



Vol 22 No. 7

July / August 2024

— RING 92 —
VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

ibmring92.com

The Magical Minutes



the Charles Howard Ring

The Dennis Chan Report

June report

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meeting took place on Thursday, June 27, 2024. Several members arrived early at the hall for a chat session.

President **Yoosik Oum** opened the meeting by greeting and welcoming the members and guests.

The workshop for this month was presented by **Roy Hopwood**. Roy showed and taught how to make two examples of topology with playing cards, namely the trapdoor and the HyperCard illusion. This was a hands on session where members make their own trapdoor and HyperCard. He also had notes. Well done Roy. Thanks. Everyone enjoyed the workshop.

Competition time. The competition for this month was for the Ray Gamble Trophy. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in card magic. Competitors are handed a brand new deck of cards with the cellophane wrapper and seal still intact. The timing starts after the competitor has removed the wrapper and opens the seal. The seal must be opened by hand. The cards must be used as they are from the box. The Jokers and the box may also be used. The cellophane wrapper may also be used. Any additional items will result in disqualification. This is an adult competition.

Last year's winner, Simon Cassegrain was the host and emcee for this competition, and he also read the rules. The timekeeper was also Simon Cassegrain. The competitors (in order of appearance) were Scott Barker, Greg Ladret, Charles Gauthier, and Gabe Gabini. Charles Gauthier was the winner of the Ray Gamble trophy for 2024. Congratulations to Charles and to the rest of the competitors. In between the acts, Simon asked what made you start doing magic? Some members started because they met a magician, some started because they saw a documentary about sleight of hand. He also asked what is your main go to effect? Some answered card to wallet, Jokers are wild, and the ambitious card routine. He also asked did you have an experience where everything went wrong and ultimately ended up as a miracle because it all worked out. Last question, (asked by Shawn) what was your worst experience?

After the competition, guest visitor Bibiana Demcak mentioned about the upcoming farewell tour of Jozef Demcak's magic show that they are organizing for September, and for three months they will tour the Greater Vancouver area to perform of two hours of stage magic productions. They are looking for stage hands.

During the business portion of the meeting, Yoosik reminded the members about the picnic in August, The PCAM convention in Victoria and the on line auction in September. He also reminded everyone to pay their VMC dues and to keep up with their I.B.M. dues to be a member in good standing with the VMC. Members were also reminded about the I.B.M. convention in Tacoma in July. It will never be closer than this. Shawn Farquhar urged everyone to attend this convention.

Ray Wong supplied the sound system. Photography was done by Roy Hopwood and Graham Kita. For the refreshments, Graham Kita brought bottled water, soft drinks and cookies. Ken Cowie also brought cookies. Greg Dietlein made the coffee.

Thanks to Greg Dietlein for giving me a ride to and from the meeting. There were 23 members and 5 guests in attendance.

July report

It was a busy time for magicians during the second week of July, 2024 as magicians from all over the world attended the I.B.M. convention in Tacoma, Washington. Magicians from the Vancouver Magic Circle attending this convention were Shawn Farquhar, Gabriella Lester, Graham Kita, Ken Cowie, Simon Cassegrain, Billy Hsueh, Blake Aleong, Rod Chow, Michael Glenister, Alex Zander, Scott Barker, David Parker, Robert Teszka, Greg Ladret, Mike Vetterli, Wiley Allen, Ed Goldberg, Errol Lipschitz, Glen LaBarre, Bill Lee, Claire-ly Lee and Greg Lee.

Featured performers from the Vancouver Magic Circle were Shawn Farquhar and Gabriella Lester.

Everyone had a good time and learned a lot from the lectures and workshops and the performances of other magicians.

Billy Hsueh, Rod Chow, and Blake Aleong entered the close up contest.

After the convention, Shawn Farquhar made plans for Ring 92 to host I.B.M. president Mike Dunagan and his wife Laura to come to Vancouver, British Columbia, to visit our beautiful city.

While they were here, Henry Tom drove Mike and Laura around to do some sight seeing including visiting the world's skinniest building which is Rod Chow's insurance office and new Animatronic Giant Panda Habitat located at the entrance to Chinatown. They also visited Dr. Sun -Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden and other parts of Chinatown. They also visited Granville Island.

They were also treated to a delicious dim sum lunch. After the sight seeing, Shawn Farquhar arranged a presidential dinner at Stefano's restaurant with several Vancouver Magic Circle members joining in attendance.

