

Boston Mini-Wizard

The Official Publication Of The John Calvert, Boston Area Assembly No. 29 Of The Society of Young Magicians

Vol 9 • No 5

May 1998

The Next Event Of S.Y.M. #29

**Will Be On
Sat, May 30th, 1998
at**

The George Lentros Magic Barn & Theatre

Ashland, MA
(Directions Inside)
2:00 PM - 5:00PM

This Month: **The Annual Parent's Show!!!**

Hosted By Mike Flamang
(who's laughing now?)



"Sklared" For Life!

by David Oliver

April Fools! You were all expecting something wonderful last month! Surprise! (But, I guarantee that no one there was more surprised than me.) For the first time in S.Y.M. history, I was duped. Never again.

First, let me publicly apologize to the Britt family for the rude manner in which they were treated by our "guest". Although I spoke with Chris and his dad, Tom, the next morning, I still thought it was important to let the rest of you know how I felt.

Please understand, that I have no problem with two adults having a disagreement. However, when it escalates to the point of rudeness, and an outsider tells someone in our organization to "*shut-up, I'm done with you...*", let me just say, I was not pleased.

I had nothing but good intentions for the meeting. Mr. Sklar came with the highest of recommendations from others who had seen his lecture before. He sent me pages of information about his lecture. He sent me several letters of recommendation. We spoke on the phone numerous times., and he seemed pleasant enough. So, having not seen him myself, I thought, "*why not?*".

Well, if you were there, you'll know why, in the future I will never say "*why not*" again.

If nothing else, two good things came out of this event. Number one, I feel much better about my own people skills, and teaching techniques. Number two, all of you now know what type of person you may run into should you choose to pursue anything in the entertainment business. Stay alert, and

ask lots of questions!

To those of you who may have received a set of encyclopedias in the mail from Mr. Sklar, concerning his work-shop (a.k.a. "camp" - 1 syllable), it's up to you and your parents whether or not you sign up and attend. My personal feeling on the matter is simple... don't.

For those of you who were upset, bothered or offended at the meeting, I apologize. 'Nuff said.

Onto this month.....

Two cool things... first, the meeting will be at the Lentros Magic Barn and Theatre (Yes, I've been there. Yes, I know George Lentros and his son Peter. No, neither one of them are a talent scout from New York!).

Second, and more importantly, it's the annual PARENT'S SHOW!!!! That's right! Time to have your parents strut their stuff! All parents are expected to perform, whether they want to or not. (Heh! Heh! Heh!) Their magic routine can be to music, or with comedy and/or talking.

You have until the meeting to teach your parent their trick or routine. Full costumes are always worth bonus points. In the past, this has been one of our best events of the year. It all depends on you and your parents!

I'm really looking forward to this month's meeting!

See you there!



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S.Y.M. NEWS

More News

Last month we learned that long-time director of Minuteman Vo-tech's Summer Camp, **Beverly Lydiard** had passed away. A memorial service will be held at the Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington on Sunday, May 31st, 1998 at 10:30 a.m.

CHOSEN ONES

The following people need to have a trick or routine ready to perform at the meeting:

Joe Grassia
Dane Grigas
David Kahn

SYM Library

The S.Y.M. Library is still available for use for current members of #29. Unfortunately, not many people are making use of it. We have over 300 books on magic available to members for FREE!!!! Everything in magic is covered. Stage magic, close-up, patter, illusions, mime, acting and more. Old books, new books, big books, little books... I think you get the point.

Call Julie @ 781-899-0472 before the meeting if you want her to bring a book from the library to loan to you.

Member's NEWS

Paul Denaro's show "Magic Down Under" was a huge success. It was held on Saturday, April 25th, 1998. The performers included, **Chris Britt** (emcee), **Alex Green, Max Nover, Josh Cohen, Carman Dewees, David Kahn & David Hubelbank, Paul Denaro, Julie Babayan, Nils Marthinsen** and **David Oliver**.

The show went off without a hitch, because of the backstage help of **Josh Greenstein, Dane Grigas, David Condon, Peter DiFonzo, Paul Cohen, Paul Denaro Sr., and Donna Denaro**. Paul raised enough money to cover his trip to Australia. Congratulations, Paul!

Members **Noah Levine** and the Honorable President **Chris Britt** represented S.Y.M. #29 extremely well at the **New England Close-up Contest** in Worcester in April. By all accounts, they kept up the trend of S.Y.M. members improving and impressing the judges and the audience. Noah performed a new sequence of card effects. Even though he had a slight problem in one of the rooms, he recovered nicely by not getting flustered. Good job, Noah. Chris' performance involved some coins and a borrowed bill that ended up safety-pinned to the back of his jacket! Oh, by the way, Chris also brought home the trophy for **Fourth Place**. Way to go, Chris!

