

THE SALT CITY MAGIC CLUB

Wandogram



"Harris A. Solomon Ring" IBM #74 Syracuse N.Y.

March
2024



Larry Hass



Harris Solomon

**A monthly newsletter of the
Harris A. Solomon Ring #74
International Brotherhood of Magicians
(the Salt City Magic Club)**

President: Ken Frehm
Vice President: David Kilpatrick
Secretary: Joey Hoffman
Treasurer: Bruce Purdy
Sgt. At Arms: Dave Hanselman

**IBM Ring #74 meets at 7:30pm
the Third Thursday of every month (Virtualy for now)**

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Submission deadline:

First Thursday of the month

Exposure

by Bruce Purdy

Scott Wells' excellent podcast "The Magic Word" recently devoted three weekly episodes to the controversial issue of Magic exposure. Whilst Scott is personally a "Protect the secrets" proponent, he did a superb job of being an unbiased journalist, as he let various guests share their views.

In episode 814, Murray has been releasing Videos on social media exposing a lot of Magic. This has raised a major controversy, and led to him being kicked off of a Facebook group.

He is unapologetic, and explains why he doesn't see it as a problem, and did it for the sake of comedy.

Episode 815 featured Justin Flom. Forbes Magazine said Justin Flom was the most viewed Magician on the planet, and with 20 Billion views, was named #1 influencer in 2022.

The problem is, that he exposed the Deceptive Base, and many other techniques and tricks used by Magicians.

In this episode of the podcast, he explains why he believes that exposure is good for the art of Magic.

Finally, episode 816 featured David Sandy (performer, producer and collector.), Bill Smith (builder, performer and collector) and Mark Holstein (attorney, performer and collector.)

Each of these Magic luminaries discuss the importance of protecting the secrets of Magic and their strong opposition to the exposure.

It was David Sandy who ejected Murray from the Collectors Corner Facebook group. David explains that he has no ill will for Murray, in fact he considers him a friend - but the group was just not the right place for Murray.

In contrast to the vitriol and nasty comments that often plague social media, these three respected speakers took a much more diplomatic and polite tone, whilst maintaining that the secrets are still best protected.

One common thread of all three episodes was "What constitutes as exposure?" Books for the public, which explain how Magicians do their tricks go back to The Discoverie of Witchcraft" in 1584! Are these exposure? Likely the worst exposure comes from bad Magicians who flash, inadvertently exposing what they are doing.

Every guest, regardless of their position, and whether you might agree with them, was interesting and said things that made you think. Thanks to Scott Wells, we can listen to and better understand all sides of the controversy, so we can then make a better informed decision on our own position.

A BIG IDEA

By
Larry Hass

Dr. Larry Hass has performed for thousands of people all over the world, taught hundreds of magicians, written more than 15 books, presented a TEDx Talk, founded a college program about magic, and holds a PhD in philosophy. He believes that the art of magic can be a force for good in the world.

Recognized as a world-leading teacher, writer, and philosopher on the art of magic, Larry is the Dean of McBride's Magic & Mystery School in Las Vegas (which the BBC has called the "most prestigious magic school in the world").

This article appeared in Larry's latest newsletter, and is reprinted here with his kind permission

There is a widespread idea—a verbal meme—that's commonly used to deflect non-magicians who ask about our secrets. It goes something like: "Oh, you don't want to know; it would only disappoint you."

The most elegant version of this idea has been offered by Jim Steinmeyer in *Hiding the Elephant* (16-17): "Magicians guard an empty safe. In fact, there are few secrets they possess that are beyond the capacity of a high-school science class, little technology more complicated than a rubber band, a square

of mirrored glass, or a length of thread..."

To be fair, Jim uses this set-up to emphasize the finesse, ingenuity, and theatrical skill of excellent magicians, and he's right to do so. The problem, however, is that the set-up is not really true. The "safe" is not empty. Just the opposite: it's overflowing with countless hidden layers and levels of natural, mathematical, and psychological phenomena that never fail to astonish.

Let me ask: on that day when the magic dealer vanished the red silk and shared the

Thumb Tip... did you say, "Oh, that's stupid"? Heck no: you couldn't get your money out fast enough! That's because the dealer had just thrown open a door to a whole new world about perceptual concealment. Boom!

Forget the "Twenty-One Card Trick": when Max Maven blew your mind with a Gilbreath performance, were you bored? On the contrary: you were probably astonished by the depths and possibilities of secret mathematics.

