



the charles howard ring

# VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS RING 92

Affiliated with the  
PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS

## February General Meeting—Sat Feb 28th Annual Installation Banquet

The next meeting of IBM RING #92, The VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE, takes place on Saturday February 28th, 2009 at the Best Western Sands Hotel in Vancouver (1755 Davie Street). It is our annual Installation Banquet, club group photo, & comedy night. Doors open at 5:30pm for cocktails and socializing, and at 6:15 pm a buffet dinner in honour of our newly elected executive will be served in the Pacific Ballroom.

### 2009 Elected Executive

**President:** Gord Boyes (returning for a second term)

**1st Vice President:** Bruce Hunt (last years 2nd VP)

**2nd Vice President:** Neil Kremer

**Treasurer:** David Wilson (returning for his.. Ummm.. 19th term??)

**Secretary:** Karen Eskilson (is that 4 years in a row?)

**Sergeant at Arms:** Denzil Bee (returning for a second term)

Dinner price is \$25 per adult and \$15 per child (aged 12 and under), which includes all taxes and gratuity, with cheques made out to the Sands Hotel. If you would like to attend the dinner portion of the evening, please RSVP to Karen Eskilson (604-255-9946).

Those who wish to join us after dinner (at no charge), are welcome to do so at 7:30pm. Award presentations for the year 2008 will be handed out, followed by the installation of our newly elected executive officers. This will be followed by our annual club photo and **all members are encouraged to attend for this photo.**

After that it's time for some laughs with the annual competitions for the Cecil Ackery Comedy trophy for adults and the Rick Honey Comedy trophy for junior members, emceed by last years winner Mike Norden. If you would like to enter either of these contests, please contact our Competition Chair, Bruce Hunt, at least 24 hours in advance.

Remember, the hotel always offers great rates to our members on these evenings so, if you would like to stay, be sure to mention that you're a part of our group.



2008 Vancouver Magic Circle Club Photo

### The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:  
February 2009

### Membership Dues



Membership dues cover the period from January 1st to December 31st each year. If your membership dues became due at the beginning of the year, please bring payment to the next meeting or mail it in.

Also, don't forget that there's a discount if you pay for 3 years at once.

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**If we all did the things  
we are capable of doing,  
we would literally  
astound ourselves.**

~ Thomas Alva Edison

## January in Review

Submitted by Munro Mackenzie

The January General Meeting is the most important meeting of the year — the election of officers to lead our club through these trying times.

The workshop lead by Gary Savard was "Stage Fright — the causes and solutions". There was a ton of advice given by magicians who have had to cope with the problem, so it was a very interesting and helpful discussion.



An interesting article about the causes and solutions to overcome stage fright entitled "Stage Fright 101" can be found here..

[www.janisian.com/articles-perfsong/StageFright.pdf](http://www.janisian.com/articles-perfsong/StageFright.pdf)

The above mentioned article was written by Janis Ian, a successful musical performer for the past 4 decades.

After the workshop it was time for the business meeting, at the end of which the nomination Chairperson took over and called for nominations for office. The results were as follows:

**President** — Gord Boyes - Gord.Boyes@magiccanada.ca

**1st V.P.** — Bruce Hunt—magicguy@shaw.ca

**2nd V.P.** — Neil Kremer—neil@neilkremer.com

**Secretary** — Karen Eskilson—rubyclown@yahoo.ca

**Treasurer** — David Wilson—davidwilsonvmc@hotmail.com

**Sgt. at Arms** — Denzil Bee—murduck@gmail.com

If you ever want to query how we do it ,these are the people to ask.

Then it was time for new magicians to successfully do their three tricks in applying for membership. The order of performance was:

1. Cyrus Jordan - a junior-always looks as if he is enjoying himself-a trait he gets from his Grandpa, Jack Bastow, a veteran member.



