



# V — RING 92 — VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

the Charles Howard Ring

May 2014

www.ibmring92.com

THE MAGICAL MINUTES NEWSLETTER

Since 1942

Join us on Thursday, May 22nd for our next monthly meeting and the competition for:

## Adult Close-up Magic H.B. MacLean Trophy

The H.B. MacLean Trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in close up magic. The effect or routine must be easily performed in an intimate and close up setting. In order to keep this award separate and distinct from other Vancouver Magic Circle trophies, no playing cards or stage effects will be permitted.



2013 Winner Tony Chris

The spirit of this competition is

to encourage growth in the fields of restaurant, table hopping, trade show and walk around style magic. The trophy was first awarded in 1971 and was updated in 2006 by then President, Mike Norden.

This competition is open to the Adult members of the club only.



2013 Winner Vincent Wang

Junior members will compete for the

## Dick Gardner Trophy!

Please contact Henry Tom at [henrytom@shaw.ca](mailto:henrytom@shaw.ca) if you would like to compete. Registrations must be received 24 hours prior to the competition.

# THE VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE PRESENTS

JUNE 22nd.

DOORS OPEN 11:30 am.

SHOWTIME 12:00 noon

## THE 2014 CHILDREN'S MAGICIAN OF THE YEAR SHOW AND COMPETITION

TICKETS : 10.00

FOR TICKETS: [WWW.IBMRING92.COM](http://WWW.IBMRING92.COM)

OR CALL 604 - 464 - 5323

ELKS LODGE #49, 2272 LEIGH SQUARE, PORT COQUITLAM.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Vancouver Magic Circle!

The sun is getting hotter, people are wearing shorts instead of pants and another magical west coast summer is upon us. The start off, I have to put on both my president's hat and the lecture chair hat and express my deepest disappointment in having to cancel the Chris Randall lecture. Even though we confirmed details months ago regarding his lecture contract, no flights were booked and no lecture materials were received. Three days before the lecture he informed us that he was unable to fulfill the commitment of his lecture contract. Special thanks to Steve Dickson, Clinton Gray, Dennis Chan, Billy Hsueh, and Alex Seaman for so quickly and efficiently communicating with the membership about the cancellation.



Our next meeting is Thursday, May 22nd and is "Close Up Night" The competition is for the prestigious H.B. Maclean Trophy and the Dick Gardner Trophy.

6:30 PM	Doors open
7:00 PM	Jam session
8:00 PM	Refreshments
8:30 PM	Close-up competition; following that, a brief business meeting.

Anyone who can help us out with refreshments please call Billy Hsueh. Anyone wishing to compete please e-mail Henry Tom at [henrytom@shaw.ca](mailto:henrytom@shaw.ca). Anyone wishing to add anything as new business please send me an e-mail at [grahamthemagicguy@gmail.com](mailto:grahamthemagicguy@gmail.com).

We have a lot of magic happening this summer. It all starts with the Magic Festival June 21st through June 28th. Keep your eyes on [www.themagicfestival.com](http://www.themagicfestival.com) for the events schedule.

On Sunday, June 22nd, 12:00 PM, we will hold the Children's Magician of the Year competition at the Elks Lodge No. 49, 2272 Leigh Square, Port Coquitlam. Please note: the date and place has been changed from the roster book due to location availability. Phil Razon, 1st Vice President, will be in charge of this event. If you are able to volunteer any time towards this event, or can sell tickets, please contact the event chair, Phil Razon. The Wilf Rutherford trophy competition will revert back to the old format (last year it was a free event which was judged by the VMC). Tickets will be sold and the winner will be judged by the audience. Remember, this is a Vancouver Magic Circle event and we need our membership to fully support it.

On Thursday, June 26th, we will be moving our "impromptu magic night" and general meeting from our regular "secret" location to the Second Storey Theatre at #201 2550 Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam. The Ray Gamble Trophy competition will be part of the magic festival and presents a wonderful opportunity for us to recruit new members. So bring some magic, balloons, and invite anyone you know that might be interested in magic. We have cards and pamphlets available for membership recruitment.

Our involvement with the magic festival is to interact with the public and get them out to see some great magic. Please support the festival and the VMC and attend these events with friends and family.

