



Vol 23 No. 3

June 2025

The Magical Minutes

— RING 92 —  
VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

[ibmring92.com](http://ibmring92.com)

the Charles Howard Ring



## Simon Says

Dear members,

Thanks to all of you who attended and made our May meeting, dedicated to the memory of Dennis “Bulldog” Chan, a very special event. [Congratulations](#) to Roy again, for his third competition win at the VMC! Maybe we should investigate the archives to see who holds the record for most competition wins in a year, a new job for the Statistical Division of the VMC.

We had a wonderful 3-hour lecture on June 17<sup>th</sup>, with our special guest Geoff Williams – Lots of tips, tricks, and great ideas were bouncing around!

The SAM and the FVMC have invited us to their annual picnic on June 29<sup>th</sup> at Harrison Hot Springs; I know that some of you will be there and it’s going to be a fun day of magic. On our side we will also have our annual picnic on August 19<sup>th</sup> at our usual location in Richmond. I will communicate all the details soon.

I also have a special early announcement for you: we will be hosting Joe Turner at the end of July for an in-person lecture at Hidden Wonders. Joe has been a 4F member since 2004. He also served as the 2015-2016 International President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. His lectures have been praised by attendees at multiple magic conventions. So, I’m sure we are in for a fantastic night!

I’m really looking forward for our annual unopened deck competition and our last meeting before the summer break!

See you all there!

Cheers,

Simon

**Dai Vernon**, known as "The Professor," once spent decades tracking down a man who could perform a version of the "Center Deal"—a notoriously difficult card sleight. When he finally found him, it turned out to be a humble gambler in the Midwest who had no idea he was a legend in magician circles.



## Broken Wand

Dennis Chan , 82 of Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada passed away May 1, 2025. He was an exceptionally dedicated Life Member of the Vancouver Magic Circle (VMC) IBM Ring #92 for more than 35 years, IBM# 26389M, and a member of the Order of Merlin Excalibur. He was a professional chef and worked in the pulp and paper industry.

Dennis was passionate about magic, the Vancouver Magic Circle, and its members. Every Christmas he would get on the phone and wish all of the members a Merry Christmas. He was the club's sergeant-at-arms (for over 20 years), librarian (he stored and documented the club's very large library in his house), historian, and ring reporter. He never missed the Club or executive meetings.

Dennis earned the nickname "bulldog" because he was always there to take attendance and keep the meeting running in an orderly manner and make sure that everyone's needs were attended to. He was a pillar of our magic community.

Survivors include his sister Lori (Tony) and brothers Leonard and Russell (Jean) as well as a niece and three nephews. He will always be remembered as a true brother to Vancouver Magic Circle members both past and present.

### The Editors Desk

I'm back at the desk again, with, hopefully no more stays in hospital. I am slowly recovering from my last hospital stay early in May. Thank you for all the well wishes I received from members. It was really appreciated, and I am looking forward to fulfilling my duties as 1st VP; Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

I must give a shout out to my fellow Executive Members for the support they showed me during a very difficult start to 2025. Special thanks to **John Stenning** for continuing to be an integral part of the production of the newsletters and his advice not to produce an edition until I felt I was ready to.

It is a privilege and honour to have won 3 VMC competitions in a row. You could be the next winner, but only if you enter. I encourage more members to give it a go. Remember *'You have to be in it, to win it'*.

If you have any comments or suggestion in regards to the newsletters, please let **John** or me know.

Roy

## Linking Ring Report

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meeting took place on Thursday, May 22, 2025. President Simon Cassegrain welcomed and greeted the members and guests especially the late Dennis Chan's sister Lori and her husband Tony. Simon invited guests to stay for the close-up magic competition after the broken wand ceremony.

Graham Kita presided over the broken ceremony for his long-time friend Dennis "Bulldog" Chan who passed away unexpectedly on May 1, 2025 at the age of 82. Dennis was a dedicated, long-serving VMC member serving as the Sergeant-at-Arms for two decades, as well as the club's historian, librarian and Linking Ring contributor.

Many members and guests in attendance took to the stage to share their fond memories and stories about Dennis and his love of magic, the Club, ventriloquism, and cooking. Those who spoke included fellow magicians from the VMC, the Fraser Valley Magic Company and SAM. Among them were Dave Watters, Bruce Hunt, Shawn Farquhar, Rod Chow, John Stenning, Roy Hopwood, Bob Britton, Mike Norden and long-time friends and neighbours such as Suzanne Gustafson. After the many lovely tributes, the broken wand was presented to Dennis' sister Lori.

The meeting was also live streamed online via Zoom for members and friends who were unable to attend in person courtesy of Simon Cassegrain for setting it up and Shannon Linning for monitoring the chat. The photographer for the meeting was Roy Hopwood. The ceremony was followed by a refreshment break graciously organized by Graham Kita and his wife Terri. Ken Cowie, Suzanne Gustafson, Dave and Cathie Watters, Graham and Terri Kita contributed food and refreshments. Mike Vetterli brought pop and was reimbursed by the Club. Mike made the coffee for people to enjoy.

