

# MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 59 No. 8 August 2005



**VISITS MAGI-WHIRL**--Al Cohen, who is fondly remembered for his years as a magic dealer, turned out for the lectures.

## *Magi-Whirl 2005 proves profitable*

Magi-Whirl 2005 provided a nifty profit and plenty of fun for the participants who attended the one-day convention.

The morning session featured a stand-up lecture by John Rogers, an Indiana magician noted for hand-crafting realistic looking cigars and cigarettes for stage and club productions. In the afternoon, Dick Kohlhafer of Kohl & Co. regaled attendees with memories of mischief and mishaps in his zany family comedy act.

The Saturday, June 25, gathering was capped with an evening stage performance with Kohl & Co. as headliners. Among the performers were Ring 50 members Barry Taylor, Noland Montgomery, Hugh Turley and Mike Taggart.

Former Ring 50 President Eric Henning is once again credited with coordinating the convention. Mike Taggart provided the stage equipment. Ring 50 Treasurer Rucj Uffelman was a key player in handling financial responsibilities.

This year's venue for the convention was the Cedar Ridge Community Church in Spencerville, Md. Ring 50 directors are now evaluating the event's future.

## Children's Magic theme for August meeting

Children's magic will be the theme of the August meeting of Ring 50. It's an appropriate time to focus on hocus-pocus for kids from 8 to 80 with the sixth in a series of Harry Potter books, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," just released.

There will be fun for people of all ages. If you are interested in

performing, contact Laurie Curry, coordinator for the meeting, at 703-698-6953. Some of our best children's performers will be on hand to entertain us. Perhaps a would-be Harry Potter or one of his magical friends will pay us a call to ward off any unwarranted visit by the evil Lord Voldemort. Whatever the case, it's sure to be a bonus for you.



**ATTENDS CONVENTION**--Ring 50 member Bob Carnathan was intrigued by the rapid-fire costume changes by Swiss illusionist Valerie at the IBM's annual convention in Reno. She delivered a lecture on her act after performing on stage.

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

### President

Don Freedman  
(703) 742-9078 (Home)  
(703) 633-8158 (Work)  
[dfreedman16@yahoo.com](mailto:dfreedman16@yahoo.com)

### Vice President

Dwight Redman  
(301) 927-7717  
[dredman1@comcast.net](mailto:dredman1@comcast.net)

### Secretary

Bob Fay  
Phone (unavailable)  
E-mail address (unavailable)

### Treasurer

Rucj Uffelman  
(703) 938-6184  
[rucj@erols.com](mailto:rucj@erols.com)

### Sergeant-of-Arms

Geoffery Weber  
(703) 501-2333  
[gweber@gmail.com](mailto:gweber@gmail.com)

### Magi-Gram Editor

Jim Flanigan  
(202) 554-3775  
[magiwhirl@aol.com](mailto:magiwhirl@aol.com)

### AUGUST MEETING

Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2005  
HOLIDAY INN  
IN ALEXANDRIA  
2460 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, VA

6:00 Cocktails  
6:45 Dinner  
8:00 Meeting

# Coming Events

## Magicians Alliance of the Eastern States (MAES) 2005 Convention

Dates: Sept. 8-10, 2005

Place: Hilton in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Headliners: David Williamson, General Grant, Dean Gunnarson, Kohl & Company, Howie Schwarzman and others.

Contact: [www.maesonline.org](http://www.maesonline.org)

## Dave Shepherd Close-up Magic

Dates: Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

Place: Mama's Italian Restaurant, 9715 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Va.

Contact: 703-385-2646 or 703-623-3952.

Web site: [www.daveshepmagic.com](http://www.daveshepmagic.com)

## SAM Meeting

Date: Aug. 17 at 7 p.m.

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

Contact: Ray Eyster at (410) 798-0176  
[ceyster1026@aol.com](mailto:ceyster1026@aol.com)

## Bob Little's Super Sunday Convention

Date: Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Place: Holiday Inn, 3499 Street Road, Bensalm, PA. Phone: 215-638-1500

Cost: \$30

Contact: Bob Little Guaranteed Magic, 27 Bright Road, Hatboro, PA 19040. Call 215-672-3344.

