

# MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 60 No. 4 April 2006

## Annual auction offers bargains galore

Our annual auction the night of April 5 will provide us with lots of special bargains. You won't want to miss it.

The auctioneers will be Dick Christian and Bill Wells. It should be a fun and rewarding event.

We are running this year's auction in a more formal way than we have done in the past. The basic reason is to streamline the method in which we keep track of who bought what for how much.

The auction rules will be available on the IBM Ring 50 web site with a downloadable version of the forms. Be sure that you check them out.

Ten percent of all proceeds will go to Ring 50. If you wish to offer any item for auction, you must complete a Seller's Tally Sheet describing the items and any desired reserve bid. This form is available by contacting Ring 50 President Don Freedman. Please fill this out ahead of time and return it by email to:

[don.freedman@yahoo.com](mailto:don.freedman@yahoo.com)

This will significantly speed up the auction process. Only pre-registered items are guaranteed to be included in the auction.

### Collector offers preview of Washington convention

Ken Trombly, who is proprietor of [magicposters.com](http://magicposters.com), provided a preview at Ring 50's March meeting of the

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**APRIL MEETING**  
Wednesday, April 5, 2006  
HOLIDAY INN  
IN ALEXANDRIA  
2460 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, VA  
6:00 Cocktails  
6:45 Dinner  
8:00 Meeting

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*Dick Christian*



*Bill Wells*

Additional forms will be available at the auction. Items not pre-registered will be auctioned only on a time available basis. For recording purposes, all items will be assigned a lot number.

There will be a silent auction preceding the main event. Anyone interested in making an offer will write his or her name on the Silent Auction Bid Sheet. The silent auction items will be available for bidding between 6 and 9:30 p.m.

If someone wants to up the offer by at least the minimum increment,

annual Magic Collectors Convention being held in the Washington area for the first time ever at the end of March. Ken, one of its organizers, shared his passion for magic collecting with us. He collects vintage turn-of-the-century magic posters and related ephemera. His presentation covered highlights of his collection, magic posters of the greats and not-so-greats, magic history and tips on collecting .



*Ken Trombly*

that person enters his or her name and the amount.

Only IBM Ring 50 members who have paid their dues for the current year are eligible to sell items at the auction.

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**International Brotherhood  
Of Magicians Ring 50  
The National Capital Ring**

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# Coming Events

**Lectures at Denny & Lee Magic Studio**  
325 South Marlyn Avenue, Baltimore.

**April 5-Rick Maue**, founder of Deceptions Unlimited, who focuses on magic, mentalism and theatrics.

Cost: Free

**April 13-Jay Scott Berry**, a magic creator, performer and teacher.

Cost: \$20

**April 15-Topit Workshop with Jay Scott Berry** joined by Lisa Richards, a magician, costume designer and expert at installing Topits and other custom work.

Cost: Approximately \$35

**April 21-Boris Wild**, a French magician renowned for his creativity and original approach to close-up magic.

Cost: \$20

Contact: 410-686-3914

**The Theory and Art of Magic at Muhlenberg College of Pennsylvania.**

This popular program is the first ongoing symposium on the magical arts. Date: Lectures and shows begin Sept. 5.

Dr. Lawrence Hass, philosopher and magician, from Muhlenberg College.

Featured presenters include John Carney, Jim Steinmeyer, Eugene Burger, Jamy Ian Swiss, James Hamilton and Margaret Steele.



**Magic Collectors Association Convention** featuring a flea market, lectures, dealers, tours.

Date: The convention runs through April 1, 2006.

Place: Holiday Inn in Rosslyn, VA

Contact: Ken Trombly at [ken.trombly@comcast.net](mailto:ken.trombly@comcast.net) or 202-887-5000.

**“The Comedy & Mystery Society”** is holding “annual meetings” this year often featuring Bob Sheets, Mark Phillips, Alain Nu and Barry Woods among other magical and sometimes zany performers.

Dates: The series of shows dubbed “annual meetings” will continue with performances April 12, May 31, July 12 (Wednesday nights), April 8, May 5, June 23, Aug. 11 (Friday nights) and April 8 (Saturday).