(Continued on page 3)

Thanks to John Smithman and Rod Chow, we have some pictures to share. If you take pictures at any meetings or events, be sure to send them to us! (and check out <http://www.champions.ca/vmc.html>)

(Continued from page 2)

2. Brianna Carlson – a junior-did her three with rope.



3. Rosalyn Chan – did a card and 2 coin effects.



4. Ed.Goldberg – did 3 card effects.



5. Bryn Williams – that Welsh name again, did cards with help from Jesse Boyes and Mike Norden.



6. Andrew Musgrave – did a nice variety of cards and coin.



7. Jonathan Hamilton – just up from Junior, amazed with cards.



8. Steve Dickson – also shone with cards.



Congratulations and welcome to all our new members!!

After this amazing display of talent we had our 50/50 draw for \$65.50 which was won by Denzil Bee. She graciously donated it back to the club.

Now it was time for ALL juniors and guests to leave the building as our new members went through our secret initiation ceremony.

# X-ellent Lecture Series Review – Paul Gertner

Submitted by Bruce Hunt

On Friday, February 13th, approximately 40 VMC members and guests gathered at Douglas College to see a lecture by the "Pittsburgh Practitioner", Paul Gertner.

Paul started out with a 15 minute show to give us an idea of why he is one of the premier trade show magicians in North America. He entertained us with some very commercial routines that included using "marked" cards (actually called "Unshuffled" using several Faro shuffles), a bill in lemon routine, and a great cups and balls routine using steel ball bearings instead of the usual knitted balls!



Paul Gertner

A good amount of what he showed us in the beginning, plus much much more (except for the cups and balls!), was included in his lecture called "Original Instructions Not Included". Although most of the effects relied on existing effects already on the market, Paul's handling and presentation brought a fresh perspective to those tricks. "Digital Dreams" used Masuda's "Wow" in a different way that most of us who are already familiar with the trick would not have thought of. "Firecracker" was a fast paced Magician's force with a surprising deck vanish. "His and Hers" utilized a simple card effect with a twist, using rest room signs. Then, Paul showed us the workings of his very entertaining "Bill in Lemon" routine

and closed the first half with his original card tricks, "Heartbreaker" and "Bite Me". These last two were available (along with "Unshuffled" and his lecture series on DVD) at the sales table during the break. I helped Paul at the sales table and must say that judging by the amount of transactions that took place, a lot of those in attendance must have been suitably impressed!

After the usual draw (and a bonus draw), then the V.M.C. presentation of goodies to Paul, we all sat down for the second half. Paul went on



Paul Gertner

Gord Boyes

to show us the "Bluff Aces" - where the aces change right under the spectators nose, and another effect (Photo Cell) which again relied on the genius of Masuda. The

"Airplane Prediction" used the tossed-out-deck principle, and "Thinking Outside the Box" showed how to think differently using a drawing pad and a well known puzzle. Paul showed us his routine with the well known Pom-Pom Wand and finally, as an appropriate closer for the lecture, the "Trade Show Closer" which showed his handling of the old 3 1/2 of spades trick.

All in all I must say that even though I am not a card guy, I really enjoyed myself. Paul's easy manner and obvious expertise managed to keep all of us thoroughly entertained, and taught a few new twists on some of those things that may be collecting dust in our magic closets. Unfortunately Paul had an early drive to Seattle the next morning so he could not join the members for the traditional Boston Pizza gab fest afterwards. With his apologies, Paul bade us farewell as we went our separate ways into the night, a good time had by all.

Three thumbs up!



Glen LaBarre

## Presidents Message

It's been a pleasure to serve as President of the Vancouver Magic Circle for the past year, and I look forward to another year of fun in the next 12 months. This article will be devoted to Kramiens Magic Jamboree, an annual event each spring that has brought me many great memories of meeting magical stars and getting to know members of our club so much better. I invite all of you to talk to me about how you can join a group of us that carpool, share rooms, and just generally have a great time together.

