

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 60 No. 8 August 2006



NEW PRESIDENT--IBM Territorial Vice President Jim Flanigan, left, congratulates newly installed Ring 50 President Dwight Redman after he was installed at the June meeting.

Children's Magic theme of August's meeting

It will be a night of fun for kids of all ages when a children's magic performance is staged at our August meeting.

Some of Ring 50's best children's show performers will be on deck to entertain us.

If you want to join the lineup, call Ring 50 President Dwight Redman now.

AUGUST MEETING

Wednesday, August 2, 2006
HOLIDAY INN
IN ALEXANDRIA
2460 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA

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

Dwight Redman new president

Dwight Redman was installed as the new president of Ring 50 at our June meeting.

Others installed were Mike Taggart as vice president, Bob Fay continuing as secretary, Bob Patterson returning as treasurer and Geoff Weber staying on for another term as sergeant-at-arms. New directors sworn in were Don Freedman, the retiring ring president, and Glenn Gary and James Munton, both former presidents.

IBM Territorial Vice President Jim Flanigan performed a Points of Light candlelight installation ceremony.

The evening program featured acts by the new officers and directors. Using a large sketch pad filled with 125 numbers, Dwight correctly predicted -- well almost -- a random number chosen by an audience member. A spectator was asked to select a card from one of two decks, one with blue backs, the other with red. The chosen card, an ace of clubs, appeared in the deck held by participant. The same card also was in a sealed envelope in Dwight's pocket.

Don provided us with his version of the Deal or No Deal show. He handed out a series of double sealed envelopes to a group of volunteers offering a chance to win a dinner for two at a popular restaurant but he managed to elude any big payoff. One helper did opt out of the selection process and took home a dime instead of a loser's card.

Mike Taggart, who was the emcee of the evening's amazing show, delivered a terrific comedy mentalism act using the colorful face of a genie to reveal a spectator's card with the whole audience's help. He then performed a beautiful lotus bowl water production while

pretending to be a bell ringing, chanting guru dressed in a cap and robe. He concluded his segment with a rising card effect using cards selected by two audience members.

The entertainment also included an eye-popping card routine by Bob Fay in which he showed how four jokers

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Of Magicians Ring 50
The National Capital Ring**

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Coming Events

Alain Nu: Circus of the Mind

Presented as part of the inaugural Capital Fringe Festival— July 20 – 30

Dates: Friday, July 21, and Saturday, July 22, at 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Place: The Helen Hayes Gallery at the National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

Cost: Free but seating is limited. Tickets required and distributed without charge 30 minutes prior to performance on a first-come first-served basis.



Contact: Information available at 202-783-3372 or www.capfringe.org. For more information about Alain Nu visit www.justsaynu.com.

Glenn Gary's Parlor Magic, an

evening of elegant prestidigitation.

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

Dates: Starting Sept. 1, this new show will be every Friday night at 7 and 9 o'clock. For those who want dinner, it will be served for the first show reservations from 5:30 until 6:45 p.m. and for the second show from 7 until 8:30 p.m.. The first show audience also can have dinner after the first show at 8:30 p.m. Cocktails also will be available. Dinner is optional and from the regular menu.

Cost: Advance purchase required as shows sell out well in advance. Check available dates and purchase tickets online at www.glenngary.com. Tickets are \$55 each on Visa or Mastercard.

"The Illusionist" opens on Aug. 18 at theaters around the country after being screened at film festivals. Magic consultants for the movie were Ricky Jay, Michael Weber and James Freedman. The film is a bizarre story of intrigue, magic and murder in turn-of-the-century Vienna.

"The Comedy & Mystery Society" has been holding "annual meetings" this year 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 wrap up with a Friday night performance Aug. 11.

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. For more information and directions, visit:

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

East Coast Super Session, a two-day convention, featuring JC Wagner, Lee Asher, Mike Gallo, Kosyta Kimlat, Aaron Fisher, Don England and Robert Moreland.

Dates: Aug. 18-19

Place: Hickory, NC Holiday Inn Select

Contact:

www.eastcoastsupersession.com/

Cost: Only 100 tickets are sold for this event. You can buy online at the website above.

The Theory and Art of Magic Muhlenberg College of Pennsylvania.

