

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 60 No. 2 February 2006

What's New At Barry's?

Join us for February meeting to see latest magic effects demonstrated by a pro

Come join us Feb. 1 for some magical bargains as magic dealer Barry Taylor brings Ring 50 the latest tricks at our annual "What's New At Barry's" night. There will be something for everyone as Barry demonstrates what is new on the market in his own creative style as well as offers some special surprises just for you.

Barry's Magic Shop, a long-established magic tradition in the Washington area, features a full range of classic illusions and up-to-the-minute releases in magic tricks, books, and videos/DVDs. The shop, located at 11234 Georgia Avenue in Wheaton, Maryland, has been in business for nearly 30 years.

Barry is promising the latest magical effects plus standard accessories such as flash paper and closeup pads. This is an opportunity for you to upgrade and restock your show for the new year!

Here's just an idea of what's in store: Those popular No. 2 pencils are back. You may have Las Vegas Dice or Magic Makers Money Paddle on your shopping list. Then there's the very funny Counterfeit Detector. There also is the Disposable Deck by David Regal. "HOTROD" is a magic pen that comes

It's time to pay annual dues

Ring 50 dues for calendar year 2006 are due at the Feb. 1 meeting. Treasurer Bob Patterson will be collecting the \$15 annual fee. Checks are preferred but cash will be accepted. However, please try to have the exact amount. Make checks payable to IBM Ring 50. You can also send a check to his home address at 3450 Wainscott Place, Lake Ridge, VA 22192.



Pastel portrait by Mario S. Rinaudo

Barry Taylor

in red and blue. There's a terrific ring and chain effect called The Ring. Ickle Pickle Magic is presenting CHAINED as part of its merchandise.

You also may want to add the popular "Bicycle Ghost Playing Cards" to your inventory. A really pretty effect you won't want to miss is the Simplex Floating Rose.

Tenyo has come out with some new tricks in this year's line that you

will want to add to your repertoire. One is the Mystery Triangle in which a pen penetrates the solid cover inside a frame. Another is Fortune Sticks in which

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Of Magicians Ring 50
The National Capital Ring

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FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2006
HOLIDAY INN
IN ALEXANDRIA
2460 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA

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

Coming Events

The 75th annual Columbus Magi-Fest

Dates: Feb. 2-4, 2006, Columbus, Ohio
Cost: \$100 for adults and \$80 for youths plus \$15 for Headliner Show and \$3 for transportation to performance.

Place: Columbus Marriott North, phone 614-885-1885.

Contact: Register with Jep Hostetler, 193 Frambes, Columbus, OH 43201-1409 or register on line at:

<http://www.magifest.org/>.

Features: Rich Bloch will be emcee for the Friday night headliner show. Featured performers include Greg Frewin, Junge-Junge, Kohl & Company, Dale Salwak and Mark Wade. Among close-up performers are John Carney, Tim Conover, Paul Gertner, Patrick Przywiecki and David Williamson.

SAM Meeting

Date: Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.

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

Theme: Bills and Paper

Contact: Ray Eyler at (410) 798-0176 ceyler1026@aol.com or Dwight Redman at (301) 927-7717 or dredman@comcast.net.



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

Date: The convention begins March 29 with a flea market and runs through April 1, 2006. (You do not have to attend the convention to go to the flea market or take part in it. Tables are only \$10--a perfect chance to sell stuff you never use.)

Place: Holiday Inn in Rosslyn, VA
Registration fee \$200. Attendees must be members of the MCA. The cost to join is only \$25. Check <http://www.magicposters.com/convention/index.html> for registration information.

Contact: Ken Trombly at ken.trombly@comcast.net or 202-887-5000.

Convention presentations begin 11 a.m. Thursday and continue through Saturday. Speakers include Al Cohen, Richard Hatch, Bill Kalush, Charles Greene, Leo Behnke, Gabe Fujari, Ken Klosterman, Mark Milton, David Solomon, Dean Arnold, Arthur Moses, Richard Flint, Gabe Fajun and Marion Trikosko. Saturday morning is an auction conducted by Mario Carrandi. There will be a dealer's room with more than 20 dealers booked. Saturday night's banquet features a show by the Comedy & Mystery Society (Bob Sheets, Mark Phillips, Alain Nu).

