebrate all our new members who have joined Ring 76! Lets all work together and make them feel really welcome and part of our club!

Moreover, coming up in February will be our annual Close-up Contest! So bring your greatest bits of Magic, presentation, and style, it should be a great competition!!!

The last thing I wanted to mention was, yours truly, will be putting on a Dinner Parlor Show on Friday February 8th at Solare Ristorante in Point Loma. Tickets (price is undetermined) will include the show and a wonderful 2 course Italian Dinner. If you haven't been there before, the food is exquisite!!! The address is: 2820 Roosevelt Road San Diego, CA 92106 for more information, you can contact me at: 619.813.0539 See you all at the January Ring Meeting!

DEREK OSTOVANI

The board is working to finalize these changes and publish them in the Ring 76 Contest Rules and Procedures. The updated Rules will posted on the Ring 76 website as soon as they are complete.

If you are interested in competing, please contact our VP of Entertainment, Syd Segal by February 4th.

— James Thayer

Review: Levent's Ultimate Guide to the Billiard Balls

Reviewed by Larry Samuels

Levent Cimkentli is a present-day magician who has produced some DVD sets covering the classic effects of magic: the Linking Rings, the Miser's Dream, and (the subject of this review) the Multiplying Billiard Balls.

In brief: the 3-DVD set, Levent's Ultimate Guide to the Billiard Balls is an excellent learning resource.

He thoroughly covers many areas:

The Materials: the types and sizes of billiard balls - real billiard balls, wood, silicon rubber (Fakini brand), metal, etc.

The Machinery: the tools for working with billiard balls - clothing, holders, shells, droppers, and many more. He even explains how to make some of these items on the final DVD. You'll also see some equipment used in other manipulations - silks, candles, cigarettes(!).

As required during later routines, he even explains some stage items used to store or conceal balls (tables, hats, buckets, etc.). He often discusses items he's invented to facilitate removing items from where they're being stored without fumbling or hangups as an item is pulled from, say, a pocket or other location.

The Moves: Levent covers palming a billiard ball, ball productions and vanishes, color changes, flourishes, changeovers, and shell/double shell moves. The shell

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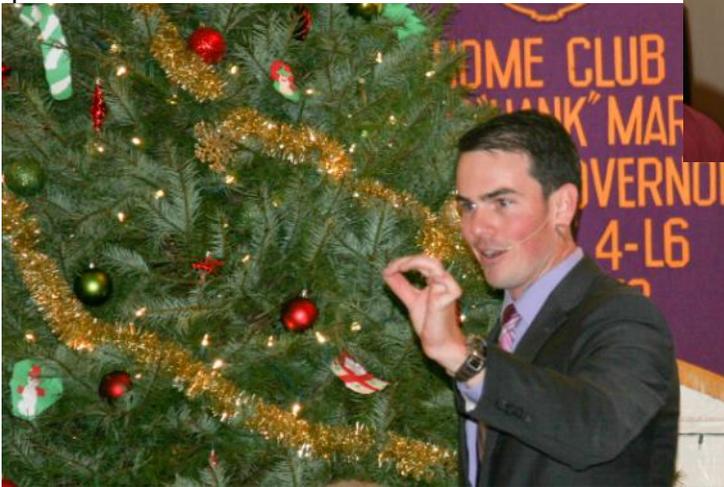
Photos from the December Meeting



