



the charles howard ring

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS RING 92

Affiliated with the—
PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS

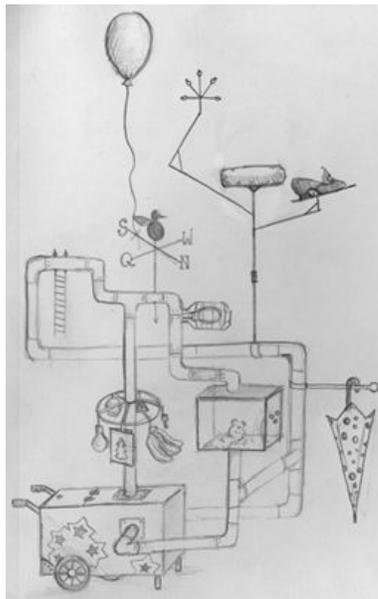
March General Meeting—Thurs Mar 26th Past Presidents & One Trick Night

The next meeting of IBM RING #92, The VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE, takes place on Thursday March 26th, 2009 at Sunrise Community Hall in Vancouver (1950 Windermere St.). This evening will be our annual "Past Presidents & One Trick Night".

- 6:30—Doors open
- 7:00—Workshop begins
- 8:00—Business Meeting
- 8:20—Snacks and socializing
- 9:00—Past Presidents and One Trick Night

The topic of the workshop will be "Invention".

Be prepared to do some deep thinking and get some ideas on how you can create your own original magic effects and props without breaking the bank.



Bruce Hunt will demonstrate a few of his good and not so good (but interesting!) magic related projects from years past, and give a little insight to the thought processes involved with their development. With your help we may just get a little inspiration for something new! If you have a novel idea you are working on and would like to share, or maybe need some help with, bring it along to add to the fun. Be there!

Remember, our constitution states that every member must perform at least once each year. One Trick Night is

a great opportunity to show everyone what you have and meet that obligation.

The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:
March 2009

Kramiens Magic Jamboree Cancelled!!

It is with a heavy heart that I must publish this report from Stan Kramien:

Due to our extremely fragile economy, which affects our jamboree in so many ways, and after a lot of consideration, we have decided to cancel the 2009 Magic Jamboree. Those of you who have registered will soon receive a letter of explanation, and of course a full refund. If you have made motel reservations, you should call and cancel. WE do hope to return in 2010 with a brand new concept in the Magic Jamboree. You all know how much I love the Jamboree and how I will miss you this year. Lets pray things will improve.

Love, Stan.

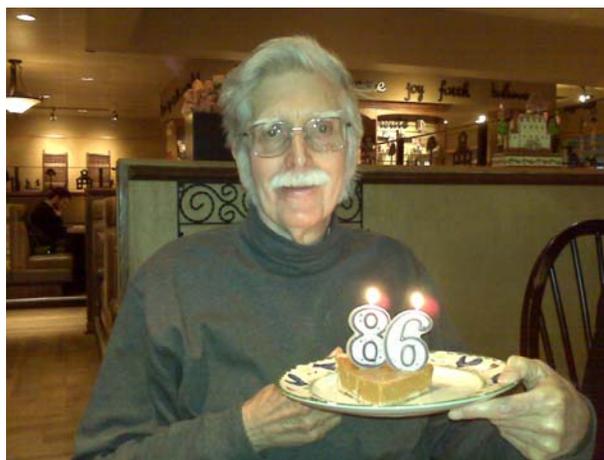
Dedication...

How do you enjoy celebrating your birthday? Surrounded by loved ones and having fun?

Director Munro Mackenzie showed his dedication to the club by attending the March Executive Meeting even though it was his birthday!!

We love him, but sometimes I don't know how much fun we are (but when he's around we're definitely more fun!!).

Happy Birthday Munro!!!



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Pay no attention to what the critics say. A statue has never been erected in honor of a critic.

~ Jean Sibelius

February in Review

Submitted by Munro Mackenzie

Our Installation Dinner was held at the Sands by the Sea Hotel of which member Craig Prystay is G.M. And what a buffet dinner it was. Super delicious. 72 adults and 4 children partook of the delicious feast. After dinner more members drifted in for the evening festivities, started by past president and world champion Shawn Farquhar swearing in the new executive as reported in January, and charging them with their duties. Then all members retired to the Board Room for the annual club photo. One member actually



One of the proofs from the 2009 club photo

arrived just as the photos were completed. Then it was back to the dining room for the awarding of annual awards. I forgot to mention that before and during dinner Dennis Hewson, Bryn Williams and Steve Dickson did walk about magic.