Winter Carnival of Magic sponsored by IBM Ring 58 of Knoxville, TN. Now in its 30th year, the convention starts on Thursday with a special opening show and lecture. Friday features two lectures, a close-up contest, a dealer's room and a stage show in the main auditorium. Saturday features the dealer's room, a stage contest (both junior and senior), more lectures, a close-up show, and an evening show. The evening show, called the "Stars of Magic" features some of the top names in magic and is open to the public.

Dates: March 2-4

Place: Pigeon Forge, TN, at the Country Tonight Theater.

Contact: www.IBMRing58.com or contact Country Tonight Theatre. Dial 1-800-792-4308 or 1-865-453-2003.

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.

Creator: 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.

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.



Jim Flanigan performs ceremony

Broken Wand rite honors memory of former Ring 50 leader

IBM Territorial Vice President Jim Flanigan presented a moving Broken Wand ceremony in memory of Ring 50 Past President Bill Benninghoven at the January meeting. Barry Taylor of Barry's Magic Shop broke a wand in two to symbolize his passing. Members of Bill's family, including his widow Tootie, attended.

Bill became president of Ring 50 in 1966. He performed as Benny the Magic Clown. A pastor at Immanuel's Church in Silver Spring, Md., Bill died on Oct. 24, 2005, just four days short of his 62nd birthday.

A fan of magic since his teenage years, Bill turned a hobby into a sideline, entertaining as a magic clown at schools and children's hospitals and for soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He could be seen on local television programs. He performed for private parties, government functions and much more.

Illusion up for "best offer" sale

James Munton has a chair suspension illusion for sale. "It's taking up too much space in my garage," he says. "It's a good one with the Samsonite plastic folding chairs, not the old heavy wooden ones." He will take the best offer. You can contact him by calling 301-322-5605, by faxing 301-322-7193 or checking his Web site at www.jamesmunton.com.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I want to start with my heartfelt thanks to Rucj Uffleman. After three-and-a-half years, he has stepped down as the Ring treasurer. He has been a tireless worker who has done a wonderful job. He will continue to be an active member of the Ring. We look forward to seeing him performing his unique style of magic in the bar before meetings and at our monthly meetings. We are very fortunate to have a highly qualified replacement in Bob Patterson. We welcome Bob to the Ring Board of Directors. He is taking over at a critical time in our year.

February is when we collect Ring dues. We use your \$15 dues to cover our operating expenses. It pays for such things as our outstanding December guest speaker, Chuck Hickok. It also covers the cost of distributing the Magi-Gram to those members who prefer to have a mailed copy rather than the electronic version. The majority of our membership, over 80 percent, receives the electronic version. These members get an 8-10 page newsletter. The mailed version is only two pages. While the Board of Directors want to continue to be responsive to each member's need, we also have to show fiscal responsibility. As a result, at the February meeting, I would like to have a discussion of and take a vote on the following:

Resolved: For those members who wish to receive a mailed version of the Ring 50 newsletter, there will be an additional dues charge of \$5 to cover the cost of mailing.

The above proposal barely covers the mailing cost of 39 cents per month that became effective in January. There is also the expense of each envelope and the printing. We are trying to simplify our communication process and the work that Jim Flanigan has to do in publishing the Magi-Gram. Jim will continue to bring a limited number of hard copies to the meeting for those of you who want to see one.

Along with our efforts to collect dues for the coming year, we are trying to bring our membership records up-to-date. There were three separate membership lists. Jim Flanigan had a list



Don Freedman

of all those people who receive the Magi-Gram. Some people are interested in our activities but are not Ring members. Bob Patterson's list has those people who paid their dues last year as well as some people who have not paid dues the last year or two. Bob Fay, the Secretary, has a list that includes people who have filled out applications to IBM but have not yet been accepted into IBM or Ring 50. Now, we have consolidated these three lists into one master list. When you pay your dues, please verify your information with Bob Patterson. We want your name, address, phone number, IBM membership number, and email address.