After the dinner, there was a special Presidential show at Shawn Farquhar's Hidden Wonders. The show was emceed by Yoosik Oum. Performing in the show were Simon Cassegrain, Ken Cowie, Dylan Hempenstall, Henry Tom, Bill Lee, Rod Chow, and Alex Zander.

Mike and Laura were the guests of honour and favoured and frequent volunteers sitting in the VIP seats in the front row.

A very special part of the evening was the honour of a presentation of Mike's first Presidential Citation to an extremely deserving Shawn Farquhar. Mike and Laura were impressed by the amount of magical talents by the members of the Vancouver Magic Circle and thanked everyone for their hospitality.

Shawn thanked everyone for attending the dinner and show to help make Mike and Laura's visit an enjoyable one with plenty of memories.

Everyone enjoyed the visit with Mike and Laura. Everyone had a good time. There was a chat session after the show.

Assisting me, Dennis Chan, your ring reporter with the report were Henry Tom, Rod Chow, Simon Cassegrain, Graham Kita, Yoosik Oum and Shawn Farquhar.

~~~ Heads Up ~~~

Starting in the September issue of *'The Magical Minutes'* we will be featuring a new series of articles by popular VMC member **Ray Wong**.

Ray has a vast amount of knowledge and experience so you will not want to miss his articles.

The Presidents Report

Hello VMC!

July report

I am writing this on a beautiful Canada Day. I hope you had a great holiday and enjoyed the weather that day. As always, there will not be a monthly meeting in July but we will have our annual picnic in August. Once we confirm a date, we will send you an email with details to that as well as other events coming up. Thank you and have a magical Canada Day!

August report

July was an eventful month for us. Many of you had a great time at the IBM convention in Tacoma, and we were honoured that Mike Dunagan and his wife Laura made their first visit to our city after he was recently appointed the newest President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Several of us had dinner with them and several members entertained them and all of us with a parlour show at Hidden Wonders.

I'm looking forward to August as well. We will get in touch with you by email once a confirmed date for the annual picnic is set.

I also heard Gerry McCambridge hit a milestone with his 5000th show as 'The Mentalist' in Las Vegas and received a Star on the Vegas Strip. A big congratulations to him. If you've not seen his show yet, do yourself a favour and see it on your next Vegas trip!

Have a magical month!

Yoosik Ethan Oum

Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92 - President

The Editors Desk

As this is a combined July/August edition there are 2 copies of the 'The Chan Report' and 2 copies of the 'Presidents Report'.

Congratulations to VMC Junior Member **Blake Aleong** who recently attended the Tannen;s Magic Camp and placed 2nd in Junior Magician of the year.

Be sure to read **Charles Gauthier's** great article on his recent trip to Spain, it is a wonderful read with fabulous photos and references to some magicians and magic shops. Thanks **Charles**.

Congratulations to **Charles Gauthier** for winning the *Ray Gamble Trophy* for the unopened deck competition at the June meeting.

Thanks to **Dennis Chan** and **Yoosik Oum** for their reports for each issue.

As always a very special thank you to my right hand man **John Stenning** for his reviews and his hard work behind the scenes helping to produce *TMM* and keeping me on track.

August is picnic time and September is Auction Time. (See promos in this Issue)

If you have any news, articles, photographs etc. that would be suitable for *TMM* please contact **Roy** at **604 219 0897** or hopwood.vmc@gmail.com

'Keep Magic Alive, and Live'

This month is

John Stenning

MM: Tell us a little about yourself and your family

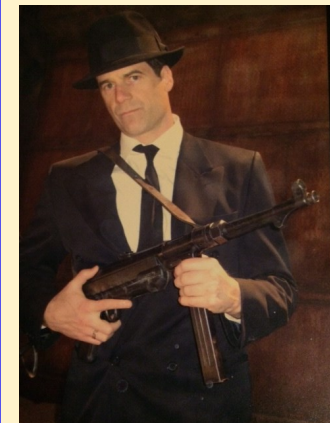
JS: I was born and raised here in Vancouver, my parents are originally from England (mum was born in France and went to boarding school in England).

MM: How did you become interested in magic?

JS: I was always attracted to magic and like many of a certain era, would look at the ads in the backs of comic books for all the tricks and effects offered; I wanted to buy it all! I would watch anything on TV to do with magic. There were two shops in Vancouver I used to go to as a kid that sold gags/pranks: The Grin Bin on West Broadway and Krack-a-Joke downtown on Granville.

MM: Who are your biggest influences in the magic world?

