



the charles howard ring

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS RING 92

Affiliated with the—
PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS

February General Meeting—Sunday Feb 21st Annual Executive Installation Banquet

The next meeting of IBM RING #92, The VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE, takes place on Sunday February 21st, 2010 at Lafflines Comedy Club in New Westminister (#26—4th Ave). Doors open at 5:00 pm and a delicious buffet dinner will be served at 5:45 pm.

Lafflines is closed to the public that evening and this will be a private function for our club.



This is the evening that our newly elected Executive will be sworn in.

- President—Bruce Hunt
- 1st VP—Neil Kremer
- 2nd VP—Mike Norden
- Secretary—Karen Eskilson
- Treasurer—David Wilson
- Sgt At Arms—Bryn Williams

After the dinner there are some awards to hand out, including the Stan Kramien Award "in recognition of excellent showmanship", the Murray Award for the "Most Creative Magical Performance", the David Culos Memorial Trophy for "a member who has unselfishly given of their time and efforts for the advancement of The Vancouver Magic Circle", and the Presidents Award for "a member who has clearly demonstrated their commitment to performing a role, duty, or task in a superior manner",

After the awards, it's time for the annual club photo, so bring a smile and your Sunday best!

We also have two competitions for Comedy Magic, The Cecel Ackery Trophy for adults and

the Rick Honey Trophy for juniors. Join last years winner Henry Tom as he emcee's this fun competition. What better place to hold this competition than a Comedy Club??



Henry Tom

There's plenty of parking across the street (Columbia St) at a large parkade at a cost of \$2.00 for the entire evening.

Tickets are \$29 for adults and \$15 for children aged 12 and under. Payment can be made at the door. Cash is preferred (exact change would be appreciated) and we will be unable to process credit cards.

Please RSVP to club President Gord Boyes or Secretary Karen Eskilson and let us know if you plan to attend or not, and how many adults and how many children are in your party.

All times are approximate and subject to change:

- 5:00—Doors open
- 5:45—Buffet dinner served
- 6:45—Awards
- 7:30—Installation of new Executive
- 7:45—Club photo
- 8:15—Competition begins

The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:
February 2010

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 purchase a 3 year membership.

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Always be a first-rate
 version of yourself,
 instead of a second-rate
 version of somebody else.

~ Judy Garland

January in Review

Submitted by Munro Mackenzie

Well, the New Year is here and we are **READY**. After a workshop by Damien Carriere on ESCAPES I wondered why all the bad guys in the world are still roaming around. He got out of everything thrown at him but sneakily did not show us exactly how he managed it. Professional secrets he said. Well o.k., it can be learned if that is your cup of tea. It starts with being able to hold your breath at least 3.5 minutes -some feat alone.

After a brief business meeting when our 11 guests were introduced, we had a delicious refreshment break supplied by Stephen Braybrooke.

Next up was our celebrated GREEK act-our annual election of officers for the coming



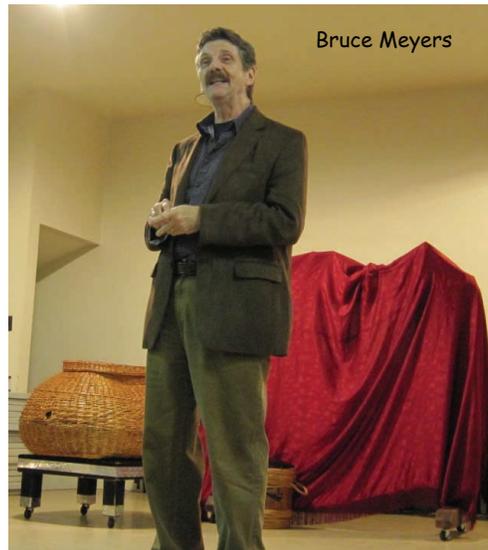
Damien Carriere

year. Although the executive had nominated a slate, nomination chair Munro MacKenzie exhorted the 40 members to nominate further members from the floor and nominate they DID. As a result I am pleased to inform you that Bruce Hunt is our president elect, Neil Kremer 1st vice-president elect, Mike Norden 2nd vice-president elect, Bryn Williams our Sgt.at Arms elect, and Karen Eskilson returning as Secretary and David Wilson returning as Treasurer.