Place: ‘The Gaithersburg Arts Barn Theatre, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg, Md., in the Gaithersburg Kentland’s development.

Contact: 301-248-6394

Cost: \$15 for residents and \$18 for nonresidents for all Wednesday performances. Prices vary other times. Tickets can also be purchased online by going to the City of Gaithersburg website at: [www.gaithersburgmd.gov/RecXpres](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/RecXpres). For more information and directions, visit:

<http://www.ci.gaithersburgmd.gov>.

**National Press Club annual magic show** sponsored by the Society of Professional Magicians (SAM).

Date: April 19 at 7 p.m.

Place: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C.

Cost: Free but advance reservations required.

Contact: Dwight Redman at (301) 927-7717 or [dredman@comcast.net](mailto:dredman@comcast.net).



**Chris Capehart**

**The 97th Salute to Magic Show**, sponsored by Parent Assembly No. 1 of the Society of American Magicians of New York, NY, features Gene Anderson as emcee, George Saterial, The Evasons, Levent and Norbert Ferré. Before the show, there will be a special street magic performance at 7 p.m. by legendary street magician Chris Capehart. Sam Schwartz will be given the Magician of the Year award at the show.

Date: April 8 at 8 p.m.

Place: Tribeca Performing Arts Center, Borough of Manhattan Community College, 199 Chambers St., New York, NY.

Cost: \$50. To order tickets by phone call Ken Ferst at (917) 533-3406 or email him at [salutetickets@sampa1.com](mailto:salutetickets@sampa1.com).

Contact: <http://www.sampa1.com/salute.htm>

## Ring 50 Schedule

<u>April</u>	Auction	<u>June</u>	New officers installed, perform
<u>May</u>	Dan Lacey Contest New officers elected	<u>July</u>	IBM convention in Miami Ring 50 meeting suspended

### Ring dues are past due--send check now!

To actively participate in the monthly meetings your dues must be up-to-date. There are just a few members who have not paid their dues for 2006. The annual fee of \$15 was payable in February. Treasurer Bob Patterson is appealing for delinquent members to support their Ring and pay their dues before the end of March.

Make checks payable to IBM Ring

50. You may send a check to Bob’s address at 3450 Wainscott Place, Lake Ridge, VA 22192. If your dues are not current, you will no longer receive the Magi-Gram and you will have to pay the non-member fee for lectures and other Ring funded activities. If you haven’t done so, please pick up your 2006 membership card at the next meeting from Bob.

## **THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

That old saying "Time flies when you're having fun" is certainly true in my case. My year as Ring 50 president is rapidly drawing to an end. Next month we will hold our annual election for officers. At our June meeting, new officers will be installed. I have asked Glenn Gary (a past Ring 50 leader) to chair the nominating committee. We will elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms and two Directors. If you are interested in becoming an officer of IBM Ring 50, please let Glenn know. His email address is: [glenngary@adelphia.net](mailto:glenngary@adelphia.net) or you can call him at 703-430-6885.

At last month's meeting, we had a very busy agenda. Chikki Rao of the George Washington University Hospital Acute Rehabilitation Center addressed the group and told us about her efforts to start a Project Magic/Healing Magic program at the hospital. She is looking for Ring 50 volunteers to help out. You can participate in several ways. You can work directly with patients on a short-term basis to help them master simple magic tricks as part of their rehabilitation. You can train the GWU Acute Rehabilitation staff in how to perform these simple tricks so that the staff can then work with the patients. Finally, you can help cheer up the patients by performing a short program or by doing some walk around magic. This is a great opportunity for us to give something back to the community. If you are willing to help out, please contact Jason Goldberg or myself.

The second item on our agenda last month was welcoming back a former member. We voted Louis Meyer in as a member of Ring 50. Louis had been inactive for several years even though he had retained his IBM membership. We look forward to his increased involvement during the coming year. Next month, we will vote on Ron Cote's Ring 50 application. He was notified just before the meeting that his membership application to IBM has been accepted.