## World's First Magician's Yard Sale

Presented by world champion illusionist Wayne Alan

Date: Saturday, July 23, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: 3103 Newcastle Lane, Riva (Annapolis) MD, 21140

Contact: 410-956-8132 (RSVP)

Cost: \$10 admission. MAGICIANS ONLY.

Directions: From Baltimore: South on I-97. Approaching U.S. Rt. 50, bear right and exit on Aris T. Allen Blvd. toward Riva Road. Take Riva Road south, over the South River Bridge, past the firehouse on left, then turn left into the community -- Annapolis Landing. Take first right onto Newcastle Lane -- Wayne is the 2nd house on left.

From Washington DC: Take U.S. Rt. 50 East. After passing MD Rt. 301, take the Davidsonville Road exit, left at the first blinking light onto Governor's

Bridge Road until it dead ends into Riva Road. Left on Riva Road for about four country blocks and turn right into the community -- Annapolis Landing. Make the first right onto Newcastle Lane -- 2nd house on left.

## Eric Redman Performances

Date: Aug. 6 at 4 p.m.

Eric Redman presents... A Magical Experience

Where: Elks Lodge, 227 N. Henry St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Cost: \$5 in advance; \$8 at the door

Date: Aug. 13

Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival

Place: The Ann Arundel County Fairgrounds, Route 178, Crownsville, MD.

## Pocahontas State Park Presto! Magic

Under the Stars sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 50 and MeX Productions. This event takes place in the park's amphitheater. Featured performers will be Keith Pass and Eric Redman from Ring 50 and special guest illusionist David Knight from the Roanoke ring.

Date: July 23 at 6 p.m. Gates open at 4 p.m.

Place: Pocahontas State Park 20 miles from downtown Richmond. From I-95, take Exit 61 and go west on Route 10 to Route 655 which is Beach Road; or take Exit 67, go north on Route 150 to Route 10; go east to Beach Road. The park is four miles on right; or take Route 288 from I-95 to Route 10 East and go one mile to Beach Road. Follow park signs from there.

Cost: Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 the day of the show. Kids under 12 are free.

Contact: Pocahontas State Park at 804-796-4255 or Mike Taggart at [mtaggart@cox.net](mailto:mtaggart@cox.net).

## Magic Collectors Association Convention

Date: Spring 2006

Place: Rosslyn at the Marriot Hotel.

## Switch to email delivery today

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



**NEW LEADER**--Don Freedman, left, was installed recently as the new president of Ring 50. Jim Flanigan, who is territorial vice president of the IBM, conducted the candlelight installation ceremony.

## New officers installed at June ring meeting

Don Freedman was installed as the new president of Ring 50 at the June meeting. After taking the oath of office, he and other new officers entertained members and their guests. Don offered a slick routine he calls Phoenix in which a dollar bill was chosen, rolled up, vanished, made to reappear in a brass cylinder, then burned to ashes before it reappeared once again inside a piece of fruit.

Other new officers are Dwight Redman, who will serve as vice president, and Geoffery Weber, who will act as sergeant-of-arms. Rucj Uffelman will continue as treasurer. They also performed after being sworn into office. Bob Fay, who was elected secretary, was unable to attend the installation.

Before the installation, retiring Ring 50 President Glenn Gary announced that longtime member Bill Wells was being made a Lifetime Member for his contributions to the magic community. Bill is a past president of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Buddy Smith, another veteran Ring 50 member who was made a Lifetime Member earlier, also was recognized.

*Between Magi-Gram issues, you can get the latest news on events and restaurant performers at the Ring 50 Web site [www.IBMRing50.org](http://www.IBMRing50.org).*

## Mr. Mysto's Musings

# *Magi-Whirl '05 reflections*

To start my year as your president, I offer a great big "Thank You" to everyone who made Magi-Whirl 2005 such a success. Financially, we cleared about \$1,600. For our evening show, we had more than 150 people in attendance. Those members of IBM Ring 50 who performed for the evening show outdid themselves. Our headliner entertainers proved to be well worth what we paid them.

