



the charles howard ring

# VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS RING 92

—Affiliated with the—  
PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS

## January General Meeting—Thurs Jan 22nd Annual Executive Election

The next meeting of IBM RING #92, The VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE, takes place on Thursday January 22nd, 2009 at the Sunrise Community Hall in Vancouver (1950 Windermere Street). Doors open at 6:30 for socializing and the workshop will start at 7:00pm. This month the workshop will be an open discussion about stage fright, the causes and the solutions.

The business meeting is scheduled for 8pm, and will include nominations and the voting in of the 2009 Executive. If you would like to fill one of these positions or if there is someone you would like to nominate, please contact Munro Mackenzie. We will also be voting for the winner of the Murray Award for the "Most Creative Magical Performance" and the Stan Kramien Award for "Excellent Showmanship" followed by a light snack and then it's New Member Initiation Night. New members will be asked to perform 3 tricks and then will go through the secret VMC Initiation. Please note that Junior members and non-members will not be permitted to view the Initiation Ceremony and will be asked to leave the area.



Who will replace the 2008 Vancouver Magic Circle Executive??

### The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:  
January 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.

Remember, only members in good standing are eligible to vote for the new Executive at the January meeting.

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

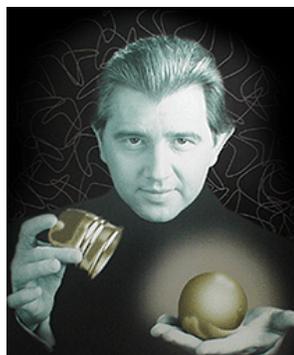
## X-ellent Lecture Series

Please join us as we welcome our next guest lecturer Paul Gertner on Friday February 13th at Douglas College in New Westminister. Doors open at 7pm and the lecture will start at 7:30pm.

Paul Gertner has performed for more than 500 corporations in more than 20 different countries, has lectured at MIT and has been featured on the front page of the Wall Street Journal...twice.

Paul has also appeared on NBC's World's Greatest Magic, HBO, That's Incredible, and has been a frequent guest on The Tonight Show. And yes, he's even appeared on Mister Rogers Neighborhood. Now here's your chance to meet the master, and learn magic.

At every lecture Paul Gertner performs an Opening Show which includes a special performance of his classic routines featuring among others - Steel Balls, Unshuffled and That's Ridiculous.



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**If you hear a voice  
 within you say "you can-  
 not paint", then by all  
 means paint, and that  
 voice will be silenced.**  
 ~ Vincent Van Gogh

## November in Review

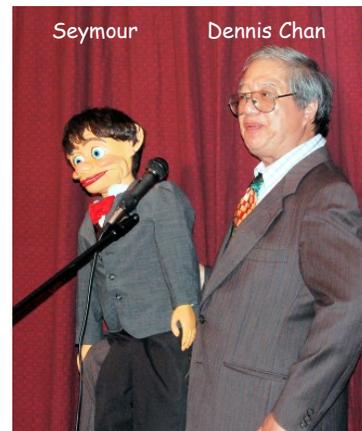
Submitted by Munro Mackenzie

Our annual Christmas dinner was held Sunday 23 Nov. at the Sands Hotel. We hold it early as so many of our members are performing over the Christmas holiday that no one would turn out for a regular meeting. Special thanks to several strolling magicians who entertained the crowd before dinner, which the hotel provided as a delicious buffet dinner, enjoyed by all.

After dinner entertainment was provided by Dennis Chan with help from his friend Seymour (or was it Seymour with his friend Dennis??). Either way, it was highly entertaining and we thank them both, although I still suspect that Seymour looks like he's been eating too many cookies.

More entertainment was introduced by the dancing elves Gord Boyes and Gary Savard, aptly dressed to introduce Santa and Mrs. Claus, who greeted all the children with gifts and candy.

Then Lon Mandrake, acting as M.C., started the entertainment with a mental card effect.