Vancouver Magic Circle member, Jeff Christensen, is holding his 6th annual magic show "A Magical Evening" in memory of his son Jonah Christensen. It is on June 21st at 7:00 PM with the doors opening at 6:00 PM. It will be at the Work Safe BC auditorium, 6951 Westminster Highway, Richmond.

*Continued on Page 11*

# Pics from our April

meeting.



THANK YOU TO JOHN SMITHMAN, OFFICIAL VMC PHOTOGRAPHER, AS WELL AS THE MANY 'FACEBOOK PHOTOGRAPHERS' FOR POSTING YOUR PICS ON THE VMC PAGE!



# “How I Got Started in Magic”

## Meet Shawn Farquhar

*Intrepid reporter Rabbi Don Pacht sits down with IBM President Elect and all-around nice guy-Shawn Farquhar to talk about the true meaning of Magic.*

**RABBI DON:** How did you first become interested in magic?

**SHAWN:** My father was a magician, so I was exposed to Magic at a very early age. My father started teaching me basic sleights when I was just a few years old. Before long, I was just ‘doing it’ without even realizing. My dad was in the Military, it took a while for me to realize that outside of his Military service, he was a professional magician.

**RABBI DON:** When did you decide that ‘magic was for you’? That it was more than just a passing interest?

**SHAWN:** When I was born the Dr. slapped me and I said ‘pick a card’!

**RABBI DON:** So...at a pretty young age then?

**SHAWN:** Yes. You can imagine my disappointment when I was in High School in Summerside, PEI. The school hosted a Career Day. I looked all over the gymnasium, but I could not find a Magician!

**RABBI DON:** What is your favourite type of audience and why?

**SHAWN:** Family audiences! I LOVE performing for families! I love a BIG crowd and the multi-age grouping of having the kids and their parents together.

I used to prefer smaller audiences. But as time went on, I found that I had the ability to connect with and engage with bigger crowds as well. As it turned out, the bigger the crowd, the more energy I get from them...and the more energy I can put in to my performance.

**RABBI DON:** Do you find it challenging performing for such a wide range of tastes in the same room?

**SHAWN:** People think that kids magic is just for kids. But it’s not. Magic can be both comedic AND sophisticated. If I do not engage the parents at a kids party, they will just stand at the back of the room and talk to one another (the more they are drinking, the louder they talk). It draws away the attention of the children and makes me look bad.

When I engage the parents in the act, they are entertained. If they are entertained, they are not distracting the kids, but enjoying it with them. And let’s face it; if the parents are entertained...you will get more bookings!





# COAT FLOAT

Mac & Bill King

*Sorry Chris Angel...*

START THIS LIFTING BIT OF LEVITATION BY REMOVING YOUR SNAZZY PLAID SPORT COAT AND HOLDING IT OUT IN FRONT OF YOU. IF YOU LACK SUCH A GARMENT, A TOWEL WILL DO.



WITH YOUR AUDIENCE DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU, BEND OVER AND ARRANGE YOUR COAT NEATLY OVER YOUR FEET, SO ONLY THE TIPS OF YOUR SHOES ARE SHOWING.



LIFT YOUR COAT UP BY THE SHOULDERS JUST HIGH ENOUGH SO THAT YOUR LEGS ARE HIDDEN AND ONLY THE TIPS OF YOUR SHOES ARE VISIBLE.

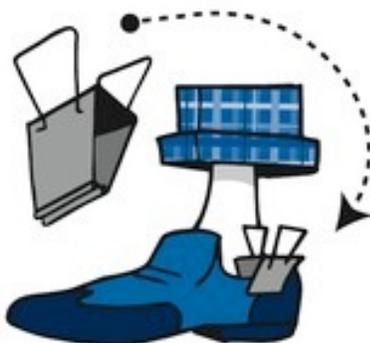


THEN SAY THE MAGIC WORDS, "COAT, LET'S FLOAT!" INCREDIBLY, BOTH SHOES RISE A FEW INCHES INTO THE AIR, HOVER THERE FOR A BIT, AND THEN SOFTLY RETURN TO EARTH.