Before the show, during intermission, and after the show, our close-up performers provided each of the children and many of the adults with a memorable magical experience.

I don't want to miss anyone who deserves our thanks. Rather than list names and possibly miss someone, I just say thank you to all on behalf of Ring 50. However, I cannot fail to mention four people whose participation went well above and beyond what is found in most volunteer organizations. Betsy and Eric Henning were the major forces in arranging to use Cedar Ridge Community Church, in lining up the performers and dealers, and in overall management of this event. Mike Taggart acted as the show producer and made sure that what we presented had the look and feel of a professional show. Rucj Uffleman did his usual outstanding job in handling the financial aspect including pre-registration and ticket sales and handling the registration and ticket sale on the day of Magi-Whirl. It was the dedication of these people over the months leading up to Magi-Whirl that allowed us to present a quality event. That is the good.

### **Magicians need not apply!**

Guidelines issued by Greece's Orthodox Church bar former gynecologists, lawyers, actors and magicians from seeking ordination as clerics.

Now for the bad. This is our third year running Magi-Whirl in its present incarnation. The first year, we had over 90 people attend the daytime activities. Last year, the number declined. This year just over 50 people attended. To make matters worse, the membership of Ring 50 accounted for less than half of the attendees. When you take out those people who committed to work during the day, our attendance was especially poor.

Your Board of Director's will meet to discuss whether we should continue with Magi-Whirl. At our next meeting, I will offer a motion that we try it one more time. The board believes that we should hold the event in mid-May before the schools let out. We will use Cedar Ridge again since it is an excellent venue at a very reasonable price. Over the next couple of weeks, I will be contacting some of you personally. I am looking for your ideas about what needs to be done to improve attendance by our members as well as attracting other magicians in the area.

Finally, IBM Ring 50 is your organization. Let your Board of Directors know what it is that you would like to see us do for you. Elsewhere in this newsletter is the tentative plan for this year's monthly meetings. Plan on attending the August meeting. I look forward to seeing you then.

### Agenda

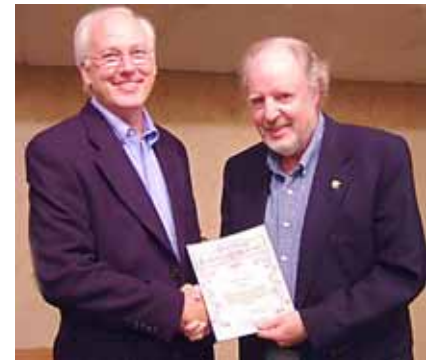
#### **Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2005**

Call to Order 8 p.m.  
50-50 drawing  
Introduction of guests  
Announcements  
**Old Business:**  
Vote on Membership Applications (as required)  
Magi-Whirl financial report  
Membership report (additions/losses)

**New Business:**  
Magi-Whirl 2006  
Christmas Magic Show  
IBM Ring 50 Magic Library  
Magic Performance—Children's Magic  
Open Mike Performance (Anyone who would like to try out something new)

## 2005-06 Ring 50 Schedule

August	Children's Magic
September	Teach-in Session
October	Spooky Magic
November	Lecture
December	Holiday Magic
January	TBD
February	What's New At Barry's
March	Lecture
April	Auction
May	Dan Lacey Contest New officers elected
June	New officers installed, perform



**LIFETIME MEMBER**--Bill Wells, right, a former president of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and longtime Ring 50 member, was honored in June as a Lifetime Member of Ring 50. A certificate was presented to him by retiring Ring 50 President Glenn Gary. Buddy Smith also was designated as a Lifetime Member recently.

