

**THE  
LOTA**



THE BERT EASLEY  
/DANNY DEW RING

*Promoting fellowship and the advancement of magic as an  
entertainment art in metro Phoenix For over 61 years*

**JUNE 2008**

# Classic Book Trick Night



**Tuesday, June 17 2008  
7PM  
at**



**Best Western Airport Inn  
2425 South 24th Street, Phoenix**

**Each member to perform an effect from a  
“classic” magic book.**

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interactive  
website at  
[www.ring55.org](http://www.ring55.org)**

# Roland's Ramblin's

Hello members of ring 55,phx. First of all I want to thank our slate of officers and steering committee for all their help in the months to come. The club is a team effort,and as everyone knows,my bulb is not bright enough to guide the club alone....

We had our 1st steering comm. meeting at Clark's home. A big big thank you to Clark and his lovely wife Elaine for hosting us,and making us feel very welcome. thanks again.....

We have decided on the agenda for the next few months. Full details should be in the LOTA.....

The meetings will be informative and fun. Don't be shy,the meetings are opportunities for you to hone your skills,and help you develop self confidence and maybe even a little swagger in your performance....

We are also looking for people to volunteer at local VA hospitals,children ward's, nursing home's etc.....

Please let me know if you are available for any of these....  
RING 55 is like one big family, please let me know if there is anything you feel we can do to improve the club. Suggestions will be brought up at the next steering comm. meeting. Our steering comm. members are dedicated to making RING 55 a first class operation,and with your help and suggestions, WE WILL SUCCEED. thank you...

Roland Perry, pres. Ring 55 phx.

## The Lota

The monthly publication of  
the International Brotherhood  
of Magicians Ring 55

## Ring 55 Officers

President	Roland Perry
Vice President	Craig Filicetti
Secretary	David Goldberg
Lota Editor	Leigh Hotz
Treasurer	Jay Gorham
Sergeant at Arms	Kim Phelps
Webmaster	Leigh Hotz

# WHATSIT?

By Larry Wilfong



U.F. Grant was one of the most prolific creators of both stage and close-up Magic in the 20th century. This apparatus, developed in conjunction with Schuyler Reynolds, is an excellent example of Grant's truly original thinking.

**EFFECT:** The clear plastic dial with a single clock hand is given to an audience member who's instructed to set the hand at any number and then return the hand to the 12 o'clock position. This operation is completed out of the performer's sight. The performer is able to disclose the number in any way he so chooses. No muss, no fuss> just good solid Magic!

If YOU would like to win a FREE \$10.00 Gift Certificate to the Wizard Magic Shop Online courtesy of our editor Leigh Hotz...be the first club member to contact Larry Wilfong at (480) 860-8460 or [Bestmortgagesolutions@yahoo.com](mailto:Bestmortgagesolutions@yahoo.com) before the next meeting with the name of this trick.

Answer to last month's WHATSIT? = The Crystal Card Frame by Grant/MAK Magic



# PHOENIX RING 55 CELEBRATES 61<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Over sixty members gathered on Saturday, May 17 to celebrate the sixty-first anniversary of the Bert Easley/Danny Dew Ring 55 in a grand manner. Our very special guests were Ring 55 members, **Herb and Carol Easley**, the popular owners of **Easley's Fun Shop**. They received a standing ovation as they arrived. Herb is a past-president of Ring 55, and is the son of one of our Ring 55 namesakes and founding members, Bert Easley.

**Brad Zinn**, our Master of Ceremonies for the evening, opened the gala evening with some special introductions, including guest **Nancy Keener**. **Andre' Kole** led us in an invocation, and we were then directed to a delightful roast beef buffet supper. As everyone was enjoying their dessert and coffee, the I.B.M. Southwest Territorial Vice- President, **Nick Orlando**, came forward to introduce the 2008-09 slate of officers. He began by magically causing a candle to ignite, and then proceeded to install **Roland Perry** as President; **Craig Filicetti** as VP; **David Goldberg** as Secretary; **Jay Gorham** as Treasurer; and **Kim "KJ" Phelps** as Sgt-at-Arms. Our newly-installed president then presented Kim Phelps with her official past-president medal, and thanked her for her service to Ring 55 this past year.

Past-president **Clark Wirthlin** then presented the fourth annual "Volunteer of the Year" award to **Larry Wilfong**, citing his contribution of two monthly columns to our Ring 55 *The LOTA*, his hosting of the last two years' holiday parties, and his performance as auctioneer at our last three Halloween Auction and Flea Markets. The evening was then highlighted by emcee Brad Zinn reading citations to our honored guest, Herb Easley, from I.B.M President **Phil Wilmarth**; SAM President **Maria Ibanez**; master illusionist **Andre' Kole**; and renowned mentalist **Larry Becker**. Banquet chairman Jay Gorham then presented Herb with a handsome crystal trophy which stated that we were hereby making him a Life Member of Ring 55. To our absolute delight, Herb volunteered to perform for the assembled group, and entranced us with his version of The Dalton Boys.

Our evening's magic entertainment was capped-off with some audience participation personalized questions and answers ala Brad Zinn's impression of "Carnac the Magnificent", and a very energetic and laugh-filled forty-five minute presentation from FISM award-winning comedy magician, **Robert Baxt**.