Our guest lecturer at the last meeting was Ken Trombly. Elsewhere in this newsletter, there is an article on



***Don Freedman***

his presentation. I want to take this opportunity to thank Ken on behalf of the Ring 50 membership for his enlightening and entertaining presentation. His enthusiasm and passion made this a memorable night for all in attendance.

But enough about the past. Let's look to the future. For our April meeting we have scheduled one of our more popular activities. We will hold our annual auction. Dick Christian and Bill Wells have graciously agreed to be our auctioneers. I know we can count on them to keep this a fast pace activity. So if you have something that you no longer can use, plan on bringing it to the meeting. If you are inclined to buy, I am sure that you will find some excellent values available. In a separate mailing, I sent out the procedures that we will use this year. We are trying to make things easier for the buyers and sellers as well as our treasurer. That is why we are asking you to let us know in advance what you have to offer.

We will publish a list of items that we know will be auctioned. This should generate more interest in what you have to sell. That does not mean you cannot bring something to the auction that we did not know about. It just means that it will not make our inventory list. Also, this year we are using a silent auction for such things as books, tapes, DVDs and items that might not draw a lot of auction activity. The major thing to

remember if you are a seller is that you must be a paid up member of Ring 50. We don't require our buyers to be Ring 50 members. So if you know somebody who wants to buy some magic, invite him or her to join us.

In May, we will hold our annual Dan Lacey Competition to pick the Ring 50 Magician of the Year. This is open to all members regardless of your experience level. Our judges take into consideration the experience level of performers. In fact, our first winner, Dwight Redman, was relatively new at the time to performing when he beat out some of our most experienced magicians. For the last two years, Noland Montgomery has been the winner. However, the competition last year was extremely close. I know that we all look forward to this competition. So start planning now on what you would like to do to compete. Next month there will be more details on the rules for the competition. The one rule to keep in mind is that you must have paid your dues in order to compete.

One final reminder about the dues, if you haven't paid your annual Ring 50 dues yet, please pay right away. You can send your check to our Treasurer, Bob Patterson. His address is:

3450 Wainscott Place  
Woodbridge, VA 22192-5263

Our dues are only \$15 per year. I don't know of any other organization that has annual dues as low as that. We encourage everyone who is interested in any aspect of magic to join in the Ring 50 activities. For most things, you don't even have to be a member to participate. However, your \$15 and that of the other members is what allows us to bring you the guest speakers and entertaining programs that we put on each year.

Here is hoping to see you all at our next meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Between Magi-Gram issues, you can get the latest news on events and performers at the official Ring 50 site <http://ibmring50.homestead.com/>.*

## Jailed killer's magic books ban ordered at British prison

A maximum security prisoner in Great Britain has been banned from reading magic books -- in case he picks up escapology tips.

Prison authorities recently told convicted murderer Shaun Tuley that he was not allowed to buy the conjuring guides on grounds of "operational security problems", according to a BBC report.

The inmate told of the ban in a letter from his cell in HMP Frankland, County Durham, to a prison newspaper, Inside Time, the BBC said.

A spokesman for the Prison Service said: "The titles requested were not thought appropriate."

Tuley, who murdered a 20-year-old prostitute in September 2000, said he had been "refused permission on grounds of 'operational security problems' to purchase a selection of books on the subject of magic, sought in order to be able to pursue my hobby whilst serving a life sentence".

He asked other prisoners with a "like-minded passion for magic" to correspond with him.

Magic Circle spokesman David Beckley said: "I can't understand the Prison Service's attitude — unless this man has asked for books on escapology. Magicians do have skills which enable them to deceive but this is only in an environment which is controlled by the magician himself.

"The Prison Service should change their minds," Beckley maintained. "Having something objective which he can focus his mind on could actually help him become a model prisoner. It's a great hobby."

