

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 --The National Capital Ring Volume 57 No. 1 Feb. 2003



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Of Magicians Ring 50
The National Capital Ring**

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Ring 50 dues due for 2003

Ring 50 dues for calendar year 2003 are due. Treasurer Rucj Uffelman will collect the \$15 dues at the February meeting. Checks should be made payable to IBM Ring 50.

What's new at Barry's to feature latest tricks

You will "feel the energy" at the February meeting of Ring 50 when Barry Taylor, owner of Barry's Magic Shop in Wheaton, Md., demonstrates some of the latest tricks on the magical market.

The phrase "feel the energy" is a favorite saying of the personable proprietor of perplexing prestidigitation as he performs paraphernalia.

"We're going to make it fun," Barry promises. "There will be something for everybody."

Barry says there will be a mix of stand-up, stage, close-up and kids stuff to select from among the long list of items that he is personally preparing for the evening's entertainment.

Some of the choices will be from a category Barry describes as "what's old is new" such as an old card routine with jokers titled "Bicycle Built for 5." There will be plenty of new card effects too like Phil Goldstein's "Psi-Con Ruse" and Chris Kenworthy's "The Precognition Deck."

A special IBM Ring 50 discount is planned on many items. Barry intends on featuring a few contests where people can win some effects and he will offer performance tips.

Don't be surprised to find a few rare, hard-to-find treasures like Ton Onosaaka's "Frame-Up" from Japan.

All of these tricks will be on the table along with a wide selection of books, videos and DVDs.

Lenny Lupica, a demonstrator at Barry's who once worked at Hank Lee's establishment in New England, will be on hand to help show the mystical merchandise.

'Magi-Whirl' convention promises to restore old favorite

Ring 50 will sponsor a magical Memorial Day weekend for East Coast magicians with a Magi-Whirl one-day convention being brought back by popular demand.

Plans are now under way for the event on Saturday, May 24, at the Greenbelt Marriott in Greenbelt, Md., with Ring 50 Vice President Eric Henning in charge of arrangements.

The program will include three lectures, a half dozen dealers, one evening show and a special surprise guest—all for a rate of only \$35 with a paid registration before April 24..

Ring 50 members will have a special



Barry Taylor

rate of just \$30 if they pay before the deadline.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, Feb. 5 2003

PIER 7 RESTAURANT

in the

CHANNEL INN HOTEL

650 Water Street SW

Washington DC

6:00 Cocktails

6:45 Dinner

8:00 Meeting

Coming Events

Ring 50 Magi-Whirl This one-day Memorial Day weekend convention will feature, among others, England's Jon Allen and Baltimore's Denny Haney plus an evening stage show, dealers and lectures.

Date: Saturday, May 24, 2003

Place: Greenbelt Marriott in Greenbelt, Md.

Cost: \$35 for paid registrations prior to April 24. Ring 50 members pay a special rate of \$30 before the deadline. The admission at the door will be \$45. Contact: Eric Henning at (301) 369-0025. Check the Web site www.magi-whirl.org for the latest information.

Larry West Assembly 23

Date: February 19, 2003

Place: The National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, 13th Floor, Washington, DC.

Theme: Restaurant Magic or Dime Store Novelty Magic
Contact: Call Ray Eyler at 410-798-0176 or Noland Montgomery at 301-572-7743

Dave Shepherd Close-up Magic

Dates: Every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m.

Place: Mama's Italian Restaurant, Fairfax, Va.

Contact: 703/385-2646

Close-up Magic @ Dave & Buster's

Dates: 7-10 p.m. Fridays (James Munton) & Saturdays (Noland Montgomery) with alternates performing certain evenings.

Place: Dave & Buster's Restaurant

White Flint Mall, Bethesda, MD

Contact: (301) 230-5151

Michael Ammar Lecture

Date: March 20, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall (behind St. Leo's Church)
3704 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia

Sponsor: The Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.) and NOVA S.A.M. Assembly 252

Cost: Free to all S.A.M. members (with valid S.A.M. card), \$20 for others. Note: Non-S.A.M. members may attend the first 30 minutes of the lecture and then must join S.A.M. or leave the lecture.

Joe Mogar Lecture

Date: Friday, Feb. 28, 2003. Open Bar 6:30 p.m., Lecture starts 7:30 p.m.

Place: Glenn Gary's Home, 47386 Westwood Place, Sterling, VA 20165

Cost: \$25 at door, \$20 with advance RSVP

Contact: Glenn Gary, (703) 430-6885 (703) 963-0790

Jay Sanky Lecture at Al's Magic

Date May 30 at 7 p.m.

Place: Al's Magic at 1012 Vermont Avenue NW.

Cost: \$15

Contact: Steve Brown at (202) 789-2800

David Copperfield: An Intimate Evening of Grand Illusion

Dates: Feb. 8-9, 2003

Place: Morris A. Mechanic Theatre, Baltimore, Md.

Cost: Various prices on sale now. Tickets are available online, by telephone at 410-481-SEAT, at all Ticketmaster outlets including Hecht's and Record & Tape Traders, and at the Mechanic Theatre Box Office, which opens weekdays at noon.

National Press Club Close-up Magic Show

Sponsor: Larry West Assembly 23, Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.)

Date: March 19, 2003 at 7 p.m.

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

Cost: Free to the magic community. Reservations suggested.

