

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

June 26, 2024 | Archived Famulus, Current Famulus



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

June 2024

President David Freeman called the meeting to order and gave a short summary of all the local appearances by our members at the local attractions and events. We had 28 present and three guests. Kayla Adams is a local assistant a resort illusionist. Arlen Solomon from The Space Coast is the SAM Magic Youth coordinator and Greg Gibson.

Our meeting show opened with Dr. Ken Schreibman showing us a seemingly miraculous card trick. He used his i-Pad , with a cellphone app. and jumbo cards. A spectator shuffles a deck of jumbo cards and selects five cards and then shuffles them and puts one with its face hidden in an upright card holder. The spectator then enters the other four cards into the app and in a few seconds the hidden card appears on the screen. The effect was repeated several times and finally the app apparently knew the position of all the cards in the deck because as each card if the shuffled deck was turned over that card appeared on the screen. The app was a bit cranky at first, but eventually all the miracles happened.

Jacki Manna, our treasurer, and talented ventriloquist-magician brought her possum friend ,whose favorite phrase was “okey dokey”. Red sponge balls kept appearing in his mouth along with many funny lines.

Greg Gibson, "The Magic Trucker" had a chosen card revealed in a spectator's palm, a red hank appeared and disappeared in his fist and he did a hilarious Rocky the Raccoon bit with the classic spring animal that had all the character of a living animal.

Dennis Phillips followed with a show-and-tell of a Jack Hughes designed doves to rabbit house. He then did Grant’s Light and Heavy Glass with a male and female volunteer where he transferred the strength of one to the other and followed by Jack Gwynn’s Anti-gravity glasses where two glasses float.

“Gnuttty Professor” Jerry Frye was with us and did a show and tell with two of his Card Ducks. They can pick a card out of a stack of cards.

Steve Nelson, The Master of the Unexpected” and extraordinary mentalist , first showed us his original card creation which was along the lines of a ACAAN effect but with a deck of red cards and a deck of blue cards. He then explained the method and his creative thinking.

Dan Stapleton did an effect from his “Magic with Cards” DVD called “Check cards”. A selected card is slop-shuffled into a deck and found being the only reversed card in the restored deck. He followed with the Paul Curry Classic, “Out of this World” but as always, he had his own twist on the ending where he laid out four rows of alternating reds and blacks.

Dennis Phillips

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.

COVID Update for Summer 2024:

Over 97% of people in the U.S. have natural or vaccine-induced antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, per the Center for Disease Control, but this immune protection fades over time.

For now, Influenzas and COVID are not affecting public performances and gatherings.

FLiRT variants make up an estimated 55% of cases in the U.S. at this late June 2024 date.

KP.3 is one of the FLiRT variants — along with KP.2 and KP.1.1 — which are spinoffs of JN.1.11.1, a direct descendant of JN.1. They were initially detected in wastewater samples from across the country.

"KP.3 is a new pmicron subvariant, which, along with its 'sister' variant KP.2, has emerged in the past month and is now causing the majority of COVID-19 infections," Dr. Albert Ko, infectious disease physician and professor of public health, epidemiology, and medicine at Yale School of Public Health,

Andrew Pekosz, Ph.D., virologist at Johns Hopkins University, says that the SARS-CoV-2 virus mutates and gives rise to a new, highly contagious variant, which becomes the dominant strain. "The timeline that it happens in, three to six months, is much faster than we see with other viruses like influenza."



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

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”

Steve Nelson’s show is primarily mentalism with some manipulation segments and thrill magic (razor blades) .

The show is about 2 and a half hours (with a short intermission) but , in “show business lingo”, the show is paced so well, and the music and lights coordinated ,

that the time flies and you’re riveted to every effect.

Master the Unexpected

With Mentalist Steve Nelson

Reviewed by Dennis Phillips



L-R Michael Flannagan, David Freeman, Steve Nelson, Dennis Phillips, Jacki Manna

June 1, 2024

Imagine Performing Arts Center, Oviedo Mall

I have known Steve for many years. He is part of my close circle of friends with whom I share ideas, and he has consistently impressed me with his original and clever adaptations of mentalism work by Max Maven, Bob Cassidy, and others.