When you discovered that a magnet could make something float... that one black surface would vanish against another... that a bill could be reversed by passing it through a small hole in its center... that *Crossing the Gaze* works every time... were you like, "junk... moving on"?

You get the point: magic is a thrilling doorway to the secret sciences behind the science we were taught in school. Perception, natural science, spatial relations, topology, psychology, mathematics, optical principles, attention, logical games: all of this is far weirder and wilder and more counter-intuitive than we had

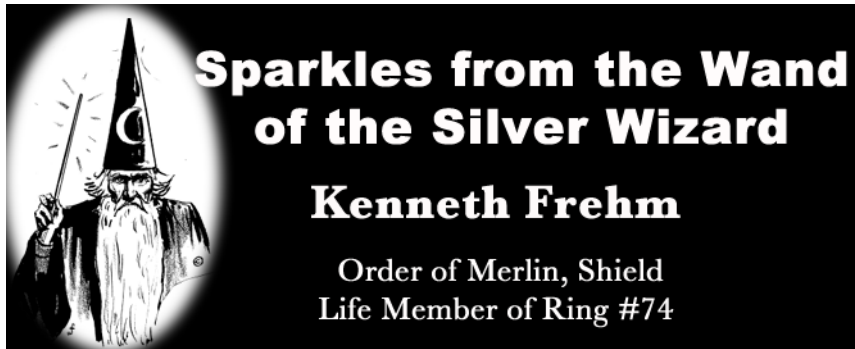
any idea. Getting to explore these endlessly surprising domains is one of the deep pleasures of magic. Why wouldn't non-magicians want to get in on the fun?

So, count me OUT on the oft-repeated meme. To say our secrets are mundane or disappointing is simply false, and it devalues and diminishes everything we do. So much better for us to stress, without exposure, the amazing, often paradoxical complexities of "the many worlds" behind the world that make magical art possible. As I like to say, "Oh, there is always more going on than we think." Which has all the virtue of being true.

Thank you Larry!

If like me, you value his thoughts and insights, you may wish to subscribe to Larry Hass' newsletter, which comes out every two months. Simply go to

www.TheoryandArtofMagic.com



Our I.B.M. Harris A. Solomon Ring #74 is not only alive and well, but also thriving! We welcomed Mr. Casey Schoenfelder in as a new member after his successful ten-minute qualification performance. We also have three applicants waiting to do theirs. Ms. Patricia Tichy, Mr. Michael Malice and Mr. Drew Yeldon will all hopefully join our local Brother/Sisterhood magic organization soon.

Your officers met last month and approved the funding for a new web site. Mr. David MacBlane, along with Mr. Bruce Purdy have been working tirelessly on our social media initiative and are making terrific progress updating and revitalizing our “E-Presence.” The potential for achieving many new programs and initiatives is humongous! Our goal is to have a vehicle which will successfully attract new participants, as well as being a conduit of information and support for our current members. We’re compiling lists now to address the myriad of opportunities that will be available. Keeping this web site fresh and updated will be an ongoing

challenge. New content will be needed, and we will be looking to all our members to make personal contributions. Please put your thinking caps on now. What will you provide when asked?

As I’ll be on a “Walk Around” in Sicily this March, our Vice President, Mr. David Kilpatrick will be hosting our get togethers: the Zoom meeting on March 14 and our “In-Person” get together at Denny’s on March 21st. Find updates and further information in The Wandogram.

Ever wonder how to do a magic trick over the phone, or via text? Here are two ways: Ask your friend to get out his/her phone and access the calculator.

Enter his/her age on the calculator, then **DOUBLE** it. Now **ADD** the number five (5). **MULTIPLY** that number by fifty (50). Now **ADD** the amount of change in his or her pocket, (up to a dollar). Now tell him/her to **SUBTRACT** the number of days in a year (365). Now **ADD** the number 115 and **DIVIDE** by one hundred (100). The result will be his/her age, then a decimal

point and the amount of change in his pocket.

Shorter Version: have friend put down the year of his/her birth. Then **DOUBLE** it. Now, add the number five (5). **MULTIPLY** by the number fifty (50). Then **ADD** his age. Now add days in year (365). Then **SUBTRACT** the number 615. If he/she didn’t make a mistake in math, the result will be the Year of

his/her birth on the left, and his/her age on the right.

These effects are from the lecture notes of Mr. Walter Cummings. Walt was a member and instructor in our Ring many years ago. He was a good friend and a terrific person.