It was then time for our new members to



Bruce Hunt



Bruce Meyers



Karen Eskilson

You don't have to be crazy to be secretary—but it helps.

(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>)

January in Review, con't

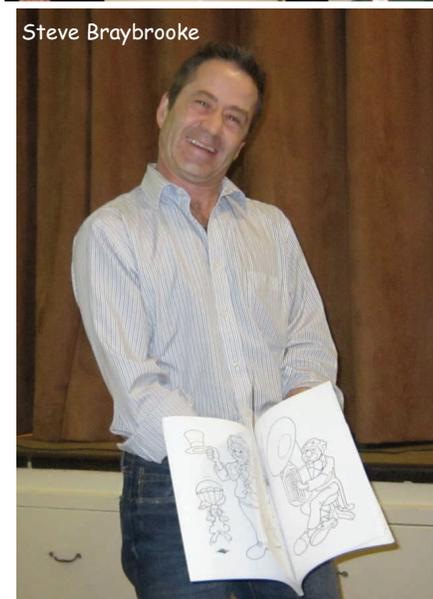
perform their 3 tricks to successfully get into the Ring. First up was Bruce Meyers from the U.S.A. who did a PERFORMANCE. What a show! I wonder how he got into Canada with all those swords or made it back into the States



New members—Gordon McIntosh, Glen Andrews, Steve Braybrooke, John Stenning, Jim Ryan, Bruce Meyers and Phil Razon



Phil Razon



Steve Braybrooke

with all those weapons. Second Phil Razon did some unusual things with cards and rubber bands followed by Glen Andrews who also amazed us with cards, silks, and a torn napkin routine. Stephen Braybrooke used a change bag, coloured scarves to balls in a Dove Pan and a colouring book routine - he was so excited he had to be hustled off the stage in a straight jacket (Just kidding). Gordon McIntosh did rope, Coke bottle in a bag, and a green ball transformed to a red ball for his bit.

were welcomed into the Ring in our secret initiation ceremony. Before this part began our 50/50 draw of \$67.50 was won by Steve Dickson.

Jim Ryan excelled with cards and finally John Stenning used jumbo cards and dice to complete his 3 tricks. It was now time for all guests and juniors to leave the building while these 7 new initiates



Jim Ryan



Glen Andrews



Gordon McIntosh



John Stenning

Lecture Review—Rafael Benetar

Submitted by David Parker

February 5, 2010, was different from November 13 2003, as this time Rafael Benetar was able to make it across the border and grace us with his lecture (I wonder if it was the same lecture?).

Gord Boyes, at his last lecture as our president introduced Rafael. Originally from Caracas, Venezuela but now living in Spain (Rafael, not Gord), he has performed in all three rooms of the Magic Castle, lectures in five languages, and has published many books in his homeland of Spain.

Rafael thanked Gord for his kind words, and promised to return the negatives tomorrow. He also was quite impressed about lecturing in Vancouver, as he was picked up at the airport by champion magician Shawn Farquhar (and, no Shawn is not driving a cab these days). The idea of his lecture is not to show us a bunch of tricks but rather for us to pick up principles that we can apply to the rest of our magic.

He started off with some cards tricks - Hallucination, where he did an amazing top change to transform the wrong card into the right card, then back to the wrong card again - The Favourite Cards of my Friends, where the spectator inserts a card into the deck to find the cards selected by two other spectators. So, he impressed us all right away with his card prowess.

He followed this with his version of the Colour Changing Silk, and then without knowing that Rod Chow owns an insurance agency invited him up for a mathematical card trick called the Power of Numbers. That was followed by Poker Chip Surprise, where he seemed to transpose 3 different coloured poker chips.



We all had a laugh at his Right Between the Eyes trick, where he is able to determine a selected card, then has a spectator take over as magician and repeat the trick. It was even funnier when he revealed the secret. And he finished off the first half of his lecture with an 8 King Poker trick.

