



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
January 2016  
Volume 11, Issue 5

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## December's meeting

Christmas is in the air (well, except for no snow), so we went for a Christmas magic theme. Or whatever else wanted to show. We had a good group and the "whatever" won out.

**Mike Fisher** showed off his *Boston Box*, and performed a terrific comedy *mind-reading orange* effect, where the selected and torn card was restored inside the orange. He also highlighted his gambling skills with his 3 shell game routine, and showed off his new die where he correctly determined the number face-up on the hidden die!

**Mark Hogan** gave a Christmas wish sock to **Jim Atkinson**, who made a wish for a gift. When the sock was opened, there was an I.O.U. for the exact gift Jim wished for! He also showed the *Under Covers* effect from the **Mark Mason** lecture in Hamilton, and uncovered a selected card using only the spectator's voice!

Our guest (**Zach Lawlis**) divided cards into piles and with the specator's help, eliminated al cards except the spectator's selection! He also showed his *Ambitious Card* routine (a work in progress).

**Keith Brown** performed an **Asi Wind** card routine where he knew the colour of every card in a pile that the spectator had, from a shuffled deck! He

### Next Meeting:

**Date: Wednesday, January 13**

**Time: 7:30 PM**

**Topic: ROUND ROBIN!**

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

also showed cards could defy gravity (something that didn't quite go right when he did it on TV!) and a great presentation of *The Trick That Can't Be Explained*.

**Greydon Gilmore** also had cards defy gravity – using a tiny plunger to cut the deck at a selection! He also did a wonderful variation on Out Of This World, where spectators raced to put cards in red & black piles – and the piles matched the colours perfectly.

But leave it to **Steve Seguin** to steal the show – Zach thought of a mentor in his life; Steve wrote down his prediction – and got it right!  
*What???????*

Thanks to everyone – and hope you all have a magical holiday season!

Mark Hogan

**We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!**

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:

[magic\\_london@yahoo.ca](mailto:magic_london@yahoo.ca)

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## January's Meeting

**DATE: Wednesday, January 13**

**TIME: 7:30 PM**

**PLACE: Beal Secondary School  
T-253**

## TOPIC: ROUND ROBIN

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The idea is simple – we go around the table to each person & they present anything they have or can think of. We keep going until we run out of tricks ... or collapse from exhaustion.

Bring anything you have that you want to share ... and as many of them as you like ... or just do something impromptu that comes into your head. Everyone gets their chance to shine ... and we all get to see a LOT of magic.

We did this in December and it worked really well. Dust off some tried-and-true effects or demo something you've never done ... we'd love to see them all!

## News Of Interest



### Why people need the wonder of magic

(TimesFreePress.com)

Looking for a way to pry your child away from the computer or TV?

Try a little hocus-pocus.

Local magician **Scott Fillers** says many parents today are concerned that their children are becoming addicted to technology. That's why he's starting his first child-oriented "*Discover Magic*" class this month. It helps, he says, that people are interested in magic now more than ever before.

"Magic has had an up-and-down roller-coaster ride through history as far as entertainment goes," says Fillers, who's 55. "When movies came out, vaudeville and magic took a nosedive, but magic survived. Today, there has never been more magic presented on television in the history of television."

Reality TV shows such as "*America's Got Talent*" are showcasing magicians, he says.

"It's a great time to get into magic. There's so much available for people to learn. I wanted to be a part of this in some way and thought that it would be a perfect fit with what I want to do in my studio.

"Magic is something best experienced and learned through live interaction. It's a real hands-on experience and I worry that more and more people are staying in and 'streaming' their entertainment, making a future generation of people not having personal communication skills," Fillers says.

Children are fascinated by magic, he says, noting that he was in elementary school when the book "*Spooky Tricks*" sparked his interest.

"I remember as a child seeing a magician walk down a staircase on a stage while he was making two canes float and dance around his body," Fillers says. "I met him many years later at the *Magic Castle* in Hollywood. We became very good friends until his passing several years ago."

Michael Frisbee, 45, president of the Chattanooga Magic Club, became fascinated with magic when he was 8 years old after a magician performed at his school. In his "quest" for anything about magic, "I would look for books at the school library and the city library on the subject of magic," he recalls.

"I came from a family of mill workers, so the finances to buy magic tricks were on special occasions. Most of the time I had to take what I learned in a book and do my best to make the props at home and learn to perform the effects.

"In those days for me, I did not know of others who performed magic, so books was what I had. Many of those books didn't go into depth on how to build or perform the effect and it was left up to me on interpreting what I had learned."

A fan of magicians **Doug Henning** and **David Copperfield**, he would show magic tricks to his friends and family, a trend that continued until he was about 30 years old.

"It was then my family suggested I should perform for birthday parties. So I did," he says. "Within a year's time, I was booking at least one birthday party, family reunions, corporate functions or political parties every weekend in the surrounding area."