Contact: Noland Montgomery, S.A.M. Assembly 23 president, at (301) 572-7743.

The 29th annual Winter Carnival of Magic sponsored by Knoxville Ring 58 and featuring, among others, Whit Haydn, Dana Daniels, Tim Ellis and Sue Anne, Bob Sheets, Hank Moorehouse and Mandy Reed.

Dates: March 6-8, 2003

Place: Gatlinburg, Tenn., Civic Auditorium

Cost: Magicians, \$80. Spouses, \$40. Children under 18, \$30. Under 12, free. Send registrations to Ring 58, P.O. Box 11801, Knoxville, TN 37939. Register by Feb. 20 for priority seating at public show. Contact Rocky Top Village Inn, 311 Airport Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 for housing by dialing 1-800-553-7738.

Hank Lee's Cape Cod Magic Conclave featuring Mark Wilson and Nani Darnell, Greg Wilson, Nicholas Night and Kenga, Devlin, Julianna Chen, Chuck Fayne, John Cassidy and more.

Dates: April 11-13, 2003

Place: The Sea Crest on Falmouth's Old Silver Beach in New England.

Cost: Magicians, \$125. Spouses, \$110. Call 1-617-482-8749 for convention information. Dial 1-800-225-3110 for lodging.

72nd Annual Columbus Magi-Fest One of the largest magic conventions in the U.S., with more than 900 registrants, featuring more than 20 dealers, a close-up show, a Thursday night Contest Winners' Show from Magi-Fest 2002, a headliner show and an all-star show.

Place: Columbus Marriott North, Columbus, Ohio, starting with Headliner Show Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

Contact: Magi-Fest 2003 Executive Director Jep Hostetler at magifest.yahoo.com for information.

Broken Wand rites conducted for Ring 50 member Leo Solomon

A moving Broken Wand graveside ceremony was conducted on Jan. 10 for veteran Ring 50 member Leo Solomon at the King David Memorial Park cemetery in Falls Church, Va.

The rite was performed by IBM Territorial Vice President Jim Flanigan.

Bill Lucas, a member of IBM and a close personal friend of Leo's, crafted the wand used in the ritual for departed members of the magic community. He broke the wand in two and placed it on the grave.

A native of Hartford, Conn., Leo was born 82 years ago. He died on Jan. 5 at his winter home in Florida.

Leo, whose nickname was "Slick," particularly loved coin manipulations and was a real fan of the legendary Slydini.

After serving in the U.S. Navy in World War II, Leo became a successful businessman. He ran a well-known fabric business with his wife for many years.

The son of immigrant Russian parents, Leo loved magic and he performed at prisons in Northern Virginia for inmates. He dabbled in writing, creating short stories, and finished an unpublished novel.

Contributions in his memory can be sent to: Attention of Mrs. Chantal Belzberg, The One Family Fund, 5 Kiryat Mada Street, Jerusalem 91450 Israel. Notification of donations and condolences should be sent to his daughter: Barbara Diamond, 78 Marylebone Hight Street, Flat 832, London, England W1U 5AP.



FUNNY MAN--Leo Solomon, who died last month, loved a good gag. He stuck his hand in a bear's mouth while attending a magic convention in Gatlinburg, Tenn.



CHECK FOR RING 50--Laurie Currie, center, presented Treasurer Rucj Uffelman with a check for \$248.50 last month as Ring 50's portion of the proceeds from the "Night of Magic" show held at Bishop Ireton High School last year. President Larry Lipman is at right.

Newcomers perform at January meeting

Ring 50 President Larry Lipman hosted a "New Member's Night" last month.

David Sun mystified everyone with his mastery of cards. He opened by finding a card that was only visually selected. David closed by causing two selected and signed cards to fuse into one double-faced card.

Jason Goldberg used his computer savvy to demonstrate "remote sensing" by first having his field help (a spectator), select one of 52 data points (cards). Using his sensor (pen) for the remote collection of data (reading spectator's mind) and transmission of that data onto a disk (slip of paper) in a computer (envelope). With the opening of the computer, the correct data point (4H) was found written on the disk.

Jeff Bocketti offered a smooth presentation of his own version of the classic color monte con. He followed this with a demonstration of his skill with stage card manipulation.

Steve Hoffman demonstrated his flair with comedy by displaying his late grandmother's mind-reading teeth. Everyone watched bits of paper fly as the teeth tore four diamonds out of a borrowed sheet of newspaper. Steve then divined which U.S. president a spectator thought of as well as a

spectator's handwriting when mixed with four other samples of the same president's name written by members of the audience.

Derek Jones told us of his dreams of becoming a stage illusionist, and then showed us the seemingly disappointing "Mystery Box" he got in the mail. The package seemed small, but still he was able to make cards change, elephants disappear and perform a playing card version of the great Houdini's Metamorphosis.

Larry Ekin used inspiration from Harry Potter as he showed a coin losing a magic charge as it changed from silver to copper. He wrapped the copper coin in a small parchment and lit it. In a flash, the coin was restored to silver. Larry also laid out a row of 17 assorted items. They were whittled down to one by a spectator. The object left was one Larry had predicted.

Matt Hiller restored a cut piece of string, not once but twice, first in a spectator's hands and then in his mouth. .

A humorous volley of middles and ends of rope was done in the capable hands of **Brian Raboin**.

A mini-lecture by **Glenn Gary** demonstrated the simple, but very effective use of a tissue box as a production device.