



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
April 2015 Volume 10, Issue 8

March's meeting

The tables were covered with magic – props, effects, books, DVD's, utility items – and they are yours for the taking – so long as you had something to trade!

Tonight was our first attempt at a **Swap Meet**, where people brought in items to swap, so that people could get rid of items they no longer need, and could walk away with something new (well, new to them anyway!).

Mike Fisher and **Peter Mennie** brought the most – Mike with a host of props and Peter with a ton of books and DVD's.

The haggling was intense. (Well, not really. Most people knew what they wanted and were able to figure out a suitable exchange in the end without a lot of bloodshed.)

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 8

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: PROP & POCKET MANAGEMENT!

**Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
T-253**

In the end, some people left carrying a little less than what they came in with (which was their plan all along), and others walked out with a bit more (which was their plan, too!).

Thanks to all who came out and swapped!

Mark Hogan

April's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 8
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

TOPIC: PROP AND POCKET MANAGEMENT!

Having good prop and pocket management is important to the smooth execution of your magic effects. Fumbling around in your briefcase, or fiddling with your pockets is annoying, can slow down your routines, and make you look unprofessional. And we all want to look good!

So bring in any cases you wish to show off or anything you carry to hold your props during your shows, as well any holdouts, tips or tricks to use to manage your pockets, how you reset between effects; and how you structure routines together as to deal with all the issues around props and gimmicks.

Hope to see you on April 8!

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:
magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Browser's Magic Bash - April 12

(Browser's Den)

Imagine 12 jam-packed hours of magic filled with a plethora of amazing talent, delicious food, and wonderful experiences that you cannot find elsewhere.

Card guys, mentalists, stand-up magicians, stage performers, and everything in-between... there's something for everyone!

You're going to have a fantastic time at the **Browser's Magic Bash**. It might even challenge the way you normally look at magic conventions.

Jeff Pinsky says, "Though in our 39 plus year history in Toronto we have had countless special events, we have never attempted something of this nature. And with your kind participation, we hope this will be the first of many more to come! Save your seat now."

There will be over 10 performers (including **Richard Sanders, David Acer, Greg Frewin**, and more!), with professional lectures, informative mini-sessions, a close-up show and a stage show. And *both dinner and lunch are included* in the ticket price!

Ticket prices are only **\$75 + tax** (with a few *VIP tickets* still available at **\$139 + tax**).

This sounds like a terrific event. Visit www.browsersden.com/bash, or click the link below for more details or to register.

[Browser's Magic Bash -- April 12th, 2015 \(9am - 9pm\)](http://www.browsersden.com/bash)

Amazing Corbin to rappel for Make-a-Wish Foundation

(Amazing Corbin)

FRIENDS: As many of you know, I help with the *Make-A-Wish foundation* of Southwestern ON. I visit wish children to inform them their wish has been granted. I do events at the *London Children's Hospital*, and I perform at a lot of their public events. (For those that don't know, the Make a wish foundation provides wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions.)

This year they have asked me to participate in their "**Rope for Hope**" event where I will be rappelling off the side of *London City Centre*. (a 27 story building!) I would like to ask, If you can afford it, for a donation to this incredibly worthwhile event. I will be rappelling down as **Captain Corbin** in full pirate gear! They are letting me rappel down a few days before the big event so that I can go on radio and TV and talk about the experience.

The crew at *Make a wish* are incredible. Each staff member cares deeply and works hard for all the kids. It's an incredible group, and I love performing and playing with the children. It's pure joy to see the look in the eyes of a child when I come up the front steps blaring pirate music and informing them of a treasure they must find in Florida!

It's an incredible experience to show a very sick child a bit of magic and really communicate the fact that anything is possible. It brings them hope and joy and it's an honor for me to take part in. Please go to my Facebook page for info on how to donate. I would really appreciate it.

Thank you.

www.facebook.com/Captain-Corbin-the-magical-pirate

Israeli magician wows spectators by floating on air

(Inquisitor.com)

A huge crowd gathered around an unbelievable spectacle at Dizengoff Center, Tel Aviv's main shopping center, on Sunday. Spectators watched with a sense of wonder as Israeli magician **Hezi Dean** seemed to be floating on air with only one hand touching the outside wall of the mall.

Dean's public relations team informs *Y Net News* that it is simply an illusion designed to baffle the minds of all who watch and try to determine how it works. A Tel Aviv resident by the name of Ben Gur-Levi told *International Business Times*, "I think this guy's hand is like not his real hand it's glued to the wall and there is a part of his body that is attached to it, so this is how we see him hanged."

See the video at <http://www.inquisitr.com/1953071/israeli-magician-wows-spectators-by-floating-in-air-video/#S8FEkCSHbi8jbOoZ.99>

Illusions like the one Dean performed on Sunday, promoted by his project called "*Hezi Dean Is About To Die*," is causing his popularity to boom in Israel. Dean's acts have brought him notoriety simply because he has broken a few of the famous U.S. magician, David Blaine's, records.