There were 38 members and 7 guest in attendance. We were introduced to two out-of-town guests from Victoria and Hamilton. Diego, from Hamilton drew the lucky ticket of a member that pre-registered to win their \$20 admission back, and Dennis Chan was quite happy that after all of these years, that he finally won!



And of course, we had the customary presentation of the ooh, the aaaaah, and the yummy items.



After the break, we were treated to more card tricks. Count Down, a version of the Oh Henry Aces where Aces vanish from one pile and end up in another pile. Not By Much, based on Vernon's Trick That Cannot Be Explained, where two cards keep on trading places. A trick he calls Fax Machine where a card moves from the deck to in between two other cards. A gambler versus magician packet trick titled Call of the Wild by John Bannon.

Next was my favourite trick of the evening - his version of the Cups & Balls using an email premise. He explained the motivation for every move, and how they made sense. He ended the evening with a Card at Any Number routine, then a demonstration on some his Double Lifts.

I would have to say it was worth waiting over six years for.

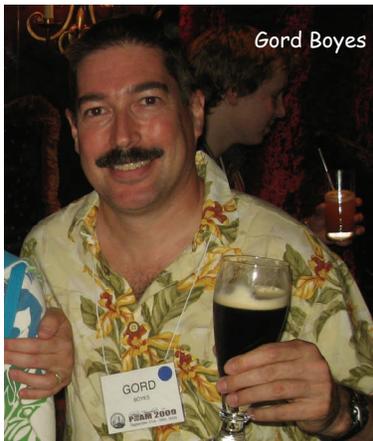
Presidents Corner

Submitted by Gord Boyes

Two years as President of The Vancouver Magic Circle has come to an end for me, and it's been a wonderful two years of personal growth. It has allowed me to get to know many of you so much better than I otherwise would have been able, and given me the opportunity to work with a great bunch of people on the Executive. I would like to thank each and every one of the Executive over the past two years for helping me so much.

I'm now looking forward to holding the position of Past President, which I sort of compare to being a grandparent, where you try to act wise and give all sorts of advice but don't assume much responsibility <smile>.

Also, after about two years as Editor of The Magical Minutes, I have decided to step down from that responsibility and let someone else take the helm. It's been a lot of fun creating this newsletter each month but after a while it's healthy and important to allow others to inject their ideas and creativity. Beginning with the next issue, Neil Kremer has agreed to take over the duties of Editor and I know he'll do an awesome job.



There are several thank you's I must address:

- Karen Eskilson for doing a great job as secretary and making me look like I know what we should be doing.
- David Wilson, for everything (there's no way I can explain to some of you how much he does for the club).
 - Rod Chow and John Smithman for doing such a great job of providing me with photos of our activities, they really bring the newsletter to life.
 - Munro Mackenzie for faithfully sending me a monthly report of our meetings (and for supplying our Ring Report to The Linking Ring).
 - David Parker for doing such a great Lecture review after each installment of the X-ellent Lecture Series.
 - Anyone and everyone else who has submitted material to be included in the newsletter.

And of course last, but not least, is a sincere thank you to all the members of The Vancouver Magic circle for making this a club I'm happy and proud to be a member of.

Tidbits

Rod Chow & Campany will be performing their stage show at The Celebration Village 2010 at the Plaza of Nations, which is located next to Canada Hockey Place, right in the centre of all the Olympic action, on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 2:00pm.



Starring will be Jack, Nick, Juliana, Melody, Sylvia & Rod.

New Magical Minutes Editor

Next time you see VMC First Vice President Neil Kremer, please thank him for taking on the role of Editor of The Magical Minutes beginning next month. I know he'll do an awesome job!!

As always, if you have any newsworthy stories, please submit them to vmcnews@ibmring92.com



Neil Kremer

Local S.A.M Club Upcoming Lecture

The Vancouver chapter of the Society of American Magicians is hosting a lecture by Jason England on Friday March 5th at Douglas College in New Westminister (700 Royal Avenue, Room 2203) beginning at 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00).

