



# MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 62 No. 3 April 2008

## Auction night provides bargains galore with plenty of fun

Ring 50's annual auction will be held at the April meeting. Our intrepid auctioneers will be Bill Wells and Dick Christian.

Some top-notch magic items and books as well as CDs will be on the block. The procedures for the sale have

been streamlined so it will be easy to track who bought each item and how much was bid.



Wells Christian

Auction forms will be provided by Ring 50 Treasurer Bob Patterson.

The auction is a terrific fund-raising activity for Ring 50 as well as a benefit for you. Two dozen pieces of magical merchandise were sold in the live auction last year. Another 60 items were sold in a silent auction. Whether you are buying or selling, you will want to be there.

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The National Capital Ring**

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## Magi-Whirl 2008 ready to roll

It's billed as "the best little convention in the National Capital Area" and you won't want to miss a moment of it.

Magi-Whirl 2008, sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Magicians, National Capital Ring 50, will take place Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, in Alexandria Va. There will be lectures,



Aldo Colombini

close-up performances and a terrific evening show.

If you have not registered already, the fee for latecomers is now \$60 but the program is a terrific bargain even then. You will be able to

hang out with other magicians and



Rich Bloch

people devoted to magic. You may learn new tricks, gain presentation ideas and, of course, see some great performances.

There will be a question-and-answer session with Richard Kaufman, editor of Genii Magazine, and close-up magic with Wild Man Bob Little, Richard Kaufman and Brian Morton.

Nearly a dozen dealers will set up shop to offer you the latest and best magic bargains. On Friday night, March 28, there will be a dealer's show with the newest magical items demonstrated.

The Saturday night stage show features Kenrick "ICE" McDonald, Aldo Colombini, Swami Yomahmi and DC Magician of the Year Noland Montgomery. Our emcee will be Rich Bloch.



Kenrick "Ice" McDonald



Noland Montgomery

**APRIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, April 2, 2008**  
**HOLIDAY INN**  
**IN ALEXANDRIA**  
**2460 Eisenhower Avenue**  
**Alexandria, VA**  
**6:00 Cocktails**  
**6:45 Dinner**  
**8:00 Meeting/Auction**

# Coming Events

## Lecture Barry's Magic Shop

James Munton, a former Ring 50 president now living in Texas where he bills himself as Dallas-Fort Worth's Favorite Magician, will lecture. Date: July 11 at 7 p.m. Cost: Pending



Munton

Place: Barry's Magic Shop, 5544 Nicholson Lane, Rockville, Md.  
Contact: 301/933-0373 or email [magic@erols.com](mailto:magic@erols.com).  
Web site: <http://www.barrysmagicshop.com/>

## Lectures at Denny's Magic

Visit Denny's web site for the latest events:

<http://www.dennymagic.com/cgi-bin/hazel.cgi>

**Denny & Lee Magic Studio**, 9004 Yellow Brick Road, Suite H,, Baltimore, MD., 21237.  
Contact: Denny's at 410-686-3914 or email [dennymagic@aol.com](mailto:dennymagic@aol.com).

## Glenn Gary Parlor Show

Dates: Every Friday at 8 p.m.  
Place: The Westin City Center Hotel, 1400 M Street NW, just off Thomas Circle at 14th and M, in the Fireplace Parlor adjacent to the dining room.  
Cost: Pending available seating day of performance, any IBM member can get in at a discounted rate of \$25 cash at the door.  
Contact: 703-963-0790 or [www.glenngary.com](http://www.glenngary.com).