For those of you who don't know, this get-together is held each spring in Newberg, Oregon at the Big Top Ranch. Our host is Stan Kramien, who began his career in magic at the age of fourteen. Stan has appeared on TV shows with the likes of Johnny Carson, Jay Leno, and David Letterman (who he sawed in half). As a result of the years dedicated to his craft, he was awarded the 2000 Lifetime Achievement Fellowship by the Academy of Magical Arts. In addition to performing in venues as diverse as school gyms and army camps, he spent three and a half decades touring internationally with enormous magic shows. In 2006 Stan was inducted as a Life Member of the Vancouver Magic Circle.



The 2009 Magic Jamboree will be held on May 15 and 16. The registration fee includes tons of entertainment with a variety of shows and competitions, dealer exhibits, magic auction (you're encouraged to bring items you'd like to sell), and refreshments and meals!

The talent lineup for 2009 includes:

### Gene Anderson

Gene Anderson has performed his newspaper act in 21 countries on 6 continents.

At the Magic Jamboree he'll pull out all the stops and add to that his favorite 'real people' routines that have never before been seen at any magic convention, ever!



### Amos Levkovitch

The Magic Castle's "Stage Magician of the Year" - this Los Angeles magician has won some of the most prestigious awards in the magic industry.



Levkovitch's performing experiences have taken him throughout the world playing in theatres, nightclubs, on television, and Las Vegas major casinos - and you'll have a first-rate seat for his show.

### David Charvet

Since 1974, David Charvet has magically entertained millions of people, including Fortune 500 businesses, audiences on luxury cruise ships, in theaters, clubs and on network television in the U.S. and Japan. Charvet is also a noted magic author and historian. On stage, he brings the classic of the art to life. This year - LIVE and ON STAGE at the Magic Jamboree - thrill to his presentation of Stoppard's 1936 Houdini Award original, "The Phantom Ray" and a complete reenactment of "Dante's Beer Keg Illusion".



### Rhys Thomas

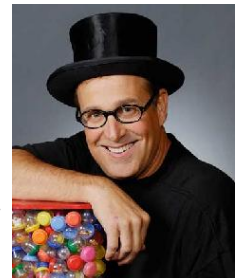


Since 1987, audiences on three continents have applauded the hilarity and dexterity of Rhys Thomas. Combining the quick wit of stand-up comedy with the dexterous feats of the circus, Rhys creates amazing performances for regional theatres, national corporate events, and international festivals. Rhys brings his best to the Magic Jamboree!

### Stephen Bargatze

He's an internationally acclaimed comedian and motivational speaker with over 25 years experience. His genuine personality endears him to any audience - especially you!

And, when he and Magic Jamboree headliner Gene Anderson get together - get ready for a side-splitting laugh-fest!



### Louie Foxx



Louie is a 30-year-old that never grew up - and you can tell he didn't grow up from his magic shows. His dream since he was five years old was to be a magician and Louie is living that dream!

The Society of American Magicians voted Louie The Best Stage Magician and Best Close Up Magician in Minnesota in 1996.

He also took 2nd place in the Seattle Cabaret Contest, and has been a finalist in the Seattle Giggle's Comedy Club Laff-Off. Louie has also written several books about magic tricks for professional magicians, one of which has sold over 2,300 copies!

For more info.. [www.magicjamboree.com](http://www.magicjamboree.com)

## What do we call this guy?

To some he's Zany Zack—kidshow performer, to some he's Tony Chris—magician and magic creator, and to some he's Tony Kazoleas, friend and fellow VMC member. Since I can't spell, much less pronounce, Kazoleas, I'll call him Zany Zack.

Whatever you call him, there's been a great deal of chatter and positive feedback in online forums about his latest release. Actually, it's not something he's just created, it's something he's been performing for over 10 years but has recently released to the magic community.

Some of the quotes I found...

**Amazing - production values are top notch - principle is so simple and the possibilities are so enormous - impressive work - the concept is a workers dream**

You can get more details about his latest release, as well as several of his other releases on his website.....