Now it was time for the Percy Poole Trophy competition for juniors. First up was Cyrus Jordan, the 9yr. old grandson of veteran magician Jack Bastow, who produced a bouquet from nowhere; did a die box routine and escaped from a sack after being tied up. Next were Jack & Nicholas Chow with a blinking light display; then they put their Mother in a box which they pierced with a plate and tubes but from which she emerged unscathed and in a different costume. Really a super illusion from such young members. Next was Alexander Seaman who changed white feather rings into separate red/blue/yellow coloured rings and finally into a complete coloured ring, plus a change bag



(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 [www.champions.ca/vmc.html](http://www.champions.ca/vmc.html))

(Continued from page 2)



Cyrus Jordan

effect and coloured balls in a tube effect. Alexander was judged to be the winner.



Lon Mandrake



Lon Mandrake with Alexander Seaman

The W.C.Shelley Trophy for adults was hotly contested by Jonathan Hamilton, James Hanson, Bruce Hunt (out of his Santa costume) and Steve Dickson. Poor Jeannie Savard was picked on to be an assistant 3 times much to her embarrassment, but she was a good sport. Bruce Hunt was judged to be the winner after 2 of the competitors went overtime.



Jack, Sylvia and Nicholas Chow



Jeannie Savard is amazed by Jonathan Hamilton's routine

The 50/50 draw of \$127.50 was won by Walter Ruteck.



Jeannie Savard is perplexed by Steve Dickson's routine



During dinner I had the pleasure of sitting next to Joanna, wife of brand new member Bryn Williams. If you can come up with a more Welsh name let me know.



James Hanson perplexes everyone with a clever card trick.

44 members and 49 guests started their Christmas season with a huge bang. None more so than Craig Prystay, member and hotel G.M. who was sporting the most colourful Christmas vest I have ever seen.



Shawn Farquhar is trying to keep Bruce Hunt honest. (good luck)



# Magic 'N Miracles

Submitted by Gord Boyes

Each January, we look forward to attending the "Illusions—Magic 'N Miracles" show. The tour produced by Murray Hatfield featuring a variety of performers each year tours across the country helping the firefighters with their fundraising. This year my son Jesse and I were joined by my daughter Amy and fellow club members Gary Savard and Mike Norden with his lovely wife Nicole as we trudged through the snow to attend the show in Abbotsford. Although we saw the show in January of 2009, this is considered the 2008 tour since it started in November of 2008 in Ontario and worked it's way across the country. This can cause confusion as we talk to others about the great performers we've seen on the tour and which year we saw them.



Teresa Midbo

Murray Hatfield

over 70 years.

Chipper Lowell is one of the funniest performers I've had the pleasure of experiencing and has been quite aptly described as an "artistic cyclone of talent & comedy". We saw him as part of the 2005 show and eagerly anticipated his return this year. He didn't disappoint as he nearly brought the house down he was so funny. In 2006, his critically acclaimed stage show—"The Chipper Lowell Experience!"—was extended THREE TIMES for an incredible 12-month



Chipper Lowell



Oscar Munoz

This year Murray and Teresa were joined by an all-star cast of Sean Bogunia, Oscar Munoz, Chipper Lowell, their crew of dancers and of course Cody the wonderdog.

Oscar Munoz, The Toast of Texas, is recognized as one of the top kids entertainers in the United States and has won numerous awards including First Place from S.A.M. and the Gold Medal from the

I.B.M.. During this show Oscar showed that he's equally adept at entertaining the adults in the audience.

Sean Bogunia combines magic, yo-yo's and a magical handkerchief in his original and funny act. Sean has performed his act on television, in theatres and at major corporate events around the world. In addition to performing he is also the creator of many new magical effects and illusions for other magicians including some of the biggest names in Magic. In competition he has won a number of awards for his work including First Place at the prestigious Abbott's Magic Get Together—one of the largest magic conventions in North America for



Sean Bogunia

run at the Horizon Casino Resort in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. The show earned glowing reviews, and top honours including Chipper being named "Comedy Magician of the Year!" by the International Magicians Society. Chipper has been featured on numerous television programs including the Jerry Lewis Telethon, General Hospital, America's Funniest People and the Tonight Show with Jay Leno

Then of course there's the illusions of Murray and Teresa. Murray once again showed what a marvelous stage presence he has and that's he's equally comfortable with large stage illusions and intimate close-up magic.