Date: Lectures and shows begin Sept. 5 for six weeks. Some of the featured presenters will include John Carney, Jim Steinmeyer, Eugene Burger, Jamy Ian Swiss, James Hamilton and Margaret Steele.

Contact: <http://www.muhlenberg.edu/cultural/magic/index.html>

Society of American Magicians (SAM) Larry West Assembly 28

Date: Aug. 16 at 7 p.m.

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

Theme: Ticket To Ride

Contacts: Ray Eyler at 410/798-0176

or ceyler1026@aol.com.

Web site: <http://>

assembly23.blogspot.com/

50th Anniversary of the Midwest Magic Jubilee

The Convention Where The Stars Meet!

Date: Aug. 17-19

Place: St. Louis, MO

Cost: \$110 before July 1. When you register, you receive a FREE registration for your spouse.

Featured performers: Jay Sankey, Whit Haydn, Oscar Munoz, Aldo Colombini, Jimmy "Cards" Molinari among others.

Contact: Terry Richison, Midwest Magic Jubilee, 314-232-4183

New president

(Continued from page 1)

from a blue-backed deck could blush. All four jokers' backs turned to red and then the whole deck blushed red.

Geoff began with a fiery pantomime silk routine ending with the production of a black and white streamer. He plucked a red light out of thin air in a D'Lite-ful demonstration of magical manipulation. And he did a slick dancing silk effect.

Bob Patterson delivered some old favorites that included the Professor's Nightmare ropes and a colorful 20th Century Silks routine using a P&L change bag. He vanished the silk with a Tommy Windsor popcorn box. He also did a Spelling Bee routine showing a board with seven random letters that turned into the message "Ring 50" when after the letter cards were shuffled by an audience member. He finished by changing three silver CD's into different colors before changing them back to silver.

New Web site now up

Ring 50's Web site has been redesigned. You can access the streamlined location by going to <http://ibmring50.blogspot.com/> on the Internet. Webmaster Eric Henning has created the site to provide the latest news and information. The site also is intended to make it easier for other contributors to add items and photographs.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I want to thank the members of Ring 50 for electing me President. I hope I can continue the good work of the Presidents before me. Our club is in good shape financially and our membership is growing. We did better last year attracting some younger members and we have a good mix of all levels of magic from amateur to professional.

There are three goals that I want to accomplish this year.

1.) I want to make the meetings an affair the members don't want to miss. The meetings are good for the social interaction but the members should leave each meeting with something that improves their magic. A lot can be learned at the meetings from the performances by our members and from the lecturers we bring in. Some of our members miss out on a lot of shared information because they leave immediately after the meetings. We usually have some groups of individuals who get together and session with each other to help learn how to do sleights, moves and answer questions. I encourage members who have questions or need some help with their magic to ask other members if they could help you. Their cooperation is sure to pleasantly surprise you.

2.) I would like to bring in two lecturers this year. I will try to bring in lecturers who will provide good entertainment and knowledge that we can all use.

3.) The biggest goal is Magi-Whirl. The question which I need answered is:

"Do we want to make the commitment necessary to make Magi-Whirl a success?"

We will need a serious group of members to handle the different aspects required to put on a convention. We will need the participation of our members to not only attend the affair but to help spread the word among their friends and relatives to attend. If we don't have the confidence to do a convention, we could look at some alternative affairs to



Dwight Redman

replace the convention. This is something I will bring up at the September meeting.

I am open to any suggestions you may have to improve the club and if there are any

subjects you want me to bring before the club, feel free to contact me at any time.

Dwight

Ring 50 Schedule

August — Children's Show

September — New Members

October — Spooky Magic

November — Past Presidents

December — Holiday Magic

January — Ring Magic

February — Teach a sleight/ move/ false shuffle/ etc

March — Mentalism

April — Auction

May — Dan Lacy Contest

June — New Officers Perform

Bagel the Juggler killed in accident

David Baker, known fondly to his many friends as "Bagel the Juggler," died July 2 at the age of 35 in a motor vehicle accident. He was the long-time stage partner of Ring 50 members Trey Cromwell and Mike Taggart. His one-time colleagues were hosting a memorial service for him at the Lake Anna winery.



David Baker

Bagel is survived by his son Loki. He was the son of John and Judy Baker of Sun City, Fla., and the brother of Lesa Baker-McGinty of Palm Harbor, Fla.

