THE TARBELL TRIBUNE

AUG. 2026

IBM RING 43 NEWSLETTER

The Month & Upcoming

Steve Valentine Lecture
Next Meeting: **Tuesday**, September 15th, at 7:00 pm @ **Magic Inc**

September is shaping up to be a very special month for Ring 43. Inside this issue, we look back at our August lecture with Ondřej Pšenička, explore a fascinating piece of Ring 43 history with Magic Day at Lincoln Park Zoo, and check in on the latest from Mike's "Prez Says." You'll also find important reminders about membership dues, upcoming conventions, and everything else happening around the Chicago magic community.

But the biggest reason to mark your calendar is what's coming next.

On Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m., Ring 43 welcomes world-class magician **Steve Valentine** to Magic Inc. for what promises to be one of the highlights of our lecture calendar.

Steve spent 2025 touring the world with his two-hour SUPERCHARGED lecture, featuring material from his Blackpool and FISM appearances along with an entire second act packed with additional material. Now Ring 43 gets the full experience—including a complete breakdown of one of Steve's favorite signature routines, 10 Cards to Pocket.

Pulled directly from the archives of Magic on the Go and Steve Valentine's personal performing repertoire, this is two hours of nonstop, commercial, powerful magic from a performer who has spent a lifetime refining material for real audiences.

This is one you won't want to hear about afterward. Make plans to be there.

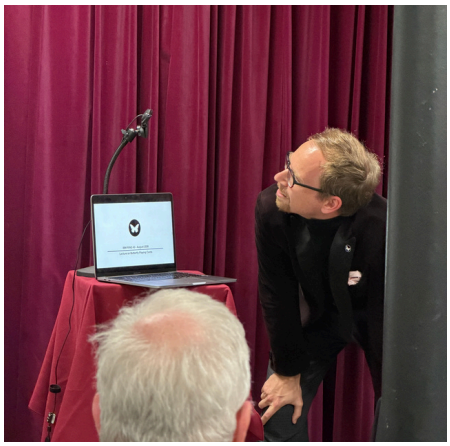
Last Month: Ondřej Pšenička Lecture

The program for our August special meeting was a lecture by **Ondřej Pšenička**.

Ondřej is an award winning performer with more than twenty years of experience. Hailing from the Czech Republic, he has performed on stages across the globe and is a regular at the World Famous Magic Castle. Known for his quirky humor, subtle surrealism, and technical mastery, Ondřej has baffled audiences and fooled Penn & Teller three times on Penn & Teller: Fool Us. His creations blend originality, precision, and playfulness, making every performance unforgettable.

Ondřej chose **Craig Reeder** to assist. Craig picked a card, returned it to the deck, and shuffled the deck. Without even touching the deck Ondrej identified the card as the 2S. He then spelled Craig's name and turned over the card revealing the 2S. (Impossible Divination)

Craig picked another card, lost it in the deck and cut the deck into three piles. Ondřej eliminated two of the piles and then said, "Your card was the 10S and it's the eleventh card from the top." It was! (Butterfly Challenge)



Craig picked another card at random and placed it on his seat without looking at it. Ondřej looked through the remaining cards and said “two, nineteen, and twenty -six”. He removed the cards from the deck located at those positions and, when he turned them over, they were three Jacks and he said Craig was sitting on the fourth Jack (JC)!

Finally, he had someone in the audience name a card (KD) and he tossed a card into the deck and showed that it landed next to the KD!

All of these tricks were done with Ondrej's Butterfly Deck, which he explained and demonstrated.

Ondřej then went into depth about the back patterns of various cards and how you could use these back patterns to identify the chosen card.

