



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 28th Annual Executive Election

The next meeting of IBM RING #92, The VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE, takes place on Thursday January 28th, 2010 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 run by Damien Carriere on the topic of "Escapes".

The business meeting is scheduled for 8pm, and will include nominations and the voting in of the 2010 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.

## X-elent Lecture Series—Friday Feb 5th

The next installment of the X-elent lecture series features guest lecturer Rafael Benatar on February 5th 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.**

**Please also be aware that if you register in advance but do not attend the lecture, you are still expected to pay for it.**



Rafael Benatar is a professional performer and lecturer who was born in Caracas and now lives in Spain, where he is one of the most active members of the renowned Escuela Magica de Madrid.

Rafael performs at corporate events, banquets, trade shows, theaters and other venues and is one of the few who performs at all three rooms of The Magic Castle. He has also lectured extensively, in five languages, for magicians of many countries.

Rafael Benatar is a recipient of The Linking Ring Parade of the Year award from the IBM. His three video tapes, later released as DVDs, received rave reviews. His Cups and Balls routine is considered one of the most elegant, direct and practical of all Cups and Balls routines.

### The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:  
January 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.

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 purchase a 3 year membership.

### Inside this issue:

November Review	2
Members in Action	4
Tidbits	6
Broken Wand	7
Coming Events	8



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## November in Review

Submitted by Munro Mackenzie

Our Christmas dinner is actually held in November because our regular meeting day is too close to Christmas/New Year celebrations and all our professional/semi-professional magicians are working their hearts out.

The dinner was a catered affair at the Sands Hotel which has been our base for many years. The dinner was delicious as was expected thanks to Craig Prystay former General Manager of the hotel and a member.

Unfortunately Craig could not attend as



Gary Savard, Mrs Claus, Rick Mearns



David Parker

he was a victim of the H1N1 flu which has been sweeping North America. I am happy to report that he has recovered completely.

In Craigs absence, David Wilson did a marvelous job of signing people in and collecting their money, although I'm sure there were a couple of members who signed in with the blue pen.

After dinner and a visit by Santa and Mrs Clause, it was time for the competitions for stage magic, the W.C. Shelly Trophy for adults and the Percy Poole Trophy for juniors. We decided to do things just a bit differently this year and award the juniors trophy before the adults began their competition.

The junior competitors really stepped it up a notch with the most entertaining and challenging competition we've had from them in quite some time, I had several members tell me afterwards that they felt the juniors were better than the adults!! Ouch, am I ever glad I wasn't one of the adults competing.

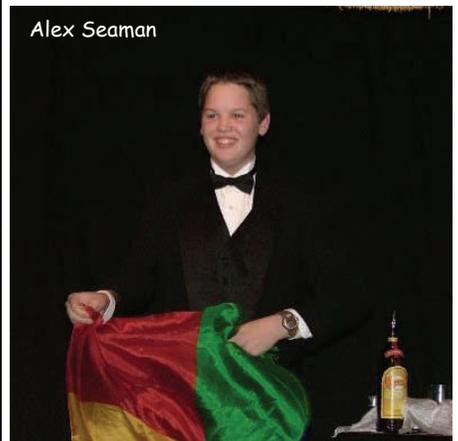
Juniors who competed included Brianna Carlson with some good rope magic, followed by Alex Seaman,



David Wilson



Brianna Carlson



Alex Seaman

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.

~Albert Einstein

(Continued on page 3)

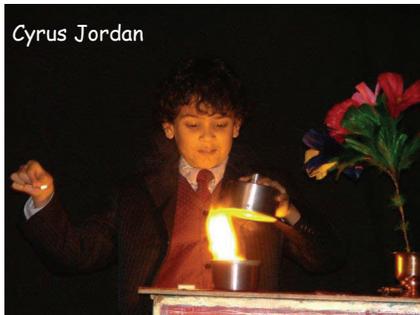
Thanks to John Smithman and Rod Chow, we have some pictures to share. If you take pictures at any meetings or events, be sure to send them to us! (and check out <http://www.champions.ca/vmc.html>)

## November in Review, con't

resplendent in a tux, who did some good silk and candle magic. He was followed by Jesse Boyes who delighted us with some clever dove magic and a box of swords. Jack Chow, with help from his brother



Nicholas, showed polka dot umbrellas, foil flowers and appearing silks in a most colorful routine. Finally Cyrus Jordan had an appearing bouquet and linking rings.



Jesse Boyes won, with Alex Seaman second.



The W.C. Shelley trophy for Adults was next starting off with Rod Chow and his money magic. Next was Jens Henriksen with the help of a few volunteers.



Then it was Henry Tom's turn to amaze the audience with a wonderful rope routine.



