

Have a magical Valentine's Day!

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 62 No. 2 February 2008

Magi-Whirl emcee has double life

Rich Bloch, who will be the emcee of this year's Ring 50 Magi-Whirl gala stage show, leads a double life as both a lawyer and magician. He is one of the busiest corporate entertainers, MC's and toastmasters in the world.

Rich began working in a New Jersey magic shop at age 7. At first he cleaned out rabbit cages, but later worked up to become a magic demonstrator. He met many notables during that time and was invited to be the assistant to TV's Magic Clown, Dick DuBois, on the DuMont TV Network in New York.



Rich Bloch

Rich's love of theater, and his position as magic consultant to the Folger Shakespeare Theater at the Library of Congress, led Orson Welles to tap Rich as a writer for a television special, "Time and Chance". Rich and Welles collaborated on that as well as numerous Welles appearances on the Johnny Carson and Merv Griffin shows.

Rich is also an inventor of illusions. Magicians around the world have utilized his techniques and apparatus. They include David Copperfield, Siegfried and Roy, and during their lifetimes, Harry Blackstone Jr. and Doug Henning. Orson Welles called Rich "An Edison of Magic."

Rich collects magic memorabilia and illusions, but magic performing also is close to his heart. He appears regularly as a featured guest at various Las Vegas hotels. He also has been a featured

(Continued on page 3)

Art of Magic creator to lecture on Ring 50 night

A 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., will be the



Larry Hass

featured lecturer at the February meeting of Ring 50.

Hass, an extremely accomplished magician in his own right, is a philosophy professor at Muhlenberg College with a passionate commitment to the art of magic. He has performed himself in venues from Las Vegas to the East Coast, both on the stage and close up.

Hass's essays on magic performance and theory have been published in leading magic magazines, including MAGIC, The Linking Ring, M-U-M and Hokus Pokus (Switzerland). In 1997 he received a "Special Merit Award" for the essay "The Illusion of Technique" from The Linking Ring. In 2001 he received the prestigious Howard Bamman Trophy from The Linking Ring. He has recently completed his first, full-length book for magicians, "Transformations: Creating Magic Out of Tricks".

The lecture by Hass is free to Ring 50 members. Other magicians may attend for a fee of \$10 at the door.

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. Our webmaster is former Ring 50 leader Eric Henning.

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of Magicians Ring 50
The National Capital Ring**

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FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008

HOLIDAY INN
IN ALEXANDRIA

2460 Eisenhower Avenue

Alexandria, VA

6:00 Cocktails

6:45 Dinner

8:00 Meeting/Lecture

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

We have finally moved into our new location on Yellow Brick Road (Yes, it really is Yellow Brick Road). The new address is... We are only a couple of minutes off of Exit 34 of the Baltimore Beltway. If you want to stop by and see the new place, give me (Denny) a call to give you directions. Phone numbers, fax lines and email addresses all remain the same.

Visit Denny's web site for the latest events:

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

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.

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.

Society of American Magicians (SAM) Larry West Assembly 28

Date: Feb. 20 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.



Barry performs with his wife Susie

Salute to Barry Taylor

Sponsor: Assembly 23, the Larry West Assembly of the Society of American Magicians (SAM) will honor Barry Taylor with it first annual "Sammy Award" in honor of Barry's three decades of service to the magic community. Barry has been a fixture of magic in the Greater Washington area for more than three decades. He will be roasted and toasted by several magicians and will also do a short demonstration of some of his favorite routines.

Date: Wednesday, March 19, at 8 p.m.
Place: The National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington.

Cost: Admission free to SAM Assembly 23 members; \$10 for guests. Members and guests are invited to join us for optional \$25 dinner at the National Press Club's Reliable Source Restuarant at 7 p.m.

Contact: Matt Hiller at magik@hotmail.com or Assembly President Larry Lipman at lorenzomagic@cox.net.

"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.

Date: Feb. 28-April 6

Cost: \$32

Contact: 202/544-7077

Website: <http://www.folger.edu/>

Special Note: Read Genii Magazine's article in its February 2008 issue for details.

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@appsmagic.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



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

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Magi-Whirl needs your help!

Now is the time to volunteer for Magi-Whirl 2008. I need everyone to contact me via email to confirm what you are going to help with during Magi-Whirl. To help with this I have recruited the support of several key people to get things going.

Dwight Redman will coordinate the lobby performers for the Gala Show. Marc Carrion will be coordinating set up and tear down as well as backstage help. Tom Paxton will be coordinating getting the dealer room set up, security and teardown. Ron Cote will be in charge of over-all security. The registration desk is full at this time. However, Bob Patterson is the coordinator and he



Michael Taggart

still could use help with the many things he does for this event. Larry Lipman is coordinating media and advertising. Dick Leary is handling food service. Bill and Becki Wells are the box office leaders. Arnie Levin is the theater house coordinator. Kevin Curry is technical director for the event.