Ticket Prices:

- SAM/VMC members in advance = \$20
- SAM/VMC members at the door = \$25
- Non-members = \$30

Registration call or email Lon Mandrake - lonmandrake@hotmail.com (604) 591-5839

or Rod Chow - rod@rodchow.com (604) 669-7777 or (604) 688-9688

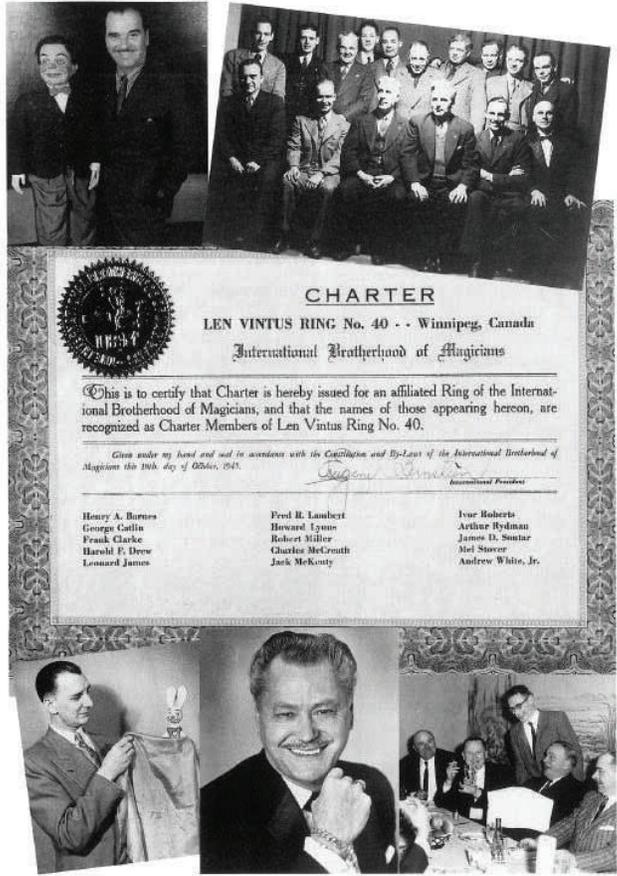
Jason England is widely regarded as one of the finest card handlers in the world, with experience performing classical close-up and bar magic. Additionally, over the past 20 years he has quietly built a reputation amongst other magicians as not only a top-notch performer and technician, but also as one of magic's more capable teachers of high-quality sleight of hand. His lectures and workshops are always well received and loaded with information.

Did you know....

Editors Note—Last month one of the new members to go through the VMC Initiation Ceremony was Gordon McIntosh. Gordon shared some information with me that I wanted to share with the rest of the club.

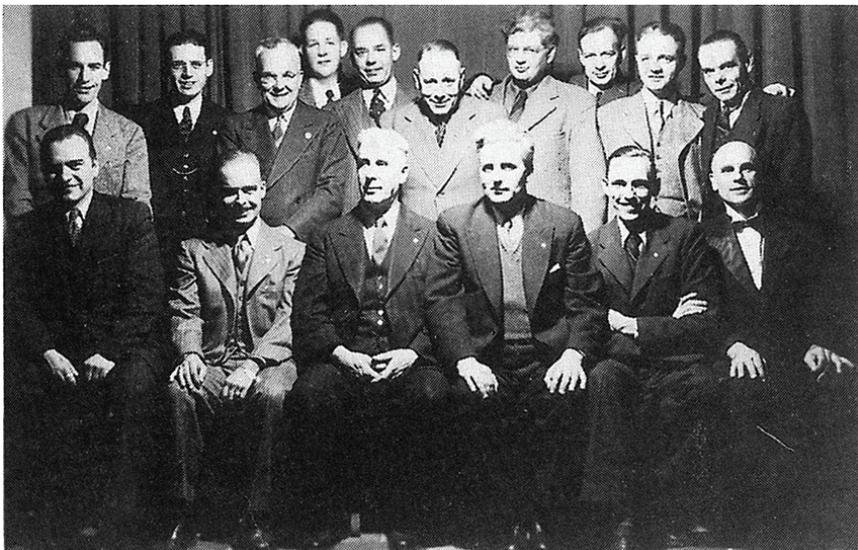
My Grandfather, Harry A Barnes, used to come to our house every weekend and he would always have some magic to show us. As the oldest of 6 children, I was the one chosen that he would teach how the tricks were done. So I always have felt I didn't necessarily choose magic but magic chose me and my Grandfather was my inspiration. Most of my life I have hobbyed at magic doing magic mostly for my Children and now for my Grandchildren. I never new about magic clubs all my life until I was talking to Lee Asher some time in July and he asked me if I knew about the VMC. That's when I found out about VMC and met you at the VMC picnic.