*If you want to begin receiving this newsletter by E-mail only, please let Editor Jim Flanigan know by emailing him at [jflanigan@aol.com](mailto:jflanigan@aol.com).*



**MAGIC COLLECTOR--***Ken Trombly, who collects rare magic posters, spoke at our March meeting.*

## Ring 50 hears preview of Collectors Convention

Ken Trombly, a noted Washington collector of magic memorabilia, helped mark Magic History Month in March by providing Ring 50 with a preview of the annual Magic Collectors Association Convention being held in the Washington area for the first time.

Ken provided an outline of the convention, which was to open with a flea market involving local magic clubs on March 29 and run through April 1 in suburban Rosslyn, VA. The agenda for collectors coming from around the world included a visit to see the rare magic collection at the Library of Congress, he said.

"I have always had a passion for magic," Ken told our group. He became interested in acquiring exotic magic posters and paraphernalia when he saw an advertisement by legendary collector David Price while he was going to college in the 1970s. He also did magic shows to help pay for law school studies.

Ken showed us some historic newspaper clippings and photographs as well as some of his own posters, photographs and pamphlets of Thurston, Kellar, Hermann, Chung Ling Soo, Carter and other magical giants. He displayed a newspaper challenge to

Harry Houdini from the District of Columbia jail superintendent to escape from some special locks.

At the start of our meeting, a representative from George Washington University Hospital spoke briefly about Project Magic initiatives being established at the medical facility's 16-bed Acute Rehabilitation Lab. "Project Magic is designed to give the gift of magic to individuals with various forms of physical, psychological and social disabilities," said Surabhi "Chikiki" Rao, an occupational therapist at the hospital. Her aim was to recruit participants to help with the program which was started by David Copperfield. Jason Goldberg, a Ring 50 member, has been volunteering at the hospital for the last two years. He is coordinating the effort.

At our preliminary meeting, Ring 50 unanimously voted to reinstate Louis Meyer as a member.

## Performance

# Kreskin: Timelessly, Well, Amazing

By Buzz McClain

Washington Post Style Section

If someone you didn't know suddenly blurted out your birth date and the city you were thinking of at the moment, you'd say, "Amazing." It's the first word that comes to mind, and appropriately so.

The Amazing Kreskin lived up to his moniker time and again Saturday night (Feb. 25) at the Barns of Wolf Trap, performing the same shtick he's been doing since before Joey Bishop had his own TV show. And Steve Allen. And especially Johnny Carson, who gave Kreskin the Amazing tag.

Kreskin referenced each of those TV hosts in his two-hour show, a performance that was as much a showcase for the boundless energy of the 71-year-old as it was for his stunning feats.

Skeptics can scoff, and they do, about how the mentalist formerly known as George Kresge manages to do it, but Kreskin is one of the last tangible links to theatrical artistry before television (and even radio), and to watch him work the stage is to step back to a time of intellectual innocence. You just have to say, "Oh, why not?" and give in.

With a grin as big as his oversize glasses, Kreskin involved the entire

## ***Former Ring 50 president among fans of popular new little black notebook***

Former Ring 50 President Eric Henning was recently profiled in the Washington Post as one of a throng of people using a little black notebook called a Moleskine to jot down various streams of thought.

The newspaper found Eric sitting at a coffee shop participating in the latest fad. Eric was using his very own Moleskine to record some culinary thoughts because he is an occasional but aspiring cook as well as a magician and businessman. He was asking



audience by keeping the house lights on for the duration. He nailed a prediction trick — trick's not the right word, but what else to call it? — in which an audience member's given name, numbers and city were written on a piece of paper, placed in an envelope in an envelope. He pulled off a few cool card effects, he completed a guy's phone number without mistake, he found his paycheck — hidden by audience members in the balcony — and he put two dozen volunteers to sleep by playing "Aura Lee" on the piano before subjecting them to a range of imagined temperature variations in the room.

Think what you like — and Kreskin will know what you're thinking — but he was amazing.

Originally published Feb. 27, 2006

himself: What dishes do I want to learn to make over the next year?