Boogie-Woogie Britt

by President Christopher Britt



Wow, wasn't our last meeting "interesting"...on to other news. Okay, okay I won't let myself off the writer's "hook" that easily. If you were at the meeting you know what I am talking about, if not, you missed a meeting that will be forever talked about. Okay, now I'm off the hook. At this point in the writing I could ramble on about what happened (not about boliemia), but I don't want to waste paper. So let's talk about magic!

On the last Saturday of school vacation several SYMers performed in Magic Down Under, a fund raiser show for Paul Denaro's trip to Australia. I thought this show went very well. After the show I went to Paul's house for the cast party where we all watched the video of the performances.

When I saw the clip of Josh Cohen and Max Nover doing their acts, I was boggled by their stage personas. I am not saying that that because they are younger than I am, it was just how GREAT they looked up on stage. I mean, I am just flipped out!!! I have not seen anyone with such boldness and energy. Whoa! I don't remember how they did technically, but I don't think it mattered because they were just so good. So good that I can't even find the right words as to what I want to say...

I also thought that David Condon, Josh Greenstein, Dane Grigas, and Peter DiFonzo did an exceptional job working the sound and lights. The show couldn't have gone on without them!

This year's Conclave was fun just hanging around and seeing the shows. Thinking back on the evening performances I remember "Blub" a child-like character who blew bubbles on stage. I thought this was the weakest act of the convention, yet I found that some people gave him a standing ovation. "Why?", I thought. "Come on. How can they stand for a guy who blew bubbles when they didn't rise for master card manipulator, Juliana Chen?" Looking back there is more to Blub's act than meets the eye.

Mr. Blub blew bubbles (say that ten times fast!) with such enthusiasm that could be compared to being told he was going to Disney World. The audience was conditioned to being happy for him, since he always blew great bubbles. Then he tried to blow a big one, but failed. The audience was now on his side. Then triumphantly he won the audience over by producing the biggest bubble. When Blub conquered his failings, the audience went wild. They cared about him even though he was blowing bubbles!
(place clever segue here)

News Flash! I just got an E-Mail reply from **Alexander, King of Fools** (remember him from the banquet?) on some questions that I had sent him...

"Hey Britt!! Sorry I took so long to reply. I've been working in Oklahoma this past week. Yeeehaaaaa!!!!!! Y'all mighty friendly down yonder!! Anyway, thanks for your interest in my opinions on performing. By the way, you guys are already doing something cool that many solo performers shy away from or are clue-less

about. I'm talking about working together.

Those of you actively helping each other out in creating better magic are doing something that I believe is very worthwhile. I wish I began 'jamming' with other performers at an earlier age because it really works at pushing you to grow. Still, it's never too late.

These days I feel so charged up after my periodic sessions with other performing artists, that I sing it's praises with gusto.

Questions are great. I'm constantly asking them, beginning with, 'what the heck am I doing here on stage?' or 'What's the purpose of this part here?' 'What should this character really look like?' 'Is this apparel or that comment really a good fit with character?' 'How can you get the

feeling of this character across in the shortest amount of time?' If your costume and your walk onto the stage gets your character across in just a few seconds, you've struck gold. Does the audience quickly get a sense that you are elegant? Goofy? Bizarre? Witty? Hip? Lovable? Pathetic? Unassuming? Psycho? Nerdish? Kid next door? Angry? Sweet? What can you play convincingly?

If you don't know the answer, ask that question while looking at yourself in the mirror. Pretend you never saw yourself before. Or else ask that question while looking inside yourself. Choose an intention, and stick with it! Then go as far as you dare. Gather your nerve and go even further!

I'm not saying that an outrageous personality is the goal, although that can be good. Calm is great too. Almost any choice is great if you commit 110%. Audiences care less about what you do. They care more about who you are.

Why not cut the weakest trick in your act, and then develop what's left a little deeper? This takes a little work. In fact, I'd venture to guess that younger artists keep adding and acquiring new bits and routines to their performances. It's natural. Then comes a time when they get a little surer of their character, and then finally there are some artists who spend the rest of their careers paring down. They are concentrating on the few things that really make sense for themselves.

Here's a question that I've been asking a lot lately: what is the emotional response I want from my audience at that particular moment? Sometimes it can even change from moment to moment, and when it does, I find that very satisfying.

Top 40 radio hits may sound lame sometimes, but ask yourself, do these hits capture an emotion? I think that's what usually gets the song on the airwaves. I think a good variety performer captures a feeling or sentiment too. Music, costuming and props can either work together in harmony toward this end or they can contradict each other. Use what you've got and ride that spirit to where it takes you."

I'll continue my interview with Alexander next month.

See you at the meeting.

"Go as far as you dare"
- Alexander, King of Fools



Well, I briefly saw the Masked Magician on TV tonight and...He's still an idiot.

Last time we talked a little bit about magic competitions and why you should do them and stuff like that. So, this time we'll talk about what to expect and have some little tips to keep in mind that have to do with your act instead the mental attitude stuff from last month. For those who still haven't decided, its not too late to jump in and start getting ready for the magic camp competition. For those who aren't going to camp or aren't competing, these could still be helpful for any performance you have. Remember the audience is always judging you and the only real difference are the prizes.