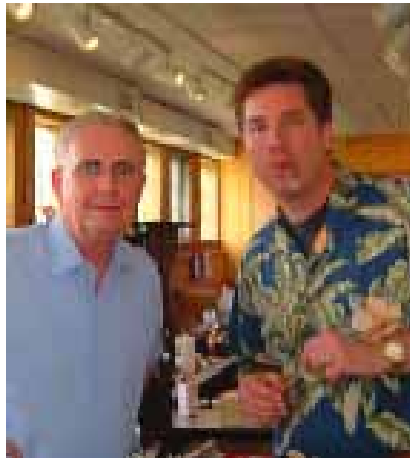


**CITATION**--Glenn Gary, left, who stepped down as Ring 50 president in June, presented former Ring 50 President Eric Henning with a citation for his contributions to the organization. Eric has served as webmaster of the Ring 50 Web site and coordinator of the Magi-Whirl convention.

# Magi-Whirl 2005



**SHOW HOST--**Eric Henning, chief producer of the event, emceed the stage show.



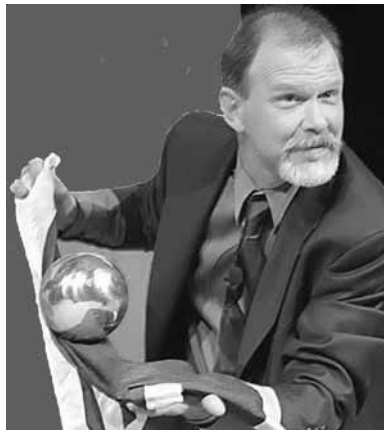
**DEALER CONFAB--**Barry Taylor of Barry's Magic Shop in Wheaton, Md., tries out one of John Rogers' magical cigars at the 2005 Ring 50 Magi-Whirl.



**HEADLINER--**Kole & Co., starring the zany Dick Kohlhafer, provided the headline act for the night show.



**TURLEY THE GREAT--**Premier children's magic Hugh Turley cheered kids at the evening stage show.



**FLOATING ZOMBI--**Mike Taggart mystified the evening crowd with his rendition of the zombi routine.



**SIGNING OFF--**The Kohl & Co. gang dealt out a barrel of comedy.



**HE'S A CLOWN--**Denny Haney clowned around in dealers' room.



**CHUG-A-LUG--**Barry Taylor chugs down a container of milk in his fast-paced magical performance.

**Magi-Whirl and IBM  
Convention Photos  
by Jerry Foster  
and Jim Flanigan**

# IBM Convention attracts Ring 50 gang



A contingent of Ring 50 members attended the annual convention of the International Brotherhood of Magicians in the Biggest Little City in the World – the famed Nevada gambling oasis of Reno. They were dazzled by four spectacular nights of stage shows in the Reno Hilton Hotel plus a special afternoon of magical mystery starring Mark and Jinger Kalin at Magic Underground in downtown Reno.

Legends of magic like Lee Grabel, who kept stage magic alive at a time when people were turning to television, and Marvyn Roy, known for his 50-year act as Mr. Electric, provided special lectures at the convention. Other special appearances were made by Milt Larsen from the Magic Castle and Carl

Ballantine, one of the stars of TV's popular "McHale's Navy" who is noted for his comedy magic.

The opening night gala show featured the stunning magic of Juliana Chen and the comedy of Dana Daniels. An international show the next night included the split-second costume changes by Valerie of Switzerland and the colorful productions of Fukai and Kimika of Japan along with a slick comedy routine by Magic magazine editor Stan Allen.

Rich Bloch, the well-known Washington magical entrepreneur and entertainer, hosted the IBM's Gold Medal competition. Winners of close-up and stage magic were introduced. The show ended with a fast-paced performance of juggling and magic by The MUMS. The final stage performance featured the internationally known illusionists Jonathan and Charlotte Pendragon and the classic mime magic of Tina Lenart.



Phil Miller, a longtime Ring 50 member, and Mort Rumberg, a former member now living in Sacramento, Calif., went to the "Magic Underground" to see Mark Kalin and Jinger Leigh perform magical miracles in their intimate theater in downtown Reno.