In 2010, Dean spent what had to have been a miserable 66 hours inside an ice cube, as compared to **David Blaine's** 63 hours, as per *International Business Times*. Dean also broke another of Blaine's records by standing on a nine-story pylon for an overwhelming 35 hours.

Dean considers his acts to be highly dangerous, and notes that many have died while trying to perform them.

After a small crane lowered Dean from the air on Sunday, he was all smiles as he told *International Business Times*, "I am very happy that I am driving home now and not in an ambulance. It is the first time that it is happening, driving home safe and sound.

Magician wins Entertainer of the Year for Princess Cruise Line

(Yahoo.com)

Guests aboard *Crown Princess* have voted and selected Comedic Magician Ben Seidman as [Princess Cruises](#) Entertainer of the Year. Four finalists were selected from the hundreds of talented performers – comedians, magicians, vocalists, tribute bands and novelty performers – which elate guests on Princess' stages each year. These top artists performed to enthusiastic audiences during the cruise who then cast their ballot to select the winner.

Wisconsin native and Los Angeles resident Seidman is the only person in history to be named the Resident Magician at Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas and currently stars in *Magic Outlaws* on Travel Channel. His energetic and playful performances combine stand-up comedy and world-renowned sleight-of-hand.

Guests aboard the March 14 *Crown Princess* Mexico cruise enjoyed live performances from each finalist. The finalists were determined by the Princess Cruises entertainment department based on guest surveys and onboard audience response. Along with Seidman the finalists included Vocalist Lovena Fox, Comedian Steve Caouette, and violinist and entertainer Christopher Watkins. Seidman was announced as the winner on the final night of the cruise at a celebratory event in Princess' signature venue, The Piazza.

As the new holder of the line's "Entertainer of the Year" title, Seidman also received a cash prize of \$5,000.

Film Review: "An Honest Liar": portrait of The Amazing Randi

(Yahoo.com)

"An Honest Liar" is a highly entertaining portrait of **James "the Amazing" Randi**, a magician-cum-escape artist who, like his role model, Houdini, eventually turned his primary attention to debunking professional mystics, telepathists and other "supernatural" charlatans. **Justin Weinstein** and **Tyler Measom's** documentary bounces along enjoyably on a sea of archival clips from Randi's high-profile career, with latter-day input from numerous celebrity pals (and at least one famous foe). It gains added dimension from the subject's late-in-life coming out as a gay man, and from a different sort of "coming out" by his longtime lover, who turned out to be hiding a secret identity.

Born **Randall James Hamilton Zwing** in Toronto, Randi joined a carnival at age 17 as an aspiring conjuror. His magic and escape stunts (he eventually broke several Houdini records in the latter realm) soon made him a popular television guest: The film begins with a doozy of a 1950s broadcast excerpt, as he writhes his way out of a straightjacket while suspended upside down. (This act takes precisely as long as it does an adjacent chanteuse in an evening gown to sing "*You've Got the Magic Touch*.") Later he'd make appearances on "*The Tonight Show*," "*Happy Days*" and other leading national programs. He even contributed stage illusions to shock rocker **Alice Cooper's** highly theatrical '70s concert tours.

Yet increasingly, his appearances weren't performances per se, but rather demonstrations of what he'd uncovered investigating those who practiced "magic" in other, less admittedly tricksome ways. He exposed televangelists and faith healers who claimed paranormal powers, yet were revealed as having been fed audience-member secrets via hidden earpieces. A particular target of his ire was spoon-bending '70s "superstar psychic" sensation **Uri Geller**, who was unable to pull off his usual psychokinetic deeds when Randi covertly tamper-proofed Geller's props before a **Johnny Carson** broadcast; Randi went around showing audiences how he, too, could bend spoons and such through simple techniques.

After Geller managed to convince curious researchers of his powers in a lab setting, Randi cast younger colleagues as fake mentalists to prove that even scientists could be fooled by basic magician's trickery. While Randi is an unrepentant, even obsessed debunker who'll justify any tactic to prove his point, it's poignant to hear some of these former collaborators recall their eventual guilt over deceiving well-intentioned academics who earnestly believed they were accumulating evidence of the paranormal.

Now in his late 80s, Randi is an antic, engaging subject with a showman's streak of hambone intact. Other interviewees run an interesting (if almost exclusively male) gamut, including fellow illusionists **Penn & Teller** and **Bill Nye**. Lively editorial mix makes the most of a rich archival-footage array, and overall assembly is expert.

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Concept by: Steve Seguin

The Shell Game is a free newsletter sent to members of the London Magicians Guild and other people in the community interested in magic.

Opinions expressed do not reflect the views of the London Magicians Guild.

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