

# MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 --The National Capital Ring

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# Happy New Year!

## John Calvert set for March here

John Calvert is on the road again and Ring 50 members are in for a real treat when he lectures here in March.

The silver-haired Calvert, now in his 90s, is certainly the undisputed champion of showmanship and magic.

In addition to lecturing, Calvert also may present his stage show in the Washington area then.

The trim 6-foot-2 entertainer, who will be in Toledo, Ohio, to lecture at a convention and to present a show before coming here, has a stage show that harkens back to the days when Harry Blackstone Sr. was performing.

IBM Ring 50 could present Calvert as "The Last of The Old Time Big Stage Shows" to attract a large lay audience as well as magicians up and down the East Coast.

"This man is a living legend," says Jerry Harrell, president emeritus of Hampton Roads' Earl Edwards Ring 103 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

"He is the only magician still alive who was a contemporary of Harry Blackstone — senior! — and Thurston and Dante and so many of the finest of the golden age of the '20s and '30s," Harrell said.

Calvert still holds a Guinness world record for the longest-touring stage magic show in history. He has traveled in more countries, presented more shows and played to more people than any magician on tour.

The veteran magician especially is known for having followed in the footsteps of Harry Houdini. He has produced a video titled "A Tribute to Houdini."



John Calvert

## New Members Night theme for January

January's meeting of Ring 50 will spotlight our new members at a New Members Night of magic.

There will be a wide array of magic for everyone to enjoy.

If you have joined Ring 50 since January 2003, please let us know if you would like to perform so we can create a fun evening. Contact Ring 50 President Eric Henning at 301-369-0025 or just e-mail him at eric@IBMRing50.org.

## Al Cohen designated for achievement honor

Ring 50 Life Member Alfred Cohen who has won the Academy of Magical Arts' Lifetime Achievement Award. The award will be presented at The Magic Castle in Hollywood, California, on Saturday, May 1.

Al Cohen, who is now retired, was the owner of Al's Magic Shop in downtown Washington for many years. He gained the title there as the "World's Greatest Magic Demonstrator."

## Ring dues due in February

Ring 50 dues for calendar year 2004 are due at the February meeting. However, Treasurer, Rucj Uffelman, will be happy to take your dues starting at the January meeting. The dues are \$15.

JANUARY MEETING  
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2004

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

### **Dave Shepherd Close-up Magic**

Dates: Every Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Place: Mama's Italian Restaurant, 9715 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Va.

Contact: 703-385-2646 or 703-623-3952.  
www.daveshepmagic.com

### **Bishop Ireton Magic Show**

Date: Feb 20, 2004

Place: Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria, VA 22314. Telephone: 703-751-7606

Cost: Individual and family prices.  
Contact: Laurie Curry at 703-698-6953

### **Noland Montgomery at Silver Diner**

Dates: Tuesday Kids Nights

Place: Rotating locations at Fair Oaks in Fairfax County and Merrifield in Falls Church.

### **James Munton at Tony Roma's**

Dates: Every Tuesday from 6 - 8 p.m.  
Kid's Eat Free!

Place: Tony Roma's Restaurant, 15211 Major Lansdale Blvd., Bowie MD 20716

Contact: 301-262-5339

### **Lorenzo the Great Kid's Night**

Date: Second Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Silver Diner Restaurant in Tyson's Corner, 8101 Fletcher Avenue, McLean, Va.

Contact: Larry Lipman at 703-237-1531 or email [lorenzomagic@cox.net](mailto:lorenzomagic@cox.net)

### **"Spy Magic!" featuring James Munton**

Place: Spy Museum in Washington.  
Date: Saturday, Jan. 17, at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Who: Show by James Munton, alias James Wand, for children 8 and up. Adult required for every two children.  
Cost: Tickets are \$11 per person. Members of The Spy Ring (Join Today!) are \$9 per person.

### **Open Magic Night at Barry's**

Date: Jan. 15 at 8 p.m.

Place: Theatre above Barry's Magic, 11234 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902

Contact: 301-933-0373

Cost: \$10

Note: Seating limited to 24

# Doc Dougherty gravely ill

The condition of Harold "Doc" Dougherty, a former president of Ring 50 and a long time member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, has worsened dramatically.

Doc, who had been battling health problems for many months now, was admitted to Washington Hospital Center recently. His doctors intended to amputate both legs but decided that this was inadvisable because he would not survive the operation.

Meanwhile, an infection spread through most of Doc's body and medical authorities planned to look for a hospice for him, according to longtime associates.

Doc was fading in and out of consciousness at the time of publication of the current Magi-Gram. It was strongly recommended that no one try to visit him because of the situation.

Many remember him as an auctioneer at annual Ring 50 magic sales along with Dick Christian. He also was a regular behind the counter at Al's Magic Shop.

Earlier, when Doc was recovering from previous medical procedures and treatments, many magicians in the Washington area rallied to help him financially.

"Doc has been so active in the Washington area magic world and has contributed so much that I think he deserves all the help he can get," Al Cohen said when the appeal for assistance was made.

During a guest appearance at a Ring 50 meeting in the fall of 1996, Doc recalled growing up in show business in a slide show presentation and performance headlined "Carnivals, Circuses and Showboats." His appearance then was a reprise of a lecture he gave as part of a Smithsonian Institution six-week series titled "Magic-It's In the Cards for Summer."

A native of West Virginia, Doc was only 3 when he began working with his father, who was a magician and ventriloquist, in an act called "Doc Dougherty's Dolls" which played in theaters and schools.

By the time he was 10, Doc had traveled in 32 states as well as Mexico and Canada. During those early years,

he performed with carnivals and circuses. In 1965, he was the last magician to ever work a touring

showboat. Doc came to

the Washington area in the late

1960s hoping to become a radio and

television announcer.

Somehow that aspiration never

made it into his growing list of jobs.



*Doc Dougherty*

While at the Smithsonian Institution, Doc was director of photography. He also was

a photographer for the New Playwright's Theatre. He served as a stage director for various groups and was involved in six Washington premiers. He taught a magician-actor "10 minutes of bad magic" for the Folger Theatre's production of "As You Like It."

In more recent years, Doc worked as a photo technician for a Penn Camera store in downtown Washington while continuing to do magic shows at embassies, trade shows and other venues in the Washington area.

During appearances of master magicians such as David Copperfield in Washington, D.C., Doc has worked behind the scenes as a stage hand.

Doc's credits go on and on. He was a demonstrator-salesman on Saturdays at Al's Magic Shop for many years. He has performed as a magician at shopping mall promotions, night clubs, theaters, conventions, trade shows, on television and on film. He hosted a public television show in Northern Virginia that showcased local magicians.

Many remember Doc at the old Brook Farm Inn of Magic in Maryland. He also performed as a psychic entertainer and was a devotee of mentalism and spiritualism.

He served as president of Ring 50 for two consecutive terms and was president of Assembly 23 of the Society of American Magicians in 1982. He also was active as a member of the Psychic Entertainers Association.