Steve's personality is playful yet serious, with a hint of sassiness but without any pretentiousness. His style embodies all the necessary verisimilitude. The major logical weakness of mentalism is that it prompts the audience to question, "If you can really read minds and make predictions, why aren't you making billions on Wall Street or leading a DARPA agency at the Pentagon?" Steve addresses this indirectly with his attitude and ambiance, conveying, "We are only here to have fun together."

Recently, Steve experienced a family tragedy. In his late 20s, he lost his father to a massive heart attack just a couple of months ago. His father passed away at just 58 years old, a few houses down from his own, on the front lawn. Although Steve attempted first aid, it was too late. Despite this stress, Steve found motivation and dedicated the funds from this show to the family of a young mother killed by a drunk driver.

The show took place in a converted storefront in a faded shopping mall in Oviedo, a suburban community about 15 miles northeast of Orlando. The Oviedo Mall, built during the peak of mall development, has declined with the rise of the Internet and the fall of "brick and mortar" department stores. Now, it has lost all but one anchor store, with many interior storefronts occupied by art-related businesses and other performing venues.

Given the minimal street traffic, word of mouth and social media are vital for filling the show. Although there were only 15 people in the audience, they were responsive and enjoyed the performance.

Master Of The **UNEXPECTED**

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WHOLE NEW LEVEL !



* This is THE BEST MAGIC I have ever
seen. He makes a connection with
everyone. If you have a
chance to see Steve Nelson
in action DO IT !!! *

- Francesca N.



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Steve, dressed in casual black, had excellent sound and lighting, all run by his talented girlfriend, Ericka Moran, who knew the show well.



He opened with a ring and rope routine that combined the best of George Sands, Daryl, Bob Carver, and David Williamson. It was like a Professor's Nightmare on steroids; the ideal way to open a show is to hit the audience fast with highly visual magic.

He handed an audience member a slip of paper to hold, promising its contents would be meaningful at the end of the show.

Steve introduced two decks of cards, convincing the audience he knew the location of every card in the blue deck. He ended with a freely selected unknown card being reversed

in the red deck.

The mind games continued with three dice. Steve stood on one side of the stage while the dice were on a small table on the other. One by one, each spectator covered a die with their hand after choosing a number, and Steve accurately guessed the number every time.

He also performed a mind-boggling Rubik's Cube demonstration, solving it quickly and matching his cube with a spectator's.



Next came some comedy. An audience member called out the name of a famous star (Michael Jackson), and Steve claimed to have their photo in a manila envelope. The “photo” turned out to be a baby picture, which got a laugh. He even had a photo of a baby from another race in case a different name was called. Usually, this gag ends there, but Steve added a clever twist. A spectator tapped his upside-down cellphone, generating a number that matched a product tied to Michael Jackson on a long list.

He followed with an interactive romantic routine where three women in the audience wrote the name of their first crush on the back of his business cards. The cards were put in a male volunteer's pants pocket, and Steve correctly identified each woman's crush, improving on Max Maven's “Desire.”

As the audience entered the auditorium, they were asked to guess the number of Tootsie Rolls in two large jars and put their guesses in a cardboard box. During the reveal, a slip was removed from the box, and the guess read aloud. The number in one jar was off by two, and the number in the other jar indicated the first guess was also off by two.

