

RING 180, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – Horace Bennett Ring

Meets 2nd. Wed. each month, 7:00 pm, Children's Museum, 2626 West

Broad St., Richmond, VA 23220

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President Watt Hyer convened the March meeting and introduced Roy Eidem and his minilecture

based on his real world act.

Roy began with some stick work in which a wand appeared and disappeared, he showed a purse frame and empty hands and produced coins one by one. With the assistance of Amy Duck and Elmer Deffenbaugh, the coins vanished and reappeared, even in the spectators' hands. A giant coin then appeared, vanished, reappeared, and vanished again.

He then moved to his second routine, "His Name was – Houdini." With Amy and Elmer still helping, a lanyard was wrapped about fingers and hands in different ways, but, after each wrapping, Roy pulled the lanyard free.

Roy's last routine for the evening was his seasonal piece, "Santa's Lump of Coal." He, again, opened with stick work leading to the production of a small black ball, which vanished and reappeared and multiplied to two and three balls. At the conclusion, Amy was tightly clenching a ball/coal. When she opened her hand, she held a "diamond."

Roy explained the moves used in the three routines and credited many other magicians as sources and inspirations. He also spoke briefly of some of his other routines.

Watt announced a break so members could pursue individual questions and purchase Roy's notes and other items.

Watt reconvened the meeting, made announcements, and introduced the three-part theme: 1.) Fire, explosions, confetti, 2.) Liquids, and 3.) Apparatus.

Mike Kinnaird performed his routine, "It's a Little Dicey," using a "Dice Bomb" and his clever patter line on the source of dice in which a large die gave birth to several little dice.

Tom Olshefski presented his routine, left over from February's Valentine theme, which had been snowed out. "Unforgettable" was inspired by Darwin Ortiz's "Ultimate Fusion" and Doc Eason's "Anniversary Waltz." Tom spoke of manipulating subatomic matter and of love as a powerful force. Amy Duck chose and signed a card from a blue-backed deck, and Joe Duck picked and signed one from a red-backed deck. Both cards were put under Amy's hand and Joe pressed on it with his hand. When the hands were removed, only a single card was seen. On one side was the face and signature from Amy's card. The other side had the face and signature from Joe's card.

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Watt showed "Sparks' Bullet Catch." One hand held a small bullet. The other held a lit match under the bullet. A loud explosion rocked Watt's head back. Watt's hand now held an empty shell, but his teeth held the fired slug.

Larry Rohr let a coil of rope fall into a single line. He hypnotized the length and commanded it to be rigid. He demonstrated its rigidity by holding it in different ways. While he held it by its middle, a bright flash signaled the rope's awakening; and it fell limp from Larry's finger. Larry next demonstrated how static electricity from Amy Duck's sweater could light a previously examined light bulb. This time a blinding flash marked the bulb's burnout from static overcharge. Bill Baber had found apparatus from the 1960s in his closet. There were no instructions. His review of old catalogs led him to construct a presentation of U. F. Grant's "Moxahalla." He placed an empty cylinder on a tray and poured water into it. When he lifted the cylinder, rice spilled out. He pushed a hand through the cylinder and produced a glass of milk. He wrapped the glass in tissue, poked a hole in the tissue, and poured out water, instead of milk.

William C. Baber