This year we are faced with two new challenges.

First, we are expanding the food service to include a sandwich run. Food service was the surprise hit last year.

We pulled it off just barely but it became important as the day went on. This will not be where we are catering a lunch kind of thing but more of a case where someone wants sandwiches we will send a runner to Subway or Generous Georges to pick up your order. There will be more to come on that later.

Second, there is the plan to move lectures into the band room at Bishop Ireton High School. This will give us more space and the ability to elevate the seats. The problem is that IMMEDIATELY after the last lecture we HAVE to tear down the space to get ready for the Gala Show and the eminent arrival of the school band from their European tour AT the SAME TIME!

Finally, this is a club function and we count on your help to pull it off and to keep the cost as low as possible. Volunteering does not mean that you get a comp for the event. If everyone does just a little bit then no one has to do a lot.

I thank all of you in advance for your help. Don't forget the Feb. 6 meeting is dues night and the March 5 meeting will be a four-corners lecture night. I need four volunteer teachers for our March meeting.

Many thanks!

Magically,

Michael

Magi-Whirl

(Continued from page 1)

performer on a wide variety of cruise lines and a favorite headliner at Hollywood's famed Magic Castle.

Bloch graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. He is married to Georgetown Law professor Susan Low Bloch.

Magi-Whirl runs March 28-29.

There will be four lectures, plus three close-up performances, lots of dealers and a spectacular evening show.

Featured performers, lecturers and guests for this year's convention include Kenrick "Ice" McDonald, Aldo and Rachel Colombini, Ring 50 Magician of the Year Noland Montgomery, Bob Little, Eric Jones, Brian Morton and Swami Yomahmi.

Richard Kaufman, publisher of Genii -- the Conjuror's Magazine--will be the subject of a special question-and-answer session. He also will perform closeup magic.



Richard Kaufman

The convention is being held at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria Va. Registration is only \$40 when you register at a 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.

Dues due in February

Ring 50 dues are due in February of each year. The annual fee of \$15 must be paid by the Feb. 6 meeting. You can pay at this month's meeting. Ring 50 Treasurer Bob Patterson asks that you pay by check to ease record keeping. Make checks payable to IBM Ring 50. Cash payments also will be accepted.

Ring 50 Meeting Schedule 2008

Feb. 6 -- Richard Hass Lecture
March 5 -- Four Corners 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.



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

Honor planned for Al Cohen

The Academy of Magical Arts -- better known as "The Magic Castle"-- has selected Al Cohen to receive this year's Lifetime Achievement Fellowship for his outstanding contributions as a demonstrator and dealer.

Al, who for more than 60 years was a veritable institution in the world of magic, will be honored at the 40th annual Academy of Magical Arts awards show and banquet April 5 honoring him and fellow award winners and nominees.

The event celebrating the finest artists and performers in the world of magic will be held in the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

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

Applicants joining Ring 50 must join IBM ranks

To join Ring 50, an applicant must be interested in magic and be (or become) a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM). Membership applications may be obtained from the IBM web site: <http://www.magician.org/>. Ring 50 Membership applications may be obtained from the Ring 50 web site

Advertisement space available now

Now is the time to think about placing an ad in the Magi-Whirl 2008 Gala Show Program. Last year we distributed over 400 programs to the attendees. This year we anticipate a lot more.

Here is a chance to get your magic or commercial profession advertised for a very reasonable price and at the same time support Magi-Whirl 2008! Ring 50 is now accepting advertisements for the Magi-Whirl 2008 evening show program. The program will be distributed to attendees and members of the public at the Evening Show. It will be in a folded half page format, so each page will be 5½" by 8½".

Brown. A host of prestidigitators will dazzle the honorees and members of the academy.

The annual Academy of Magical Arts Awards Show is one of the premiere magic events of the year. It draws performers and members of the magic community from around the world.

Al ran a magic shop in downtown Washington, D.C. He's retired now, but in his 80's he is still mischievous as ever. He is a master of misdirection.

Al told National Public Radio he was a professional magician for 15 years. "I knew more tricks than you could shake a wand at. I could make things disappear, reappear and float through the air. I knew card tricks, coin tricks, and how to make a live dove materialize out of nowhere.

"Back in my performing days, I loved to watch faces in the audience just as the trick reached the 'tah-daaaaah' moment," he said on NPR. "For one instant, one nanosecond, you could see in their eyes that they actually, truly believed in magic."

Al is now a regular contributor to Genii magazine. He often reminisces about his days as a dealer in his column.