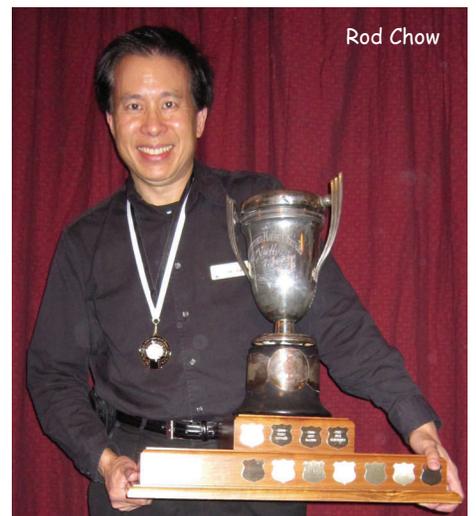
Gary Savard, always a crowd pleaser, had a multiple bottle routine.



Finally, Gord Boyes did the old 3 shell game with a new twist, giant walnut shells and hopes of a father and son championship evening.



Alas, that was not to be, the winner of the adults was Rod Chow, with Gord Boyes second.



The 50/50 draw was won by Sylvia Chow. 45 members and 43 guests had a wonderful evening. Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year to all!

# Farquhar on Ellen

Wow, how cool is that??

Vancouver Magic Circle member (and Past President) and World Champion Magician Shawn Farquhar appeared on the Ellen Degeneres show Thursday February 14th. Ellen was very obviously impressed and amazed by Shawn's presentation, the audience reaction was incredible and the feedback in the magic community has been tremendous!



Shawn smoothly managed to get Ellen's autograph twice and got a picture of his daughter Hannah on the show.



A new deck is shuffled, has a bunch of fancy cuts, and then a matched pair of cards is produced. More shuffles, more fancy cuts, and more pairs are magically produced until the table is covered with matched pairs of cards.



A card is chosen and signed and somehow ends up back in a brand new box of cards. During a break Ellen went up into the audience and met Shawn's wife Lori and daughter Hannah.



# Juniors in Action

On Sunday Dec 6th, five VMC Junior members supplied entertainment at the HSBC Bank Canada children's Christmas party with strolling magic. Over 1000 attendees enjoyed performances by Brianna Carlson, Alex Seaman, Billy Hsueh, Jesse Boyes and Jonathan Hamilton. OK, Jonathan isn't really a junior but he's still smaller than Alex.

Thank you to HSBC Bank for providing this wonderful experience for our Junior members!



The invitation came from Brianna's grandfather Brian, a former employee of the bank who has taken it upon himself to organize this annual event. Other attractions included a visit by Santa, before he had to leave and be in the annual Santa parade which could be seen passing by in front of the building, balloon twisters, face painters, imagination market and a fish pond.



Alex Seaman



Billy Hsueh

Jonathan Hamilton



Brianna Carlson



Jesse Boyes

February 5th, 2010

## 2010 VMC Installation Banquet

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

Lafflines Comedy Club is closed on Sundays and this will be a private function, really the same as it's been every year. The past numerous years this function has been held at The Sands Hotel in downtown Vancouver, but this year The Sands is not available due to the Olympic activities. Downtown Vancouver is probably a good place to avoid during the Olympics, unless you're taking in Olympic activities.

The Executive has had to find another facility and Lafflines is a great fit. This is the evening we also hold the annual competitions for the Junior and Adult Comedy Magic trophies, so what better place than Lafflines Comedy Club to hold it?

Don't forget that this is also the evening we take our annual club photo. Make sure you dress appropriately and bring your best smile.

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

Prices for the evening are still being finalized.



2009 VMC Club Photo

## Tidbits

**2010 Calendars**—are still available. Great photos collected throughout the year and all the VMC events listed for you. Just \$20. Contact Mike Norden if you'd like one.

**Alex Seaman** was featured in The Linking Ring in the November 2009 "Magic Stars of Tomorrow" feature written by Dakota Rose.

**Brianna Carlson** was the winner of the Youth Trivia Contest in the December issue of The Linking Ring. Look forward to seeing Brianna using some of her prizes in future competitions!

**Rick Mearns** is featured in the new movie Smoking Aces II - Assassin's Ball, which has been released at all Rogers Video locations. Rick was the magic consultant and did all the hand doubling for actor Tom Berenger.

**Website Updates**— WOW! Thanks to Mike Norden there are lots of updates to the website ([www.ibmring92.com](http://www.ibmring92.com)) Make sure the link to your website is correct to be entered for the "Website of Excellence" Award.

**Kramien/Murray awards**—Have you seen one of our members perform who you think is worthy of the Murray or Kramien award? Nomination forms can now be found on our website and submitted directly to our Competition Chair.

**Trevor Watters and Lorena** will be competing in the stage competition at the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas next month ([www.theworldmagicseminar.com](http://www.theworldmagicseminar.com)).

**Steve Dickson** will be teaching Magic again for the second year at the Spring break youth activity camps in Delta. Mar 8 - 12 12:30 - 3:00 Seaquam Mar 15 - 19 12:30 - 3:00 Delta Sec Students can register by phone at 604 940 5550.

**X-elent Lecture Series** cost has increased from \$300 US to \$400 Canadian. Please come out and attend these lectures, support the Lecture Series and have a great time!!

