

International Brotherhood of Magicians

St. Leon Ring, Sacramento, CA



# The Gimmick



March 2015

Issue Number 3

Next Meeting Theme  
*The Comedy of Magic*

### *Wright Writes (David Wright, President)*

Mixing comedy and magic is no joke! It requires a lot of talent to do well. A good understanding of acting, timing, tension and release is essential to success. Being able to make an audience laugh and astonish them at the same time creates a blend of often competing emotions.

Is comedy really compatible with magic? Or do the two have conflicting objectives? Jay Sankey, in his book *Zen and the Art of Stand-Up Comedy*, says that he struggles with the mixing of these two art forms. A magic trick done well, he points out, often leaves people feeling puzzled. And when they are puzzled they don't feel like laughing. On the other hand, the delivery of a good punch line to a joke provides clarification. It relaxes people and allows them to release tension through laughter. It doesn't present an unsolvable mystery.

Sankey says it's extremely hard to marry mystery with humor. Most of the best stand-up comics who use magic in their acts tend to make a joke out of the trick, effectively draining it of all of its mystery. Reducing the wonder of magic to the status of a whoopee cushion is not a solution many magicians would care to espouse.

Comedy magic is the performance theme for our next club meeting. You can check out how well our performers do with this entertaining subject by just coming to the March meeting. And should you choose to perform, you can show us how these two art forms can be combined harmoniously. One doesn't have to detract from the other.

In addition to *Comedy Magic*, someone from the club will perform a Teach-A-Trick this evening, providing us the chance to learn a new effect to add to our repertoire.



IBM 192 Meets at  
7:00 p.m.

2nd Wednesday of each month  
at Mission Oaks Community Center  
4701 Gibbons Drive  
Carmichael, CA 95608  
<http://magic1.org/ibm192/>

*(Note that SAM meetings are also at  
Mission Oaks in 2015)*

### *Officers for 2015*

David Wright, *President*  
Mary Mowder, *Vice-President*  
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Rick Hill, *Member at Large*  
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### *Dues for 2015*

Your IBM 192 membership dues for 2015 are due now. Dues are \$25. To pay by mail, make a check out to Victor St. Leon, Ring 192.

### **Mail to:**

Dick LaVergne  
699 Morris Way  
Sacramento, CA 95684

### *IBM 192 website:*

[magic1.org/ibm192/](http://magic1.org/ibm192/)

Contact: David Wright, President  
[wright.davida@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wright.davida@sbcglobal.net)

<http://magic1.org/ibm192>

# ST. LEON IBM RING 192

## 2015 Calendar and Meeting Themes

Date	Performance Theme	Additional Information
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Comedy Magic	Mission Oaks
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kim Silverman Lecture</b>	<b>Grand Illusions</b>
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Wand Wonders	Mission Oaks
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Silver Sleights	Mission Oaks
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Close-up Competition</b>	<b>SAM Meeting - Mission Oaks</b>
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Magic to Music	Mission Oaks
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mental Mysteries	Mission Oaks
July 30 <sup>th</sup> - Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Golden Gate Gathering</b> <a href="#">Facebook Page</a>	<b>Foster City</b>
Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Stand-up Competition</b>	<b>IBM Meeting - Mission Oaks</b>
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Gambling Gimmicks	Mission Oaks
Oct. TBA	<b>Magic Festival</b>	<b>Old Sacramento</b>
Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Annual Mission Oaks Community Show</b>	<b>Mission Oaks</b>
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ghostly Animation	Mission Oaks
Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Rings, Rope, Strings & Things	Elect Officers for 2016
Nov. TBD	<b>Magic Auction and Flea Market</b>	<b>(location TBD)</b>
Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed.)	Holiday Magic	IBM/SAM Mixer
Dec. TBD	<b>Dale &amp; Elaine Lorzo's 22<sup>nd</sup> Holiday Party</b>	<b>Dale &amp; Elaine's House</b>
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	NO MEETING	



### [Kim Silverman](#)

#### **Grand Illusions**

March 12, 2015, 7:30pm

\$35 at door

Free for [seasons pass holders](#)

When magician Kim Silverman [aka Professor Merloch Silvermaine] designs the acts he performs in venues across the United States he enlists props, scripts, costumes - and science. "I draw from scientific concepts, terminology and literature when putting together my presentations," says Kim. "I have routines I relate to neuroscience, to statistical predictions of human behaviour, to the principles of physics and to quantum mechanics."

Kim, who graduated from Monash in 1977 and went on to complete a PhD at Cambridge, says "good magic" engages the part of the mind that's about conscious thought and conscious reasoning.

"Magic's not about letting go of your beliefs, it's all about clinging to them and reasoning them out."

Kim works as a principle research scientist in the high-tech industry in Silicon Valley, California, performing as a magician in his spare time. He was an invited presenter last May at Magic Con in San Diego.

Kim has also given 3 TEDx talks on aspects of his approach to magic performance. Kim's lecture promises to be as informative and inspirational as it is unique. Magic for Kim is about bringing joy and a sense of mystery to an audience - and more. He says it teaches us about deception, that things are not always as they seem, and to question what we believe, including assumptions we hold about ourselves. "The aim of magic for me is about giving people something to take away to make themselves feel better about themselves."



### February Performances

Pepe Puglisi taught us a very impressive rope trick. One rope became 2, 3, etc. ropes.

Then Sal "the hit man" Piacente (left) told us about casino fraud and showed us many card tricks.

[Sal's website](#)