Al Cohen

Holiday show provides joy for audience

Ring 50 members and guests were in a joyful mood for New Year 2008. Performers staged a holiday show at the January meeting that had been postponed from a canceled gathering in December caused by a fast-moving winter storm.

Former Ring 50 leader **John Roberts** started the lineup with the assistance of two audience members. He plucked colorful silks from a metal stand and stuffed them into a rolled up tube fashioned from various hued pieces of "gift wrap". He then asked his assistants to grab a silk from either end of the tube. When they pulled on them, the single silks had blended into a long multi-colored streamer.

Jim Flanigan, sporting a jester's hat and a red sponge nose, greeted everyone with a "Happy New Year" cheer. With the help of Laurie Curry, he then pulled a white rabbit out of the funny hat followed by a 6-foot-long No. 2 yellow pencil. When his act continued minus the clown outfit, he sketched a card chosen by a young audience member. He ended his routine by producing a virtual rainbow fountain of silks from a square circle.

Past President **Eric Henning** did a "Marked Coin in Nest of Boxes" routine involving a boy, Justice, and a girl, Tesha. Tesha chose a golden dollar coin and each of them marked it with a permanent marker. Eric placed the marked coin into a handkerchief and the boy held the coin through the hank. Eric handed a miniature "Harry Potter" style wand to the girl; he then brought out a locked miniature treasure chest. The girl waved the wand and Eric said the magic spell. After some by-play, the coin vanished from the handkerchief and the boy opened the locked chest to find a smaller box inside, which contained jewels and the marked coin! Eric gave the coin to the boy and the wand to the girl and the audience gave them all a big round of applause.

(Continued on next page)

Arnie Fuoco opened his segment by displaying a framed photograph of himself as a young boy sitting on Santa’s lap. He demonstrated how Santa showed him how to vanish three colorful Christmas handkerchiefs—only to have them combine and appear as a much larger silk handkerchief showing a picture of Santa. He then introduced Herman the Christmas mouse who ran up and down a magic wand and vanished. The mother mouse, Monique, appeared eating cheese meant for the youngster and took a bow. Finally, Arnie performed an ancient Austrian custom of marriage proposal that occurred during Christmas Eve. He borrowed a bachelor’s ring from Sam Brothers. After grinding the ring to powder, he had it magically appear on a sprig of Holly, indicating a future life of marital bliss for the bachelor.

Louis Hofheimer orchestrated a routine to mark Hanukkah. In order to show how olive oil burned miraculously for eight days, Louis displayed a container from which liquid continued to flow even after the vessel seemed to be empty. He also invited a female assistant up from the audience to help restore a Hanukah candle which he cut into three pieces. He ended with the aid of Cassandra showing her three cards—two 10s and a jack. One of the cards vanished only to be replaced by another card showing a Hanukkah lamp.

Ring 50 President Mike Taggart was the show emcee. During the evening, he also drew winners for some seasonal gifts including a nest of boxes, a gift pack of salmon, holiday popcorn and a canister of treats.

Shrive Paul Beck, a newcomer to magic, was voted in at the meeting as Ring 50’s newest member.

— *Laurie Curry and Jim Flanigan*



Eric Henning with young assistants



Jim Flanigan produces silks



Arnie Fuoco displays Santa silk



Louis Hofheimer with Cassandra



John Roberts prepares to “gift wrap” colorful silks in paper tube

Dressing for success in magic

By Bob Patterson

I am not an expert on dressing for success, but I have watched many performances in my 50 years of magic and would like to share my observations with you.

What does the professional, semi-professional or amateur magician wear for a successful performance? I am sure many of you may have read *What Color is My Parachute* by Richard N. Bolles, *Winning the Image Game* by Bobbie Gee, or other *Dress for Success* books. These give good guidelines for the businessman or woman. A lot can be applied to a performing magician.

There are many choices for the magician. A lot depends on your style of show, your audience, and the venue. A basic guide is to dress at least one cut above your audience, or dress slightly better than what the occasion requires. What is the first thing people see when you start performing? It's you of course! First impressions last.

You might think, I can wear anything to do my magic and it will still amaze them. You're probably right! A great effect is a great effect! But with a little style and imaging, you can take your performance to a whole new level.

Dress appropriately for the occasion. Tuxedos were common among magicians of the past (Blackstone, Thurston, Carter, Heller, Cardini and others) and can still be used today depending on the venue. Be the best-dressed person in the room, but not overly dressed. This rule applies even if you feel appropriately dressed in a T-shirt and jeans: make sure your attire is the most upscale one in the room. Observe some of the great magicians of today. Lance Burton always appears in tuxedos and suits. He maintains a neat, clean appearance. One of my favorite dressers is Michael Finney. He has a different colored outfit for each day of the week. On Fridays he performs in red, in honor of our military. Jeff McBride, Chris Angel, Merlin, Chung Ling Soo and others have unique style of dress. They can be recognized in any venue. Well except perhaps Chris Angel.