## "Macbeth" at Folger Theatre

Teller of Penn and Teller and Aaron Posner, co-founder of the Arden Theatre Company in Philadelphia, direct this version of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" in Washington, D.C.  
Dates: Shows extended through April 13.  
Cost: Prices vary; call box office.  
Contact: 202/544-7077  
Website: <http://www.folger.edu>

## Al Cohen Lifetime Achievement

Date: April 5  
Place: Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.  
Sponsor: The Academy of Magical Arts -- "The Magic Castle".  
Purpose: Former Washington magic shop owner Al Cohen will receive this year's Lifetime Achievement Fellowship for his outstanding contributions as a demonstrator and dealer. Others in the all-star magic lineup of honorees will be Patrick Page, Penn & Teller, Dr. Sawa, Bill Kalush, Steve Dusheck, The Amazing Johnathan and the 2007 Magician of the Year Derren Brown.

## James Munton Appearances

Date: July 13 at 10:30 a.m. and 1p.m.  
Place: Spy Museum, 800 F Street NW, Washington, D.C.  
Cost: To be announced.

## Manassas Library Shows

July 14 at 2:30 p.m. at Bull Run and 7 p.m. at Central.  
July 15 at 10:30 a.m. at Chain Park and 2 p.m. at Potomac.  
Contact: Call 888-773-2155 or e-mail [james@jamesmunton.com](mailto:james@jamesmunton.com)  
Web site: [www.jamesmunton.com](http://www.jamesmunton.com)

## The Comedy & Mystery Society

Dates: Future show dates are Wednesday, April 9; Wednesday, April 30; Saturday, May 10; Wednesday, May 28; Saturday, June 14; and Wednesday, June 25.  
Place: Gaithersburg Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg, Md.  
Contact: 301-258-6394 or <http://www.comedymysterysociety.com/>.

## Society of American Magicians (SAM)

Larry West Assembly 28  
Date: April 16 at 7 p.m.  
Place: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C.  
Theme: "Annual Close-up Show"  
Contact: Ray Eyler at 410/798-0176 [ceyler1026@aol.com](mailto:ceyler1026@aol.com) or email SAM Assembly President Larry Lipman at [lmipman@cox.net](mailto:lmipman@cox.net).

## Combined IBM-SAM Convention

This first-ever event, jointly sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians, will include two gala stage shows, a banquet with cabaret shows and music for dancing, a close-up show, special programs for young magicians and for spouses, more than 60 dealers and other highlights.  
Date: July 21-26, 2008  
Place: Louisville, Ky.  
Cost: Registration went up to \$495 on Jan. 1.  
Contact: John or Virginia Apperson  
Email: [IBMSAM2008@appsamagic.com](mailto:IBMSAM2008@appsamagic.com).  
Telephone: 618/451-9749.  
Fax: 618/451-9374.

## Illusions Magic Bar and Lounge "Its All Just An Illusion"

Open: Wed-Sat, 5 p.m.-1a.m.  
1025 S. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
Phone: (410) 727-5811

Magician and part owner Spencer Horsman works the floor, dazzling the crowd with card tricks and more thoroughly with an elaborate escape routine. Located south of the Inner Harbor. The management suggests calling for reservations on Friday and Saturday nights. There is a \$5 cover charge on weekend nights starting at 8:30 p.m. until the end of the stage show.

## Niagara Comedy Magic Seminar

Date: April 4-6, 2008  
Place: Niagara Falls, Canada  
Cost: \$150. Early Bird registration deadline is prior to March 15. It includes a copy of the sponsor's recently released "Funny Business - The 2007 Niagara Comedy Magic Seminar" DVD featuring performances and interviews with Bob Sheets, John Ferrentino and David Merry. This is a \$39.95 value for free. The registration fee after March 15 increases to \$175.00.  
Special Note: Registration is limited to 100. Seminar features David Acer, Jay Sankey, Johnny Thompson and others.  
Contact: 416/606-3151.  
Web site: [www.comedymagicseminar.com](http://www.comedymagicseminar.com)



*David Ben*

## Canadian magician booked for two events

David Ben, a Canadian magician who performs both publicly and privately throughout the world, appeared in mid-March at the Smithsonian. Ben, who also has written a biography of the legendary Dai Vernon, spoke on the topic “A Magical Approach to Problem Solving.”