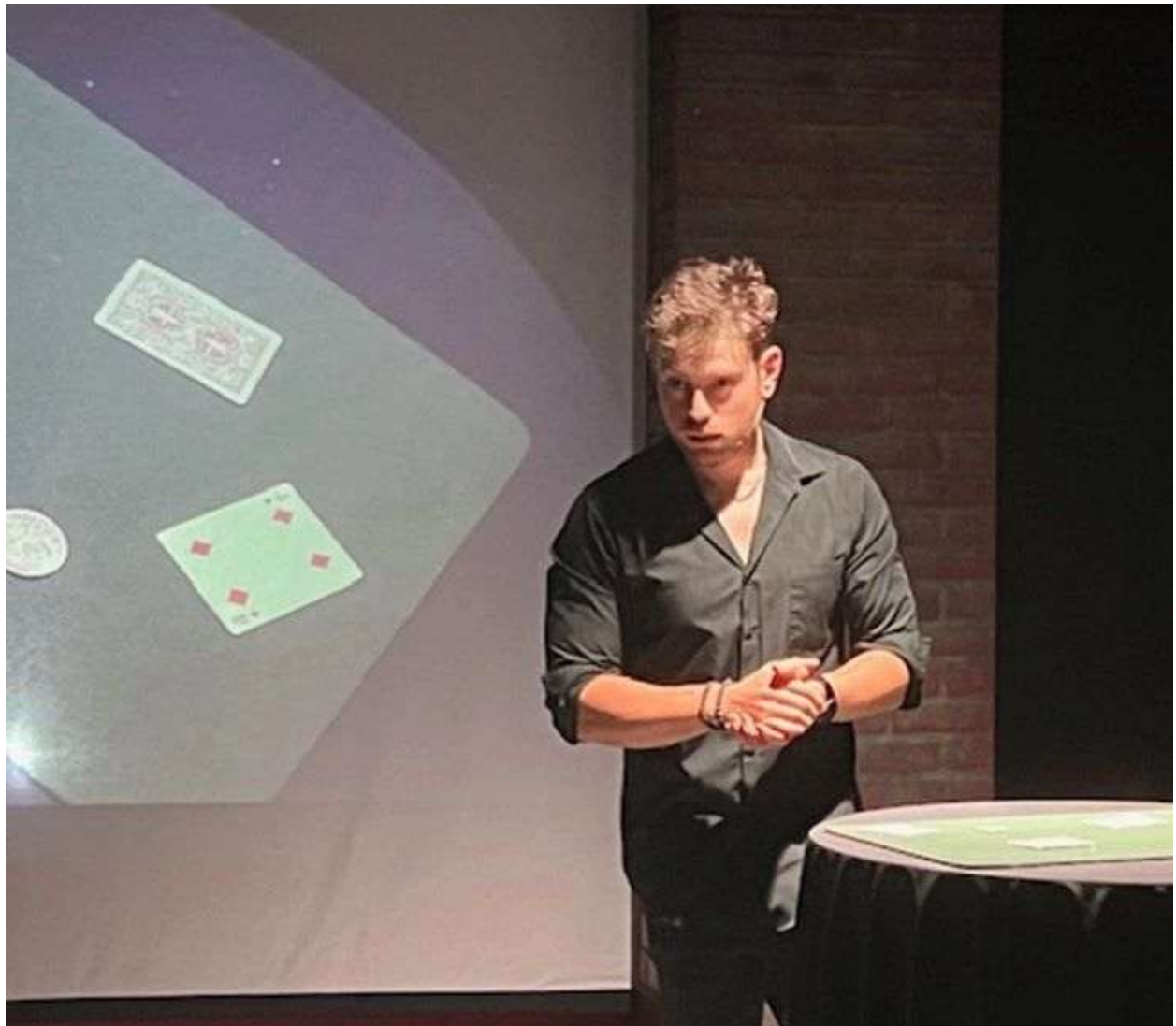
After an intermission, the show resumed with a dramatic effect involving a large apple and six sharp safety razor blades. A spectator helped as Steve burned lengths of dental floss into smaller pieces, then pulled a restored piece from his mouth. This clever take on the classic “Gypsy Thread” led into the razor blade effect, showcasing his original method of manipulating the blades.



He performed a prediction of a winning lottery ticket number sequence, based on a deck he created and a modified handling of "Shuffleboard" by Simon Aronson and David Solomon.

Book tests are a staple of any mentalism show, and Steve used parts of a Larry Becker routine called “Flashback,” adding a teasing finale using a dictionary to reveal the final word.

Steve's close-up sleight-of-hand is remarkable. He performed a great coin matrix and his original Oil and Water routine with full deck separation as a tribute to his late father.