Bagel was a talented stage performer; known for his comical stage performances that included juggling with sharp pointed objects and flaming torches, fire-breathing and contortionism. He was a regular and popular performer at both the Virginia and North Carolina Renaissance Festivals. Bagel performed for many years with his stage cohorts Mark Gerard and Dren the Liar, known collectively as LesJongleurs.

Denny and Lee Magic Studio Lectures

Who: **Kostya Kimlat**, who came to the United States from the Ukraine back in the early 1990s and has risen to great magical heights.

Date: Monday, Aug. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20

Who: **Lee Asher**, best known for his "Asher Twist," who is note for his creativity in card magic.

Date: Thursday, Sept. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20

Who: **Richard Sanders**, one of Canada's busiest professionals.

Date: Friday, Oct. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20

Who: **Michael Vincent**, Magic Circle's Magician of the Year three times, presenting his Tapestry of Deception.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m.

Cost: \$20.

Place: Denny and Lee Magic Studio, 325 South Marlyn Avenue, Baltimore, MD.

Contact: Phone 410-686-3914 or email dennymagic@aol.com

New Ring 50 officers perform after installation

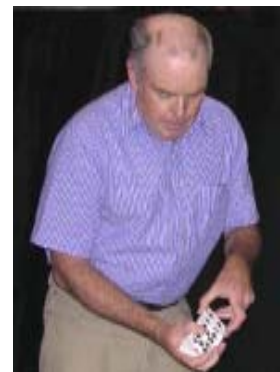
New officers of Ring 50 performed after a candle-light installation ceremony. Dwight Redman, shown in center in the photo at right, was sworn into office as the new president. Don Freedman, second from right, the retiring Ring 50 president, presented a clever "Deal or No Deal" routine during the show.



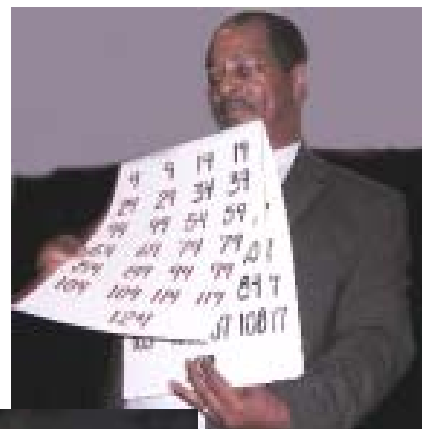
New officers were installed in a Points of Light ceremony



Bob Patterson created silk magic



Bob Fay with deck



Dwight Redman keeps count



Geof Webber's flashy act



Mike Taggart with genie

Barry's Magic Shop fights for survival as many rally

Barry's Magic Shop is in jeopardy. The owners, Barry Taylor and Susie Kang, revealed in mid-June that their beloved magic business in Wheaton, Maryland, was being threatened with eviction by Montgomery County through the Wheaton Redevelopment Program. Government officials on May 31 acquired title to the building that they proprietors lease.

"Tragically, unless we are able to promptly work out suitable alternative arrangements with Montgomery County, the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area may well lose its last remaining magic shop," Barry and Susie said.

Barry's Magic Shop serves amateur and professional magicians as well as young children interested in learning magic from throughout the region.

"Customers who visit us at our Wheaton magic shop often patronize other local businesses in the area, such as delicatessens, coffee shops, and the like. We are puzzled as to how using taxpayer-generated public funds to potentially snuff out our wholesome, family-oriented business constitutes community redevelopment," Barry and Susie said.

Montgomery County plans to tear down the building which Barry and Susie have leased for 31 years so that it can improve the alley sidewalk which connects Georgia Avenue to the parking lot behind it.

While Montgomery County has said it wishes to cooperate with the magic shop owners to assist them in relocating to another building, Barry and Susie maintain that a forced relocation would place an enormous financial strain on their small family-owned and operated business. They have urged their loyal customers and friends to initiate a letter-writing campaign to help save the shop.

Jim Flanigan, territorial vice president for the International Brotherhood of Magicians, wrote an article for the Washington Post in which he out-lined the plight Barry and Susie face.

practitioners from around the world who visit this area. "The shop is a sanctuary for children who are interested in pursuing the magical arts and adults seeking a special way to



LONG-TIME PARTNERS--Barry Taylor and Susie Kang, the longtime owners-operators of Barry's Magic Shop, have expressed dismay over the potential loss of their business.