You can be sure that you'll see us at next years show.

Murray is a member of our ring although his home ring is the other V.M.C.-the Victoria Magic Circle ,I.B.M.Ring # 183.



Murray Hatfield, Jesse Boyes, Gord Boyes

## Presidents Message

It has been a pleasure to serve as President of the Vancouver Magic Circle for the past year and I would like to thank the many people involved in making the club a success. I know that if I tried to name them all I'd end up missing someone and feel bad, and since I don't like to feel bad I'm not going to bother trying (haha).

I like to feel good, and one way to feel good is to get involved and contribute. Getting involved in this club has created many new friendships for me, has provided me with many memorable and fun experiences, and most importantly has strengthened my relationship with my son Jesse.

The words "get involved and contribute" can scare many people away, but there are many ways to do it and I urge all of you to get involved, either deeply involved or involved just a little, it doesn't matter. Instead of saying "get involved", how about if I just say "become a stronger part of the club"?

How can you become a stronger part of the club?

### 1.) Attend Executive Meetings.

Did you know that all members are welcome to attend the Executive meetings? Come to the meetings (even just one), let your opinions be heard, be one of the first to learn what's coming up. Meeting details can be found on the club website, or you can speak to any member of the Executive to find out where and when the next meeting is.

### 2.) Enter competitions

Show everyone what you can do and entertain them. With the variety of competitions we have, you should be able to find something that aligns with your interests. You never know, you just might end up winning a trophy.

### 3.) Offer to help at our meetings.

Before the meeting the tables and chairs need to be setup. Afterwards there's always some organizing to do. Snacks need to be prepared and served etc.. It's a great way to get to know some of the other members better.



Gord & Jesse Boyes

### 4.) Attend "magical functions" outside of our club.

Go to shows put on by other club members, go to conventions like PCAM or Kramiens Magic Jamboree (information for both are on page 8).

### 5.) Get involved with our meeting workshops.

You can get involved by simply offering your suggestions if there's any topic of particular interest to you. You can offer advice or stories about your own experience related to the workshop topics.

### 6.) Offer to help at one club function.

We have several annual functions that help are needed at. The summer picnic, the Children's Magician of the Year show, the Christmas banquet, the Installation banquet, etc..

### 7.) Write an article for the newsletter.

It can be almost anything, how did you get interested in magic, what do you do outside of the club, review a book or a show, etc..

### 8.) Perform

We have many opportunities for anyone to perform at, whether it's in a competition or doing walk around before a dinner, or during social time at a meeting to entertain, give advice, get advice, etc..

### 9.) Offer to mentor a newer member.

You can show them a couple of tricks, help them with showmanship, or just tell them about your experiences. This is a great way to motivate both of you to learn and practice.

### 10.) Ask to be mentored by a more experienced member.

A great way to get to know someone more experienced, and a great way to motivate both of you to learn and practice.

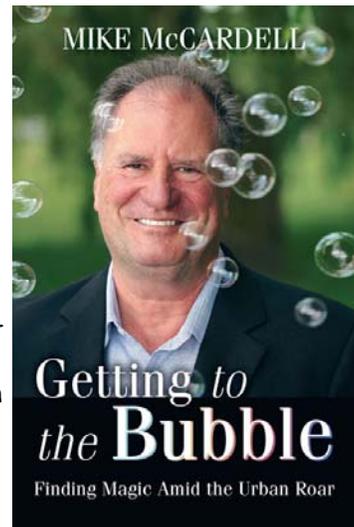
Whatever my role is in the coming year, I'll be looking forward to being a part of the club and getting to know many of you better.

## Tidbits

Late last year I mail ordered a copy of Issue No. 23 of magicseen magazine, the #1 magazine for magic in Europe because it contained part 1 of an article all about our own Shawn Farquhar. It was my understanding that this magazine was going to become available for purchase on newsstands in Canada beginning with Issue No. 24, which is to contain part 2 of this article. In eager anticipation I went to the local Chapters bookstore about a week ago in hopes of purchasing Issue No. 24, only to find that they had Issue No. 23 on the shelf! Oh well, I'm still glad I mail ordered my copy of that one and I'll be making another visit to Chapters very soon in hopes of picking up Issue No. 24.