JS: I vaguely remember Doug Henning and saw David Copperfield's specials on TV. I saw him live in 1986 it was the night before the show, he had a special on TV, and he did the same tricks! I was not too happy. (LOL)! I also met Shawn and Lori Farquhar on the set of a Leslie Nelson movie in the late 90's and talked with Shawn. Shawn has not only, been inspirational, but extremely helpful as well as generous with his time and knowledge.



MM: What is your favorite trick to perform and why?

JS: I do not like questions like that, you might as well ask me what my favourite movie or song is. I have gotten good reactions from people doing various card tricks, sometimes a not-so-difficult one that they enjoy, so to answer your question, I would say any card trick that gets a positive reaction and is enjoyed.

MM: Can you share an interesting story from one of your performances?

JS: Before COVID, I was hired to do a family-friendly magic show and balloon Twisting for kids and adults. The show went well, with great feedback, and one little girl even thanked me for coming to do the show! The lady who hired me gave me a swag bag with a card signed by all the kids.

MM: What advice would you give to someone who wants to learn magic?

JS: Start with something you are interested in, maybe coins or cards, and get some books and read them. I think too many people these days don't read enough period and there are many benefits to reading magic books you can't get from a DVD or YouTube; also, don't buy every new trick, which comes out.

MM: How do you come up with new tricks or routines?

JS: I think the magicians who have said to make a trick suit you are right, that is, change the patter, or even the method to make it yours. I came up with a few close-up effects that I used at Granville Island when I busked there.

MM: What's the most challenging part of being a magician for you?

JS: Being disciplined and practicing, every day, as well as continuing to study the art is essential.

MM: What's the most rewarding part of being a magician for you?

JS: It's about following through with a goal, stepping out of my comfort zone at times and the joy and astonishment it brings to people.

MM: Can you share with our readers a fun, non magic, fact that we didn't know about you?

JS: I trained in Martial arts for many years and earned black belts in Judo and Karate. I also taught and competed in local tournaments doing sport karate (point-fighting) and a division called sport JuJitsu which was held once a year. I won that four times, making me the Heavyweight champion of Canada for that year.



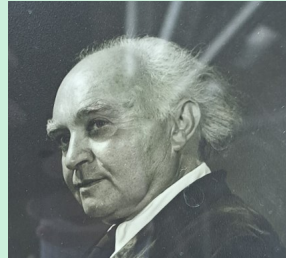
VMC Auctions 2024

Yes you read that right!

We are planning on having 2 auctions this year.

The first one is an online auction being held between September 16 and 24. Details will be released in the near future.

The second auction will be a live auction of the magic of VMC Charter Member and the VMC's first life member—Jack Zemel.



This auction will be held at our September 26 meeting at the hall.

Included in the auction will be 3 rare first edition books, one of which was published by the IBM.

VMC Annual Picnic

The annual VMC picnic will be held on Sunday August 25 at King George Park, Cambie Street, Richmond between 11am and 4pm.

You can expect the usual fun and games including:

- ◆ Card Throwing
- ◆ Balloon Toss
- ◆ Public Magic Show
- ◆ Wand Performances

Remember to bring your own food and chairs and maybe a dessert to share.



Duck or Rabbit?



Composite portrait of a lady and her daughter



Head in landscape
(From a print of about 1650)

SPAIN AND A DASH OF MOROCCO: TRULY MAGICAL PLACES

by

Charles Gauthier

My wife **Donna** and I recently returned from a five-week vacation to Spain with a day trip to Tangier, Morocco.

Our first stop was **Barcelona**. We stayed in the Barri Gotic district that was relatively close to everything we wanted to visit— the **Picasso Museum**, **Fundacio Joan Miro** and the architectural masterpieces of Antoni Gaudi such as the **Basilica de Sagrada Familia**, **La Predrera-Casa Mila** and **Casa Battlo**. We also both like visiting public markets of all kinds. So we did visit Barcelona's **La Boqueria** and it did not disappoint. And, of course, we did visit one of the world's oldest magic shops **El Rei de la Magia**, however, no shows were scheduled whilst we were there.



Our next stop was a town called **Figueres**, a 90-minute drive north-east of Barcelona. From there we delved into the strange mind of the Salvador Dali. We visited the spectacular **Dali Theatre Museum** in **Figueres** and his seaside home in **Cadaques**.