"Barry Taylor and Susie Kang, the proprietors, are excellent professional performers who have entertained audiences throughout the region and across the country. For many years they produced their Psychic Ghost Theatre show above the shop. They also have allowed local magicians to perform there," Jim wrote.

Jim pointed out Barry's serves both professional and amateur magicians in this region, but also attracts magical

entertain and amuse their friends," he pointed out.

The article also noted that Al's Magic Shop, which opened in 1936 in downtown Washington, also has vanished from the scene.

The situation facing Barry's Magic also has been profiled in other daily newspaper articles and on television programs.

Ring 50 members attend IBM Convention in Miami

Four members of Ring 50 were at the annual International Brotherhood of Magicians convention -- billed as the "Greatest Annual Magic Convention on Earth" -- in Miami from June 27 through July 1. The local delegation -- Bob Patterson, Sam Brothers, Reggie Rice and Stuart Finley -- was there to exchange and seek new ideas in magic.

Bob and Stuart enjoyed the keynote speaker, Cesareo Pelaez, at the Order of Merlin breakfast. Cesareo, aka Marco the Magi, is the founder and leader of the long running stage magic show--Le Grand David and His Own Spectacular Magic Company. He had his own magic troupe by the age of 15.

Cesareo spoke of his experience during his many years of magic. He was recognized by the Academy of Magical Arts as Magician of the Year in 1981. He was voted into the Society of American Magicians Hall of Fame, elected national president of S.A.M. in 1985 and has received its Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1995 he was named the prestigious Milbourne Christopher Foundation's Illusionist of the Year.

There were 30 magicians competing in this year's close-up contest and 31 performers from 7 countries and 10 states competing in the stage contest. Dave Kaplin from Ohio was the "Peoples Choice".

The four evening gala shows were held in the Olympia Theater at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts. The theater, which first opened in 1926, has been totally restored with stunning Moorish architecture, perfect acoustics and a simulated night sky complete with rolling clouds. A "Magical Transformation" by David and Dania was an amazing performance. In just seven minutes they combined a series of elegant ballroom sequences with at least nine show-stopper colorful costume changes.

One of the highlights of the evening was a very professional performance by Eli Portola, a 10-year-old boy, who was the convention's junior winner of the talent contest. His



ENJOYING CONVENTION-- Stuart Finley, left and Bob Patterson wait for an Aldo Colombini lecture to begin at the IBM convention.

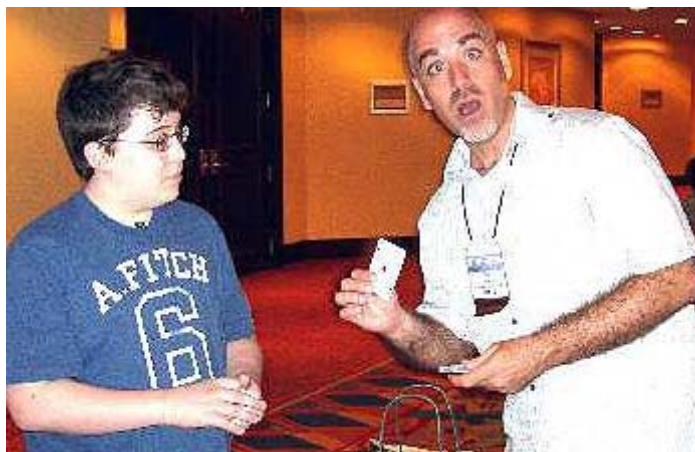
act included the magical production of his sister from seemingly nowhere.

Reggie and Sam shared their techniques and skills with fellow magicians between lectures, performances, and shopping at the many dealer tables. Bob spent a lot of time visiting the dealer tables and purchasing a few magic items. His favorite dealer was Mark Mason from JB Magic. Mark was continuously performing the magical products that he brought for sale. His British accent and humor was something to be admired. He was like a

one-man show all day long. His table always had a gathering of magicians watching his demonstrations and buying several of his products.

We don't know what went on behind the scenes, but from my point of view it was a very successful convention orchestrated by the convention staff. I believe all attendees experienced a memorable and pleasurable time in Miami. I am looking forward to Reno in 2007.

--Bob Peterson



SHOWS HIS STUFF-- Sam Brothers showing an amazing card trick to Joel Dresnick.