

Happy Holidays!

MAGI-GRAM



Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 61 No. 12 December 2007

Holiday magic show slated

You will want a front row seat for an evening of entertainment as Ring 50 members perform holiday magic at our December meeting. A big crowd is expected for the night. Everything from red-nosed reindeer to Chinese linking rings may be seen on our bill.

If you would like to be part of the lineup, contact Ring 50 President Mike Taggart by emailing him at president@IBMRing50.Org.

Don't forget to join us for our pre-meeting buffet. You can catch up on the latest card moves and other trickery when you dine with your magical colleagues.

Looking ahead to the new year, the theme for January will be an "Ask The Panel" Night.



Kenrick "ICE" McDonald Magi-Whirl '08 star to perform at evening show

An international award-winning magician, Kenrick "ICE" McDonald will be one of the headliners at Ring 50's annual Magi-Whirl convention show in March. He has established a stellar performance reputation with his grand illusions including doves disappearing through impossibly small objects and the spectacular appearance out of thin air of his Mighty Macaw.

Some of the other performers and special guests scheduled to be at this event in the spring are Aldo Colombini, Rich Bloch, Bob Little, Swami Yomahmi (Stephon Walker), Brian Morton and Eric Jones. Noland Montgomery, who is a three-time winner of Ring 50's Magician of the Year, will be in the stage show. Richard Kaufmann, publisher of Genii magazine, will be interviewed in a special segment.

Ring 50 members are encouraged to register at the December meeting to receive a cost break. For details, visit <http://magiwhirl.homestead.com/>.

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of Magicians Ring 50
The National Capital Ring**

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TOUCH OF WHIMSEY -- Terry Moran, assisted by his wife Pat, offered an offbeat mentalism skit at a Newcomers Magic Night. He read the mind of an unborn child who was able to name a chosen card. *Story inside.*

DECEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007

HOLIDAY INN

IN ALEXANDRIA

2460 Eisenhower Avenue

Alexandria, VA

6:00 Cocktails

6:45 Dinner

8:00 Meeting/Show

Coming Events

Events at Barry's Magic

Visit Barry's web site for the latest events.

Place: Barry's Magic Shop, 5544 Nicholson Lane, Rockville, Md.

Contact: 301/933-0373 or email magic@erols.com.

Web site: <http://www.barrysmagicshop.com/>

Lectures at Denny's Magic

Visit Denny's web site for the latest events.

Denny & Lee Magic Studio, 325 South Maryln Avenue, Baltimore, MD. Contact: Denny's at 410-686-3914 or email dennymagic@aol.com.

Society of American Magicians (SAM) Larry West Assembly 28

Date: Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.

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

Theme: "Show us what you want to show us."

Contact: Ray Eyler at 410/798-0176 ceyler1026@aol.com or email SAM Assembly President Larry Lipman at lmipman@cox.net.

Ring 50 Meeting

Schedule 2007-08

2007

Dec. 5 — Holiday Magic

2008

Jan. 2 — "Ask The Panel" Night

Feb. 6 — Richard Hass Lecture

March 5 — Four Corner Teach-In

March 28-29—Magi-Whirl

April 2 — Auction

May 7 — Dan Lacy Contest

June 4 — Winton Carroll "Most Humorous Magician" Contest

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

Lecture by Dr. Lawrence Hass, creator of the annual *Theory and Art of Magic* Academic Conference on the campus of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., featuring world-leading stars of magic. He also is now writing a monthly "Theory and Art of Magic" column for *MAGIC* magazine.



Dr. Larry Hass

Date: Feb. 6, 2008

Place: Eisenhower Avenue Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Va.

Sponsor: IBM Ring 50

Cost: Ring 50 members free; others \$10 at door.

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 of 1400 North Restaurant.

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.

Dues due in February-- or earlier if you can!

Ring 50 dues are due in February of each year. The annual dues of \$15 are due by the Feb. 6 meeting for all members. Anyone, wishing to do so, can pay their dues at the next meeting, Dec. 5. Ring 50 Treasurer Bob Patterson asks that you pay by check to ease record keeping. Make checks payable to IBM Ring 50. Cash will be accepted providing you have the correct change. If you are unable to make the meetings, you can also send a check to Bob's home address at 3450 Wainscott Place, Lake Ridge, VA 22192.

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: A pre-convention registration special of \$295 expired last December. The current cost is \$395 until Dec. 31, 2007. It goes up to \$495 starting Jan. 1.

Contact: John or Virginia Apperson

Email: IBMSAM2008@appsmagic.com.

Telephone: 618/451-9749.

Fax: 618/451-9374.



FALL FOLIAGE -- *This photo of fall leaves is part of a magical portfolio of autumn colors taken by Ring 50 member Jerry Foster when he returned to his old stomping grounds in Northern Virginia recently. He is planning to relocate permanently to the Simi Valley in California.*

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The holidays are upon us full force. The magic of the holidays is my favorite time of the year to stand back and experience the wonder of Giving and sharing our gifts with others. The smiles of a child after you perform a routine for them. The laughter at the lines you have spoken. That short time when your audiences stop and let go of the worries and the woes of the world and share that peace and love of the world. This is the time of the year that true magic abounds around us.