For a comedic effect, Steve borrowed a woman's ring, placed it in a small blue cloth bag, and pretended to hit it with a hammer. An orange was cut open to reveal an egg inside. The egg was cracked open, revealing a walnut, which, when cracked, contained the woman's ring. Steve made this effect his own with ideas from Rich Marotta, Gaeton Bloom, and one of my concepts.



Steve wisely used a powerful multiphase effect as his finale. It was his 4th Dimensional Telepathy Envelope Test, inspired by Bob Cassidy, combined with a magic square inspired by Harry Lorayne. Three volunteers wrote personal information on business cards, which were placed in envelopes. Steve cleverly revealed the contents of each envelope, including a number that a spectator wrote, which he revealed through the outcome of a magic square.

Almost as an encore, Steve revealed the significance of the paper handed to the participant at the beginning of the show. After some number manipulation, it matched the date and the exact time the show ended.

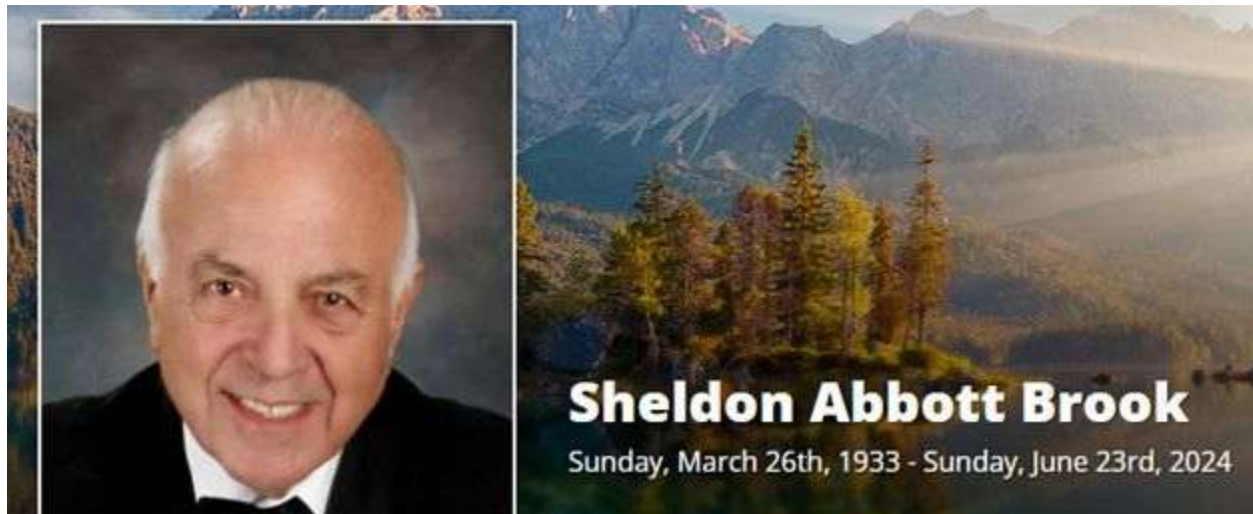
Dennis Phillips

I am happy that Jacki Manna is getting good use with my Marco Polo set and materials on her Summer Library Show Tour!



Jacki Manna on tour with “The Travels of Marco Polo”

Sad News. Long time member, Sheldon Brook, of Ring 170 has died.



Sheldon Abbott Brook (91) passed away peacefully on June 23rd, 2024, with his family lovingly by his side.

Born March 26th, 1933, to Ida and Leo Brook, Sheldon grew up in Belmar NJ, with his sister Naomi, and lived alongside many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Sheldon was the apple of Naomi's eye. He often talked about life near the shore, and the happy memories he had growing up there. He was proud to be a "Jersey Boy."

Sheldon graduated from Asbury Park High School, Monmouth Junior College and eventually the University of Alabama with a BS Degree in Civil Engineering. Between high school and college, he served in the US Army, and was honorably discharged.