Craig picked another card and lost it in the deck. Without looking at the deck Ondrej removed a card, inserted it into the deck, and used it to part the deck at Craig's card. (Toledo Cut)

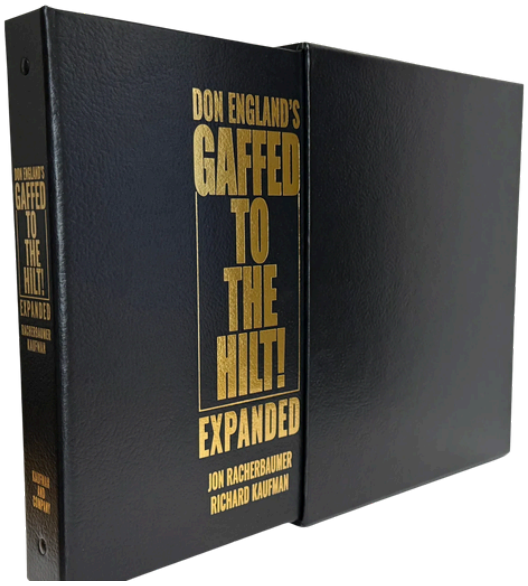
Finally, Ondřej did a card trick inspired by blind magician Richard Turner. He placed the four threes on the bottom of the deck. He then repeatedly riffle shuffled the deck, gradually separating the threes in the deck. He then cut the deck and shuffled with half-face-up and half face-down. He repeated this several times and then ribbon spread the cards, face-up. Four cards were face down in the spread and they proved to be the four threes. (Inner Turner)

After the meeting some of the members adjourned to Primo Chuckie's Restaurant for additional fun and fellowship.

Continued on page 4...

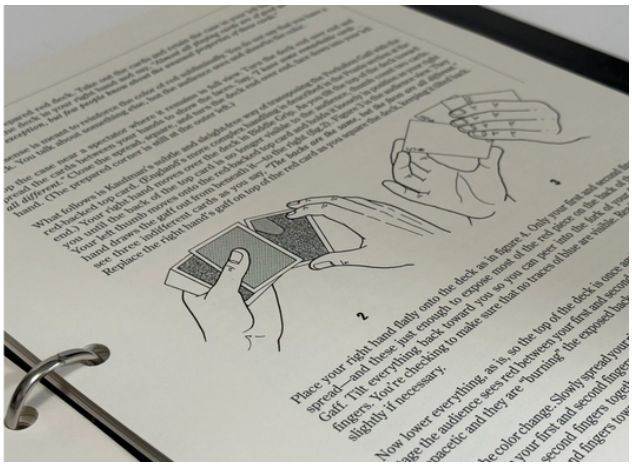
Prez Says - A Book Review

Gaffed to the Hilt - Expanded



In 1985, Richard Kaufman and Jon Racherbaumer published Don England's Gaffed to the Hilt. It was an edition of 110 copies printed on red paper (to prevent copying) in a binder that included 14 handmade gaffs from Don along with 2 matching decks of cards. This edition quickly sold out and now can command high prices on the secondary market.

In 1993, Kaufman decided to publish a second edition (of 1000 copies) to properly record Don's routines. The second edition did not include the gaffs, although Don did sell gaffs separately. (Years ago I got a copy of the second edition and subsequently got the gaffs from Don). The second edition also included some additional "ideas" from Ed Marlo as the book needed to be a minimum of 88 pages for a bound book.



This brings us to 2026. Kaufman decided to republish the book after finding someone to make the gaffs (Don passed away in 2015). This edition limited to 200 copies includes 25 gimmicks and 4 printed gimmicks along with 2 decks of cards plus 2 Deland decks. T

his edition also comes in a binder with all the gaffs. There are 9 new effects (the Marlo ideas from the second edition are not included - which is not that big of a deal). Kaufman said the reason these effects were not originally included as it was too much work for Don to create these extra gaffs.

Some of the gaffs are hard to make with "flaps" or are specially printed. Others are simple double backers or cut cards glued together. The effects range from various collectors plots, shrinking and stretching cards, zig zag cards, and card changes. From the original material, I like a few of the stretching card effects; one with a unique flap card makes it very clean. The first item is an interesting application of Fiedler's Flyer, but using a flap to allow the force of two cards.

Of the new effects, I enjoyed the cards through newspaper which resembles a matrix effect with face up cards. There are also a few new clever card revelations using an interesting gaff. This is a very pricy book at $1000, but there are some interesting ideas if you love gaffed cards.

Don England's Gaffed to the Hilt EXPANDED – Kaufman and Company

Zoo Days

Instead of focusing on a member biography, I thought I'd focus on a unique event Ring 43 held from 1978-1987. Thanks to past President, Mark Rosenthal, who worked at the zoo, and a small committee, Magic Day at Lincoln Park Zoo was born.

