



ORGAN OF THE SRI LANKA MAGIC CIRCLE

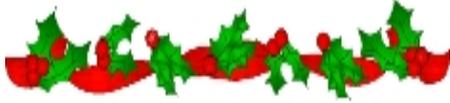
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The Official Guardian of Magic

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An outstanding party it was....



.....and a BIG thank you to Rohan

December. The month when the world is full of parties but at SLMC December is the month of slumber where nothing happens. One man thought of changing this. With the approval and the full backing of the the Board he set out to have a SLMC Christmas Party.

Single handedly he set about the task. As he went along many joined and contributed in numerous ways. The end result was an outstanding success.

To this great effort we say a VERY BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VICE PRESIDENT SPECIAL PROJECTS - ROHAN JAYASEKERA

A party atmosphere was created with decorations and tastefully laid out tables with candle light table decor. There was activities for everyone to participate and there were so many at the party. Members were outnumbered by the Guests.

Many members performed a trick each to entertain the crowd. Games were conducted for



The man behind the Party and also behind the mic

all categories. Children, Mothers, Fathers....everyone enjoyed. After the games live music was provided which got everybody singing and dancing. It was indeed all for fun and fun for all.

Santa also had a very busy time giving gifts not only to small kids but also the big ones.

It is hoped that the start which was given by Rohan will be continued in the coming years by other members.



Santa had a busy time at the party



The President handing over the prizes to the winners

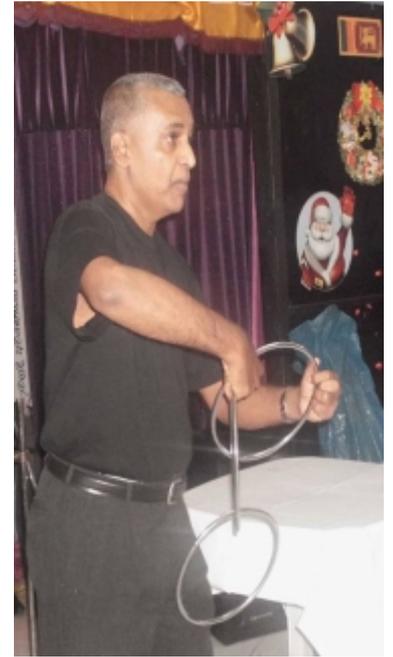
Next MEMBERS DAY
Sunday Jan. 25th

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25 වන ඉරිදා පැවැත්වේ.

The Party in pics

Cont. from Page 1

Some of the members who performed



FREE MAGIC SHOW

On behalf of all members of SLMC I donated Rs. 1500/- for afternoon Tea & Refreshments to be given to patients of one of the Cancer Wards at Maharagama Hospital on 07th December. Along with me Messrs Boteju, Dharmapala and Pathirana were present. Dharmapala and Pathirana were kind enough to provide free magic entertainment to the patients, who really enjoyed the magic and thanked us.

I am very grateful to Dharmapala and Pathirana for this kind gesture of theirs.

If our members engage themselves in providing free magic entertainment kindly get them published in our "Monthly Wand"

Joy de Silva
President

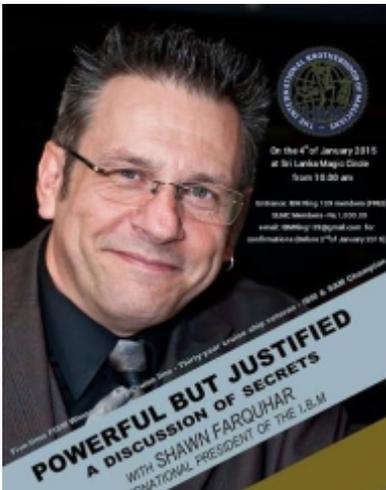




Even the big children had their game of musical chairs

Live music by Wing Cmd Thushara and the evergreen Chutte

The Party in pics



Historical Training Session

On Sunday 4th January an event which had not happened in the history of magic in Sri Lanka took place. International President of IBM Shawn Faquar, who has won several contests at FISM, conducted a training session through video conferencing. The theme of his session was "Powerful but Justified".

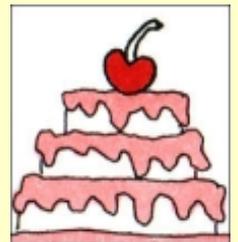
The training took place at 10 a.m. Since he resides in America, it was very late in the night for him. Throughout the session he was assisted by his daughter Hannah. This event took place due to the efforts of our Ring 139 President Yassas.