When it comes to solving problems, Ben says individuals must first eliminate the word “impossible” from their vocabulary. He took participants behind the scenes of the world of magic, revealing tricks of the trade that magicians, card cheats and psychics use to perform the seemingly impossible.

Ben, an ex-tax lawyer and widely noted speaker, compares the secrets of magic with the secrets of success. He demystifies the problem-solving process, using the metaphor of magic to empower participants with new ideas and techniques that help in creative and pragmatic problem solving. He also is the author of

### Ring 50 2008 Schedule

**March 28-29—Magi-Whirl.** *“The best little convention in the National Capital Area”*

**April 2 -- Auction.** Nomination of officers for 2008-09.

**May 7 — Dan Lacey Contest** to select Magician of the Year. Election of officers.

**June 4 — Winton Carroll** “Most Humorous Magician”. Installation of new officers.

**July — No meeting -- IBM/SAM joint convention** in Louisville, Ky.

“Advantage Play: A Manager’s Guide to Creative Problem Solving.”

David also performed in front of a sold-out audience for the Smithsonian Centre a year ago when his presentation included magical excerpts from his past stage productions “The Conjuror” and “The Conjuror’s Suite and Tricks” plus a conversation with author Daniel Stashower.

Because he was in the Washington area for the Smithsonian engagement this year, Ben also agreed to appear the night before at a performance of the Comedy and Mystery Society in

### THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

First of all, a really big “thank you” goes out to the four lecturers who generously gave of their time and talent for the Four Corners lecture in March. Everyone learned something at what was a great event. So Buddy, Hugh, Ken and John thank you so much for a fun evening.

I hardly know how the year has flown by so fast since last year’s Magi-Whirl but here we are once again a few days away from show time. My appreciation goes out to each and every one of you who have volunteered to make this the best show we have put together in a long time. As our biggest fundraiser of the year we all put forth so much of ourselves to host this event. I look forward each year to sharing the camaraderie that a convention brings. Last year I was able to see friends in magic who I had not seen in more than 20 years. That’s the true magic of a convention. If you have not registered yet for the event and are able to attend get your tickets now. We want you there!



Michael Taggert

This is the second year that Magi-Whirl has been held at Bishop Ireton High School and already the school has helped us so much to improve the event by helping with a better layout for it. We want to help them learn what professional means so we try our best

Maryland along with Bob Sheets and Brian Curry.

Ben’s biography of Dai Vernon tells his remarkable journey as well as the celebrities he met such as Houdini, Billy Rose and Franklin Roosevelt. “Dai Vernon: A Biography” also traces the evolution of magic in the 20th century from European stages to the back rooms of magic emporiums where secrets were bought and sold. It covers his life from vaudeville and Broadway theaters to Las Vegas and the dawn of television.

to show true professionalism for the kids.

As my term in office begins to wind down we still have a lot on the plate. First is our annual auction in April. If you need to make room for the props you bought at Magi-Whirl you have a chance to do some house cleaning or bargain shopping on this occasion. Once again our auctioneers will be two experts in the field — Dick Christian and Bill Wells. Both are great at auctioneering and very knowledgeable about collectable magic.

Next get ready as we look ahead at not one but two competitions this spring. The Washington DC Magician of the year Dan Lacey award will be staged in May and the Winton Carroll Comedy contest is planned in June. If you want to enter the field, let us know now.

Along with all this it is time to elect our team of leadership for the next year so that we can continue to thrive. This is your organization. It is your turn to serve as a leader. Meanwhile, I will see you at our 2008 Magi-Whirl very soon.

Magically,

*Michael*

### Stay in touch always

*Between Ring 50 Magi-Gram issues, check out the latest news events and performances at the official Ring 50 site: [IBMRing50.org](http://IBMRing50.org).*

# Four-Corner Teach-in Night stars quartet of performers

**John Roberts** put everyone in a happy mood for St. Patrick's Day at our March meeting by sporting a green Irish hat while performing several humorous tricks. He was one of a quartet of magical instructors at an annual Four Corners Teach-in Night.