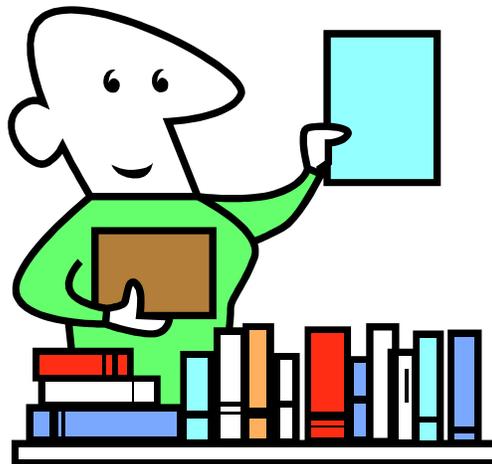
One of our members writes..... "While reading a new book I got for Christmas, 'Getting to the Bubble' by Mike McCardle, I came across an interesting article about one of our members: Rod Chow! In the story he talks about the Guinness World Record holding building his insurance business runs their store out of. The Skinniest office building around - or across actually - just Rod's arm span from one side to the other! A fun article in a fun book that you should pick up and enjoy!"



## Library

Come one, come all - and join the library! We have 18 new DVD's for the Library that will be premiering at the January meeting! We found the "World's Greatest Magic from the World's Greatest Magicians" DVD's that we got last time were so in demand we are going after the whole series. They are DVD's filled with tricks from various magicians on specific tricks or genres of magic. Here is a list of the new ones:

- Card on Ceiling
- MacDonald's Aces
- Magic With Business Cards
- The Card Stab
- Anniversary Waltz
- Card To Wallet
- Stand-Up Magic Volume 1,2 & 3
- Close-up Magic Volume 1,2 & 3
- Magic With Dice
- Metal Bending
- Scotch & Soda, Dime & Penny, CT Half
- Thumb Tips
- Torn & Restored Newspaper
- Coins Across \$19.95



You can see the list of resources available from the library on our website.. <http://www.ibmring92.com/resource/library/index.html>

If you have not joined the Library - why not? For \$20 (held as a deposit) you can take advantage of this wonderful resource and help fund the club to get more current titles all year! See Dennis Chan for more info at the meeting.

For all the members out there that have been holding onto some books and DVD's - your items are overdue now! Remember- you have one month when you check these items out and fines of \$2 a month can be imposed. After 3 months if they have not been returned you run the risk of getting billed for replacement cost (for the item - not you!) Please ensure you return items when they are due so others can enjoy them!

## 2009 Installation Banquet

It might be a bit early to mention this, but it pays to plan ahead. The 2009 Installation Banquet for the new executive will be a catered affair held at The Sands Hotel just as it was last year. Pricing and details are yet to be worked out as we use hardball negotiating tactics to get our club members the best deal possible!

This is the evening that we have a photographer come and take our annual club photo, so we encourage members to make an attempt to attend. The evening will be topped off with the competitions for the Cecil Ackery Comedy trophy for adults and the Rick Honey Comedy trophy for junior members.

Who will follow in Mike Norden's footsteps, last years winner of the Cecil Ackery trophy??

Watch for more details in next months newsletter.



Mike Norden

## Workshops

We asked - you spoke - we listened! One of your favourite sections of the meetings are the workshops! We are going to put more into them in 2009 and we want your input! Starting in March we will continue with our re-vamp of the workshop to bring you more entertainment and learning experiences! But we need your help of course!

Do you have an idea of what would make a good workshop? How about hosting a workshop? Topics like Holiday tricks, marketing, cousin arts (like juggling, vent etc), presentation, and others are all good themes! How about a game show for one night? Or more Improv nights? Anyone want to do a puppet show? Punch and Judy anyone?