One of the most unusual awards is our Helping Hands Award for a non member who does outstanding service to make our events a success. This year the nominees were Nicole Norden, Melody Hewson, Cathie Watters and Georgina Hunt.



The Murray Award donated by Murray Sawchuk for the "most creative magical performance" during the year was won by Henry Tom for his dental routine.



The Stan Kramien Showmanship Award for excellent showmanship in a performance during the year was won by Steve Dickson. The Dave Culos Memorial Trophy for the Golden Rabbit Award to a member who has unselfishly given of their time and efforts was awarded to our hard working secretary Karen Eskilson. The President's Award for a member who clearly demonstrated their commitment to duty was given to "Mr. Everyone" David Wilson, our hard working treasurer and

(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)



committed everything else.



Then it was time for the comedy competitions. First was the Rick Honey Comedy Trophy lead off by Brianna Carlson with a good comedy routine.



She was followed by Nicholas Chow, the Boy Who Knows, assisted by his brother Jack and Lon Mandrake.

He was followed by Alexander Seaman.

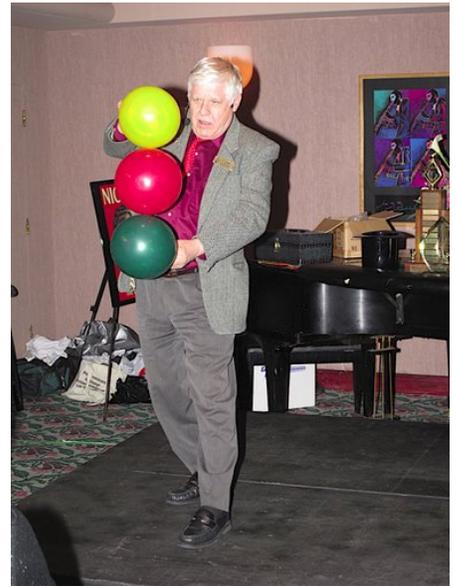


Last years adult winner Mike Norden entertained while Neil Kremer, competition chair, totaled the scores and announced Nicholas Chow winner.

Next the Cecil Ackery Comedy Trophy for adults had Damien Carriere, Jens Henriksen, Bruce Hunt, and Henry Tom



fighting tooth and nail.



Henry Tom, who is a dentist, won with his "Acme Dental Lesson".



The 50/50 draw of \$133.50 was won by Bryn Williams

Interview with Lee Asher

Submitted by Gord Boyes

Each year, the Vancouver Magic Club members enjoy 5 lectures which are part of the X-elent Lecture Series, created and maintained by Lee Asher. Recently, club President Gord Boyes sat down with Lee for this interview.



Lee with his father, Mark Horowitz

Tell us a bit about yourself and how you spend your time these days.

My name is Lee Asher, and I live the CardStar Lifestyle. Take a moment to look at <http://www.LeeAsher.com>.

I did not choose magic; it chose me. Raised by a father who loves sleight of hand, I was literally born into this art. I've been interested in magic for over 25 years, and have also been performing professionally for over half that time.

Only within the last ten years, I've taught my style of magic to other magi-

cians worldwide including; London, Calgary, Singapore, Copenhagen, Kuala Lumpur, Berlin, Perth, Miami, Los Angeles, Taipei, New York, Paris, Tokyo, Glasgow, Toronto, Las Vegas, Tel-Aviv, Hong Kong, Vienna - and the list continues.

Currently, I'm working on several magic-related projects including using the tools and technology of today, to teach future generations of tomorrow, about why the magicians of yesterday are worth knowing. It's called the Magic Video Blog. It's my belief that everyone should visit if they have any interest in the art of magic. Take a moment to live vicariously through vintage magic clips -

<http://www.magicvideoblog.com>

You lived in Las Vegas for a number of years, attending the University of Nevada/Las Vegas. When did you leave Vegas and why?

In the summer of 1994, I moved from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend University (UNLV). The thoughts of dorm life, becoming one of the LV magic scene regulars, and a myriad of other fantastic amenities attracted me to the desert.

Studying hospitality with an emphasis in casino management, my ambition was to

run a casino. Time passed and eventually I graduated with a degree in 1999.

Nonetheless, my goals changed by then. It was time to leave Las Vegas, as I no longer had a purpose to be there nor did I want to live there.

After packing all my goods into a storage unit, it was time to hit the road. For the next four months, I traveled around the United States on sporadic lecture tours until work ultimately took me to France.

Why have you chosen to live where you are now?