Picture shows participants following the training on the big screen.

Happy Birthday our January Birthday Boys and Girls

- 1 Haleem Ghouse
- 5 Gehan Somanader
- 8 Elrae Pereira
- 16 Thusitha Jayasekera
- 29 Sachin Silva
- 29 Avishka Perera



Bring your B'day treat on Sunday

A matter of concern

The normal attendance at our monthly meetings is rather poor. Every month almost the same set of members are present. (Only about 25 out of about 100 members)

Our AGM will be held in another 3 months time. Looking back into the past 9 months we may ask ourselves what we have achieved for the Magic Circle so far. We have collected only about Rs. 70,000/-. We may need at least Rs. One Million more to commence building operations on the upper floor of our building.

Those who had not contributed to our Building Fund can help us at least with a small sum of Rs. 1000/= each within the next few months. Even long term loans could be arranged. It will be a very kind gesture and will be highly appreciated.

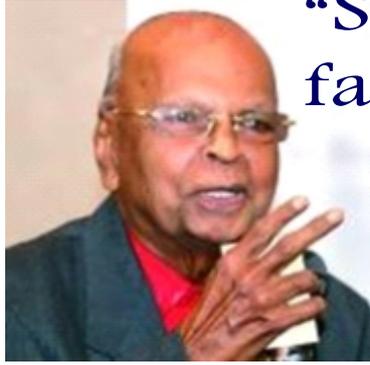
There are a few members who had not attended any meetings at all, but still continue to be members.

They are Award winners too and have completely forgotten the magic circle. They feel they have nothing else to gain hereafter. However, please be present for our meetings at least during the remaining 3 months with your generous contributions to our Building Fund.

Joy de Silva / President

We go down further memory lane with H D N Gunsekera

“Sir, I can't find where, your face ends and the head begins....”



In late 1970s before joining the SLMC, I was at the YMBA, Borella to see a magic show. With the third bell, a gentleman came in front of the curtain and started talking. He had a mesmerizing smile; his manner was pleasing; tone and communiqué were clear. He caught the attention of the entire audience without a single magic trick. He was Haleem Ghouse, the undisputed compeer of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle.

Only a few years later, I came to know that Haleem had been a performing magician. He was the Magician of the Year 1968 and won the Comedy Magic Award twice; but I have never been fortunate enough to see him performing. He was more a 'toastmaster' than a 'magician' during my association with him.

Born in 1929, and bitten by the 'Magic Bug' as a schoolboy seeing Gogia Pasha perform. He joined the SLMC in 1954. He too was an employee of the Lake House, and a close associate of Mr. Bodinagoda. Haleem took over the Entertainment Secretary's responsibility from Mr. Bodinagoda, when the latter was elevated to the Executive Vice President post in 1967. He continued as the Entertainment Secretary till 1979 which could be considered as a dynamic era of the Circle. He was in the forefront, organizing outstanding events of the Circle including the first convention in 1967 and the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1972. Haleem served the SLMC as a Vice President in 1980s.



Haleem and Piya in 1966

As the compeer, Haleem comes in front of the curtain between acts and keeps the audience's attention to him until the signal comes from behind, that the next act was ready. He recites the same set of yarns, almost at every show, but never to become stale. Never have we got bored with his charming smile and his inimitable way of presenting decent humour. He sometimes gets the audience to laugh at him.

“..... Once he had gone to a salon for a shave. At the end of the shave, the barber asked whether he would like to have a face massage. While doing so, the barber started massaging his head as well. When Haleem queried why he was massaging the head instead of the face, the barber answered “Sorry Sir, I can't find where your face ends and the head begins...” A regular yarn, every time produces laughter with his shining bald head.

35 years ago



Shelton, HDN, Panil, Chandra, Pontian, Noel, Nihal & Haleem with Mr. Bodinagoda and Mr. & Mrs. Heinz Mackenbach. Mr. Heinz Mackenbach was the then Vice President of the German Magic Circle.

Haleem was the pioneer in founding the “Colombo Toastmasters' Club” in 1984, the first of its kind in South Asian Region and was the President of the club in 1989/1990. He devoted much of his time and energy to produce competent and refined speakers to the nation. The Colombo Toastmasters Club honoured this doyen of their trade early this year. Sri Lanka Magic Circle too recognized his contribution of over 50 years to “Magic” by elevating him to the elite group of “Honorary Life Members”.

The Writer with Haleem at his house

