

January 2015 Ring Meeting

Posted on [January 29, 2015](#) by [Dennis Phillips](#)

Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev Bergeron Ring” SAM Assembly #99 January 2015 Meeting

President Craig Schwarz gaveled the meeting to order.

Craig established some new traditions for our group. Following a newly written Invocation delivered by Dan Stapleton, the meeting opened with a lively bit of magic by Dennis Phillips. He introduced his new “Enthusiasm Machine” used to measure the excitement of the group and there was so much excitement they broke the meter on the machine. Phillips then did a Ring on Shoelace routine and ended with a comical version of “Cards Across”. Playing cards vanished from one volunteer’s hands and appeared in another’s on the other side of the room.

President Craig Schwarz gave a certificate of appreciation to outgoing President Mark Fitzgerald for his service to the group. Announcements of local magic activities were made and are posted on our website.

Bev Bergeron presented a teach-in. This time it was the “Puzzle of the Parking Lot Numbers”. He explained that few adults solve the puzzle but all school students who ride School buses solve it.

Phil Schwartz, our resident magic historian, did Magic History Moment # 63. It spotlighted Stodare. Stodare (1831-1866), was born Joseph Stoddart in Liverpool, England. On October 16, 1865, on Stodare’s 200th appearance at the Egyptian Hall, he presented, for the first time, his Sphinx Illusion (an early use of mirrors), invented by Thomas Tobin. He is known for his Stodare Egg – a hollow egg used in the vanish or production of a silk and his Indian Basket trick. Phil added a lot more interesting facts. He then showed a collector’s item, the Rice Haunted House.

Greg Solomon filled the rest of the meeting with the Bill Placko Estate Sale. Members were able to pick up some real bargains and help Placko’s father.

Bill Placko started his lifelong interest theatrical magic, during the mid-1950’s, in the Cleveland, Ohio area. It was there that he received his first magic set. Over the years, Placko performed for schools, church... groups, clubs and various organizations, plus many private party events. Placko also worked full time at a magic shop in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in the late 1960s. He was also known in the magic business as a producer of latex production items. The proceeds of the sale will go to Bill’s father who is in his 90’s and living in an assisted living facility.

Dennis Phillips, Secretary