I lived in Paris for over three years, and it was an amazing time in my life. However, it came to an abrupt finish when the French girl I was dating ended our relationship.

After leaving Paris with my heart on my sleeve, it was clear I could live anywhere in the United States. For some reason, the west coast felt like home. That's where I wanted to be. So after packing everything, I moved to Eugene, Oregon in 2004.

How long have you been doing the X-elent lecture series?

X-elent Lecture Series is now in its sixth season, with seven cities united (Eugene, Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, and Winnipeg).

In the past six seasons we've had: Nathan Kranzo, Mathieu Bich, Michael Ammar, Aaron Fisher, Danny Cole, Banachek, Bob Sheets, Allan Hayden, Barrie Richardson, David Stone, Silly Billy, Patrick Page, Sal Piacente, Chris Capehart, David Malek, Alain Nu, Eric Evans, Allan Ackerman, Eric Anderson, Ice McDonald, Ken Scott, Steve Beam, Dan Garrett, Michael Vincent, Richard Turner, and Paul Gertner come speak with us so far. There's plenty more to come...

I'll continue running the circuit until the entire community decides otherwise.



Lee Asher lectures at Ohio Magifest '07

Interview with Lee Asher... cont

Why did you start running the X-ellent lecture series?

X-ellent Lecture Series began out of necessity for the community, the love of magic, and the celebration / glorification of the artist.

BANACHEK An X-ellent Lecture Series Lecture

Described as the *Cream of the Crop* when it comes to entertainers, Banachek is the world's leading Mentalist. His talents are so incredible that he is the only mentalist ever to fool scientists into believing he possessed 'Psychic powers' but to later reveal he was fooling them. In this lecture, he will teach amongst many things, updated versions of his famous PK touches, he will teach hands on the most realistic looking metal bending you will ever see and all the great subtleties and secret built in misdirection behind each move. Banachek promises there will be something for everyone, regardless of your skill level. This is a lecture you will not want to miss.

It will change the way you think about magic!

For more information visit www.Banachek.com

Can you tell us a bit about the financial aspect of the lecture series? How much does Lee Asher make through the lecture series?

I personally make ZERO dollars from the X-ellent Lecture Series, as it's not my

DAVID STONE

Described as the *Cream of the Crop* when it comes to entertainers, David Stone is the world's leading Mentalist. His talents are so incredible that he is the only mentalist ever to fool scientists into believing he possessed 'Psychic powers' but to later reveal he was fooling them. In this lecture, he will teach amongst many things, updated versions of his famous PK touches, he will teach hands on the most realistic looking metal bending you will ever see and all the great subtleties and secret built in misdirection behind each move. David Stone promises there will be something for everyone, regardless of your skill level. This is a lecture you will not want to miss.

goal to make any money from the clubs or lecturers. For the past six seasons, it's been my pleasure to bring the 'best of the best' to the whole community, free of charge.

While the clubs and lecturers profit from the series, my payment is watching everyone within the community grow. The thought of knowing the Pacific Northwest might spawn the next Michael Skinner or David Copperfield keeps me exceptionally motivated.

Silly Billy

David Kaye has gained local and national fame performing magic as the clown character Silly Billy.

Come and learn!

The *Funniest* of Performing Magic for Children when he Performs the *Funniest* Magic Trick Using the *Funniest* of Performing Magic for Children.

In New York, where he performs more than 300 shows each year, he has been recognized as New York's top children's entertainer by New York Newsday, the New York Daily News and New York magazine.

How do you find guest lecturers who are willing to do your circuit and what is the biggest challenge?

In the beginning, it was tough to find guys to work the series. I had to call on my friends for the first season. These days, I have to fend artists off with a bat!

We've become the most desired lecture tour in all of the Americas (if not the world.) People like to talk, especially magicians. Those who have been on our circuit, brag to their friends about the fantastic time they had.

We already have bookings into 2012! The biggest challenge faced today, when

Patrick Page

Patrick Page has been called a walking encyclopedia of magic. At his new lecture, he shows why. You'll find powerful, commercial ideas for cards, coins, balls, thimbles, rope and more, all delivered in Patrick Page's inimitable style. There's magic here for all interests and skill levels, and it's all taught in painstaking detail. This is magic that you'll find easy to learn and fun to perform!

Learn items like:

Thumb Tip: Patrick Page shows why the thumb tip remains one of the magician's most powerful secret weapons. You'll learn how to properly use a thumb tip, including how to get it in and out of play. In addition, Patrick Page demonstrates and explains many strong effects made possible by this wonderful utility device.