Anyways, I recently obtain an obituary of my Grandfather who passed away in 1972. While I was reading it, this caught my eye: "He was a life member of the Winnipeg Magic Club, Ring 40, I.B.M. which he organized and was the First Past President." This excited me as I was now a member of I.B.M. Ring 92. I was telling Lee Asher about this and he asked me to send him whatever information I had. This is what Lee had to say: "I've put out a bunch of feelers to Winnipeg. Because X-ellent Lecture Series resides there, I had no trouble contacting the pres. and senior members. According to the 50th Anniversary book of Ring 40 Harry A Barnes was the first President in 1945 and continued as president in 1946, 1947, and 1948. Also, Here's your Grandfather's name on the charter."



Charter with my Grandfathers name on it

I've included a picture of my Grandfather an info Lee sent me. Of course I was very excited about this, Hope you find it as interesting.



Winnipeg Ring 42—my Grandfather 3rd from left front row



Harry A. Barnes

Murray's Corner

submitted by Murray Hatfield

Editor's note—Just in case anyone reading this is new to the local magic scene, VMC member Murray Hatfield is also the proprietor of Murray's Trick & Joke Shop in Victoria BC. Murray was invited to share some information with us for this month's edition of *The Magical Minutes*.

Greetings fellow magicians,

We've got lots of new magic in the shop as we head into the new year. Some of the new items include:

!WARNING By Kostya Kimlat An incredible new magic effect that is fast, visual, direct and amazing. Pick up a lighter, peel off the "warning" sticker, light it, and in a flash of fire the sticker has instantly returned to the lighter! **!WARNING** is easy to learn, fun to practice, and addicting to perform. A completely organic magic trick that will get screams from your audience, **!WARNING** "generates waves of excitement without you having to say a single word!" It's the perfect ice breaker for any magician, a stunning close-up trick for the bar, street, banquet or corporate boardroom. You Receive



- 50 Specially Manufactured Flash-Paper "Lighter **!WARNING** Labels"
- 5 Matching Stickers so you can use ANY lighter
- Note: The Quality of printing for the flash-paper and stickers is simply incredible!
- You will also receive a pass-code to access video instructions on-line (produced by Dan and Dave Buck), extra handling tips, performance videos and more...

"Kostya has come up with the most visually stunning trick I've seen in a long time." - David Williamson

"So off the wall and visual - what a great idea!" - Chad Long

"Fun, fantastic, f@\$&!#% unbelievable!" - Daniel Garcia

"!WARNING is visual, direct, easy to do and looks like magic." - Joshua Jay

BLINK - JB Magic and Mark Mason A card is selected and returned to the deck, the magician claims he will find the card. You look through the deck and remove one card and place it onto the face of the deck. The spectator claims this is the wrong card. You now slowly wave the deck up and down. The card **VISUALLY CHANGES** into the selection.



No covering the deck with your hands or a silk etc the card is in full view the entire time. The selection is removed and shown on both sides. You need to see it to believe it. **BLINK IS AMAZING.**

New style

- Now Twice as Fast and Half as Thick!
- NO Dental Dam Used!
- Changes the Card Faster than a Blink of the Eye!

Bicycle Poker cards. Made by JB Magic Unbelievable Workmanship!

ALPHA to OMEGA Stephen Tucker's 'Omega' has long been hailed as one of the greatest packet tricks ever created. Simple to do, fully examinable and devastatingly impressive, it will knock your spectators for six!