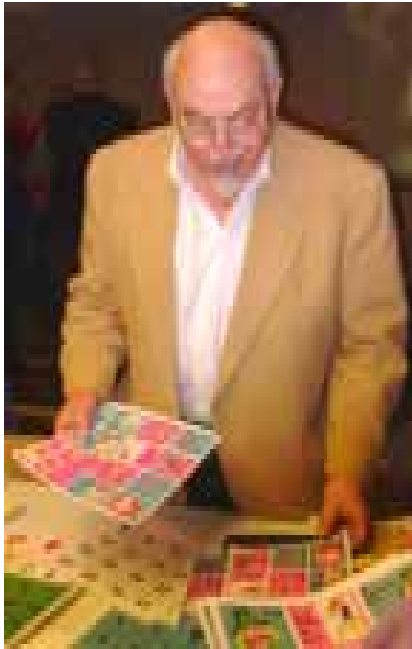
Elsewhere in this newsletter, there is an article about our last meeting, which was a "Teach-In." We had another great turnout. When we scheduled the Teach-In, I wondered if this would attract many of our more experienced members. The feedback was that our instructor team—Sam Brothers, Father Ron Escalante, Stuart Finley and Mike Taggart—did a bang-up job. Even our most experienced performers gained some new insights into how to present some magic standards. I thank each of the instructors for their efforts that made this meeting a success. One of the secrets of successful performing is leaving your audience wanting more. As time dictated that we rotated positions, people moved on but would have stayed longer if they could have. After the last scheduled move was completed, many of our members continued working with the instructors

and exchanging ideas. In my case, I got some excellent suggestions for additional modifications to what I demonstrated. One person suggested an idea for how I can adapt the "Nine Number Magic Square" to a different effect. As a result, I am coming up with an adaptation that I am calling "Monopoly Magic."

This is a perfect segue to a comment that I would like to make about an article in the January Linking Ring. Rolando Santos published a monograph entitled "It May Be Ethical, But It Is Not Right." In this article, he talks about "lurking." As he defines lurking, it is attending magic meetings and always taking but never giving. One of our real strengths at Ring 50 is that we do share. Maybe not everyone performs. However, everyone has ideas and suggestions on how to do things better. These suggestions make our performers better magicians. Also, our members have an opportunity to try things out at the Ring meetings and get constructive criticism from the audience. You can satisfy your responsibility to give back to the group by telling us what it is that we can do to better serve you. Your Board of Directors is committed to serving the needs of the membership. We want to hear from you. Send us your ideas. For example, we are looking for a suggestion for a theme for the March meeting. Also, we want your ideas as to what we should do at Magi-Whirl (Saturday, May 20). Ring 50 is your organization. Let's make sure we give you what you want.

Our February meeting is all set. Barry Taylor will be there with "What is New at Barry's." At our January meeting, Barry told our members that if anyone had a specific magic trick or some props that they would like to buy or at least see, give the store a call. He would make sure that he brings along any special orders or requests. He can't bring everything he has in his inventory. However, he will bring anything that our members want.

The last thing I want to do is welcome Bert Udovin, who was voted into Ring 50 membership at our last meeting. Hopefully, in a future Magi-Gram, we will provide a brief bio of him.



Don Freedman

Teach-in session great learning experience

A New Year's teach-in session drew a strong response at the first meeting of 2006. Ring 50 members circulated among five tables, teaching the seated students in a "round robin." Sam Brothers captivated his students with his presentation of a two-card monte routine in which two black aces placed between a spectator's fingers were swiftly switched and then switched back. When the assistant finally turned the cards over, they were holding two red queens. At another station, Mike Taggart provided some excellent tips on rope routines including a cut-and-restored presentation.

Ring 50 Past President Stuart Finley outlined a panoply of bar tricks. He turned a flame into a red carnation and a standard \$1 bill into a giant \$100 bill. He also performed a nifty cut-and-restored

string effect. Father Ron Escalante told how to do impromptu magic using everyday objects. He generated a surge of "electricity" into an ordinary toothpick that leaped from a helper's hand. He caused a borrowed ring to climb mysteriously up a length of rubber band.

Ring 50 President Don Freedman showed some imaginative magic squares featuring numbers, photographs and images which can be adapted to specific clients or events. As a bonus, he gave out computer disks to illustrate his clever counting and illustration methods to predict audience choices.