After the break, President Simon Cassegrain announced that magician Geoff Williams will be giving an online lecture on June 17.

Simon then read the rules for the close-up magic competition. Graham Kita served as the MC/host of the competition. The four competitors were John Stenning, Scott Barker, Roy Hopwood, and Michael Glenister. The winner of the competition was Roy Hopwood. The H.B. MacLean trophy, fully buffed and shined up by Shawn Farquhar, was presented to Roy.

The helping hands for the night were Scott Barker, Roy Hopwood, Rob Teszka, Chris Yuill, Glen LaBarre, Simon Cassegrain, Suzanne Gustafson, Shannon Linning, Dave and Cathie Watters, Graham and Terri Kita. Many hands make light work. Twenty-nine members and sixteen guests were in attendance.

Charles Gauthier

## PRO BILL TUBE



Many of you are certainly familiar with the Bill tube.

Basically, you vanish a signed bill and it appears inside of a small, locked, brass tube (this particular one anyway). If you get the metal (brass) one that I got, you will have to get a small padlock for it yourself, as it does not come with one.

When assembled and locked, it looks and feels very solid, and impenetrable, with no way of opening it without taking the lock off.

I'm not going into too much detail about how it works, but I will say that if you can vanish a signed bill, then load it into the tube while it's in your pocket, you can do this. Obviously, the presentation and patter is important and you will want to make it your own.

The cheaper ones for sale are under \$10 U.S. However, they are sold out (I believe they are plastic) The brass ones are approximately \$40 U.S. from Vanishing Inc and Penguin magic.

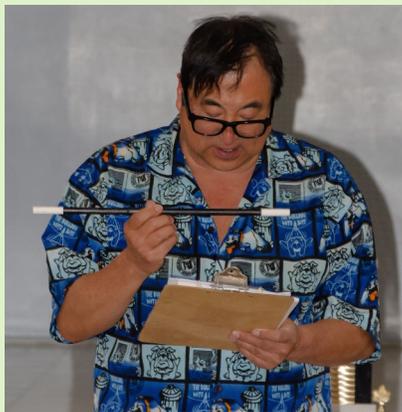
I'm personally looking forward to using it soon!

Stay magical

J.Stenning May 29, 2025

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** There have been some shipping changes with Vanishing Inc, so you might want to double check before ordering anything.

# A picture tells a thousand words (1)



# A picture tells a thousand words (2)



## A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

The Linking Ring, Vol 80, #2, February 2000

Welcome to a blast from the past, where I will dig up gems from years gone by. This one features a Max Maven one man parade from over 25 years ago.

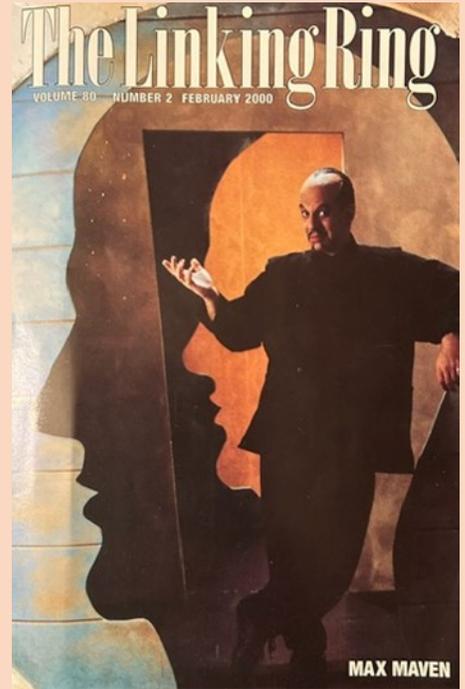
As most of you know, if you are a member of the I.B.M. then you have access to all the published Linking Rings, (on line of course). I specifically mentioned this one man parade, which starts on pg. 85, because of the redistribution principle that Max Maven explored for many years. Three tricks are explained using this principle, starting with TRIBULATION, on page 87.

You may already know of this principle, or use it in one of your tricks; it can be applied to cards as well as three different objects (as in FUNDSAMENTAL on pg. 89).

I'm always interested in anything that Max Maven created and of course, there is much more in this parade than the three effects that I mentioned.

Have a look if you like, you might find it interesting or even add something to your repertoire!

All the best, stay magical.  
J.Stenning May 27, 2025.



### Difficult Tongue Twisters

**She sells seashells by the seashore, but the seashells she sells aren't seashells, I'm sure.**

This variation of the classic "She sells seashells" increases difficulty with extra phrasing, making it harder to maintain rhythm and clarity.

**The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick.**

Known as one of the most difficult tongue twisters in the English language, this phrase is tough due to the repeating "s" and "sh" sounds.