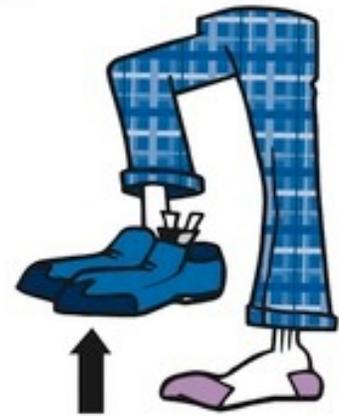


## HOWDY DO IT?

TO PERFORM THIS TRICK, YOU NEED TO START WITH ONE OF THOSE HEAVY-DUTY FILE CLIPS ATTACHED TO THE INSTEP OF ONE OF YOUR SHOES. YOU'LL ALSO NEED TO WEAR LONG PANTS TO HIDE THE CLIP



WHEN YOU BEND OVER TO ARRANGE YOUR COAT, SECRETLY ATTACH THE CLIP TO THE INSTEP OF BOTH SHOES. AS YOU RAISE YOUR COAT TO COVER YOUR LEGS, SLIDE ONE FOOT OUT OF ITS SHOE. AFTER SAYING THE MAGIC WORDS, LIFT THE FOOT — WITH BOTH SHOES ATTACHED — A COUPLE OF INCHES. THE COAT WILL HIDE YOUR OTHER FOOT FROM VIEW. THEN LOWER YOUR FOOT, STEP BACK INTO YOUR SHOE AND LIFT UP ONE OF YOUR FEET JUST ENOUGH TO DISCONNECT THE CLIP



# MIRTH &

# MAGIC



Steve Hignett



Zanthera



Murray Hatfield



Jason Verners

## MAY 24 7:00 PM

An evening of comedy & magic presented by the Victoria Magic Circle

The Victoria magic Circle presents Mirth & Magic - an evening of magic and comedy featuring the award winning magic of Steve Hignett, Zanthera, Murray Hatfield, and Jason Verners

Competing for the Wansborough Best Comedy Magic Trophy: Donald Dunphy, Craig McKee, Michael Macheck, Dave Morris.

Burwick Royal Oak 4680 Elk Lake Drive Tickets \$10 Available at [www.victoriamagiccircle.com](http://www.victoriamagiccircle.com)

# April Report

By: Dennis Chan

The April meeting started off with a jam session. The competition for this month was for the Charles Howard trophy. This trophy is awarded in recognition of magic using gimmicks in a card effect or routine. The gimmick could be a gimmicked wallet or a gimmicked card. Last year's winner, Jeff Christensen read the rules, he was also the MC for this competition. The competitors for the Charles Howard trophy were Yoosik Oum, Bryn Williams, Kelvin Ng, Joji Yamashita, Rabbi Don Pacht, Matthew Jones and Chris Yuill. This year's winner of the Charles Howard trophy was Bryn Williams. Chris Yuill came in second place and Rabbi Don Pacht came in third place. Congratulations to Bryn and to the rest of the competitors. Competition chairman, Henry Tom tallied the scores. Jeff did magic in between the acts to keep the competition flowing. After the competition, Richard Piamonte and Cameron Minty did some magic.

The business portion of the meeting included the Chris Randall lecture and workshop to be held on Friday, May 9. The regular Thursday, June 26 meeting has been moved to a venue in downtown Port Coquitlam in order to coincide with the week long Festival of Magic which starts on Friday, June 20 and ending on Friday, June 27. Therefore there will be no meeting on Thursday June 26 at the hall. During the Magic Festival week there will be two competitions,

one for the Childrens' Magician of the year- for the Wilf



Rutherford trophy and the Impromptu Card Magic Competition for the Ray Gamble trophy. Phil Razon will be in charge of selling tickets for the Childrens' Magician of the year competition. Our new roster book producer, John Smithman explained the new feature of the roster book to the members.

Guests included Marco Kalberer from Switzerland, Ivan Kong from Hong Kong, Yoko Hirate from Japan, John Lee, Aharon Pacht, and Matt Toledo. Joji Yamashita donated three VHS tapes to the club's library. Thanks Joji.

Billy Bales Hsueh brought some Starbuck's coffee to help with the refreshments. Dennis Bauyon provided the refreshments. Thanks Billy and Dennis.