Tell us what YOU want or tell us what YOU would like to do! Thanks to past lectures like Gary, Clinton, Steve, Ray, Gord, Mike and others! To volunteer or send ideas email to [gary.savard@ibmring92.com](mailto:gary.savard@ibmring92.com)



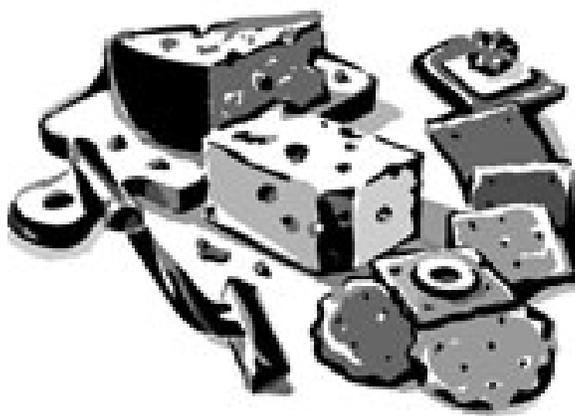
Ray Roch

## Food and 50/50

Have you ever wondered where all that great food at the meetings comes from? Is there a food fairy that brings it and lays it all out to be consumed in a flash? Who makes the coffee? Who cleans the dishes? Who takes out the garbage? Who sets the place up in the first place?! Surely there are gremlins at work!!

Alas - sorry to report it is not of the supernatural realm! It is members just like you, who have donated a little bit extra of their time to make this club better. So next time you see them - give their hand a shake, because they deserve it!

Why not go one step further? Why not volunteer to do the food for one of the meetings? Our 50/50 draw pays for the food, we give you a list of items that are good to buy (and you're free to add your own ideas) and you are not out



any money! We have had many people do the food over and over again (thank you Dennis, Juan, Craig, David, Karen and others!) but we would like some people who have not helped out to step up this year. With only 7 or 8 meetings each year that require this service, nobody should have to do it often if we spread it around.

We are going to book the whole year in advance starting with the March meeting (February is catered). We will be giving everyone who volunteers one of Nick Trost's packet tricks as our way of saying thanks! But your thanks

is really the pats on the back you will get from all the other members. Please contact Mike Norden at [mike.norden@ibmring92.com](mailto:mike.norden@ibmring92.com) or he might contact you!



## 2009 VMC Installation Banquet

Saturday February 28th

Best Western Sands Hotel

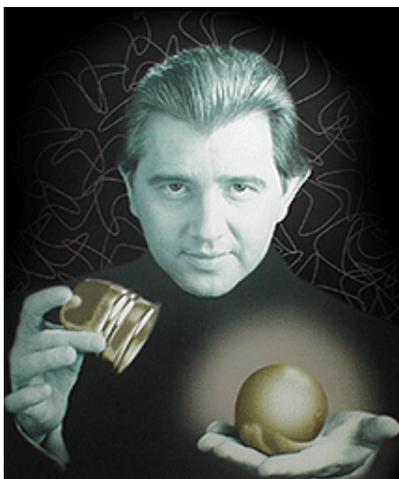
1755 Davie St, Vancouver

A fully catered dinner and an evening of entertainment.

### Our next guest lecturer will be Paul Gertner on February 13th.

Our next guest lecturer from Lee Asher's X-ellent Lecture Series will be Paul Gartner, "The Pittsburgh Practitioner" joining us Friday February 13th at Douglas College in New Westminster.

Paul Gertner has performed for more than 500 corporations in more than 20 different countries, has lectured at MIT and has been featured on the front page of the Wall Street Journal...twice. A guest three times on The Tonight Show Paul was the last magician Johnny invited to appear on the show before he retired. Paul has also appeared on NBC's World's Greatest Magic, HBO, That's Incredible! And yes...even Mister Rogers Neighborhood. In 1998 he wrote and starred in the critically acclaimed one-man theatrical production "Paul Gertner-Ten Fingers." This one-man show became the fastest selling play in City Theater's history. Most recently Paul was invited as a featured performer at the Presidential Inauguration of President George W. Bush



### PCAM 2009

PCAM 2009 will be held on a cruise ship, the Norwegian Pearl, departing the port of Vancouver on Monday September 21st, disembarking in Los Angeles on Saturday September 26th.

Don't miss it!!

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

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