You're performing for a law firm. Everyone is wearing suits and ties, and there you are, looking like some kid in jeans and a t-shirt. You should at least show up in a dress shirt and suit, and look like the contemporary successful close up magician might look. They are much more likely to think, "Oh, wow, this guy MUST be good". Regardless of how old you are, you will create a better first impression if you are dressed up than dressed down. Look like a hired magician, and not like they have just grabbed someone off the street. What you wear and say all play big on how you want people to perceive you. It doesn't matter if you're doing one trick or a dozen. If someone took the time to have you perform for them then you should dress for success, not like you just came home from the football game.

If you perform wearing a jacket, button your jacket before you walk out. You can open it later in the show. Start out your performance looking your best. Naturally wear a clean shirt or blouse. Never wear a short-sleeve shirt with



Dwight Redman dresses for success

a jacket. If it is hot after you start you can take your jacket off.

According to the old axiom "dress for success," if you want to become a rock star, you should start dressing like one. This helps instill a mindset that not only gets you acting like one, but builds an image over time. The most important step to building a bold, yet congruent image is deciding on the persona you want to convey to others. Are you the mysterious illusionist? Or the loud rock star? Your dress will confirm or negate that character.

If you know you're just a T-shirt and jeans kind of person -- that's great, but seek out the help you need to spruce up your wardrobe skills and learn how to dress for success at your shows. Your costume sets the ENTIRE tone as soon as you walk out on stage and as soon as the client meets you.

Here are some additional dressing tips for a successful performance: Research if the company or your potential employer has a specific dress code. Your hair should be clean and neat. Insure your suit or sports jacket is color coordinated with your trousers. Clean, polished black leather shoes are highly recommended and black socks. Don't forget to trim and clean your nails. For women -- choose moderate shoes, which are clean, and with heels that make you comfortable.

For a children's show, it is better to wear bright colors like red, yellow or sky blue. If you want an all-purpose wear, a decent simple black or grey suit will do. The tails are up

to you. Most importantly, look neat and smart for all your shows. A top hat and tails are the children's concept of a classic magician. Even a cape can be worn if one desires. When doing kids shows, this is one character style that is "in fashion". This may not be for everyone, but it is a character role being played out by the magician. Children expect a magician to look like their storybook perception of a magician. That usually means: 1) Top hat and tux; 2) Turban and tux or 3) Wizard garb.

Just be aware of what you are wearing and what you want to portray. It can determine the type of impression you leave behind. Remember you are the star when you take the stage. Look and act like one. Show respect

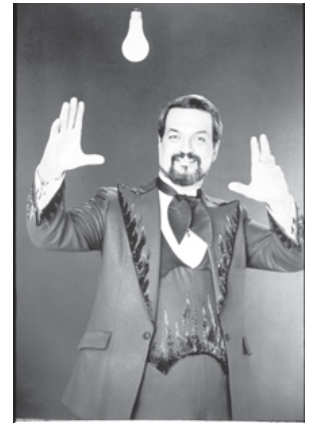


Lance Burton

for your client and audience by maintaining your costume, outfit, and appearance. Dirty nails, greasy or messy hair, and gray shirts that are supposed to be white are all telltale signs that the performer is not interested in their profession. They are a "get by" that says they do only what is necessary just to get by. Respect your audience by displaying proper attire. Whether at a party or on stage, you must be both distinctive and impeccable. That's what is expected of you. If you dress like a professional you will act like a professional.



Michael Finney in style



Harry Blackstone Jr.



Mike Taggart flies high with an outfit to meet his act



Jeff McBride



The Great Cardini

International Brotherhood of Magicians



NATIONAL CAPITAL RING 50

Magi-Whirl 2008



and

The Bishop Ireton High School

Technical Theater Department

Present

An Evening of Magic on March 29, 2008

Kenrick 'ICE' McDonald Grand Illusion Show

The Magic of Aldo & Rachel Colombini

The Amazing Comedy of Swami Yomahmi

DC Magician of the Year – Noland Montgomery

Magical Master of Ceremonies – Rich Bloch



Noland Montgomery

*The performance will be held in the beautiful
Bishop Ireton High School Theater
201 Cambridge Road
Alexandria, Virginia*



Kenrick "Ice" McDonald

All tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased by credit card at: www.Magi-Whirl.org/show.html or \$10 in cash or check at the door.

6:30 PM Theater opens, strolling, and close-up magicians in the lobby

7:00 PM Seating for the Gala Evening Show begins

7:30 PM Show time (approx. 90 minutes)



Aldo Colombini