Buddy Smith chatted with The Great Ballantine—Carl Ballantine—during a break at the IBM's convention.



Stuart Finley visited with Norm Nielsen to check out the veteran magician's extensive collection of magic posters in the dealers room at the convention.



Jim Flanigan, who is the IBM territorial vice president for the Washington area, was able to meet Lee Grabel, part of a magical dynasty dating back to Alexander Hermann in 1887. Grabel, 85, passed the baton on to Lance Burton in 1994. As a youngster, Jim saw Grabel perform during World War II.



Ring 50's Hugh Turley, above, was unable to attend the convention, but he was inducted into the IBM's Order of Merlin as a 25-year member of the magical brotherhood. Rich Bloch of Washington also was an inductee.

## The Magician's Spell Cast At Early Age



Photo by Marketa Ebert

By Meghan Oliver  
Sentinel Staff Writer

As a little boy, Noland Montgomery found magic in Algeria.

The son of an American Foreign Service officer, Montgomery moved frequently with his family to a smattering of foreign countries, finding entertainment in books his mother had shipped from England. It was in Algeria that he read "Classic Secrets of Magic" by Bruce Elliott, and the spell of magic was cast on him.

"It wasn't silly stuff— it was complicated," Montgomery said of Elliott's writing.

So complicated in fact, that many of the tricks Elliott outlined were beyond the then 12-year-old Montgomery's abilities.

Now 52, the Beltsville-based magician has tricks up his sleeves, a rabbit in a hat and oodles of jaw-dropping routines he performs throughout the metropolitan area. Many of the magicians he has met along the way, he's discovered, also got their start in magic through Elliott's book.

Recently, Montgomery was named Magician of the Year by Ring 50, the National Capital Ring of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. This is his second year in a row winning the title, a particularly prestigious award, as it is voted upon by other magicians in the Brotherhood—a challenging bunch to entertain and impress, said Montgomery.

Back in Algeria, Elliott's book was Montgomery's only link to magic. There were no magic shops around, and the only books written in English were

those his mom had delivered to their home.

When his family returned temporarily to the U.S., Montgomery made himself a fixture at the local magic store in D.C., Al's Magic Shop.

"For about 60 years, it was the premier magic shop of the area," said Montgomery. "As a kid, it was the only place you could go to see magic. There would be Al performing tricks, and you only had a little allowance and it was painful not to be able to buy all the tricks."

Al's Magic Shop has since closed, but Montgomery said local magic shops do still exist, including one of his favorites, Barry's Magic Shop in Wheaton.

Montgomery said although he did not have the luxury of being in one place long enough to form a network of magicians growing up, he always made it habit to find the local magic shop and learn what he could. Often time spent in hotels awaiting housing in new locales was spent practicing tricks.

Magic, he said, "was one way to pass the time. I always had my [magic] book with me, and a trick in my pocket."

An amateur magician for many years, Montgomery performed tricks for families and friends while working full-time during the day. When he started meeting professional magicians who made their living performing only a few days a week, he wondered if he too could go pro.

"In my forties, I started getting very good at close-up magic, and developed a routine," he said. "I needed fresh audiences. I wanted to go to the next level."

He picked up a few gigs—performing at promotional events for local retailers and doing strolling magic (table-to-table tricks) at restaurants—and made it a full-time profession when he got into the children's circuit. Montgomery left

his job of 14 years as a legal assistant in D.C., and made magic for children.

Entertaining for children, he explained, is an ideal way to make magic a career, rather than an occasional gig. With birthday parties, school events, daycare entertaining and loads of holiday parties, there's always a need for a magician to add some spark.

The challenge for magicians, however, is getting a positive response from children, known all too well for their honest reactions.

"Adults may hate what you're doing, but they'll clap and are polite," he said. "Children—they'll just walk away."

When you do manage to wow a group of children with a trick or two, it's, well, magic.

"It gives you an enormous high," said Montgomery.