Sheldon married Rochelle Cohen in 1956 and together they had two girls, Felicia, and Shari. Sheldon was an adventurer and lived many places prior to settling in Gainesville, Florida to raise his family. In Gainesville, he spent most of his career working at Gainesville Regional Utilities as a Senior Engineer.

Sheldon always said he had a happy marriage and a happy divorce. His adventures continued by moving to Orlando in 1985 and there he worked for Orange County Public Utilities.

In 1996, Sheldon began his retirement years, and began a 2nd career as a Gentlemen Host for various cruise lines. He danced and cruised from Monaco to Tahiti and back, as well as Alaska to Antarctica. In 1997, he joined Delta Queen Steamboat Company as a Senior Host, still dancing but with additional responsibilities in the entertainment department. His retirement years were filled with a variety of activities including teaching, ballroom dancing, acting, performing as a supernumerary with the Orlando Opera, and working at Disney World and Universal Studios.

In 2017, he was honored by The Kinneret Council on Aging as an "8 over 80 Honoree" for his volunteer and philanthropic efforts. Organizations Sheldon was involved in included: the Rosen JCC, Roth JCC, Elks Lodge 1079, The Central Florida Jazz Society and The International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 170.

Sheldon's life was full and touched so many. He taught us to be happy, love what you do, live every day to the fullest and make the most of what God has given each of us. We are

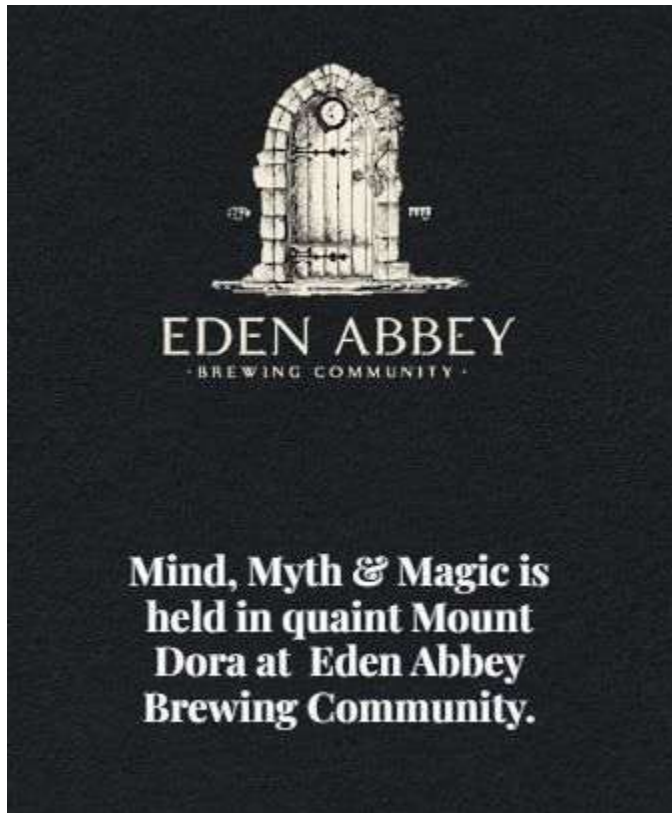
grateful that he was in our lives and will be forever in our hearts.

Sheldon is survived by his loving family: Shari, Howard, Aaron, and Jackie Jablon; Felicia, Anthony and Vincent van Dyk, and Barbara Narcisco.

Some great rope magic ideas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnVcAG8J8lI>

Scott Humston has changed the location for his show in Mt. Dora.



<https://scotthumston.com/mind-myth-magic-2019>

The table style that works well for most magicians.

<https://www.showtimemagic.com/collections/frontpage>



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Based on Joe Lefler's original innovative design, and produced exclusively by Showtime Magic Products under arrangement with the Joe Lefler estate, this new version is better than ever.

MJ Emigh, our former Ring President, tells me that he is returning to Florida after a few years in Texas.

He will probably relocate in The Villages.

