

# Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring” SAM #99

February 28, 2024 | Archived Famulus



President David Freeman opened the meeting by listing members who are working local Orlando shows: Keith Kong, Greg Solomon, Matt Marberry, Jackie Manna, Wallace Murphy, Dan Stapleton, Ravelli, Mark Fitzgerald and Craig Fennessey.

We now have a new red fringe tablecloth made by Corrine Fennessey.

Mike Berland did a mini lecture showing how to use balloon animals with a pennant and a stick for promotional handouts.

Phil Schwartz presented Magic History Moment #101. It was about Silk King Studios — created and operated by the King of Silks, Harold Rice and his wife Thelma. She became the Queen of Silks. Harold was born on May 22, 1912, in Salineville, Ohio, his interest in magic was ignited by the performance of S. S. Henry when Henry played the Chautauqua circuit.

In 1934 he proposed the forming of a magic dealers' association to help with problems such as protecting the rights of those who invented or marketed new effects, the possible ways of dealing with pirates, the prevention of unethical practices, and similar concerns. The Magic Dealers Association, Inc., finally came into being in 1946. He served as President, 1951-52, and Secretary from 1952-67.

In 1929, Rice started his magic company that endured, Silk King Studios, for more than fifty years. It is the historic standard for silk props. Finally based in Cincinnati, Ohio, all magicians are familiar with the SKS designs and crisp artwork. His silks became known for their brilliant colors, durability, and workmanship. Rice also authored a multi volume book series on silk magic.

Besides his family life, he lived two other lives and careers, simultaneously as an academic and a magic maker/dealer. In 1946 he became the Dean and later President of the Moore Institute of Art in Philadelphia. In 1963 he returned to University of Cincinnati — Dean of the College of Design, Architecture, and Art. He retired in 1978 from academia. Rice died on July 10, 1987.

The monthly show was emceed by Phil Schwartz, who used a novel way to introduce each act. A spectator selected a random lottery paper from a bin that contained a superlative description.

Kenn Gunn was first on with his version of Don Alan's Ranch Bird. "Chumpy the chattering teeth" was able to locate a selected card from a matrix on the table. Dennis Phillips presented the rarely seen "Count Artell's Ribbon Cutting". Ari Novik had a rapid production of a small and large bottle of "Fireball" followed by an ESP card prediction. Keith Kong presented a baffling prediction of two words written on a billet by two spectators. Paul Thomey found and scorched a card selected by a spectator.

Carlos Veliz showed a two-rope effect that joined and split and became one long one and back to two ropes. He explained it to our puzzled minds.

Bob Swaddling had a stack of coins, covered by a paper cone penetrating his hand. He continued with an incredible feat of being about cut to any card and any number. Greg Gibson, who says, "I am just a truck driver" had an incredible 3 card monte and a card-in-the-box fooler.

Greg Solomon finished the show with a hilarious folded card gag and a delightful Pop Pom Stick that he called a cat toy.

Dennis Phillips, Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Meeting policy:**

Face masks, if you wear one, will not be ridiculed. We are understanding that some people may be immunocompromised. We also respect your personal choices.

Stay prepared, healthy, and informed about current Public Health issues and contagious outbreaks.

Be respectful of others and if you suspect you have any contagious illness, avoid group contact.

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170, Assembly #99**

### **“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”**

\*\*\*\*\*

When the late, great comedian/pianist Victor Borge would be performing in concert, he would sometimes be interrupted by late-comers trying to find their seats after the show had started.

With his ever-present smile, he would stop what he was doing, stand with his hands politely folded at the edge of the stage and watch as the patrons finally sat down.

Once they were seated, he would ask -- ever so nicely, in his Danish accent -- "So, where are you good people from?"

Of course, they would reply with some local city or suburb. Borge would smile, nod and then say "Really? I'm from Copenhagen and I got here on time!"

The audience would erupt with applause and laughter as Borge returned to his piano.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The late Jimmy Nelson’s widow, Betty, has passed.** Baby Boomers remember Jimmy Nelson the ventriloquist and his sidekicks, Danny O’Day and Farfel the Dog.

“Nestles makes the very best ‘Chaw-clut’!”

Betty was famous on her own. <https://jimmydannyfarfel.com/about-betty.php>



\*\*\*\*\*

## **2024 AMA (Academy of Magical Arts) Awards**

**To be award in May**

-----

Masters Fellowship

Teller

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Davenport Family

Magician of the Year

Piff the Magic Dragon

Performing Fellowship

Steve Cohen for Parlor Magic

Performing Fellowship

Jorge Blass for Stage Magic

Creative Fellowship

Mario the Maker

Literary & Media Fellowship

Paul Romhany

Special Fellowship

Scott Wells

Mike Miller

Willie Kennedy

Outstanding Junior Achievement

Day Mori

\*\*\*\*\*



### ***Niels Sayers-Magic and Comedy***

It was a pleasant warm Florida evening on February 2nd (2024) and Dan Stapleton, and I traveled together to the Clermont Performing Arts Center to see Niels Sayers perform in his solo show in the Black Box Theater.