Magic's draw, he said, is that "something seemingly totally impossible is happening to you," yet "it takes more than that to entertain."

His routines, which can be years in the making, involve more than perfecting slight of hand maneuvers. As a performer, wit, humor and a splash of pizzazz are just as important as the tricks.

His furry sidekick, Max, a two-year-old Netherland Dwarf rabbit, is guaranteed entertainment for children, said Montgomery. Max, a "professional bunny" is used in a trick in which he "makes a magic appearance."

A child will wave a wand, given to him or her by Montgomery, and with the pop of a balloon, little Max and his twitching nose appear.

"It's a great moment," said Montgomery.

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# *Le musée de la magie in Paris beckons visitors*

The Museum of Magic (*Le musée de la magie*) in magical Paris is located at 11 Rue Saint Paul in the 4th arrondissement. It recently was featured in the Washington Post Travel section.

The nearest metro to the small but delightful tourist attraction is St. Paul or Sully Morland. The museum is open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 7 p.m. and on French school holidays. Admission is about \$8.70 adults, \$6.20 children. You can check out the museum's Web site at <http://www.museedelamagie.com> although it is in French only.

Here is the Washington Post article if you are contemplating visiting the City of Light any time soon:

Paris and magic go back a long way. In the 17th century, conjurers used to perform on the Pont Neuf. So it's fitting that the Museum of Magic is on one of the city's oldest streets, Rue Saint Paul, in the Marais district.

It's a cubbyhole of a museum, but if you're accompanied by les petits (kids, that is) allow at least an hour for a visit. There are 15 or so interactive "curiosities" the little ones will love to fiddle with. In fact, we were the only adults visiting without youngsters, so don't expect a reverent hush in these galleries.

Over the entryway, a tiny devil riding a giant quill pen magically traces the command, "Entrez!" ("Enter"). From the street, a stairway leads below ground, where the museum is housed in ancient vaulted chambers built of stone.

Once you've paid your admission, you'll be hustled into a small theater for a live magic show. During our visit, a talented young magician performed rope tricks, card tricks and other sleights-of-hand, assisted by audience members. The patter's in French, but it's easy to imagine what's being said, as magician shtick is universal.

After 20 minutes of entertainment — and wanting more — we were herded into the museum area. An older magician regaled us (in French) with



## *This is one of the intriguing displays in Le musée de la magie*

the long and glorious history of magic, tossing in a few tricks along the way. For non-French-speakers, this is the time to peel off and start inspecting the exhibits.

You'll find old stage tricks, beautiful wooden props from centuries past and some fascinating jerry-rigged devices used by spiritualists to conjure fake apparitions. Unfortunately, explanatory cards are sparse and in French. A booklet in English, available at the ticket booth for about \$1.30, provides a history of magic and a brief overview of the collection.

Kids won't need any translations, though, when they discover the interactive curiosities scattered around several rooms. Many involve mirrors and basic principles used in more complex magic tricks. Look at your face in a mirror, then turn a crank to flip your head upside down. Stare right through your hand. Transform a fair maiden into an old hag with the twist of a wrist. Stick your hand in a lion's mouth and feel its "tongue" swish by. Admire yourself in front of a looking glass that warps you from tall and skinny to squat and corpulent, then back again.

When you tire of these diversions, head down a hallway lined with old magic show posters, advertising spectacles like *Physique Amusante* ("Amusing Physics"), to the creepy automaton display. More than a dozen figures from various eras take turns coming to life, but these likely won't hold much fascination for kids raised on transformers and Go-Bots.

If you're interested in seeing how some of the museum's antique props were used in prestidigitation, don't miss the video playing next to the automatons. Nearby, kids will be gleefully monkeying with a nearby portrait designed to startle anyone who triggers a "magic eye" in the frame.

In its shop, the museum sells books, videos, simple tricks and real used stage props. Kids were piled four-deep watching the clerk demonstrate his wares. If you venture inside, be prepared for the final magic trick — watching a few euros disappear.

— *Gayle Keck*