# Coffee and Magic Jam

June - Cloverdale



Photos courtesy of Ken Cowie

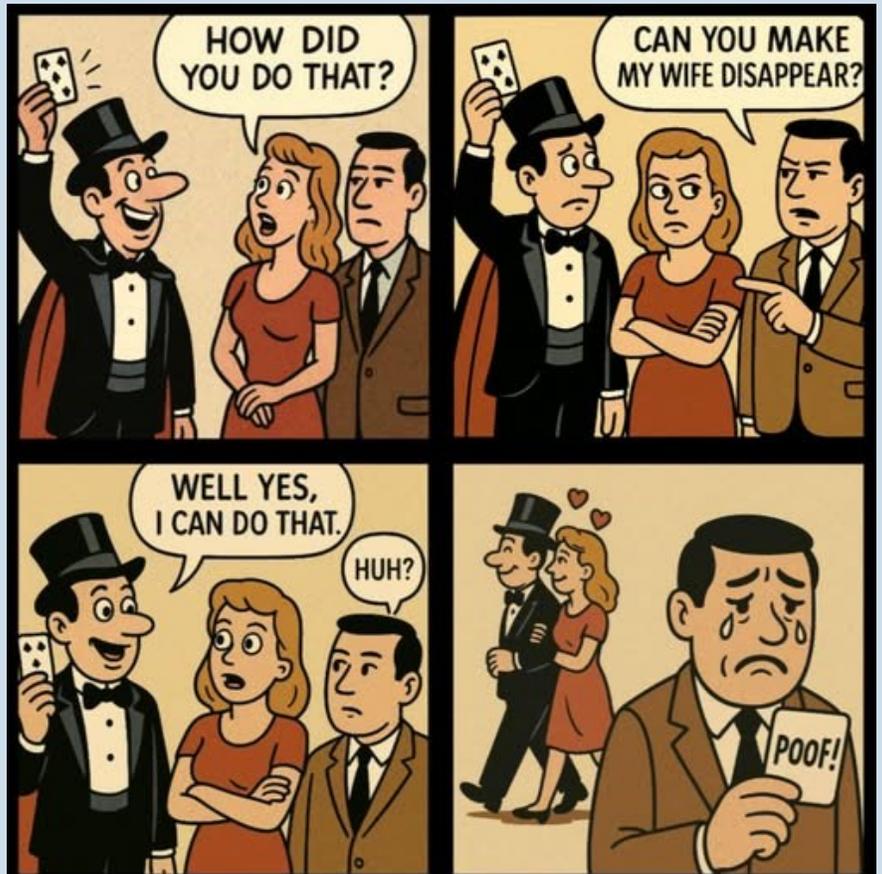
# Jest for Fun



Courtesy Charles Gauthier



MAGICIANS MAKE TERRIBLE ROOMMATES.



Be careful what you ask a magician  
-he might be too good at his craft.

Tayson

Courtesy Charles Gauthier

# MAGICIAN PROFILE:

## VITALY BECKMAN



### THREE TIME FOOLER!

You may have heard of him, or seen one of his performances on Fool Us; Vitaly Beckman, is an extremely talented local magician I first saw at the Havana club on Commercial drive in 2010. There he wowed the audience with his extraordinary levitations (at one point levitating a spoon, then putting two glasses over it, while still, it levitated in the air)! He also did some very original magic with pictures, that, to be honest, I cannot recall too well, however, he is known to combine art and magic seamlessly to great effect.

I reached out to Vitaly on Facebook and asked him if I could interview him for our newsletter and he graciously agreed.

Vitaly grew up in the Soviet Union before moving to Israel. Back when he was in the Soviet Union (before the wall came down) they did not have exposure or access to American television, or music, so he did not see magic specials until later in life and didn't really start on his magical journey till he was about 13. Later on, when he was able to access western t.v. programs, he saw some of the big name magicians he had never heard of. I asked him about influences and

could instantly relate, when he mentioned Modern Coin magic by J.B. Bobo, which helped him to correctly learn and perform certain coin slights/effects; like many other magicians, he dived right in and read other books on magic, such as The Royal Road to Card Magic by Hugard and Braue, as well as other classics of magic.

I asked Vitaly if he is planning on going back on Fool Us for a fourth trophy, however, at this time, he doesn't think so and seems content to perform his unique brand of shows (which, unfortunately, I have not seem since, the Havanna). We talked a little about selling original tricks and marketing your magic, however, for Vitaly, he seems willing to share magical knowledge, but right now, selling and marketing his effects doesn't seem to be something he's interested in, but who knows, maybe one day?

So, from playing at the Havana, on Commercial drive in 2010, to fooling Penn & Teller THREE times, Vitaly Beckman is a prime example of what perseverance and passion for your art can do. I find his story to be among the many inspirational ones of those who focused on their craft and moved forward.

Give him a shout on Facebook and watch his Fool Us performances on Youtube (of course).

Vitaly Beckman makes his home in New Westminster B.C.

Thank you for your time and sharing your knowledge and experience with me for this interview Vitaly!

J.Stenning

June 24/2025

# Diary Dates\*

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

**Vancouver Magic Circle**  
[lbmring92.com](http://lbmring92.com)

**June 26, 2025**

Sunrise Hall - 1950 Windemere Street - Vancouver.

- Workshop - Genpei Cai
- Unopened Deck Competition  
The Ray Gamble Trophy

**July, 2025**

**No Meeting**

## 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 Company**

[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 month

***“An old magic trick well done is far better than a new magic trick with no effect.”***

## 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

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