John began by pulling a gold coin out of a rainbow and pot-'o-gold silk. He also produced a tiny leprechaun named Sean who he said was helping him with his magic.

Next he asked a Ring 50 member at his table to select stones of various shapes and colors laid out on the table. Each one was placed in a small treasure chest until only one remained. John opened a closed leather purse which contained a stone that matched the remaining one left.

John also located a chosen card from a memorized deck, explained a card-across effect and offered a poker deal routine that went awry until an audience member, whom he accused of putting a hex on the trick, was ordered to lift the spell. John also did a chop-cup routine with a beer can and a miniature baseball that turned into two jumbo balls. He finished with a slick in-the-air card stab using a hunting knife—crediting the presentation to the late Doc Dougherty.

**Hugh Turley**, who performs as Turley the Magician, taught a torn-and-restored napkin routine he had learned from Bob McAllister and uses in his own act. He shared tips on using a magic wand to switch items or load them into a spectator's hand. He also demonstrated these techniques with sponge balls. He closed by



**CARD SHARK** -- *John Roberts looks perplexed when poker hands aren't going his way. He blames a spectator for putting a hex on him.*

demonstrating six different ways to use an E-Z Products "Rising Wand" from D. Robbins & Co. Inc.

**Buddy Smith** shared his trade secrets of coin magic assuring those in his teaching session that "coin magic can be very easy" if done properly. He simplified a standard coin routine so anyone could do it with basic easy to master coin moves. Since it utilized a Chinatown half dollar he followed up with the same routine eliminating the gimmick and using regular coins while still maintaining the simplified sleights.

**Ken Norris** offered his impressive handling of the "3 Card Monte" scams seen on the streets of New York. He also delivered his presentations of the popular ring and rope and cut-and-restored rope routines. And he did a beautiful "do as I do" card effect.



**Hugh Turley with assistant**



**Ken Norris makes telltale bend in card**



**Buddy Smith displays coin**

## Houdini exhumation to test for poison as doubt raised

**By Annmarie Costella**  
Associated Press

Harry Houdini escaped from handcuffs, straitjackets and water-filled oversized milk cans — but the one thing he could never get away from was publicity.

Larry Sloman and William Kalush, authors of "The Secret Life of

Houdini," theorize that the magician was fatally poisoned by a vengeful clairvoyant on Halloween of 1926, and not felled by a ruptured appendix as long believed.

They want Houdini unearthed from his grave so tests can be performed.

Since their book came out last March, Sloman and Kalush have been

exploring legal strategies, though they have yet to file court papers to have Houdini's body exhumed.

But their controversial campaign has divided the Houdini family, angered magicians and sparked some nasty accusations. Jeffrey Blood, grand-nephew of Houdini's wife, Bess, is against exhumation.

# “Macbeth” provides many illusions with delusions

A front-row seat at the current Folger Theatre production of Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” in Washington provides a close up and personal peek into the fertile mind of Teller--the usually silent partner of the magical duo of Penn and Teller.

The illusions are seamlessly blended into the delusions of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth as the tragedy of their cruel murder of a benevolent Scottish ruler, Duncan, unfolds in the dead of night. A bloody dagger floats in a large mirror on stage as Macbeth peers into it. Lady Macbeth’s snow-white nightgown becomes drenched in red as blood flows out of nowhere. A tall, bare-chested boy rises out of a cauldron as a trio of ugly witches foretell Macbeth’s fate.

Teller, who was hooked on magic when he was 12, discovered the story of Macbeth in a set of Shakespeare’s plays given to his family by his grandfather. It stirred his imagination. “I was captivated. Here was a supernatural horror thriller just like my favorite TV shows--but with such words!” Teller says in the playbill accompanying the Folger production.