Card Magic: The Card in Wallet section of Patrick's lecture will teach you everything needed to perform this classic of magic including methods, presentations and techniques. Patrick Page also explains a number of ways to control a selected card to where you need it to be in the deck. And he even teaches some false shuffles to make sure it stays there. You'll never be at a loss to entertain with only a deck of cards ever again.

Sponge Ball Magic: Patrick Page brings his decades of knowledge and experience to this classic of magic. Sponge Ball magic is a feature of just about every professional magician's repertoire, and after meeting Patrick, you'll learn more than enough to add it to your arsenal.

You'll learn miracle-class magic utilizing gimmicks all magicians own, but very few learn to use properly.

booking this series, is having an even mix of talent throughout the season. I try to book a variety of speakers who talk about different genres of the art. Sometimes filling each of those spots with the perfect lecturer proves to be difficult.

The guest lecturers don't get paid a very large fee for each lecture. As a

Chris Capehart

MAKE \$1500 A WEEK PERFORMING ON THE STREETS.

As a professional street performer, Chris' magic takes him all over the globe and allows him to entertain crowds on some of the world's most famous avenues, street, and corners.

Chris Capehart's street lecture covers:

- The importance of crowd control. Chris will teach you the truth about keeping everybody's attention.
- Collecting money is trickier than you think. Chris reveals personal secrets about filling your hat to the brim.
- What should you carry when performing on the street? Pocket management distinguishes the professionals from the amateurs and Chris reveals his thoughts on this important topic based on real-world situations.
- Part of Chris' lecture sheds light on what cases to perform on, and extensive discussion about which places to work.

Chris' lecture also covers other subjects like what licenses are needed in order to perform in, certain areas to perform, thoughts on how money is made, and the true dangers of street entertaining.

Come to Chris' lecture and you will find a pleasant blend of detailed instruction and street-theory, which is guaranteed to inspire you for years to come.

You will regret missing Chris Capehart!

Interview with Lee Asher... cont.

matter of fact, some magicians make as much for doing a single birthday party. Do you coach them in any way on how they can make more money doing the tour?

Great question. No, I don't coach them. I certainly express how they should bring as much product as possible. The majority of lecturers don't come on tour because of the lecture fee; rather, they come because it's an opportunity to speak with 300+ people interested in magic. They also come because they have a chance to sell product in the back of the room. It clearly makes up for the small fee they take to show up and speak.



Which guest lecturer have you been most excited about having on the tour?

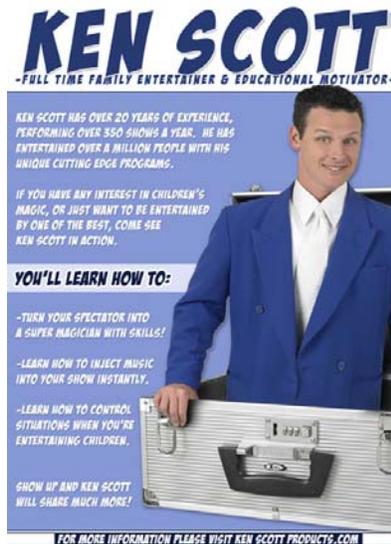
I'm excited about every one who comes through because I only book the best! Within recent times, I've been away for the lectures. I've missed the previous seven speakers. I'm told last season was phenomenal.

Is there any particular performer you've been trying to get on the tour that you haven't been able to get yet?

He will remain nameless, but there's one magician I've been trying to book since

the start of the series. He's amazing, influential, and unfortunately for us - he's locked into a fantastic Disneyworld contract.

We can't have him for a while. But mark my words; he'll come share his brand of magic with us one day.



What do you think are the essential ingredients of a good magic lecture?

Let me preface my answer by saying the lecture experience is different for everyone:

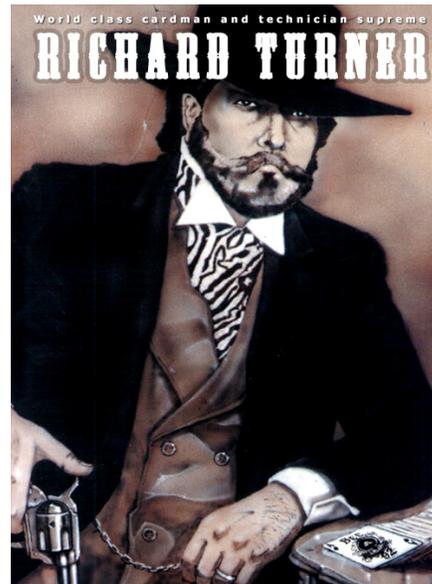
- There are those that subscribe to the school of 'If I learn one item, it was worth it'.
- Then there are those who want to learn as many tricks as possible.
- Don't forget those who attend lectures for the theory.

