

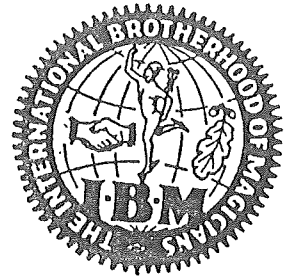


International Brotherhood of Magicians

RING NO. SIX

Delaware Valley Conjurers Club

Newsletter



JULY 1994

Notice is hereby given that the next stated meeting of the Delaware Valley Conjurers Club will be held on Monday, July 11, 1994, at 7:30 post meridiem. Bring some popcorn and a cool drink as we sit around in the heat and humidity and watch TV. Yes, Video Night rears its ugly head once again. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, Prez Kelly received a couple of video catalogs from some company in California. They're basically dealer demo's on tape, but Dave said some of the presentations were worth watching (translation: watch, learn, use). C'mon out.

Reminder: MAES in Carlisle, September 8-10. Rick Westhafer at 717.671.9272.

As most of you know, our last patriarch, Jack Steck, died last month. We held a Broken Wand ceremony at the viewing, a copy of which is enclosed.

I was continually amazed of Jack's mental acuity and wit. Here's a man who claims to have come over on the Mayflower and was able to fire off a one-liner or quip at a moment's notice. Most of us have trouble telling three or four good clean jokes in a row, and yet there was Jack doing stand-up at the Valley Forge Music Fair a few summers' back.

I was going through my Jack Steck file, trying to find an appropriate anecdote, and I found a clipping of how he celebrated his 90th birthday, back in 1987. A friend had given Jack a hot air balloon ride as a gift, and after Jack put on the obligatory white flight suit, he donned a striped sport coat containing all the colors of a combination pizza. As all around him groaned, Jack said, "I don't want to be out-colored by the damn balloon." Vintage Jack.

We met Jack through our mutual interest in magic, but Jack was more than a magician - he was a Performer. May we all be so fortunate to as to have a legacy such as his.

In an attempt to end on a lighter note, as you prepare your will and estate, set aside a wand to be used when you pass on. The last thing we wanted to ask Florence was, "By the way, could you take a moment from your grieving and get one of Jack's wands for us?". I had an old wand that we used, but it was plastic and didn't really have the right dramatic snap when broken. Marc DeSouza and I discussed this, and have already picked out our wands. I'm going to have my breakaway wand used. I'm serious.

Next Month: August. Our annual night out at the Szechuan Garden.

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