We then headed south to **Valencia**, the birthplace of paella. A gorgeous city with stunning beaches; generous, wide plazas for pedestrians; majestic architecture; delicious paella and an impressive farmers' market.

Granada was next, primarily to visit **Alhambra**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We stayed in the **Albayzin**, Spain's best old Moorish quarter. For us, the day we spent visiting Alhambra was definitely a highlight of the trip. The **Palacios Nazaries**, described as the most Islamic building in Europe, is stunning!

Another pleasant surprise on our itinerary was **Ronda**, one of the famed white hill towns of the Andalusia Region. This small, cliffside town, with all the buildings painted white, was perfect for us to unwind from visiting museums and art galleries, and to hike the breath-taking El Tajo Gorge and walk around the town.

Our next stop was **Tarifa**, alongside the Strait of Gibraltar. This was our base to travel to Gibraltar for a day visit and to ferry across to **Tangier, Morocco**, also for a day visit. We took the cable car up to the Rock of Gibraltar, checked out the cheeky Barbary macaques — monkeys — and then hiked down the Mediterranean Steps and walked back to town. The views were stunning and a lot less crowded than at the cable car stations.

The next day we took the short ferry trip from Tarifa to **Tangier**. Our local guide Youssef took us to see and experience the Medina, the Grand Socco, the Petit Socco, and a souk (market). We were also guests in Youssef's home to enjoy mint tea and the delicious desserts made by his wife. I performed a coin trick for their young son who wasn't feeling well and he just lit up with excitement. Magic is such a great ice-breaker and universally appreciated.



After returning to Spain, we stayed one more night in Tarifa and departed the next day to **Sevilla**. There we did a food tour that featured tapas, beer and wine. We usually do at least one food tour in our travels. The highlights of this city were the **Royal Alcazar** and the **Basilica de la Macarena**.

Toledo (not Ohio), also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was our next destination. What a beautiful city chock-full of history, and several original El Greco paintings in churches and museums. Also a great place to shop for and buy medieval-looking swords, armour, maces, knives and other combat weapons if there is a zombie apocalypse on the horizon.

We then headed north to **Bilbao** in the Basque region to visit the **Guggenheim Museum** designed by Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry. We did a day trip to **San Sebastián** near the French border and **Gernika**—the site of a horrific bombing in 1937 during the Spanish civil war by German and Italian air forces with the blessing of Spanish dictator Francisco Franco— to visit the Peace Museum. This tragedy inspired Picasso to paint a mural for the 1937 world's fair called *Guernica* that illustrates the horror of modern war. His famous painting, which we went to see later, is featured at the **Centro de Arte Reina Sofia** in Madrid.

Our next stop was the **La Rioja** wine region where we stayed in a beautiful 15th century *casa rural* in a tiny village called **Villalba de Rioja**. We did a private wine tour with Celia of RiojaTrek, a full day of sampling the food and wine of this amazing region. The next day we ventured on our own to visit the nearby towns of **Santa Domingo de la Calzada** and **Logrono**— both on the famous **Camino de Santiago** pilgrim path that we hope to walk one day, and the walled town of **Laguardia**.

Madrid was our last stop on this amazing trip and we had a busy itinerary visiting the **Royal Palace**, the **Prado Museum** featuring the holy trinity of Spanish painters— El Greco, Velazquez and Goya— the **Naval Museum** , and the previously mentioned **Centro de Arte Reina Sofia**. We also visited **El Rastro**, Europe's biggest flea market; listened to some great jazz at Cafe Central; and, sat in at the mostly Spanish-only performance of magician **Carlos Devante** at the **La Escalera de Jacob**. Carlos was very hospitable, gracious, made us feel welcomed, had us participate and did translate some of his performance for us. We also stopped in at **Magia Studio** and hung out briefly with a young magician, Sasha, originally from Italy now studying magic in Las Vegas. He demonstrated some pretty cool coin tricks! The store owner **Ricardo Sanchez** is super friendly and was helpful in assisting me to make some astute purchases.