Abracadabra
Kenneth Frehm



Membership dues for the Salt City Magic Club are \$25 (*Senior Citizens are \$10*)

You can **NOW** pay via PayPal!
Simply go to PayPal, and select “Send money to” then enter:

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(Select “Friends & Family”)

Or if you prefer, send your check made out to “IBM Ring 74” to the treasurer:

Bruce Purdy
P.O. Box 213

Cayuga NY 13034

Thank you, to those have already paid!

Magic and Public Speaking

by *David MacBlane*

This month we're exploring the importance of public speaking in magic which will lead you to becoming a better showperson. The science of great communication is often overlooked when setting up your script. Your script or patter may be professional and well written, but without a great presentation your effect will be "just another magic trick". When you put the tenets of good public speaking into your presentation you'll depend upon both verbal and physical cues. This will improve the presentation of your tricks and the related response of the audience.

There is another touch point that is underused (or sometimes overused) and that is "story telling." A good story will grab the attention of your audience and therefore involves them in the process. There is a huge transformative power of telling stories in your magic presentation when presented professionally.

I have seen dozens of performers who attempt to use stories in their presentations that are so long and convoluted that I want to walk away, fall asleep or escape the agony in any way possible. Your story should be engaging and personal and gets to the point to set up the effect.

Whether you're telling a story

or have a rehearsed script, it must still be performed with attention to the rules of "Public Speaking". Most magicians never take the time to research the basics of performing live. No matter how great your story is, if you can't get out there and deliver it to an audience, then the story will not help.

This is why having strong public speaking capabilities is important and often underused. So what exactly are the fundamentals of public speaking?

The answer is simple. There are both physical and vocal topics which should make perfect sense once you understand the impact. If you can improve in just one or two these areas, your magic will have more impact on an exponential basis. There is nothing more important than your delivery skills. Here are the fundamentals of good public speaking.

1. Posture

Your posture is the foundation of your presentation. Stand with confidence including shoulders back, feet shoulder-width apart, and weight evenly distributed. A strong stance not only exudes confidence but also helps in better breathing, which is crucial for clear speech.

2. Vocal Clarity

Clarity of voice is so overlooked that I've endured hundreds of performances that I can't understand what is happening due to vocal clarity. Practice enunciating your words. Slow down if necessary. Pronunciation is also crucial – it's not just what you say, but how you say it. I always record my practice performance with my script/patter/story to reveal any unclear pronunciation.

3. Preparation:

It is imperative that you know your material completely. This doesn't mean memorizing your script or story word for word, but being comfortable with your content so you can speak fluently and adapt as needed based on the audience. Your familiarity with your material breeds confidence.

4. Rhetorical Questions:

We all ask questions when presenting. But you should pick questions that provoke thought. For example, "Have you ever wondered what makes a great leader?" Such questions engage the audience mentally, encouraging them to ponder and connect with your material.

5. Effective Pauses:

This topic is SO underused. As presenters we're accustomed to continue talking throughout the effect. This is where you should use pauses to emphasize points, create suspense,

or give the audience time to absorb information. A well-timed pause can be a powerful tool to highlight key messages.

Vinh Giang, a communication coach and magician, was quoted, saying the following:

"If you find yourself using lots of filler words ('um', 'ah', 'er', etc.) simply decide that whenever you feel the need to use such a word, stay silent instead. This will help you look more confident and sure of what you're saying."

6. Varying Speech Tempo

Change your speaking speed to maintain interest. Speed up and look strong to convey excitement or slow down and lower your voice for emphasis. This variety keeps your audience engaged and attentive.

7. Varying Volume

It's absolutely imperative that you are speaking without being monotonous. Use quieter tones to pull attention in, and louder tones to espouse emotion. Vary your volume for effect and pair your volume to your speed for even more a better effect.

It may be overwhelming to grasp all of this at once. But practice these principles and you will greatly improve your magic. Every time you perform, it is a chance to improve.

Hopefully, this will leave you with a small toolkit which you can use in every day situations.

Card Warped

by S. Patrick

This is an original poem I wrote that goes with the “Card Warp” routine.

If you are not familiar with the “Card Warp” trick I can share the basic instructions for it! I just love the poem and would love to share it with others to use.

A magical poem as told by the bards,
Using just these, four little cards.

Red back, and blue back, as you can see.
These two are for you, and these two are for me.

Take the first card and fold it like this
With a crease in the middle so sharp and so crisp

Take the next card and fold this one long,
Don't do it like this, Cuz that would be wrong.

Now here's the part where it gets kinda wierd.
Don't look at me like that, pssh.. you volunteered.