I am sure that our long time Ring 170 members will remember MJ from seeing this video

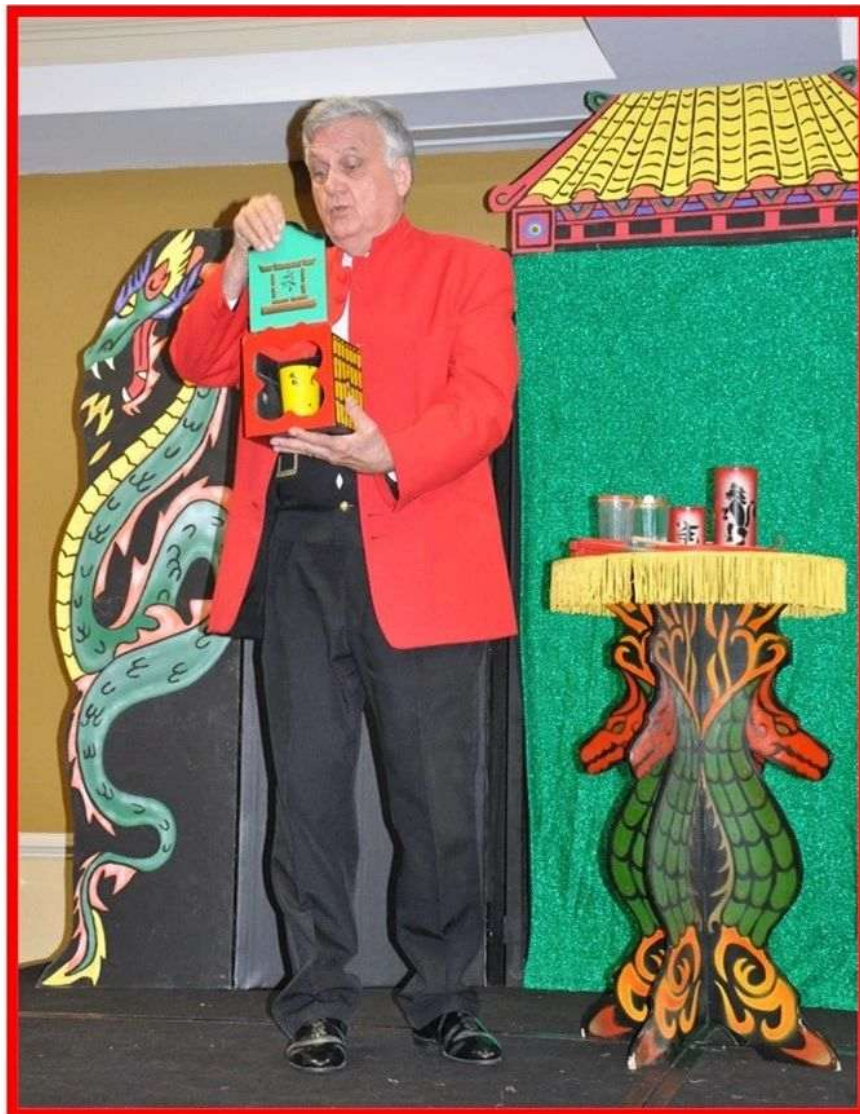


This was given to me by the Ring Board and Richard Hewitt, a past President. Richard now lives in Deland, and we keep in contact.

There are many others who also deserve "Outstanding Service Awards" for all they do for the Ring and magic.

My thanks to all of you who sacrifice your time, talents, and treasure to make Ring 170/ Assembly 99, a tribute to the magic arts.

Grant's MAK Bamboo Chest and Glass



Magician displays a beautiful Chinese Chest and a tall glass tumbler of water. The tumbler is placed and locked in the center of the chest so that it cannot move. Four solid steel blades are pushed through the cabinet. Then a solid pole is pushed through the center, from side to side. This leaves no place for a glass of water and yet it is still there.

To prove the tumbler is still there, the pole and blades are removed. The front of the cabinet is opened, and there is the glass, still locked in position. It is removed and the water is poured out. Dennis Phillips performing this effect.

Here are the pieces.