During the business phase of the meeting, members unanimously elected Bert Udovin to membership in Ring 50.



Father Ron Escalante



Mike Taggart



Sam Brothers



Stuart Finley

It's a BOY and a GIRL!!!

Past Ring 50 presidents become new fathers



A NEW SON! -- Eric Henning holds Ian Miller Mitchell Henning shortly after his birth Dec. 22 at 6:40 p.m. His son weighed in at 8 pounds, 9 ounces. He measured 20-3/4 inches in length. His hair is dark brown with a touch of red. His eyes are brown/black. Both mother Betsy and son are doing exceptionally well.



A NEW YEAR'S DAUGHTER--Mirabai McLeod Munton was born at 3:30 a.m. Jan. 7. The proud parents are James Munton and Jelita McLeod. Both mother and baby--and Dad too-- are doing just fine.

Passages

Legendary Elmsley Count creator dies in Great Britain at age 76

The legendary Alex Elmsley, who is considered one of close-up magic's modern masters, died Sunday, Jan. 8, 2006, in London. Elmsley, who reportedly suffered a fatal heart attack, was 76. He is best known to magicians for inventing the Ghost Count or Elmsley Count

A native of St. Andrews, Scotland, Elmsley was born March 2, 1929. He was a British magician as well as a computer programmer.



Elmsley

Acquaintances described him as a very quiet English gentleman whose performance style made spectators comfortable and at ease. While he is best known for the famous card sleight named after him, he invented other clever sleights and hundreds of tricks.

He wrote three sets of lecture notes in the past. His first was "Low Cunning" (1957). He then revamped these notes with changes to content for the U.S. market to "Low Cunning" (1959). His final set of notes was "Cardwork" (1975).

He also has two books combined in "Collected Works of Alex Elmsley". His lecture notes are included in these books. In the contents, more than 200 original tricks are presented plus a never before printed essay on

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<http://ibmring50.homestead.com/>.

presentation, psychology, and misdirection.

His video series "The Magic of Alex Elmsley: The Tahoe Sessions" features four videos of Elmsley and his magic.

Elmsley, the patent agent turned computer expert, took up magic in 1946. As student at Cambridge University, he was secretary of the Pentacle Club and majored in physics and mathematics.

UK magician Bob Read dies in California

Todd Karr, a well known West Coast magician, reports that Bob Read from the United Kingdom died Nov. 21 at age 65 of a heart attack while vacationing in California with his wife Pauline.

Some perhaps may remember Bob when he lectured in 1979 at Al's Magic Shop on H Street and later at the store run by Al Cohen on Vermont Avenue.



Bob Read

"Last Tuesday, I had the pleasure of driving he and Pauline around LA, visiting John Gaughan, Max Maven, and Carl Ballantine," Todd said. "He had a marvelous time and was looking forward to continuing his visit in the U.S.

"Bob was a superb performer, a master of misdirection, an achingly funny humorist, a great writer, and the world's top authority on the history of the Cups and Balls as depicted in prints and artworks," he said.

Todd collaborated with Bob on "The Annals of Conjuring" in 2001. "His humorous essays on the mysterious magic historian Arthur Watson and magic items in The Spectator were

brilliant scholarship and fine humor mixed together," Todd said.

Bob had just lectured at the LA Conference on Magic History before his death.



SHOP HOSTS -- Barry and Susan Taylor greet customers at their popular shop.

What's New At Barry's?

(Continued from front page)

attractive blue, yellow and blue sticks with distinctive symbols are used for a prediction.

Some of the latest DVDs include a new one from David Williamson and "Absolutely Nuts" by Bob Sheets. There's also the four-set "Royal Road to Card Magic." Another new DVD is "Criss Angel Mastermind Vol. 2." Still another DVD to put on the list is "Weapons of the Card Shark Jeff Wessmiller." There is "Dan Watkins' Coin Man Walking" DVD featuring nine coin routines. Still another DVD special is "Inside Mind of Garret Thomas" volumes 1 and 2.

Don't forget too the ever popular "Quadriflex" in which a dollar is folded to reveal a bill with all four corners in the center. You can then change it back to a regular currency.