**An Unethical Clown** - a certain non-member, who in the past has even used the club's name to further promote himself, is adding members and other non-members names in his tags on online sites and purposely undercutting prices. (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/23177068@N06/4213704904/>). Members have contacted him in the he past to no avail to have it removed, although one member was able to get one of the marketing videos taken down. While as a club we do not feel there is any legal recourse to this matter, and people are certainly allowed to charge whatever they like, we feel this un-ethical style of marketing is worth bringing to our members attention. We do not condone this type of behavior and hope all our members will not participate and be aware of others who use this style of marketing.

## Broken Wand — Life Member Ian McLeod

Submitted by Ray Medway

John "Ian" McLeod, 94, of Burnaby, BC, passed on peacefully on November 25th, 2009. He is predeceased by his wife of 64 years Margaret. He is survived by his loving family, children Marion Wood and Al (Valerie), grandson Toby (Helen) and great-grandchildren Cory, Brittany, Madison and MacKenzie. After serving in the RCAF he returned to Canada and moved to Vancouver where worked as Advertising Manager of Woodward's Department Stores until retirement. Ian purchased the famous "Dollar forty nine day, Tuesday" jingle that became an icon in the industry.

on by the executive members to someone who gave unselfishly of their time and efforts for the advancement of the Magic Circle.

He won a number of awards for his expertise in the magical arts, they include:

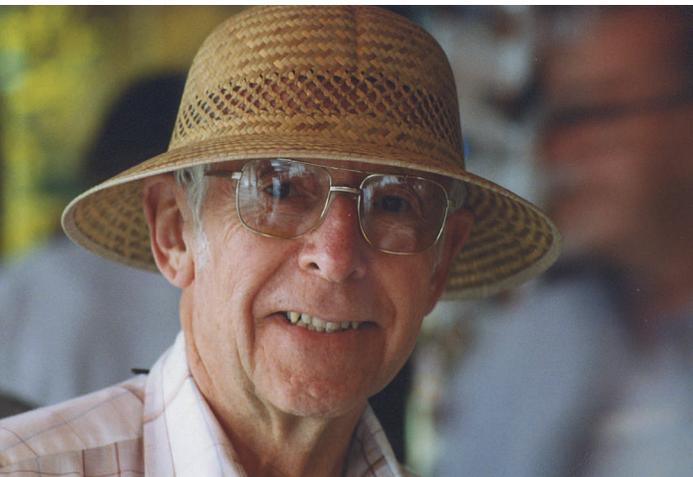
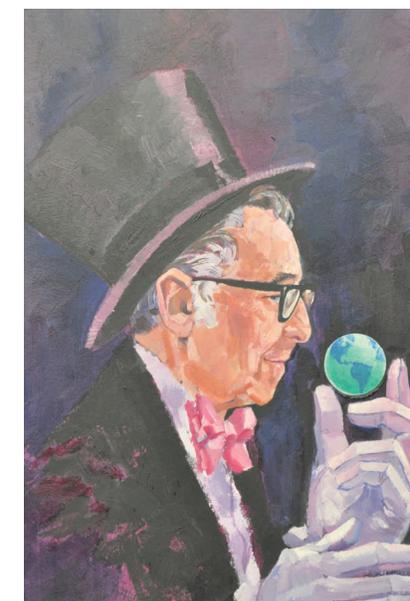
- The Ray Gamble Trophy for excellence in Impromptu Magic in 1968,
- The HB McLean Trophy for excellence in Close Up magic in 1975

He received his honorary lifetime membership in 1992. He also held his wand holders degree for his special performance at a Vancouver Magic Circle event.

Ian always had a number of stories about magic or a memory of past magicians to share. He also carried some magic in his pocket to entertain young and old and a warm smile for everyone he entertained. Even when faced with diminishing sight he continued to try and work on some magic that he might be able to perform. In the past, he would oftentimes show up at mall or public magic shows and



offer positive warmth and encouragement to the performer(s). He would always share and freely offer advice to newer members of our fraternity when asked and had a magical way of putting someone at ease right away. He was very knowledgeable on the art of magic. The Vancouver Magic Circle was very proud to have Ian as a member of our organization. We will truly miss him.



Ian, became interested in magic as a child and was prompted to join the Vancouver Magic Circle by Jack Mellor, a working associate. Ian held IBM number 15234 and was an Order of Merlin Excalibur member and a Vancouver Magic Circle Ring #95 Life Member. He was also a past President of the Vancouver Magic Circle. A broken wand ceremony was performed at his celebration of life memorial service on December 10th 2009. Ian as we fondly knew him was an excellent magician that provided inspiration to many members including our up and coming young magicians.



Testament to Ian's dedication to magic are the fact that he was awarded the Golden Rabbit Award in 1964, an award voted



**X-ellent Lecture - Rafael Benetar—Feb 5**

**VMC Installation Banquet—Feb 21**

**X-ellent Lecture - David Williamson—April 23**

**Kramiens Magic Jamboree 2010—April 30—May 1**



### 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



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**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.