Billy sold raffle tickets. And, as usual, John Smithman, the club's official photographer took photos of the evening's events.

There were 31 members and 6 guests in attendance.

-I am Dennis Chan

**RABBI DON: OK, let's talk about the purple suit.**

**SHAWN:** Yeah. I was in LA with Lori in the 1990's for a gig. We walked by this discount store and I found this suit on the SALE rack for \$17 (of course, that was US dollars, so-at the time- it was about \$100 Canadian). The "Barney Goes Corporate" look, just seemed to work for me. Years later, when I was performing in Hong Kong, I found a custom tailor shop that was able to hand-sew suits for less than you'd pay at The Bay. Now, all of my garishly purple suits are custom tailored.



**RABBI DON: What do you love / appreciate most about having Magic in your life?**

**SHAWN:** The love and friendship of the Magic community. To be honest - it is not part of my life - it is my life. Everything that I have is a result of Magic, my wife, where I live, my friends, I don't know what I'd do if it wasn't for Magic.

**RABBI DON: What is your most memorable MAGIC experience**

**SHAWN:** There are far too many, but my 'Go-To' experience would have to be when David Wilson and I produced the 1993 Convention for PCAM and the VMC. We brought over 400 Magi to the Burnaby Villa hotel.

There were dozens of acts over a week of Magic. I made friendships that have lasted a lifetime (assuming a lifetime is 21 years). That convention put the Vancouver Magic Circle on the map and launched the careers of several now-famous magicians. Murray Sawchuck, for example (did you hear that, Murray? You owe me!!!)

That experience convinced me that, although I might struggle at times, I could do this for life.

**RABBI DON: What is the greatest impact that your magic has ever had on anyone?**

**SHAWN:** That is a tough question. To be honest, I suspect that I will probably never know how many people I have affected through magic. It does not always come back to me. But on one occasion it did...

I was performing on an Alaskan cruise. My big shows always weave together lots of life lessons...food for thought. The idea is that it should be entertaining, but meaningful. After the show, I was walking on deck and I met a man standing alone. He complimented me on the show and we spent hours talking about some of the deeper philosophical issues that I had merely touched upon thematically. In the early morning hours, we said our goodbyes, went our separate ways and I pretty much forgot all about it.

Several years later, I received a letter from this man. In it, he explained what I had not realized at the time of our meeting. He had just been through a tough divorce; things were not going his way. He was ready to end it. Literally. He was on deck that night planning on taking his own life. Our conversation gave him just enough food for thought to reconsider. After the cruise, he purchased a book on magic and became a serious hobbyist. This new endeavour gave him the confidence to ask out a girl whom he had been admiring. He was writing to invite me to their wedding!

(Editor's Note: Don't try this at home.

If you meet someone considering suicide, call the Police)!

Concludes on Page 11



Meet Shawn Farquhar-continues...

**RABBI DON:** Tell us a bit about your upcoming Presidency of the IBM. What are some of the goals that you have set for yourself?

**SHAWN:** I am SO looking forward. My Presidency officially begins on July 4<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis.

I have so much planned- I have convinced the board that we need to give more value to the rings and reach out to the international ones. There has always been lots of focus on USA rings...but we want our international chapters to grow and thrive as well.

**RABBI DON:** We are the "International" Brotherhood of Magicians, after-all!

**SHAWN:** Exactly! I hope to see the formation of 2-3 rings outside of North America during my tenure.

**RABBI DON:** Do you have much planned in terms of travel?

**SHAWN:** Not really, just: Argentina, Holland, China, Malta, the United Kingdom (not Magic Kingdom...people make that mistake a lot), North Carolina, Korea, Iowa, Tokyo. And that is just the first few months! I want very much to be the International face of the IBM.

**RABBI DON:** What else have you got planned?

**SHAWN:** MAGIC JAMS!! FREE festivals for magicians...stay tuned for details!

**RABBI DON:** Thanks so much for your time! Any final thoughts that you would like to share?

**SHAWN:** YES, I'd like to say that I am super-proud to be part of the VMC. When I joined in the 80's, I never imagined we would have over 100 members, my friend David Wilson and I worked hard to build it up and I am honoured to be a Life Member.