Place this card in this one and hold both of them tight.
Take the inside card, and pull it right.

Now switch the cards and put this one inside.
Move it left, move it right, just let it ride.

Line up the edges of the cards on the left.
Your doing well, he's really quite deft.

Now for the cool part, we cant do without.
Take both the cards, turn them inside out.

Fold back the cards, and hold them up high.
Now for some magic, which I will apply.

You see when I push my card to the right,
The other sides backwards, causing a fright.

Mine have been hexed, with a magical spell,
Go on and try yours, Not working? Oh well!

A tear in the center separates the pieces,
As I show you both sides, your wonder increases.

Before I finish my tale and then disappear,
I'll give you these pieces, as your own souvenir.

Thanks to you all as I give my regards,
Sometimes, all you need, are four, little, cards.

SPECIAL CHANGED ZOOM LINK FOR MARCH '24 ONLY

As President Ken Frehm will be out of the country, and unable to host the monthly ZOOM meeting, The following alternative plans are in place.

Robina, will kick off the meeting and turn the “Hosting” over to our V.P. David Kilpatrick.

PLEASE USE THIS ONE TIME LINK FOR THIS MONTH'S ZOOM MEETING.

Robina is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87352263693?pwd=g8HmXLBOYJh8b0SIWmQCvR0uxl3gZO.1>

Meeting ID: 873 5226 3693

Passcode: 687255

Sign on: 7:00 P.M. E.S.T.

Thursday, March 14, 2024

2024 Prepare to magically appear at the **76th**

MAWNY 2024
Sunday, April 28th
 Buffalo M Hotel
 2040 Walden Ave.
 Buffalo, NY 14225
 www.mawny.org
 Doors Open at 9:00 AM

... it's the most fun you can have in a day!

MAWNY'S Delicious Buffet World Famous In WNY

10:30 Dan's Famous Magic Auction!
 Buyers, pick up your bidding number at registration.
 Sellers: AUCTION ITEMS MUST BE IN BY 10:15! 10% auction fee on all sales.

Buyers & sellers, see <https://mawny.org/auction> for auction procedures

RAFFLE PRIZES All Day!

7:00 Stage Show SPECTACULAR!

Kenny Byrd Buffalo
Joe Monti New York City
Henry Evans NY City
Argentina

Alexandra Duvivier Paris
Shawn Farquhar British Columbia
Jon Allen London
Matt Baker Atlanta
Steve Friedberg Philadelphia
Alyx Hilshey Adirondacks
Ken McCreedy Niagara Falls, Ont.

Lecture: 3:30ish **Shawn Farquhar**
 Shawn's appeared on TV shows including ELLEN in the US, Stephen & Chris in Canada, Asian Ace in Japan and even fooled Penn & Teller twice on their hit show Fool Us. He's performed in more than forty countries and has over six million views for a single YouTube video. He's the only person to win both the top categories in the history of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, and has won the highest award in magic, the FISM Grand Prix World Champion in China. He's performed for royalty and the pinnacle of the profession - at MAWNY!

Advance registration:
 until April 10th: \$87.00 each,
 after April 10th: \$95 each

To register, use mail-in form or go to:
<http://mawny.org/registration.html>
 Inquiries: MAWNY1@gmail.com

Buffalo M Hotel:
 (716) 681-2400
mhotelbuffalo.com/#/

MAWNY BOARD:
 Keith Randolph
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 Mike Joseph
 JP Lacey
 Tony Weiland
 ... with gratitude to the selfless crew

Dealer Chair Bill Gormont Presents the Market of Mystery with these great dealers ...
 Empire Magic Joe Monti
 Antony Gerard Meir Yedid
 Jon Allen Alexandra Duvivier
 Card Shark Henry Evans
 Paul Richards MORE TO COME!

Next meetings:

Thursday, 14th March 2024
ON LINE Virtual meeting.
THIS MONTH ONLY, there's a different Login:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87352263693>
 and use password:
g8HmXLBOYJh8b0SIWmQCvR0uxl3gZO.1

Thursday, 21st March 2024
In Person meeting.
Denny's
 106 Elwood Davis Road
 Liverpool NY

Save the Date!

Thu. 14th March	ZOOM meeting
Thu. 21st March	In-Person meeting Denny's
Thu. 11th April	ZOOM meeting
Thu. 18th April	In-Person meeting Denny's
Sun. 28 April	M.A.W.N.Y. convention
Thu. 9th May	ZOOM meeting
Thu. 16th May	In-Person meeting Denny's

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