*Clark Wirthlin*





# ROBERT BAXT LECTURE



## OUR LAST MEETING

Our May meeting was moved to a Saturday to coincide with our 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration which created a full day of magical activities. Thirty-six members and guest **Brett Daniels** gathered at 1:00 p.m. to observe, and learn, from “A Funny Guy”, **Robert Baxt!**

And it is TRUE! Robert Baxt IS a very funny guy! He is also a very clever FISM award-winning comedy magician, with a host of original ideas, and a philosophy that “laughter is the best misdirection”! He always tries to use things that most people have in their pockets so order that he can take credit for the “magic” instead of his props. He started out with a torn and restored \$100-dollar bill which he borrowed from President-elect **Roland Perry**. It was quite obvious that Robert was tearing up a *REAL* \$100-dollar bill, which added greatly to the effect! This is not the place to “tip” the trick, but suffice it to say that our performer was prepared to borrow ANY denomination of currency - and his local bank is quite used to replacing repaired U.S. currency. That he would take this much trouble to heighten the effect shows his dedication to performing quality magic!

The next effect utilized a borrowed ring from outgoing **President Kim “KJ” Phelps**, which disappeared “in a flash”, and reappeared ala Ring Flight with a bunch of balloons. This was followed by a chop stick gag which, by itself, was well worth attending the lecture – it requires you be dining at an Asian restaurant and having a LOT of patience to obtain the correct timing. The first half of the lecture was ended with a wonderful Torn and Restored Newspaper effect that gave Robert goose bumps as he reveled in the fact that he could “flash” the gimmick, even in front of us magicians!

Following the break, Robert was interrupted by **Ronald Bromond’s** cell phone ringing. This led Robert into routine wherein he “destroyed” the offending object, only to cause it to reappear inside an over-sized antique telephone. The remote-controlled ringer planted under a chair assures Robert that he will be able to do this anywhere! His Silk to Egg variation was next, utilizing a can of Budweiser. He offered to show the audience “how to do it” as usual, and surprised several people by pouring real beer from a real can! Robert also demonstrated a unique Egg Bag effect that incorporated a bag from an expensive liquor and a plastic aspirin bottle.

The finale, and highlight of Robert’s lecture to this scribe, was his version of The Professor’s Nightmare, but with a wonderful and original story line that will endear the performer to both kids and adults as well. He has this for sale on his web site as “Naughty and Nice”, which includes a DVD. Buy it!

Following the delightful Robert Baxt lecture, we had a “Show and Tell” wherein several members demonstrated and explained their latest wonders. This was followed by a showing of videos of great moments of magic from the past, and a compilation of clips edited by **Jay Gorham**. Our thanks to **Jim Poage** for providing a DVD projector. We then took a break and completed the set-up for our banquet. Your outgoing scribe extends his thanks to *The Linking Ring* **Ring Reports Editor, T. J. Shimeld**, as well our Ring 55 *The LOTA* editor, **Leigh Hotz** for making sure our Ring 55 reports have been faithfully recorded each month for the past year.

Clark Wirthlin





# Kollector's Korner

By  
Larry Wilfong

Although yours truly is primarily an "Accumulator" of well-made wooden props, I must admit that over the years there have been many excellent magical tricks produced in plastic or adapted from existing plastic items. Last month we looked at some classic effects rendered in this modern alternative to wood and metal. This month I'd like to invite you to look at some not so common plastic goodies.



**ZIG-ZAG CARD** This is similar to the now basic wooden apparatus developed for placing a full deck of cards into an upright case, then dividing the deck into 3 parts with two separate cards used like the blades of the stage size Zig-Zag Lady; and finally pulling the center out of the deck and ultimately restoring it. This plastic version not only has added fancy glitter to make it a beautiful piece of apparatus, but also has a neat window in the center panel to enable the center of the "zagged" card to be shown to enhance the effect!



**LOKI'S LOCKET** In the late 1950's-60's Ken Allen produced and routined several great effects in plastic. His items generally were standard tricks/methods given a new look in the medium. This heavy locket on a silver cord is one of his most popular. For the record, it is not a locket with a compartment, etc. I imagine he just liked the alliteration J. The cord is placed over an audience member's wrist. A pocket handkerchief is draped over the wrist and the locket. Immediately the locket and cord is removed from the wrist evidently penetrating skin and bones with no harm to the spectator or the locket...and the prop is 100% examinable!



**MADAME FORTUNE** Today Dick Barry in San Clemente, California has carried on this tradition of adapting time-proven Magic principles to common or readily available plastic pieces.

This cute little prop looks just like the automated FORTUNE TELLERS you still see in many arcades today. This particular one will actually speak to your audience when the button on the front of her booth is pushed.

She will answer questions AND perform a clever card trick with a tiny deck of cards—a card "freely" selected by a helper from your audience vanishes from a stack of assorted cards and a sealed prediction envelope being held by another audience member is opened to find a duplicate of the original selection!

Just for FUN I invite you take a walk through a variety store's toy department, Dollar Stores, import stores etc. looking at some of the unique merchandise. Use your imagination to come up with a NEW TRICK with which to baffle your fellow Magicians.

**SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!**

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