Pre-Dinner Entertainment



Belinda Kaesler and Derek Ostovani



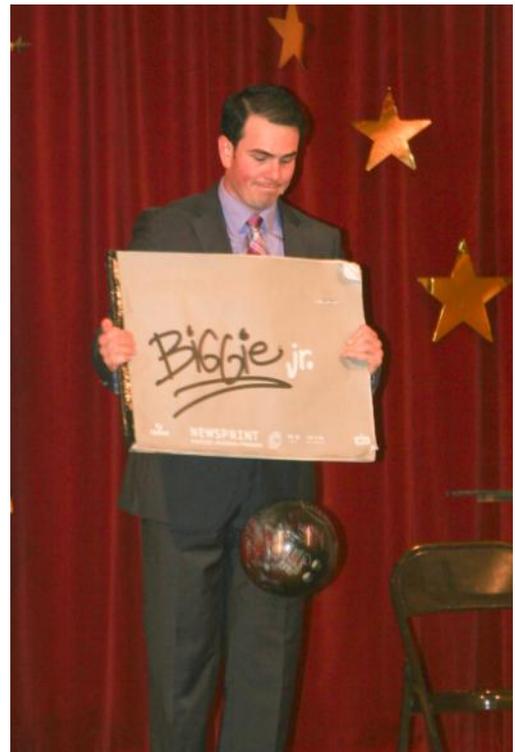
Kevin Viner



Photos from the December Meeting



More of Kevin Viner



Dr. Moskowitz Predicts that you will like this book

*“Impromptu Mentalism” by Dr.
James Jones
Reviewed December 28, 2012*

The title of this book is not deceptive. It doesn't suggest that you will learn/see the secrets of those great luminaries: Max Maven, Eugene Burger, and Banachek naked! The ridiculous notion that to be truly impromptu would mean that it is an effect that is 'anytime, anywhere, even when 'totally naked'. Neither does your audience have to be 'in the all together' but the effect on the audience is what you are looking for. Properly performed the audience is led to believe that your marvelous wonderments have spontaneously happened (not that your pockets are stuffed with gaffs).

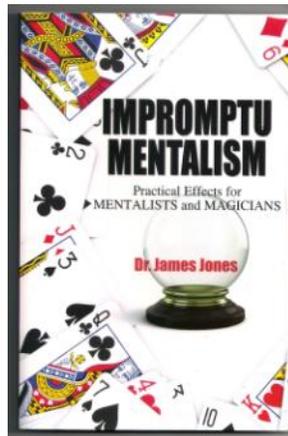
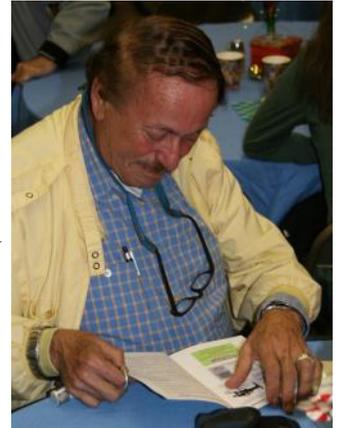
The word 'impromptu' is defined as suggesting, for example: the speech was done without prior preparation to the unexpected crowds; an impromptu dinner which was hastily prepared; and in the 19th century - a character piece, commonly as played by a violin or piano virtuoso, described as being impromptu.

With respect, some women are the masters of illusion and seem to be prepared without preparation. My wife, who doesn't really need it, has a myriad of lipsticks, skin creams, powder puffs, etc etc etc in her purse. She hardly uses any but 'you will never know when you need' is her and other women's motto. The 'impromptu' mentalist, if male, will have his pockets bulging with pads, pk pens, envelopes and decks and what other paraphernalia, he just 'happens to have on him' when asked to 'do something'.

“Impromptu effects” are often described as those that can be performed at any time or place without any preparation. If taken literally, such a definition results in an impossible problem, for the very process of learning impromptu effects and techniques obviously constitutes “preparation.” Lack of any prior

preparation, therefore, is not a requirement for “impromptu” performance.

Another restriction often imposed on so-called impromptu effects is that they must not involve any special props or articles not normally found in an impromptu environment. While there are theorists mostly amateurs who insist that impromptu effects are those that could be performed naked on a desert isle we often overlook those things that CAN be found almost anywhere.



Pens, pencils, paper, currency, coins, credit cards, cell phones, and reading material are, as you can see, among the innumerable items that can be found anywhere. (Except, of course, on the proverbial desert island a place that you are unlikely to be concerned with performing magic tricks and mentalism anyway.)

As to “special props” carried by the performer the artificial restriction often applied in definitions of “impromptu” overlooks two fundamental facts about professional mentalism and magic:

In public, a professional performer is always ON ever ready expecting to be called on to do their miracles. Performing seemingly sans preparation is truly marvelous and is a reputation builder. The venue either stage, strolling, and casual makes certain demands on the mentalist. Strolling options may be narrowed; some onlookers will stalk the performer and see what amazed one table is repeated at another. Hence prepared.