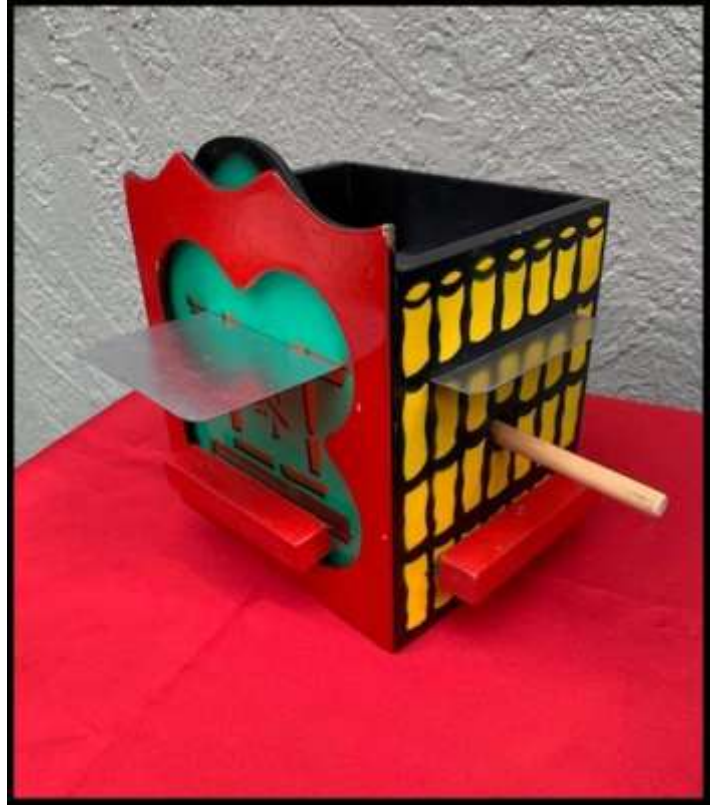
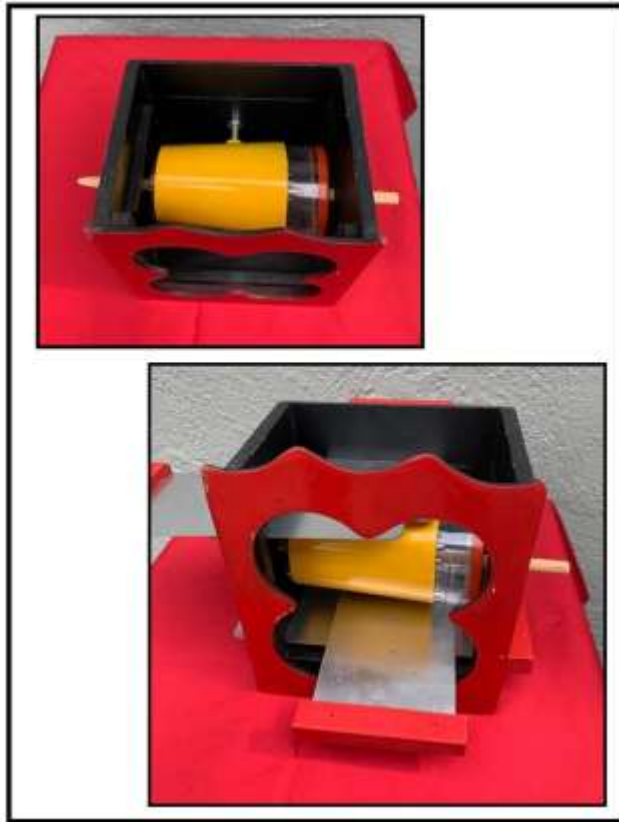
The key secrets are the special glass, which is made with a clear tube running from top to bottom, so that the wooden rod can travel through and the special class, built a bit like a Foo Can than can turn sideways without the liquid draining and the yellow glass holder that turns sideways. The pictures should explain.



Your fingers turn the glass inside the yellow holder which is mounted on a bolt so it can turn.

When the glass is sideways the wooden rod can go through and the 4 blades bypass

The glass, which is turned sideways.



It is a perfect illusion, and the box can be turned sideways and rotated around the wooden rod!

Dennis