There you have it. An overview of a spectacular and wonderful trip to Spain and Tangier, Morocco. The people we met and interacted with were very friendly, welcoming and helpful to two Canadians who spoke very little Spanish. The places we visited were awe-inspiring and the food was amazing! We love travelling abroad and are pondering where to go next. Stay tuned!

It was in the papers



"YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT," said Province Reporter Peter Sypnowich when he interviewed the confident skeleton who will emcee Vancouver Magic Circle's "Stars of Magic" show Oct. 23 at UBC Auditorium. The skeleton doesn't care if they see right through his tricks. After all, he just can't keep a thing up his sleeve.

JOBLESS AUTO WORKERS TURN CAR SALESMEN

HE'LL MC 'STAR OF MAGIC' SHOW

Dr. Bones, Former Protege Of Merlin, To Rattle Again

By PETER SYPNOWICH

"Yessir," said the confident skeleton, "they'll think I'm out of this world."

Airily waving a cigar ("I can't inhale 'em, but I like the aroma"), The Great Dr. Bones, former protege of Merlin the Magician, spoke with pride Friday night of the comeback he will make this month after a retirement of more than 1500 years.

The "oldest member" of the Vancouver Magic Circle will act as master of ceremonies at the circle's "Star of Magic" show, Oct. 23, in UBC Auditorium.

In a special Province interview, the talking skeleton explained how the engagement will mean the end of centuries of "buried" obscurity, and bring back the memories of his brilliant beginnings.

"It was the end of all the alchemists when I was studying under Merlin during the sixth century," he said. "Then one day a drunken knight welded me into a suit of armor during one of my tricks and I died.

"It took about four centuries for me to get out of my grave—after all, I didn't have an assistant. I've always regarded it as my greatest escape trick.

"But when I got out, I found I was only a ghost of my former self. Everybody could see through all my tricks. I couldn't keep a thing up my sleeve.

"So I had to make my way for centuries as a mere prop for other magicians. But now the Vancouver Magic Circle has given me a new chance."

He's especially happy about being "taken out of the closet" for this particular show, tickets for which can be obtained at the Krak-a-Joke Shop, 906 Granville, and Cameo Studios, 712 West Pender.

"Most of the tricks have never before been shown in Vancouver. I'll be introducing some of my colleagues from Portland, Seattle, Spokane and Victoria—one of them will at-

tempt to set a new record of three seconds in the trunk escape.

He added grandly: "Of course, all that's in addition to myself."

But beneath his polished exterior, the cocky skeleton admitted he's "scared stiff" about how his stage presence will be after all these years.

"I'm afraid I might get rattled," he said.

'ABC' Report Cards Asked By PTA

Return to the old "A, B, C." system of marking report cards has been urged by the Charles Dickens School Parent-Teacher Association.

Members voted 94 to 2 to ask the B.C. Parent-Teacher Federation to urge the switch, at a meeting addressed by Dr. Selwyn A. Miller, of the Vancouver School Board's research and special services branch.

Department of education report cards now use the symbols "O" for outstanding, "N" for normal, "S" for slow but satisfactory, and "U" for unsatisfactory.

PTA members attacked them on the ground they "fail to give parents enough information about their children's progress at school."

William D. Falk, O.D.

Coffee and Magic In Steveston

4 VMC Members got together for Coffee and Magic in Steveston



Ken Cowie; Charles Gauthier; Scott Barker; Roy Hopwood

Photo courtesy of Ken Cowie

Congratulations Blake Aleong

Recently Blake spent a week at Tannen's Magic Camp and placed 2nd as the Junior Magician of the year.



Photos courtesy of Blake Aleong

A picture tells a thousand words 1



VMC Meeting – June 27, 2024



Photos Courtesy of Roy J Hopwood

A picture tells a thousand words 2



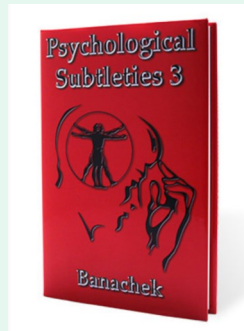
IBM International President Mike Dunagan's visit to Vancouver



Photos Courtesy of Henry Tom

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUBTLETIES 3

Banachek



In this third instalment of the Psychological Subtleties series, Banachek continues with new, fresh material and complete routines from himself and other well know mentalists such as:

-Sean Waters

-Colin McLeod

-Marc Spelmann, Peter Nardi, Docc Hilford, Kenton Knepper and many more.

There is a chapter on dealing with difficult spectators, creating the perfect situation, subtle verbal methods and much, much more in this treasure trove of mentalism gems.