As we face the New Year we have a lot of work ahead of us. We, as a group, face big challenges.

First and foremost on the horizon is the rapidly approaching Magi-Whirl 2008 Convention. We have 750 gala show tickets to sell. Now is the time to start making our ticket reservations. We also have just a short time to get our reservations for the convention part of Magi-Whirl at the discounted rate.

Next we have been challenged to become the second ring in the country



Michael Taggart

to establish a Magi Youth International group in our ring. We continue our support of the "Healing in Magic" work that Jason Goldberg leads for us. We also pursue the charter of the ring to advance the performance of magic and the awareness of the brotherhood as a whole by seeking to invite new members to join us and learn magic from us and teach us what they know.

Ashley and I are planning to head to Las Vegas for the World Magic Seminar and the Teen Weekend. Several of our teen members have expressed interest in going and could be well served by our help in planning for this event. I don't believe any of our teens are competition ready this year. Perhaps by going this year they will be inspired to put in the effort and step forward on behalf of the nation's capital. The teens will learn along with teens from around the world. But they cannot win without our help. Let's make this a goal of our group and put forth our talents to work for our future by teaching our youth the skills many of us have spent a lifetime learning.

Finally I ask all of you to be safe this holiday season. In the past year I have lost two friends to accidents. Let's all make it through the season to enjoy the next one.

Michael Taggart

Ring 50 shirts now available

Treasurer Bob Patterson will take orders for Ring 50 shirts at the December meeting. The cost is approximately \$21 (2XL is \$23). The shirts are premium 100% cotton woven into a mid-weight 4.5-ounce fabric that wears well in the chill of winter and the heat of summer. They feature a classic button-down style, two-button cuffs, a reinforced left chest pocket and a pleated back. This shirt has a professional presence that earns confidence and respect. The club emblem is embroidered over the pocket on the left side. The majority of the members have ordered the light blue shirt, but they are also available in white. Most sizes are available.



CLASSY ATTIRE -- *New lagoon-blue Ring 50 shirts are now available. You can also buy them in white. You won't want to be without one.*

Magi-Whirl runs March 28-29, 2008

There will be four lectures, plus three close-up performances, 10 dealers and a spectacular evening show at Ring 50's annual Magi-Whirl convention March 28 and 29, 2008.

The event is being held at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria Va. Registration is only \$40 when you register at the meeting (\$45 online until March 16. After March 16 the price is \$60 for everyone).

Extra tickets for the Saturday night show may be purchased at \$10 each. Registration forms for this special price are available at the meeting.

Buy Magi-Whirl Advertisements

You can support Magi-Whirl 2008 and get your name out at the same time! Ring 50 is now accepting advertisements for the Magi-Whirl 2008 Saturday evening Gala Show program and the registration program.

The show program will be distributed to attendees and members of the public at the evening performance. Last year more than 400 programs were distributed at the show. Help the Ring out by selling some ads to commercial businesses too. See Ring 50 Treasurer Bob Patterson for more details or questions.

Ad rates are as follows:

Full page 4¼"x 7"	\$90
Half page 4½"x 3¼"	\$50
Sq Box Ad 2¼"x 2½"	\$25
Rectangle Box Ad 1½"x 4½"	\$25

Stay in touch always through Ring 50 site

Between Ring 50 Magi-Gram issues, check out the latest news events and performances at the official Ring 50 site: IBMRing50.org. Our webmaster is former Ring 50 leader Eric Henning.

Roster of applicants lists three hopefuls for Ring membership

Three more candidates for membership in Ring 50 are expected to be voted on soon.

They are:

—Peter Zawadzki of Bethesda MD, also known as ‘Zulu Papa’, who has been a Yogi Magic Mart student in Baltimore and was inspired by Jeff McBride.

—Joseph Matulewicz, Bolling AFB DC, is a member of the U.S. Air Force and has been performing card magic since he was 10 years old. Joe is a member of the Society of American Magician (SAM).

—Shrive Paul Beck, Arlington VA, has been a student of magic through books and is looking forward to gaining knowledge, advice and experience through membership in the Ring.



Geller



Angel

A SHOWDOWN ON TV-- “Phenomenon,” a reality show on NBC-TV where contestants vie against each other, is hosted by illusionist Criss Angel and mentalist Uri Geller. An altercation took place recently on the network show during a live taping. A contestant named Jim Callahan took offense to comments made by Angel, the “Mind Freak,” when he claimed to have been possessed by the spirit of author Raymond Hill. Geller called Callahan’s act “very convincing,” but Angel pulled an envelope from his pocket and appeared to challenge not only Callahan but also his fellow judge. “I will give you a million dollars of my personal money right now if either one of you can tell me specific details of what’s in here right now,” Angel declared. Callahan and Angel had to be separated.



THE PERFORMERS -- New Ring 50 members provided the entertainment last month. They are, from left, Terry Moran, Donna Jean Audi, Jeff Sobel and Danny Selnick.