Members performed all over the zoo, on the main mall, in the Lion House, at the Primate House, Children's Zoo, Reptile House. They even enlisted the Traveling Zoo bus that had an attached rear stage platform for a larger show. There were over 34 magicians that performed 45 shows throughout the first Magic Day.

To help draw crowds, Ron Fable performed his straitjacket escape hanging upside down above the Sea Lion Pool. He did this twice during the day.

The event garnered great publicity for the Ring with many newspaper articles including front page stories in the Sun-Times and Chicago Tribune. Bob Miller even performed on the ABC show AM Chicago to promote the event.

Favorite photos were magicians with the animals. Elephants were the most popular. (Sam pope and Gordon Gluff with elephants), but Bob Miller also performed for a llama.

The magicians were troopers who truly believed that "the show must go on." In 1980 on Sunday July 20th Chicago hit a high temperature reaching 101 degrees. Some our zoo day performers are still around including Gordon Gluff, Michael Goldman, John Hutsebaut, Mike Kozlowski, Jim Krenz, Bob Miller, Sam Pope and Mark Rosenthal just to name a few.

- Mike Kamlet

14 CHICAGO DEFENDER - Monday, August 31, 1987 *entertainment*

International Brotherhood Magicians perform in the zoo

by Earl Calloway

One of the highlights of the summer activities in Chicago was the 10th annual "Magic Day at Lincoln Park Zoo" sponsored by members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians that presented more than two dozen individuals performing comedy and mysterious magic that involved audience participation.

Among the acts children enjoyed were Willie Yates, Jr. and Sam Pope. From 11 a.m. until early evening, the children had a ball. The entire park and zoo was colorful with all kinds of entertainers, each doing their thing. Magicians and clowns strutted through the zoo. At the Lion House, there were guys playing tricks, stage shows and special acts for children. Ron Fable squeezed out of a straight jacket while suspended upside down from a snorkle over the pool.

Harlan E. Tarbell Ring 43 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Chicago Park District are the co-sponsors. Robert K. Miller of Northbrook is Chairman and the American Federation of Musicians, Local 1-208, will provide instrumental music for the stage acts.

Bozie, the elephant, at Lincoln Park Zoo, has a twinkle in his eye as Sam Pope performed during "Magic Day at Lincoln Park Zoo."

By getting to the bottom of things

Membership Dues

It's that glorious time of the year. A few tornadoes have come and gone, we're closing out 10+ days of scorching 95 degrees of heat with 150% humidity, and the air quality index is inching it's way back down from 500. Oh, and it's Ring 43 dues time!

As we like to say, don't vanish from Ring 43 like a bad coin palm—renew your dues now before your membership disappears in a puff of smoke! Dues are $35 if you pay before our September meeting ($40 after that), and we've included a payment link and handy QR code to make it easier than a self-working card trick.

Payment Link

Welcome New Members!

Adam Petravicius
Neil Spinner
Lana Thompson

Happy Birthday

Allen Lee
Craig Reeder
Terry Rossie
Ed Vargas

Events Calendar

SEPT 15*	Steve Valentine Lecture
OCT 16	ABC 'Anything but Cards'
NOV 17*	Abby Segal Lecture

Meeting location is graciously hosted by

MAGIC INC.

1838 W Lawrence Ave. Chicago, IL 60640

*Meeting date different from our normal 3rd Friday of the month, on Tuesday

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Upcoming Conventions

AbraCORNdabra - Sept 11 - 13, 2026 | Des Moines, IA
https://abracorndabra.com/

Houdini Club of WI Convention - Oct 30 - 31, 2026 | Milwaukee, WI
https://www.houdiniclubofwisconsin.com/

Coin Magic Study Group - Work through the classic coin magic book, Bobo's Modern Coin Magic, on the second Saturday of every month from 2 pm - 4 pm.
Magic Inc. - Support your local magic shop! For more info, call 773-334-2855 or magicinc.net.
Club Meetings:
S.A.M. Assembly 3—At Magic Inc, first Monday of the month 6:30pm. www.magicalchicago.com
Conjurer's Corner Magic Club—Fourth Monday, Mr. Beef & Pizza, 1796 S. Elmhurst Rd., Mt. Prospect.

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Dedicated to teaching its members to become better magical entertainers!