I am fascinated by how deep magic goes in the arts and in the community; we are our own version of The Knights Templar.

**RABBI DON:** Except for the Crusades...

**SHAWN:** Yes, except for the Crusades.



Left to right: Roger Miller, International Treasurer; Shawn Farquhar, International President-Elect; Bill Evans, International President; Joe M. Turner, International Vice President; and Don Wiberg, International Secretary.

President's Message continued

Next up is the International Brotherhood of Magicians 86th annual convention July 1st through July 5th in St. Louis, Missouri. IBM is once again combining with the Society of American Magicians to produce a combined convention. To make things even more exciting, this convention is holding the 2nd FISM North American Championships. So join our fellow VMC member, Shawn Farquhar, the current International President-Elect for IBM, for a truly magical convention.



If you have not already registered for the PCAM 2014 convention, you should (I have!). The workshops are filling up and there are limited spaces in these. Mike Norden and Gord Boyes have proven themselves by producing an over the top VMC hosted 3 of Clubs Convention last year. This year's PCAM event looks even better (if that is at all possible). It is Thursday, July 31st to Sunday, August 3rd, at the same venue, the Executive Plaza Hotel in Coquitlam. After this event we have the VMC annual picnic on August 4, 2014.

Well that's all for now. Here's looking towards a really magical summer.

*Graham*

Graham Kita,  
President-Vancouver Magic Circle,  
IBM Ring #92

**Due to a large number of DVDs, VHS tapes and books recently obtained from a private collection, there will no library business in June. Our dedicated Librarian will need the time to sort through and catalogue these new additions in order to keep the library up to date.**

**Thank you for your understanding**





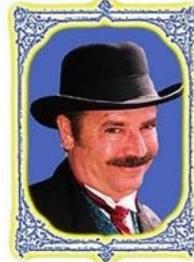
# PCAM 2014 CONVENTION

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA  
THURSDAY JULY 31ST - AUGUST 3RD  
FRIDAY  
SATURDAY  
SUNDAY

**DEALER ROOM**  
**TWELVE**  
**WORKSHOPS**  
**SIX**  
**AWESOME**  
**LECTURES**  
**TWO**  
**EVENING**  
**SHOWS**  
**FUN & GAMES**



**BOB SHEETS**



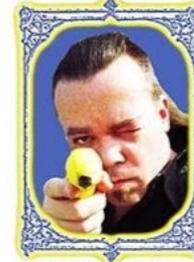
**POP HAYDN**



**CHEF ANTON**



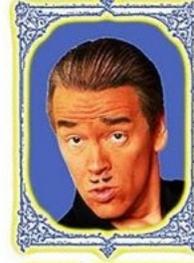
**GREGORY WILSON**



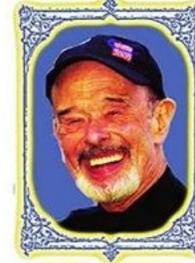
**DAN HARLAN**



**BRUCE KALVER**



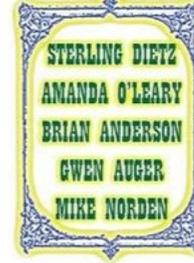
**NORM BARNHART**



**BOB FITCH**



**JAMIE D. GRANT**



**WWW.PCAM2014.COM**

The PCAM (Pacific Coast Association of Magicians) 2014 convention will be held in Vancouver (British Columbia, Canada) and will continue with the tradition of being the biggest and best annual convention on the West Coast. As usual, the convention will run on the August long weekend, beginning the afternoon/evening of Thursday July 31st and wrapping up the evening of Sunday August 3rd.

Hosted by Mike Norden and Gord Boyes (Norden & Gordon Productions) who are working hard to make this one of the best conventions you've attended.

Register early so you don't miss out ... [www.pcam2014.com](http://www.pcam2014.com)

If you're the smartest person in the room...find a different room. -Michael Bell

The Magical Minutes is the official almost-monthly (except for December and August), Newsletter of the Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring # 92. For more information, please contact the Magical Minutes Editor, Rabbi Don Pacht at [newsletter@ibmring92.com](mailto:newsletter@ibmring92.com).