"It was the kind of welcoming thought that can drift into the mind of someone leading a hectic life," the newspaper article noted. Before it drifted out, Eric had two options to record his answer, it pointed out. One was a hand-held digital assistant, rigged with an extra 128-megabyte memory card. The other was his Moleskine, a notebook similar to those used by Hemingway, van Gogh and others who hung out in Paris cafes.

# Erie group considers Magic Hall of Fame

The Associated Press

ERIE, Pa. - Could a hall of fame dedicated to magic appear here someday?

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell told the Erie Times-News that he was pitched the idea by Erie County Executive Mark DiVecchio while visiting northwestern Pennsylvania.

DiVecchio said the city was approached by a group that would like to build a multimillion-dollar facility dedicated to magic. The facility would include a theater, restaurant, workshop for teaching magic and other attractions.

Carlton Beck, a retired magician who is affiliated with the group, said details would be announced in a news conference next week. The group has declined comment until then.

Erie is the hometown of Harry Kellar, described as the dean of American magic in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, noted Bob Martin, a spokesman for Beck's entertainment-production company. Kellar and Harry Houdini were also good friends, Martin said.

DiVecchio said the hall of fame has the potential to attract lots of people to the city.

"It has the potential to be as big as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," DiVecchio said.

Eric, who lives in Laurel, didn't hesitate, the article said. "He opened the Moleskine to two fresh pages. He jotted down 20 dishes: oyster stew . . . grilled fish tacos with dill-lime sauce . . . Maryland red crab soup . . . pecan pie."

The kind of urge which Eric was demonstrating shows Moleskine use has erupted in Washington and elsewhere, driven in part by a subculture of tech-savvy people otherwise electronically gadgeted to the hilt," the story noted.

# IBM Ring 50 Auction Procedures

1. Only IBM Ring 50 members who have paid their dues for the current year are eligible to sell items at the auction. If you haven't paid your dues, now is the time to do it. However, you do not have to be an IBM Ring 50 member to buy the items.

2. If you wish to offer any item for auction, you must complete a Seller's Tally Sheet. On it you will describe the items and any desired reserve bid. This form is available as an attachment to this email. Please fill this out ahead of time and return the filled out form by email to:  
**[don.freedman@yahoo.com](mailto:don.freedman@yahoo.com)**

This will significantly speed up the auction process. Only pre-registered items are guaranteed to be included in the auction. Additional forms will be available at the auction. However, items not pre-registered will be auctioned only on a time available basis. For recording purposes, all items will be assigned a Lot Number.

3. Each person, upon arrival to the auction, will register at the door and be given a Buyer's Number that will be used for bidding purposes and recording of the successful bid.

4. As the auction progresses the Treasurer and helper will complete a separate Buyers Inventory Sheet for each successful numbered bidder with the item name, the Lot Number, and the final bid amount.

5. The Treasurer and helper will annotate the Seller's Tally Sheet with the final bid.

6. After the auction is over the individual numbered Buyer's Inventory Sheets will be totaled and the numbered bidder will pay the amount on the sheet.

7. The Seller's Tally Sheet will be totaled and 10% subtracted. The balance will be given to the member submitting the auction items.

## **IBM Ring 50 Silent Auction Procedures**

If you wish to offer any item for the silent auction, you must complete a separate Silent Auction Bid Sheet describing each item and any desired reserve bid. The Silent Auction Bid Sheet is also available as an attachment. Please fill out one copy of this form for each item you wish to submit for the silent auction. Additional forms will be available at the auction. Also, you should indicate how much over the last bids someone must offer.

The table shown below has some suggestions:

Anticipated Selling Price    Bidding Increment

Less than \$5	\$.25
\$5-10\$	\$.50
Over \$10	\$1.00

All Silent Auction items will be placed on a table with a Silent Auction Bid Sheet attached.  
(See attachment 2)

Anyone who is interested in making an offer will write his or her name on the Silent Auction Bid Sheet with the bid amount. If someone wants to up the offer by at least the minimum increment, that person enters his or her name and the amount. The Silent Auction items will be available for bidding between 6:00 pm and 9:30 p.m. At 9:30 p.m, the item is sold to the last name on the list.