“Macbeth was a magic show dripping hot blood. It filled me with shudders and joy,” he says.



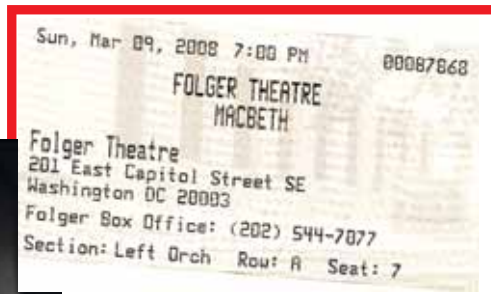
**OUT DAMN SPOT** -- Kate Eastwood Norris, who portrays Lady Macbeth, is drenched in blood.

Teller was able to realize his years of pent-up imaginations about the married



**Photo by T. Charles Erickson - Folger Theatre**  
**FLOATING DAGGER** -- Ian Merrill Peakes wonders “Is this a dagger which I see before me” as he stars in the title role of Macbeth

murderers of Shakespeare’s drama when he met Aaron Posner, a noted stage director and a regular at Folger.



He related how for years he had imagined the tale of Macbeth as a Hollywood-style horror thriller ripe for the stage. Teller and Posner’s collaboration as co-directors in the play now taking place here has turned his wild imaginations into reality.

Teller and Posner outlined some of the challenges of mixing stagecraft and magic at a “Words On Will” session they held the night before Macbeth’s opening in the nation’s capital. One of those hurdles was creating the rapid-

fire disappearances of some of the apparitions that Macbeth sees. They noted it might have been easier to do with trap doors, but the small, compact stage at the Folger didn’t allow such a luxury.

During the give-and-take session, the audience was treated to spoken words from Teller along with some of his wonderful facial expressions. He does not talk in his Las Vegas magic act with Penn. He also clowned a bit by taking pictures of the audience of Folger supporters at the end of the hour-long session before going back to the theater for a final dress rehearsal.

Matthew Holtzclaw, a magic consultant who has worked on other theater and television productions, provided expert help with illusions in Folger’s presentation of Macbeth.

Posner expressed hope that audiences “enjoy the bloody good fun at our Macbeth” noting that experts on weaponry, masks, music and other matters were consulted as well as magicians.

Teller told Christopher Correa, a contributor to the Washington Post’s tabloid street newspaper Express, that



**TELLER TALES** -- Teller of the magic team of Penn and Teller provided the magic for the play. He first became entranced with Macbeth as a boy.

his version of Macbeth allows the audience to peer inside the heads of literature’s most noted husband-and-wife murderers.

“You share and see their dreams. When they lose their minds, you see their nightmares,” Teller told the reporter. -- Jim Flanigan



*Kenrick "ICE" McDonald*

# Gala Public Magic Show

**Saturday, March 29**

**7:30 - 9:00 P.M.**

**Strolling Magicians in Lobby starting at 6:30 P.M.**

**Seating begins at 7 p.m. for evening performance**

**All Web-Purchased Tickets Held at Door under Buyer's Name**

*Show is approximately 90 minutes in length*

**Whaley Auditorium  
Bishop Ireton High School  
201 Cambridge Road  
Alexandria, VA 22314**

**Plenty of Free Parking**



*Swami Yomahmi*

**Sponsored by National Capitol Ring 50  
International Brotherhood of Magicians  
and Bishop Ireton High School  
Technical Theater Department**



**SHOW TICKETS \$10**

**At the door -- cash or check only!**

## FEATURING

- \*Kenrick "ICE" McDonald -- Grand Illusion Show**
- \*Magic of Aldo & Rachel Colombini**
- \*The Amazing Comedy of Swami Yomahmi**
- \*Noland Montgomery -- DC Magician of the Year**
- \*Magical Master of Ceremonies -- Rich Bloch**



**IBM Ring 50 Website: [www.IBMRing50.org](http://www.IBMRing50.org)**

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