You have two sets of four of a kind (let's say, two sets of Aces). One set is tabled. One set is placed behind your back. You have ANY Ace named. Seconds later, this ace is face down, in the set behind your back, and... it has a different coloured back to the other three! You now rub their freely named Ace on your sleeve and its face completely vanishes!

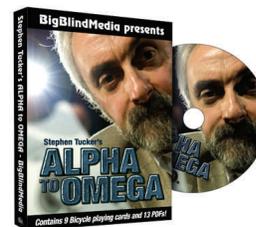
THESE FOUR CARDS ARE NOW EXAMINABLE!

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL... Now, you spread the tabled set of face down Aces (that have been in full view throughout) and their named Ace is face up! Removes the face up Ace and it has a different coloured back to the other three! Flip over the three remaining face down Aces only to discover that they are all **BLANK!** **THEIR NAMED CARD WAS THE ONLY ONE THEY COULD HAVE CHOSEN!**

* **BONUS** * On top of the 'stuffed-to-the-gills greatness' of the Omega material, you'll also get two bonus Tucker routines. Plus three additional effects and the Cameron Francis 'Sleight School' too - learn **EIGHTEEN** essential magic sleights!

DVD Contents:

- Omega
- ESP Omega
- Blind Faith
- One Eye Open
- EZ'Wave
- The Amazing Four Aces Trick
- Tips & Ideas
- * DVD Cards
- * Exhibit 'A'
- * Matrix Reloaded



"Superb! Omega is the most baffling and incredible packet trick I've seen in years. Magicians will enjoy performing it as much as their audiences will love watching it!"

- Jerry Sadowitz

"Goldstein, Duvivier and Bannon all make use of the 'Parade Of The Kings' gimmick. For my money, Tucker's Omega is the best and uses examinable cards!"

- Dr. Peter Moffat

Plus: Jumping Gems, Soapy Suds, Sucker Coin box Magic Match Boxes, and for those that missed them at the lecture - Omni Deck.

See you at the shop,

Murray

Murray's Trick & Joke Shop can be found in Victoria BC at 688 Broughton Street. Tel 250-6807 or check them out on the web at <http://www.magictrick.com/store>



VMC Installation Banquet—Feb 21

X-ellent Lecture - David Williamson—April 23

Kramiens Magic Jamboree 2010—April 30—May 1

P.C.A.M.—July 11—18



Kramien's Magic Jamboree

**Where you mingle with the stars
April 30—May 1, 2010**

That's right, the famous Stan Kramien Magic Jamboree will be returning in 2010 after a one year hiatus. 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. 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.

SAM 95 hosted lecture

Jason England—March 5th

The local Society of American Magicians club will be hosting a lecture on Friday March 5th.

The guest lecturer will be Jason England, who is widely regarded as one of the finest card handlers in the world. Over the past 20 years he has quietly built up a reputation amongst other magicians as not only a top-notch performer and technician, but also as one of magic's more capable teachers of high-quality sleight of hand.

Contact Lon Mandrake to register:
604-591-5839

See www.sam95.com for more info



2010 VMC Installation Banquet

The annual VMC Executive Installation Banquet will be a private function held on Sunday February 21st, at Lafflines Comedy Club in New Westminster (#26—4th Street).



Times for the evenings events are approximate:

5:00pm—Doors Open

5:45pm—Buffet Dinner is served

6:45—Award presentations

7:15—Annual club photo

8:15—Competitions begin

\$29 for adults and \$15 for children 12 years and under. Please RSVP to Gord Boyes.

X-ellent Lecture Series - David Williamson on April 23rd.

The next installment of the X-ellent lecture series features guest lecturer David Williamson on April 23rd 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! The Lecture starts at 7:30pm.

Please note that in order to receive the discounted advance price, you must contact and register with our Treasurer at least 24 hours in advance of the lecture. Telling anyone else, indicating your intent on Facebook, or anything else is not sufficient. If you pay in advance by Paypal or any other method, you must bring a printed receipt to the lecture.



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.