MEAT Case (David Oliver's famous "Magician's Emergency Accesory Tote"). I'm sure I don't have to tell you this but things will break, be prepared! Bring extra stuff, you'll never know when you need it. And if you do happen to need it, you'll be happy you thought first

Start working as soon as possible. Don't put off putting together the act until the night before. I've tried it and it doesn't work. Actually it doesn't work with articles either, but...nevermind. Make a schedule if you have to, but just keep in mind when the competition is and make sure you have time to rehearse.

Rehearse! Don't think to yourself that just because you know what you're going to do that you'll be able to do it when the time comes. I know of very, very few times when just jumping right in has actually worked. Don't count on it. Don't overdo moves. You may think that doing the most difficult moves in the world and doing them for 10 minutes straight will impress the judges, but its not a good idea (i.e. a 30 minute act of card manipulation may not be the right thing). If you can do them, cool, if not, still cool. Keep things simple and focus on presentation. Use your props as if it were any other show. That

by Derrin Berger

is, just because you have a brand new vanishing cane that you're grandmother made for the competition, it doesn't mean you have to use it. If your old one works, let it work, especially for the competition.

Don t try to fool the magician judges, they most likely have seen enough to know how what you're doing works.

Try not to let the other competition scare you. Don t focus on how much better someone else's tables or props look or how many other contests they won, etc. Just think about how well you re going to do. Besides, just because someone has a really cool electronic device or a costume or table that was custom made doesn t necessarily mean they re going to win.

DON T COPY SOMEONE ELSE!!! This is probably one of the most important pieces of advice, for any time, not just competitions. Besides the fact that most competitions have categories for originality, stealing another's act is just wrong. The other person has worked very hard on their act, and doing their act for a competition only shows that you know how to watch a video and duplicate props. Everyone will know it was stolen, just don t do it.

Have fun!!! Just treat it like any other magic show, and any of your magic shows should be fun, so why not have a blast with this one?!

So that s it for now! Hope to see all of you at camp in the competition, and if you re a bit nervous about it, go ahead and do it anyway! I've competed every year and it was one the most fun and educational magical times I've had. ‘

Till next time & may your lefty's stay hidden, you re wands keep spinning, and your rabbits doing whatever rabbits do.

-Derrin

CALENDAR

Saturday, May 30th, 1998

S.Y.M. #29 Monthly Meeting
2:00 pm - 5:00pm

**@ The George Lentros
Magic Barn & Gallery**
in Ashland, MA
(The Parents Show!!!!!!)

Friday, June 19th, 1998

S.Y.M. #29 Monthly Meeting
(event & place TBA)

July 6th - 31st, 1998

12th Annual Summer Magic Course
with David Oliver
@ Minuteman Summer Camp
in Lexington 781-861-7150

July 8th - 11th, 1998

S.A.M. National Convention
New Orleans, LA
(check your SYMBol for details)

July 17th, 1998

S.Y.M. #29 Monthly Meeting
(event & place TBA)

Every Tuesday Night...

(for parents only)

Magician's and Spirits

at The Green Street Grill in Cambridge.

Top area magicians and a few special guests from out of town. 9-10PM, random acts of magic at the bar.

10:00pm Cabaret Show.

Great Food. Fabulous Show. Easy Parking.

For Info call

Joe McClure at 617-491-8609

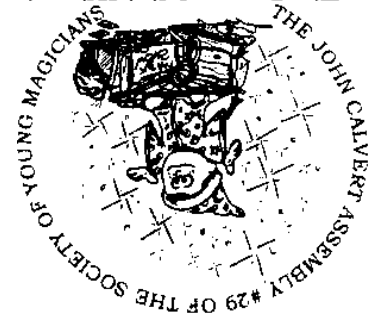
Directions to The Lentros Barn & Theatre

Take the Mass Pike West to Exit 12 (you'll see the Sheraton Tara on your right). After the Toll Booth get on Route 9 East. At the first traffic light take a right (The Edgewater Apartments will be on your right) At the STOP sign turn left. Go past the next STOP sign (Past the Framingham Country Club) and at the second STOP sign turn right onto Badger Rd. Go about 3 or 4 miles down Badger Rd. to the center of Ashland. Just after the Rail Road tracks turn right into the driveway of Johnstone's Inn. The Barn is behind Johnstone's.

The Boston Mini-Wizard

Please Rush!!!

The Boston Mini-Wizard
c/o 41 Norman Street
Rockland, MA 02370-2017



The Next Meeting of S.Y.M. #29 is on

Saturday,
May 30 1998

**@ the george lentros
magic barn in ashland, ma**

Parents, Please Read Important Information
Inside! We mean it, this month! Really!!!!

Don't Dare To Miss The Meeting...