Ad libbing is a talent and being comfortable with your persona will enable some to spice their stage performance with sequential variations or substitutions

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(James L. Clark — Continued from page 5)

of effects. The script must be flexible and laced with patter. A First Aid Plan will do if, perchance, you are mugged and the rotter has taken all of your 'essential' props - can you do with items 'borrowed' from audience members i.e. pads, pencils, cell phones. That truly is impromptu mentalist's Boy Scout slogan "Seem to be Impromptu but Be Prepared".

If you are to be given credence as a person who is able to perform mental miracles, you must be ever ready. You wouldn't have to 'prepare'. How is the would be mentalist seem extemporaneous consistent with the facility of mental wizardry.

As a member of P.E.A. (Psychic Entertainers Association), I was aware of the ongoing dispute between those who thought it best to announce that they were only an actor who sought to entertain by the brain busters effects vs those who preferred their public image as a 'mystic'. The ethics of mentalists demands that the mentalist won't take advantage of gullible citizens. History tells of Erik Jan Hanussen who allegedly influenced Adolph Hitler. The names of Cagliastro and Rasputin who pulled the wool over great rulers - proving that seemingly having be mesmerized by mental wonders - is a vulnerability of humans, no matter what your station in life is.

Dr. Jones, himself a healer, wrote "Impromptu Mentalism" a comprehensive survey of mental magic in all of its dimensions. It is lucid. The author's purpose is clearly to be able to entertain with the mind.

With the theme "You never get a second chance to make a first impression", Dr Jones promises to the reader that he will offer a selection/repertoire sans memorization and no knuckle bending sleights that the student will be able to present a 15-20 minute performance.

Dr. Jones gives his 'Pre-Talk' His recommendations include noting the ambience, the audience, assessing willing spectators, avoiding the 'lubricated' and 'contentious' (he counsels declaring that he doesn't 'know' (stooge) any... He represents that he is just

'gifted' with a capacity of extra-sensory perception but not infallible. Selecting volunteers; dealing with hecklers and NEVER lose your temper.

Some purists will never use playing cards in mentalism lest they be declared 'magicians'. Consistent with his pledge to be 'impromptu' he eschews decks which have been pre-arranged; shuns flourishes which scream 'this is just another trickster'. Pages from eleven to forty-four contain various Mentalism effects using a deck of unprepared cards.

"1089" and "18" will remind knowledgeable mentalism aficionados of Equivoque and magicians choice. Several representative effects are offered.

This book would not be complete without a sampling of 'Book Tests'. A chapter devoted to "What is with this animals from Denmark" is resplendent with variations of this familiar theme. Methods e.g. 'One Ahead' and 'Math' (including magic squares) principles samples are offered. Almost at the center of the book, the author dares to expound on 'The Center Tear'.

Dr. Jones is a fine teacher. He concludes his informative book with Section Ten devoted to routining and other sites for further study. This book is for the beginner and the seasoned enthusiast for mentalism.

Dr. Moskowitz recommends this book Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5)

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technique portion includes some excellent moves for showing both sides of the hands and balls in a convincing fashion. The section on double-shell technique includes some diabolically ingenious ideas dating back to "Greater Magic" (and likely before that).

The Memories: a discussion of the history of billiard ball manipulation. This section traces the development of ball/shell effects from its beginnings in the well-known Ball in Vase (a staple of beginner's

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(Levant— Continued from page 6)

magic kits), through various ball productions/ vanishes using shells, to the standard multiplying billiard ball effect. Along the way, Levent mentions some fascinating pieces of information he's dug up concerning the origin(s) of effects and techniques.

The Magicians: in this fascinating portion, Levent recreates the billiard ball manipulation of some celebrated performers: Roy Benson, Ade Duval, Richard Ross, Paul Potassy, and Cardini. Levent explains one of his own routines and presents a performance clip and explanation of his present stage routine as well.