[www.tonychrismagic.com](http://www.tonychrismagic.com)



## X-ellent Lecture Series

The next installment of the X-ellent lecture series features guest lecturer Levent on May 1st at Douglas College in New Westminister (700 Royal Avenue, Room 2203). As always, cost for members in advance is \$20, or \$25 at the door. Cost for non-members is \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Junior members are free!

Levent performs stage magic and madness, sleight of hand and wacky comic audience participation.

A rare magic lecture by Levent is an event not to be missed. After he presented his lecture on May 9, 2008 at the Denny & Lee Magic Studio in Baltimore, the respected Magician and Magic Dealer Denny Haney commented:

"One of the most exciting and entertaining lectures I have seen in over twenty years...If you want to know what it takes to perform, create, invent, troubleshoot, and perfect an act then this is one not to be missed...It's hard to believe that one man can know sooo much... A priceless lecture!" -**Denny Haney**

When Levent lectured at MAGIC LIVE 2004 in Las Vegas, Genii Magazine reported:

"Levent's presentation was captivating. Smoothly integrating live performance with supplementary multimedia...Levent commanded the attendees attention and educated everyone on magic, comedy and showmanship...Another important component of the lecture was a list of rules for onstage sleight-of-hand. This lecture was the best of the convention. It set a high bar which no other performance or interview even approached." -**Magic Magazine**

In his lecture, Levent, a professional Comedy Magician and Manipulator with over 25 years of experience, and the author of the critically acclaimed magic book "Roy Benson By Starlight", will explain his "Fundamental Rules of Stage Magic".

These fundamental rules will be demonstrated by Levent as he teaches stage magic tricks such as Charlie Miller's Three Rope Trick as well as several routines from his own professional act (including his Impromptu Diminishing Cards, Surprise Color Changing Silks, Long Pour Salt Trick, The Roto-Riser Deck, Any Card Called For From Mouth and his masterpiece Miser's Dream routine).

By completely following these simple rules, you will be able to take your magic to the next level.

As a bonus, in the second part of his lecture, Levent will also teach the secrets of Roy Benson's legendary Six Billiard Ball routine.

Following the lecture, you will have the opportunity to purchase Levent's various magic effects and instructional DVDs. Many of these items are only available at the lecture.

So come to be amazed, amused and educated by the master of stage magic and sleight of hand: Levent.

On the X-ellent Lecture Series...

# Levent

Superb Stage Magic and Manipulation

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By completely following these simple rules, you will be able to take your magic to the next level. For more information, please visit [www.LeventMagic.com](http://www.LeventMagic.com)

**Coming May 1st, 2009**

# Tidbits

submitted by various members

Ray Roch and his wife Pat were recently in Vegas celebrating their silver wedding anniversary. They attended the Lance Burton show and visited with him a bit after. They also ran into one of our other members in one of the casinos. Murray is performing in Mexico and came back to Vegas to be sworn in as an American citizen.



\*\*\*\*\*

At the 2009 Chinese New Year Celebration at the International Village in Chinatown, on Feb 1st., the Chow Family Magic Show was the most talked about among all the performances.

For over half an hour they took spectators "Breath away" with their interdisciplinary Performances of "Magic with Dance and Kung Fu like moves".

\*\*\*\*\*

On Feb. 7th, at the Surrey Central Plaza, the "Surrey Winter Festival" was held. Among the celebrity performers, there he was, our Ring 92's Clinton Gray.

From some of the previous Dance and other performances I could see that the crowd was one of the difficult ones to please, as I did not hear or see many people applauding.

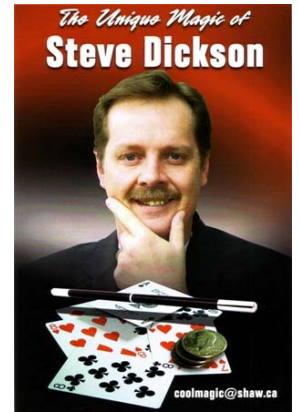
However, when Magician Clinton got on Stage, with his usual charm and his hoola hoop linking Rings and Straight Jacket Escape acts, he overwhelmed the crowd of a few hundred.

