



ORGAN OF THE SRI LANKA MAGIC CIRCLE

www.srilankamagic.org

*The Official Guardian of Magic*

December 2011

Edited by Devsiri Fernando 7 Francisco Place, Moratuwa Tel: 2645927

President and the Board of SLMC wishes all its Members

# Best Wishes for a Magical Holiday Season and a Prosperous 2012

## Members Day 27th November by Shelton Jayasekera

The monthly get together for the month of November was held on Sunday the 27th November at our own headquarters (156) from 10.00am.

The following members were present. Messers **Ronald De Alwis, Devsiri Fernando, Rohan Jayasekera, Sanjeeva Hewapathirane, Shelton Jayasekera, Suranjith De Soysa, Joy De Silva, W.S.Botheju, Ajith Fernando, Ms. Ranjitha Ratnapala, Michael Cabudsan, Dinesh Thangavel, Franklyn Hewavitharane, M.K. Wimalasena, A.Wijesinghe, Rajeeva Peries, Nishika Pieris** (Since the Secretary was not available apologies if any one present has been excluded).

Time could be used more profitably if members could be present by 9.00 AM. in the future.

**VP Devsiri** made the welcome speech and in his speech he mentioned about the weather that was prevailing. He explained the types of lightning and thunder and advised the members how to be cautious. He also distributed some books on disasters affecting the Western Province.

**K. W. Silva** opened with the famous paper to hat trick followed by **Franklyn Hewawitharana** who performed a card trick. Our member from Philippines Michael performed the cut and restored silk. He showed two silks of the same colour wrapped a piece of paper which was clearly shown on the middle of the two silks with the paper and visibly cut the two silks in the middle and clearly separated the two pieces. He then kept the two pieces and pulled the two silks and they were restored. **VP Rohan** delivered a speech on Presentation..VP training **Sanjeeva** showed a video on how to open locks which explained how to make tools for this purpose. This showed how to open any lock. Refreshments were served to the members and the the get together terminated around 1.PM

## Notice to Board Members

Please note that the next Board Meeting will be held on 17th January 2012 at '156'. Office Bearers especially Vps come prepared to present activity reports  
- Secretary

## NEXT MEMBERS DAY 29TH JANUARY 2012

8.30 to 9.30 am - Members Arrival  
(Library will be open at this time)

Welcome Address & Announcements

Members Performances

Training Session

Fellowship



## MEMBERS NEWS

It is sad to note our Past President and the walking Encyclopedia of magic **Noel Wickremasinghe** is still unwell.

Also our senior most member **Joy de Silva** is also yet unwell

*We wish them both a Speedy Magical Recovery !!*



HDN Gunasekara has given two charity shows together with a books donation programme for children of underprivileged schools. Shows were held at Kalukele Vidyalaya, Nuwara Eliya (December 2, 2011) and Veera Vikum Vidyalaya, Pallekele (December 7, 2011) These charitable events were organized by the "Wijesekara Foundation", Janasavigama.

*"Just look at the faces of the kids. What else you need in return of a charity show?" says HDN.*

## "HERRMANN THE GREAT" *by H D N Gunasekara*



**Alexander Herrmann**  
**(Born: February 11, 1843.**  
**Died: December 17, 1896)**

Alexander Herrmann's 115th death anniversary fell on Dec.17th

The following tribute to the memory of Alexander Herrmann by Albert Bighlow Paine; appeared in the New York Journal, December 19th, 1896: (from the book "Magician's Handbook: Tricks And Secrets Of The World's Greatest Magician Herrmann The Great" by H.J. Burlingame)

### MAGICIAN'S ART

Saint Peter sat at the gates of gold,  
 And the Winter's night had gone,  
 He was thin and old, and the earth lay cold  
 And black with December dawn.

But presently over the hills of snow  
 A heaven-bound spirit came,  
 It paused by the Saint, and bending low  
 It whispered a mystic name.

Saint Peter started, "What ! Herrmann the Great?  
 Then why do you pause?" said he.  
 "Your magic might open the firmest gate,  
 With never a word from me."

"Not so, Saint Peter," the shade replied,  
 "My magic was but of earth;  
 It was well enough on the other side  
 But here it has lost its worth."

But the good saint answered, with earnest air,  
 "I pray you will have no fear,  
 For you practiced another magic there  
 That counts as well up here."

"You offered hope to the weary heart  
 In charity's sacred name;  
 You brightened the world with a blessed art  
 That counts up here the same."

Saint Peter mused by the gates alone,  
 And his face looked old and thin,  
 As he thought of the dearth of the art on earth  
 That had let the magician in.

