

NO. 157, CORPUS CHRISTI, TX – Lettie Barnes Ring  
Meets 2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m. at Ronald McDonald House, 3402 Fort Worth St., Corpus Christi, TX  
JOE DOUGLAS, Secretary  
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In December, a local drum corps was also performing at the Ronald McDonald House, so our audience had standing room only. Scott Hollingsworth, Michael Gleason, and Joe Douglas performed an outstanding show for the outstanding audience and received standing ovations. No puns missed.

Scott Hollingsworth opened the show by displaying a black and a white tissue. These were torn up and restored to make a magician's top hat. In trying to find the magic rabbit in the hat, a white paper streamer was pulled from the hat followed by a very magical, paper white rabbit. Next, Scott tied three colored ropes together. The ropes were in red, white, and blue order. After holding the tied ropes up with red rope uppermost, the ropes were bunched up and the blue rope pulled up to the top. Amazingly, the order reversed with the blue rope uppermost, followed by the white and red rope. Not too magical? Well, after the ropes were bunched up again, the knots mysteriously vanished, leaving not three ropes, but one multicolored length of rope. A volunteer was selected from the audience, and Scott performed an egg bag routine where the egg became invisible and visible many times after being placed in the bag. Finally, the visible egg was placed in a Devil's handkerchief and vanished...only to reappear in the empty egg bag held by the spectator. For his finale, Scott had a card chosen by an audience member and attempted to draw the chosen card on an artist pad. After drawing the wrong card on the pad, he drew some extra lines on the card to make a drawing of a complete deck of cards. Then, with the power of Christmas magic, the spectator's freely chosen card rose out of the drawn deck. As impossible as this was, Scott tore the drawing off the tablet, signed his artistic work, and gave it to the spectator as a souvenir to be cherished and perhaps sold on eBay.

Michael Gleason was introduced next and showed a large card with a picture of Santa on it. It was soon discovered that Santa was bald and was missing his red hat. Michael folded the drawing in half and found a small Santa hat in his pocket. This hat was placed in the folds of the drawing and, when the drawing was unfolded, the hat had vanished and reappeared on Santa's head in the drawing. This seasonal effect was followed by Michael illustrating the Grinch who stole Christmas with a drawing of a Christmas tree and a drawing of the Grinch and two large, windowed envelopes. Eventually, the Grinch successfully steals the Christmas tree which turns into a blank piece of paper in the first envelope and appears in the Grinch's envelope. In the end, all is well as the Grinch returns the picture of the Christmas tree to the town folk and the tree reappears in the first envelope.

Joe Douglas tested the audience's observation skills with the Spot the Dog effect where a blue and a white handkerchief are placed separately in a polka dotted bag, and the blue hank turned white and the

white hank turned blue. Next, for the more difficult part, the hanks are returned to the bag in the reverse order and mysteriously, the white one returns to its original blue color and the blue one returns to white again. Will wonders never cease? More amazingly, when both handkerchiefs were placed in the bag at the same time, the white changed to white with blue polka dots and the blue changed to blue with white polka dots. Then, the bag was turned inside out to reveal a missing "spot" ...Spot the Dog. Joe closed by selecting a couple to test E.S.P. (Extra Spiritual Perception) using giant E.S.P. cards in Don Alan's Great Put On effect. Five blue backed E.S.P. cards with the circle, plus, wavy lines, square, and star were shown and one symbol was secretly chosen at random (wavy lines) and given sight unseen for the lady to hold against her chest. Then, the red backed cards were shown to the audience one at a time (all being wavy lines), and the gentleman was asked to stop at one of the cards being shown. This selection is given to the gentleman to hold against his chest (sight unseen). When the lady is told to look at her card and tell the audience what she has, she says that she has a plus (not the wavy line that the audience thinks she has). At this point, it is pointed out that magic is NOT an exact science. When the gentleman is asked what card he chose, he discovers that his card is also a plus. The volunteers are shown to have Extra Spiritual Perception and the audience is left wondering what happened.

Magic is alive and well in Corpus Christi. Come visit our Ring meeting and be sure to attend a magic convention in Texas in 2016.

Joe Douglas