



Volume 948 Number 936
January 24, 2007

Joe Flynn, looking forward to that favorite Celtic holiday, had us singing about four-leaf clovers. Joining in enthusiastically was Frank Peters' guest, Gladys Hopper. Bob White said his guest would have sung, too, if he had shown up.

Tim Eberhardt gave us an update on Operation Warm, while Mike Buchheit talked a bit about the Rotary literacy program.

Kudos to Bruce Weed and his bellringers—they raised \$2,371 this year for the Salvation Army!!

Finally, Bob Harris continued his education on how to be a Rotary president by attending the PETS conference. He's already bought a bullhorn for announcements.



We had a great program today, thanks to Mark Carter who invited our local magician, John Bodner. About three years ago, John started a magic shop in a kiosk at the Neshaminy Mall. Soon after, he moved to 328 Mill Street and business is booming, with 1,500 tricks in stock.

John not only sells magic tricks, he hosts children's birthday parties at his store, and speaks on magic before gatherings like ours. It's the perfect trade for a fellow who started practicing his magic at age 11.

John pointed out that too many kids sit passively in front of video games. When they get hooked on magic instead, their personalities change. They can stand in front of people with self-confidence, they learn dexterity, and they use the creative side of their mind.

There's no way I can accurately describe the tricks he did for us, very casually at the lectern. We were transfixed. Bob Harris even wanted to know how much they cost—he's thinking of outfitting all the emergency room docs with disappearing red lights.

John pointed out that it's not just magicians who use these tricks. He includes many professionals (doctors, lawyers, etc.) among his clients. Salesmen, and anyone who has to speak before a group of peers, also use his tricks to get people's attention. When John himself was selling cars (in a former life), he used his magic bubbles to settle down young children interrupting his sales pitch to their parents.

Magic is even an icebreaker. John says he can go to a party where he knows no one and end up knowing everyone. That's the way he left our Rotary meeting today!

You can see John's stock of tricks at the Magic Sojourn Trick Shoppe, 328 Mill Street (215-788-5755).

Your Editor,
Bonnie O'Boyle