# Entertaining Children Magically !

With the spread of International Schools in the Western Province, especially in the Colombo District more and more kids in the Primary Divisions, wish to celebrate their birthdays in a more grandeur scale than the ones they were invited before ! In the last ten years demand for Magic Shows has grown by leaps & bounds. The majority of the children wish to have naturally, the traditional magician amidst them. Parents often search for a suitable magician. So they try to get recommendation from friends, some try the Internet or the yellow pages. Most go by recommendations received through word of mouth advertisements. Really a popular magician may not like to advertise in any of the above, but relies on word of mouth advertisement. Further since requests for magic shows are rare for the not too professional magician the quotation would naturally be very low too. Perhaps such a person may not be able to present lively tricks audibly too! Remember the old saying "Good things are not Cheap & Cheap things are not Good" !!

So how does one pick a magician who would keep the party lively? Of course the magician who uses patter with wit, able to create laughter, superb presentation, interacting with the children and even the adults present, scores heavily! By speaking to the magician over the telephone one could gauge his quality. Perhaps he would have a profile to be presented or even DVDs to promote himself if he is not within the classification of a top magician. All magicians cannot handle kids. Kids these days are noisy and may even heckle a performer. Then the magician should understand human psychology and use his skills & dexterity to overcome such hurdles. This goes by experience over the years. Not every magician is the right kind! The magician who handles kids with expertise and able to keep them spell bound would naturally earn the respect of the kids and the adults present, who wish to see the magician baffle them!

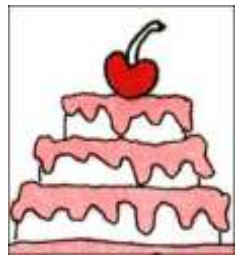
A magician should be careful in selecting his routine or props. He should avoid dangerous tricks where kids would like to experiment with, namely using Fire Effects. Releasing a rope tied round one's neck, Swallowing Blades & pulling them back as a strand from the mouth . Children like to experiment such tricks which could end in disaster ! Children love to see instant colourful and flashy effects and will not

sit and watch a card trick which takes a long time to conclude. Avoid boring long effects. Presentation of Magic without livestock like doves & rabbits becomes uninteresting & boring. Misdirection too helps the magician to score well, since children today watch a magician very closely. A good magician is one who is attired in a magician's costume and one who uses soft back ground liltng music and one who has his clean & colourful props well laid out.

A magician should always go prepared even with his tables, back ground music, spot lamp, electricity wire cords, plug tops & rear curtain drops if possible and should not worry the host or hostess. He should be present at least 30 minutes before his act to set up. It would also be advantageous to even recce the site before hand to ensure the perfect place for the presentation. If not on arrival he should be able to convince the host / hostess of the right place to set up. Proper lighting too is very essential by dusk. The maximum time for a kids birthday party should not more than 40 minutes.

*Lt. Col. Ronald De Alwis*

Happy Birthday  
to all members  
celebrating their birthdays  
in the months of December & January



## December

22nd Noel Ananda  
23rd Udara Ariyasinghe  
27th Sumangala Silva  
30th Lucky Ranaweera & Bimal Perera

## January

5th Gehan Somanader  
7th Ms. Ranjani Gunasekara  
8th Elrea Pereira & Oshan Fernando  
10th Haleem Ghouse  
16th Ms. Thusitha Jayasekara  
29th Sachin Silva & Aviska Perera

*Bring your B'day treat on the 29th January*

Let us felicitate the  
**Longest standing member of the SLMC**  
 and the  
**Most experienced Magician of Sri Lanka**



## Lt. Col. Ronald De Alwis

*Lt. Col. Ronald de Alwis, known to all of us at SLMC as “Ronnie” or “Ronnie Uncle” completes 60 years as a member of the SLMC on 8th January 2012. When he joined as a member in 1952 he was just a lad of 16 years. By that time he was already a performing magician. Clad in shirt and shorts he gave his first magic show in 1947. The event was the prize-giving at his Alma Mater, St. Mary's College Chilaw and the audience numbered around 500. He was just 12 years old. The magic bug that bit him at that time has stayed with him ever since. He was introduced to magic by his father Linden who used to perform under the name of Prof. Dalvo. Linden de Alwis was one of the founder members of the SLMC (formerly known as the Association of Ceylon Magicians).*

*Ronnie has won many awards in his long magical career. He was the Runner-up in the Junior section in the Magic Competition conducted by the famous impresario the great Donovan Andree. In 1962 he became Magician of the Year. In 1968 he won the first ever Open Contest and the Comedy Magic Award too. In the year 2004, recognizing his contribution to the art of magic, Ronnie was awarded the Kalabushana Award by the Cultural Ministry. The first Magician to receive this award.*

*The services rendered by Ronnie over the years to the upliftment of the SLMC has been immense and too numerous to enumerate. However one particular contribution should be mentioned. In 2002 the SLMC received the gift of a plot of land at Kalapura, Mount Lavinia through the untiring efforts of him. The SLMC building which stands in these premises is undoubtedly a monument to his love for the SLMC and magic in general.*

*Let us felicitate this great magical character.*