Again, it's a different experience for everyone. So to answer your question, I'll respond from the lecturer's perspective. I think the key ingredients to a great magic lecture are three-fold:

- * The lecturer must have the ability to express his material successfully.
- * The material taught must inspire others to perform it.
- * The audience must be ready and willing to learn.

Add all three of these ingredients together in a bowl, whip until you see

heavy peaks, bake at high, and then you have one kick-ass lecture pie!



Magic lectures have been around for over 50 years, how do you see them changing in the future?

If you want me to predict the quality of the circuits improving or degrading, I believe the future holds vast improvements.

My vision of the future holds:

- superior quality lectures
- more attendees
- higher fees
- better organization of the lecture circuits
- other positive movements for the art and the artist

We can speculate about the future all day long, but it's how we treat the situation now that will determine the quality of the lectures of tomorrow.

The X-ellent Lecture Series community is working hard to improve the future of magic. We are blazing the path, setting the example, and reaping the rewards. I'm proud to be a part of it.

For more information about X-ellent Lecture Series, please visit

<http://www.XellentLectureSeries.com>

X-ellent Lecture Series—May 2009

The next installment of the X-ellent lecture series features guest lecturer Levent on May 1st at Douglas College in New Westminster (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 Star-

light", 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

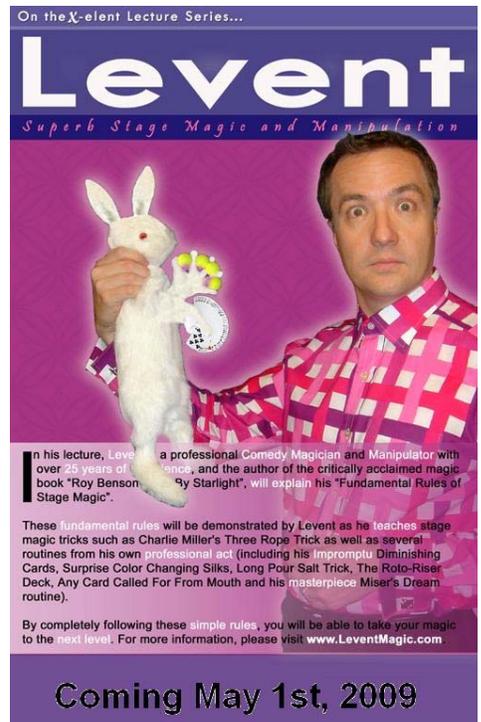
teach the secrets of Roy Benson's legendary Six Billiard Ball routine. Following the lecture, you will have the opportunity to purchase Levent's various magic effects and instructional DVDs. Many of these items are only available at the lecture.

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

Coming May 1st, 2009

Tidbits

Another Glowing Review....

Member Matthew Johnson got a glowing review for his newest product called "Color Blind" in the latest M.U.M. Magazine - check it out at www.magicshow2go.com - way to go Matthew!

Photos Next Month....

A little birdie told me that Dennis Hewson, Ray Roch & Jens Henriksen did a Saint Patrick's Day Magic show for Eric Lenz and guests at the Kinsman Adult Centre in Richmond.

Another example of VMC members caring about others. I'll try to dig up photos for next months newsletter.

Drive to Remember....

The Drive to Remember is a tour from Vancouver, BC south to Los Angeles, CA then east to Washington, DC that raises awareness about law enforcement officers killed-in-the-line-of-duty.

CoptoCop News Editors and Publishers Sgt Steve Gibson and Craig Prystay (VMC member) will drive a Hummer H3 more than 5,000 miles in 12 Days attending many events including the National Peace Officers Memorial Service. The Hummer H3 is wrapped in striking law enforcement memorial graphics with the names of the American and Canadian officers killed-in-the-line-of-duty, in the last year alone, prominently displayed on the hood.

<http://www.salutehonor.org/aboutdrive.html>



2009 X-ellent Lecture Series

May 1st- Levent—Stage Magic and Manipulation

June 12th—Fielding West—Comedy Magic

September 4th—Kostya Kimlat—The Many Sides of Magic

November 6th— Curtis Kam—Coin Magic Connoisseur

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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 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 its annual convention, with great shows, lectures, seminars, dealers tables, the annual auction (for your club). If you've ever been to a magic convention, you know why it's one of the highlights for many of our members. If you've never been to a magic convention, it's a must to yourself to talk to members who have been to the event 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.



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.