Levent presents some of the historic routines in the guise of the actual magician(s). While performing the Cardini manipulations, he wears a set of tails, complete with monocle(!) - you even get a short segment on "monocle technique" during the Cardini routine explanation. While performing the Roy Benson cigarette and ball routine (in black-and-white video, mimicking TV of the time), he uses the actual audio track of Benson's performance, with the original music and dialog; Levent's actions are synchronized with the old audio track. (Levent and Todd Karr wrote a book about Roy Benson, "Roy Benson by Starlight").

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman

If Life Hands You

a



FRIEDMAN Whiting



Do a Trick!

Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar

Jan.	14	Classic Magic (no card tricks)*
Feb.	11	Close-Up Competition*
Mar.	11	Swap Meet
Apr.	8	Teach-A-Trick Night
May	13	Stand Up Competition*
June	10	Money Magic*
July	TBD	Installation Banquet
Aug	12	TBD*

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

For the recreation of routines, Levent typically presents a performance by himself, followed by an explanation of the equipment needed (both seen and unseen by the audience), distribution of items in pockets and props, and a step-by-step explanation of the manipulations in the routine.

In his recreation of historic routines, in addition to performing and explaining the routines, Levent also does a absorbing job of discussing the history and background of these performers. All through the DVD, there are references to older performers (for instance, De Kolta, T. Nelson Downs, and many others), and to books/videos relating to billiard ball manipulation and performances.

Another important point: Levent has formulated what he calls "Levent's Fundamental Rules of Stage Magic", 10 rules to govern secret movements on stage. He mentions some of the rules during the course of these DVDs, illustrating their point with portions of the routine he's doing. For instance, once of his rules is "The simplest way to steal and palm an object is under the guise of picking up a visible object at the fingertips." Again and again, he sets up his props in this way, so that instead of going for a secret load with a hidden hand, he can pick up a required load while ostensibly picking up something else. And the "something else" will act a bit like a magic wand does, to mask the fact there's something hidden in the hand.

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Levent is nice enough to post these rules on his website at:

http://bob.machighway.com/~leventma/LeventMagic/English_Rules.html

I believe he discusses these rules at greater length in his other works; on this DVD set, they're mentioned only in passing, during the explanation of other routines.

The DVD set is well-produced; for most of the explanatory portions, Levent simply stands in front of the stationary camera and moves as needed to show various aspects. (Levent documented the events of the day-to-day video recording in a series of Magic Cafe posts.). There is minimal, non-obtrusive music, composed by Levent himself. Levent is personable and clear in his explanations. He often demonstrates things from multiple sides and angles, to be sure that things are clearly explained.

There's a cute moment during the Benson routine explanation where, while trying to juggle cigarettes, balls, and explanations, Levent accidentally says (while putting the cigarette back between his lips), "and the billiard ball goes back into the mouth ..." That might make an interesting effect! Levent does show a vanish, later in the DVD, which pretends to put a billiard ball into his mouth, but it's just pantomime, of course.

One minor criticism concerning DVD navigation: you can either choose "Play All" or "Scene Selection" to navigate through the DVDs, but the "Scene Selection" takes you to a series of menus which you have to work your way through to get to something at the end of the DVD. A more concise scene selection menu would have been better.

Levent's Ultimate Guide to the Billiard Balls is for sale on his website, <http://www.leventmagic.com/>.

There is a more thorough breakdown of the contents and running times there, as well.

Conclusion: I highly recommend this DVD set. I found the explanations clear and useful, and learned a lot about billiard ball manipulation and routines.

Be sure to stay and watch after the end credits! Levent appears again to show how to make some of the ball-holders he uses from wire, tape, etc. in an extended and humorous sequence.

— *Larry Samuels*

Magic Notes

Peg Marcus appeared in an article in the San Diego Union-Tribune on January 3rd, 2013. The article, entitled "Great-granny, student body president: If I did it, so can you" is an inspiring tale of changing "You can't." into "You can!" It's a story that we can all learn from. The full article can be found on the web at:

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/jan/03/baby-boomer-back-to-school-success-story/?page=1#article>