So much valuable information in this series of books and Vol 3 is no exception. If you have any interest in mentalism, I would humbly suggest that you spend some time reading these books and trying out some of the material for yourself.

Till next time, stay magical my friends.

J.Stenning A.K.A. Melrick the Magician.

FIVE VMC MAGICIANS ON TV!

On August 6th, I worked as a background performer on a TV. show that cannot be named as of yet (it is a very “irrational” television show, let me tell you that)! The night before, I found out it was the show that Billy H was consulting on and that they would be doing a scene with Shawn F, Rod C, Rob T, Billy H and Graham K. Due to my union status, I cannot reveal any details about the scene, as it has not aired yet, however, I’m sure you will be able to see it in the near future and I would highly recommend it!

We spent the day filming inside and outside of the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Vancouver.

They all did a great job!

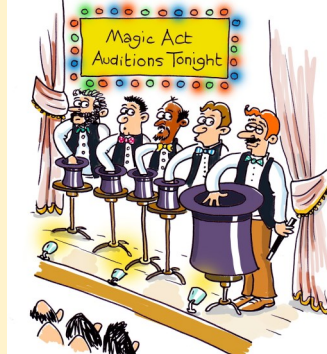
J.Stenning

August 7/2024

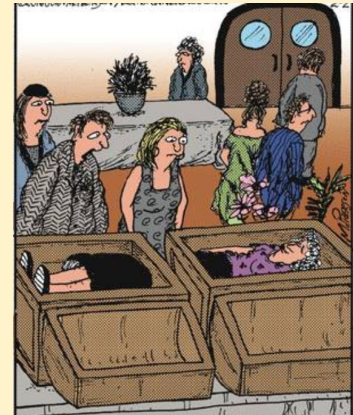
Jest for Fun



The Great Kazan attempts to pull a shark out of his hat.



Since Joe was the only one to do a power analysis before starting, he was the only one with the size necessary to see the desired effect



"Oh, I thought you knew. Sally was a magician's assistant."

I think cinema, movies,
and magic have always
been closely associated.
The very earliest people
who made film were
magicians.

Francis Ford Coppola

- The word "Magic" is Greek.
- The first magicians that have been noted in history are Persians and Greeks.
- Alexander Hermann, known as Hermann the Great, a French magician was responsible for the outfits most magicians wore – The tall hat and the cape.
- It's illegal in Queensland (Australia) to own a pet rabbit unless you can prove that you're a magician.
- An American magician in the 1900s acted as a Chinese man for his show and never broke character in public, even using a translator when speaking to journalists.

Diary Dates*

Vancouver Magic Circle lbmring92.com	Generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the Month—January; February; March; April; May; June ; September; October: November; Plus August—Picnic on date tba.	
	VMC Executive Meeting:	TBA - via Zoom
	August 2024:	VMC Annual Picnic Sunday August 25 2024 King George Park, Richmond BC
	September 2024	Online Auction Sept. 16-24 Live Auction Sept 26 2024 150 Windemere Street Vancouver

Shows (as a courtesy)

Hidden Wonders https://hiddenwonders.ca	Shows are generally on Thursday 7 PM, Fri & Sat 7 & 9:30 and Sunday 3 & 7 TBA—check web site for dates and times
The Parlour Magic Show The Parlour Magic Show	Monthly on the third Wednesday TBA—check web site for dates and times

Other Clubs (as a courtesy)

Society of American Magicians #95 SAM#95	Meetings of the SAM #95 are held the first Tuesday of the month at members homes. TBA—check web site for dates and times
Fraser Valley Magic Circle FVMC	Regular monthly meetings take place on the second Friday of most months, at a private home in Mission, BC. TBA—check web site for dates and times

Magic quote of the day

"Most magicians are afraid of magic".

Max Maven

VMC Library

The Vancouver Magic Circle Library Catalogue is online!

Remember: if you want a new trick, look in an old book! Our hope is that whenever our members see a trick they really want, or are trying to learn a difficult piece of theory, or are interested in buying a book— they will first check the library. This is one way we can improve our magic, and this [searchable online catalogue](#) is the first step towards taking full advantage of this incredible resource.

Please Do Not Forward The Magical Minutes to Non-Members*

This is just a friendly reminder to all our members to please not to forward our newsletter, 'The Magical Minutes' or any private newsletter links, to people who are not financial members of the VMC. The online VMC Library, and The Magical Minutes newsletter are a membership privilege. It takes a lot of time and effort to write our newsletter, and we do it exclusively for the benefit of our members. If a non-financial member asks you to forward The Magical Minutes to them, please refrain from doing so. Lastly, the Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to and / or sent positive messages about The Magical Minutes newsletter. It is truly appreciated and makes all the hard work worth it.

Thank you
The VMC Executive Committee

* Except with express permission of the VMC Executive Committee.

** Do NOT rely upon this newsletter for critical dates and times of meetings; events or shows. Always check the official source of the information.*