Fillers, who has been performing for 42 years, is a graduate of the *University of Tennessee at Chattanooga* and a member of the **International Brotherhood of Magicians**. He has performed his magic show at *Opryland USA* in Nashville, and co-founded *The Magic of Scott Fillers and Co.*, a show that won the 1987 *International Brotherhood of Magicians* stage competition. He's also performed in New York City and Las Vegas.

According to [discovermagic.com](http://discovermagic.com), the program Fillers will be teaching was designed to build self-confidence, teach respect, inspire creativity, improve social skills and more. Magicians must develop numerous interpersonal skills if they're going to be successful, he says.

"As a magician, you have to read your audience, whether it is one person or 100," he says. "many interpersonal skills are involved and that's what these classes are about — not just the tricks but teaching life lessons such as confidence, communication, etc."

Each child participating in the class will receive a magic kit that includes eight tricks.

"Each trick will have a top secret file that they will take with them," Fillers says. "Each file will contain more information about the trick and a secret code that they will use on the Internet at the *Discover Magic* website which will open up more information about each trick."

Yes, despite Fillers' concern about streaming technology and how that takes away from one-on-one relationships, his class heads back to the Internet. But students will be furthering their knowledge of magic that they will take back to live performances, he says. All of it is simply homework, he says.

"Of course, each child will, also follow the magicians' code to never reveal the secret which is very important to keep the air of mystery," Fillers says.

Keeping those secrets close to the vest is key to the continuation of the "magic" of magic, Frisbee says.

"In today's world, people are more knowledgeable of the 'how to' of magic. With the Internet and YouTube, a person can see how to mechanically do a trick," he says. "Way back when, to learn magic could only be learned by apprenticing with other magicians. The next phase was to read books written by other magicians and/or share thoughts with other magicians."

And Fillers says people need the wonder of magic in their lives.

"People always have a need for escape," he says. "People go to see horror, science fiction and fantasy films for the same reason, but with a magic show it's live and interactive — something a film can't deliver. To escape the problems of the world for a couple of hours is something everyone wants."

## An orangutan laughs hysterically at a magic trick

(Vanity Fair)

An amateur magician got a new fan — an orangutan who thought an illusion was so hilarious, it fell on the ground laughing.

The great ape was sitting on the floor behind the glass of his exhibit at the Barcelona Zoo when a visitor surprised him with a magic trick.

A bystander recorded the stunt and, on Monday, posted it to YouTube — where it garnered more than 265,000 in two days.

The orangutan is initially intrigued at the man placing a chestnut into a foam cup before putting on a lid and shaking it, the video shows.

The man then places the cup back in the ape's view and removes the top — showing that the chestnut had vanished.

After a brief pause, the shocking reveal stunned the primate — causing him to bust out in laughter, with his mouth wide open and falling backwards with legs in the air.

The amused magician and camera holder instantly start to laugh as they watch the monkey roll around on the ground covered in hay.

See for yourself:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/magic-loving-orangutan-kick-magic-trick-article-1.2460068>

## Magician has philosophy about critical thinking

(The Ridgefield Press)

Meet Ridgefield's resident magician.

**Tom Pesce**, 34, has appeared at many of the town's civic events, including the *Holiday Stroll* and the sidewalk festivals of summer and fall. He is a town resident with a philosophy about magic that comes from his day job as an English teacher in Rye Brook, N.Y.

"I make people believe for a living. Teaching and magic are one and the same on a lot of days," said Pesce (pronounced PiSHAY).

"They don't need us for information, we need to show them by example. This is what you do with the information, this is how we work together and solve problems. This is how your intuition and imagination can solve problems. It's really what we do with that knowledge, unlocking that, and teaching students to unlock that."

That's not all.

"A well-rounded person isn't just an expert on football stats, but they may also play an instrument, know how to paint, be able to discuss world events, appreciate nature, and be able to relate to other people," Pesce wrote in a note. "In both magic and teaching, it's about developing all of the senses and bringing out people's best attributes. The more well-rounded a person is, the

more that person can contribute to society and help other people. I try not to make it so much about what I can do, but rather what they can do.”

Pesce characterizes it as a journey he takes with his audience. Whatever you call it, when he produces doves from a silk handkerchief, for example, it is entertaining.

“Oh my gosh, he’s amazing. He is the bomb,” said **MaryBeth Prunty**, who works for *Fairfield County Bank* and was co-chair for the *Ann’s Place Festival of Trees*, where Pesce performed. “He’s got an amazing amount of material,” she said, recalling how an audience of children were astounded with a levitation of someone from the audience on the night she saw him.

The sixth and seventh grade English teacher was more than happy to take a few private bookings after the show.

“Magic makes life so much more exciting, when you believe in it,” he said.

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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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