Niels is a longtime friend and a seasoned entertainer who is energetic, enthusiastic, and comfortable on stage . He blends comedy with mystery. His slight Spanish accent adds extra charm.



Dennis with Niels

The one-hour show opens with a one-minute prerecorded announcer's introduction recounting his many performing credits. After a few seconds of the track, I realized that it was my voice that I had done for Neils a while back. Neils was dressed in a white with blue tropical floral pattern sport coat and a contrasting colorful casual T-shirt.

He energetically walked out and opened a large sketch pad and with a marker ,drew a bowling ball and wrote the words, "Bowling Ball". Closing the pad, a real bowling ball dropped to the stage with a thud, the audience gasped and applauded. The page with the drawing was now missing the bowling ball, but the words remained. The classic Kevin James effect always pleases.

He then went into a series of hilarious comedy mindreading sight gags. "Think of a word". He handed a pocket dictionary to the person. "Yep, I knew. It's in here!"

"Think of a number. Do you have one?" He turned the large envelope over and is had a number "1" on it. Inside was the "think of a well-known person bit" with the baby gags. "Here are my kids" was in the envelope. The audience loved it.



This led into a 3-book test where 3 chosen words were revealed. Niel's routine was his own combination of the best features of book tests, such as David Hoy's, but with his own unique revelation and conclusion that used the dictionary.

Next a male volunteer came up and chose a naughty word from a group of cards. After a lot of comedy by-play and Niels trying to reveal the word and apparently failing, the word Niels wrote down was what the not-so-naughty word the spectator had really selected.



He then did a series of sleights with a small blue handkerchief. It went from one hand to the other and into his mouth only to be instantly transformed into a walking cane.

A funny “Drink-in-the-shoe” sequence was next with a lady volunteer’s shoe and Niel’s apparent failure to follow the trick’s voice directions from (a sassy) Siri on his cell phone.

It all ended well for the lady’s shoe and Niels and with many laughs.

A 3-Card Monte, with giant cards followed. The audience was impressed.

Next, a volunteer with a \$100 bill and a chance to double his money ,by guessing which of 4 envelopes had the bill. Niels shredded 3 of them and the 4thdid not have the \$100 bill.

But all was not lost; the borrowed bill was in Niel’s wallet all along.

A small boy was brought up for an enjoyable version of Martin Lewis’s Card-O-Graphic. A

chosen card “rises” from a cartoon-drawing of a card pack on a sketch pad. It is torn off and given to the amazed boy who kept rubbing the drawing trying to figure out how Niels did it.

A classic effect in magic is borrowing a spectator’s wristwatch and accidentally destroying it and finding it in an impossible location. The effect leads to laughs and comic relief when the watch is returned unharmed.

Neils had his own version, and it was a strong effect as the show concluded. He wrapped the watch in paper and masking tape and had the spectator try to throw it across the stage to a clatter box that another spectator was holding. Niels had a red velvet bag just in case

the box was missed. The watch ended on the floor. Niels tried to fix it with a couple of hammer blows. The clatter box fell apart, The watch ended up inside the consolation prize, a sealed can of beans from the grocery store.

His finale was his fast-moving version of The Multiplying Bottles, always an audience favorite. A bottle and glass change places and another bottle keeps appearing.

He concluded by acknowledging his magician friends in the audience.

It was an enjoyable evening for everyone. The best comment a reviewer can make is that the audience loved the show, and everyone had more fun than they could have imagined. When you hear that a Niels Sayers show is available to see, don't miss it!





(L to R) *Dan Stapleton, Dennis Phillips, Niels Sayers, Kostya Kimlat*

\*\*\*\*\*

Photos from the recent

**Florida Magic History & Collectors Conference, Orlando.**



“The most prestigious speakers and featuring events with perks that are unheard of at ANY magic gathering!”



Our first Guest Speaker for this year's Florida Magic History & Collectors Conference, Tim Wright, was fun in talking about the early years working for Abbott's and showing his skill as a manipulator. Great fun. And much to his delight, he sold out of his lecture notes.

England's Bob Swadling and his amazing Magic Tea Kettle, Martin Preston interviews Tammy Calvert with memories of John Calvert, ( Tammy is awarded a standing-O and is emotionally

overwhelmed), part of this year's vintage poster gallery, Todd Harris talks about the great builders of British apparatus.



Martin Preston interviews Tammy Calvert. Dennis Phillips escapes from 100 ft of rope in less time than it took 2 audience volunteers to securely tie him up.

Rick Health receives a "Standing-O" for his wonderful talk on humorist Robert Orben. Dan Stapleton performed the Sands of Time. Dean Carnegie speaks about Maro-Prince of Magic.



Tammy Calvert and "The Ghost of John Calvert" (Martin Preston)



Bob (in photo with wife, Val) Swadling won the “Open Mic” performance award with a baffling coins-in-glass routine.



\*\*\*\*\*

Until next month,

*Dennis Phillips*