What a Magical Minutes its was...



There really is only one word to describe our very own Steve Dickson - MAGIC!

In the relatively short time I've been acquainted with Steve, he's managed to captivate me with his unique character. I've found myself at a dinner table watching him grasp the imagination of the guests. He is suave, debonair, and very polite. You'll find yourself believing ANYTHING he says. His smooth moves and personality are skilfully woven to create spectacular and memorable magic.



Steve will be magically appearing at the Boston Pizza in Mission every Sunday from 5 to 7:30 pm. As Steve himself puts it, "Friendly faces always welcome - stop by and see me and bring your victims - I mean friends!"

So please join me in going to see him and stealing his moves - I mean, in showing support for our fellow magician.

\*\*\*\*\*

Member David Watters has been ordered to clean up the magic room and has donated approximately 60 videos to the VMC library. Thanks David!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Upcoming auction?

The estate of Carol Anne Woodcraft is being administered. Carol's father was George Woodcraft, formerly a member and past president of VMC. Apparently Carol had some of her fathers magic props and they're considering auctioning these items off. If you're interested in more information, contact Melissa Sim via email with "Estate Auction" in the subject line. Email should be addressed to MSim@Trustee.bc.ca

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Recently received email:

We are working on a feature film called Percy Jackson. There is a scene in the film that requires background set dressing such as magic props. We are looking for large antique pieces that immediately say "magic". I hope that you will be able to help us. Please contact:

Andrew Reid  
Buyer—set decorations  
TCF Vancouver Productions Ltd, Mammoth Studios  
604-637-8893  
kasicofilm@telus.net



## 2009 VMC Installation Banquet

Saturday February 28th

Best Western Sands Hotel

1755 Davie St, Vancouver

A fully catered dinner and an evening of entertainment.

### Our next guest lecturer will be Levent on May 1st.

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### PCAM 2009

#### Pacific Coast Association of Magicians

The PCAM 2009 convention will be held on a cruise ship, the Norwegian Pearl, a magnificent vessel with everything you could possibly want from a five star hotel, departing the port of Vancouver on Monday September 21st, disembarking in Los Angeles on Saturday September 26th, with stops in Astoria (Oregon) and San Francisco. After arrival in Los Angeles, the plan is for a group of us to go to Magicopolis ([www.Magicopolis.com](http://www.Magicopolis.com)) the afternoon or evening of Saturday Sept 26th.

The cutoff date to book your cruise is April 30th.

Don't miss it!!

Check [www.magicatsea.com](http://www.magicatsea.com) for more info.



Stan and Jeff Hobson at the 2008 Magic Jamboree

## Kramien's Magic Jamboree

Where you mingle with the stars

May 15 & 16, 2009

The most fun you will ever have at a magic gathering! The VMC always has a strong turnout for this annual convention, with great shows, lectures, competitions, dealers tables, the annual auction (run by our club). If you've ever been to it, then you know why it's one of the years highlights for many of our members. If you've never been to one, you owe it to yourself to talk to members who have and get their opinion on whether you should consider attending. I guarantee you'll never hear anyone say that they didn't enjoy it immensely. Double the fun by considering car pooling with some of us.

Check out [www.magicjamboree.com](http://www.magicjamboree.com) for more details.



David Wilson and David Watters running the annual auction

**Disclaimer**—These Magical Minutes have been brought to you on a tight deadline with little resources. The author(s) accept no responsibility for typos, spelling errors, grammatical errors, accuracy of fact (or lack of), omission of details, layout, graphics, political correctness, oversight of individuals or groups or groups of individuals who may or may not have contributed to the creation process or the creative inspiration of others. No animals were harmed in the creation of this newsletter.