Newcomers in spotlight at November meeting

Newcomers provided the entertainment at Ring 50’s monthly meeting in November.

Jeff Sobel, who has traveled around the world with the U.S. Air Force, stood on a thick telephone book which he used briefly as a “stage” to boost his height. Then he launched into a clever act sprinkled with wry humor. After showing a standard magic coloring book, he pulled out an “adult” coloring book he claimed to have designed. He quickly showed the pages were still blank and left it to the audience to imagine what they might contain later. He wound up with another “knotty” bit of magic in which he offered various versions of a vanishing knot on a rope.

Terry Moran opened his set by randomly tossing four crumpled wads of paper into the crowd while his back was turned. He then asked those who caught the wrinkled sheets to pull out their pocket change. When the totals from the coins were added together, the sum matched the amount found written on each of the four pieces of paper when they were unfolded. With the assistance of his wife Pat, Terry concluded with a clever skit in which an unborn child correctly named a playing card an “expectant mother” held against her tummy.

Danny Selnick showed a small brown envelope which he said contained a prediction and left it in plain sight. He then invited Geoffery Weber out of the audience and asked

him to think of any significant date. Geoff picked his new son’s birth date. Danny showed an annual calendar pocket book which contained different playing cards on each page. The card for the August 3 date chosen was a four of clubs and the card inside the envelope shown earlier matched it.

Donna Jean Audi, who became the most recent person inducted into Ring 50 membership at the meeting, concluded the evening’s show. She offered a combination of story telling and trickery. In one bit she played the role of a magical mixacologist pouring different flavored drinks into cups passed out to audience members. This was followed by catching imaginary objects thrown by the audience into a paper bag. Her specialty is clowning in which she often works with people with Alzheimer’s and dementia at nursing homes.

Ring 50 Vice President Louis Meyer was the meeting moderator in the absence of President Michael Taggart. He also served as the evening’s emcee for the show. Even though Mike was absent, he still was able to demonstrate his long-distance magical prowess. During an interlude between the acts at the meeting, Louis called Mike on a cell phone at Mike’s home in Fredericksburg, Va., after a woman at the meeting picked a card from a deck. Mike was able to correctly identify the chosen card without even being there.

Handling Your Introduction

By Bob Patterson

How do you handle your introduction for your stand-up acts where there is no one to introduce you? Perhaps someone just walks over and says...“OK, you’re on.”

This is a problem, and it happens more frequently than you might think. I believe the folks who hire us figure we will do all the work, including introducing ourselves! I feel it’s “undesirable” or “not preferred” to have to introduce yourself — sort of like the executive who answers his own phone calls. Not a good first impression makes you wonder what’s going on.

Don’t take your introduction lightly. The way you are introduced directly and immediately affects the audience’s expectations. Prepare a very short introduction on a 3 x 5 card and give it to whoever is in charge of the event. That way, they get the message that you want to be introduced, and they also get the introduction itself, written the way you want it. Your introduction should be pre-written by you in CAPITAL LETTERS. Include your best credits (brag a little). With any luck, you get introduced quickly and effectively, and you are also in control of the situation.

It’s a good idea to make arrangements ahead of time about the introduction. When you arrive, meet the person who hired you and have them point out who will be doing the announcing or who is controlling the event for the group. Give this person your 3 x 5 card and ask them to read it over and if they have any questions. Don’t expect them to have good delivery, but it is better than nothing.

You may have experienced a few impromptu “introductions” that you could have lived without. But if worse comes to worse, you can just introduce yourself with a few very brief comments and get on with the show. You can also integrate a trick into the introduction (appearing cane, card flourish, etc.); you’re ahead of the game.

If you must introduce yourself and if your character permits it, then



the following might work very well. Come out casual and announce yourself, “Ladies and Gentlemen, coming up in a moment is an entertainer who needs no introduction. Let’s give a huge welcome to ‘Frank the Great!’ ” Walk off the stage when you are done, then come back on as you would if someone else introduced you. Whit Haydn has a good self-intro at: <http://whithaydn.com/intro.htm>.

A lot on how you start your show depends on who you are. How much show tech you have and use. And what kind of venue or show it is. If you use music have your intro prerecorded with the opening music. If you are working a fair or a festival, open after the music gathers the crowd. Open with items that make a noise. It might be an upcoming show announcement or intro music for the show. Linking rings could be used as a warm up.

Some introductions could go like this from Aldo Colombini: “Once in a lifetime, a great magician comes along who totally revolutionizes the world of magic. . . . Until that happens, please welcome Aldo Colombini.” Always say the name last.

Of course there’s always the direct approach. “Hello, I’m Johnny Cash” worked for a certain well-known singer for a few decades. If you are doing magic and comedy, use one of the lines from the many published patter books. Aldo Colombini has several books that are a good source as does Harry Allen of Daytona Magic and Robert Orben.

Hope this helps you through that awkward introduction situation. Remember to prepare a 3x5 card with your introduction in CAPITAL LETTERS.