

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 59 No. 7 June 2005



HEADLINERS--Kohl & Co. will provide the fun and comedy for the 2005 edition of Magi-Whirl.

Ring 50's Magi-Whirl big attraction of year

Ring 50 will sponsor its annual Magi-Whirl convention Saturday, June 25, with Kohl & Co. providing the fun and laughter for the one-day event.

The convention will be held at the Cedar Ridge Community Church in Spencerville, MD.

Registration covers all events, including an evening show. The evening show will be open to the public.

John Rogers, a well-known magician from Indiana, will present a stand-up lecture themed "No Sleight Intended." John is noted for hand crafting wooden cigars and cigarettes for comedians, magicians, pranksters and actors.

After a lunch break, there will be a special hour-long interview with Dick Kohlhafer of Kohl & Co. that should be enlightening and entertaining as well as hilarious.

Following a dinner break, seating will begin for a 7 o'clock evening show with the Kohl & Co. trio as headliners. Other performers are John Rogers, Michael Taggart, Barry Taylor and Ring 50 Dan Lacey Trophy winner Noland Montgomery.

For up-to-the-minute details of the convention agenda you can turn to www.Magi-Whirl.org on the Web.

New officers to perform

Don Freedman to take oath as Ring 50 president

Don Freedman, who performs under the name Mr. Mysto, will be sworn in at the June meeting as the new president of Ring 50 for the coming year. He moves up from his post as the ring's vice president.



Dwight Redman has been designated by the membership as vice president. Other officers nominated are Bob Fay as secretary and Geoff Weber as sergeant-at-arms. Rucj Uffelman will continue as treasurer.

At-large board members will be James Munton and Wendy Seigelman. Glenn Gary, who is stepping down as president, will automatically become a board member.

A perfunctory vote will be held prior to the installation because a scheduled vote had to be postponed

last month. However, none of the nominees have opposition.

The new officers will perform after the swearing-in ceremony and there will be an open mike night as well.

IBM Territorial Vice President Jim Flanigan will conduct the traditional swearing-in candlelight ceremony.

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June MEETING

Wednesday, June 1, 2005
HOLIDAY INN
IN ALEXANDRIA
2460 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA

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

NOTICE: There will be no Ring 50 meeting in July because of the IBM convention being held in Reno, Nevada. This means there also will be no Magi-Gram in July. The next regular meeting will be Aug. 3. The theme then will be Children's Magic.

Coming Events

Card Clinic in Concert, featuring Roberto Giobbi and Jamy Ian Swiss, in conjunction with Jamy Ian Swiss 4th Card Clinic.

Date: June 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Place: Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington.

Cost: Tickets are \$25. Seating is extremely limited. Reserve seats now by contacting info@card-clinic.com, providing number of tickets required and your contact information. The performance will run approximately one hour, beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m.; make certain you arrive no later than 6:15 in order to be seated. Card Clinic Dates: June 3-5 Special Card Clinic Guest: Roberto Giobbi, author of the five-volume Card College books. Also featuring Michael Close and David Ben.

Contact: Write for an email prospectus at info@card-clinic.com or go to the website at www.card-clinic.com.

Dave Shepherd Close-up Magic

Dates: Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Contact: 703-385-2646 or 703-623-3952.

Web site: www.daveshepmagic.com

SAM Meeting

Date: June 15 at 7 p.m.

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

Theme: Are you reading me? Magic with a message or Mindreading.

Contact: John Flanagan at (703) 582-6349 flanagnmagic@yahoo.com or Ray Eyler at (410) 798-0176 ceyler1026@aol.com

Bob Little's Super Sunday Magic Convention

Date: June 12

Place: Holiday Inn, 3499 Street Road, Bensalem, PA 19020. Phone: 215-638-1500.

Cost: \$30

Contact: Bob Little Guaranteed Magic, 27 Bright Road, Hatboro, PA 19040. Telephone 215-672-3344.

Switch to email delivery today

If you want to begin receiving this newsletter by E-mail only, please let Editor Jim Flanagan know by emailing him today at jflanigan@aol.com.

2005 Magi-Whirl, a one-day convention sponsored by Ring 50 -- the National Capital Chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Date: Saturday, June 25, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Place: Cedar Ridge Community Church, 2410 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD

Accommodations: Best Western Maryland Inn, 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707-2957, located 3 miles from the convention site.

Cost: \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. Registration covers all events, including evening show. \$10 evening show only.

Features: Close-up magic lecture, stand-up magic lecture, dealers and public evening show.

Contact: <http://www.Magi-Whirl.org>

Saturday Morning at the Movies

Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD

Date: June 11 at 10 a.m.

Noland's Magic featuring Noland Montgomery plus Saturday morning movie "Muppet Treasure Island" with Kermit and Miss Piggy doing their version of Robert Louis Stevenson's famous classic about a band of wicked pirates.

Cost: \$5

Contact: 301-277-1710 (Box Office) or TTY 301-277-0312

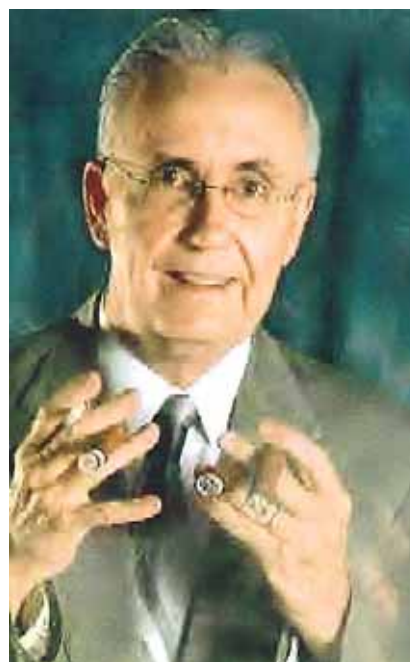
"Mind Games: The Mysterious World of Alain Nu"

This series of four hour-long specials continues on The Learning Channel.

Date: June 26. Episode 3 airs at 9 p.m. and Episode 4 follows immediately at 10 p.m.

Ring 50 member cited

Ring 50 member Jerry Foster, who belongs to Chapter 48 of the Disabled American Veterans in Virginia, recently was cited by the DAV organization. He was given a plaque as the DAV chapter's Disabled Veteran of the Year for his "magic" as co-editor of its newsletter and for his "magic of joy" in entertaining disabled veterans.



LECTURER--*John Rogers will offer his "Know Sleight Intended" lecture at Magi-Whirl.*

Pocahontas State Park Presto! Magic Under the Stars sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 50 and MeX Productions. This event takes place in the park's amphitheater. Featured performers will be Keith Pass and Eric Redman from Ring 50 and special guest illusionist David Knight from the Roanoke ring.

Date: July 23 at 6 p.m. Gates open at 4 p.m.

Place: Pocahontas State Park 20 miles from downtown Richmond. From I-95, take Exit 61 and go west on Route 10 to Route 655 which is Beach Road; or take Exit 67, go north on Route 150 to Route 10; go east to Beach Road. The park is four miles on right; or take Route 288 from I-95 to Route 10 East and go one mile to Beach Road. Follow park signs from there.

Cost: Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 the day of the show. Kids under 12 are free.

Contact: Pocahontas State Park at 804-796-4255 or Mike Taggart at mtaggart@cox.net.

Between Magi-Gram issues, you can get the latest news on events and restaurant performers at the Ring 50 Web site www.IBMRing50.org.

Danny Archer hits bullseye at lecture

Danny Archer mixed philosophy and prestidigitation in a lecture which drew a big crowd at Ring 50's May meeting.

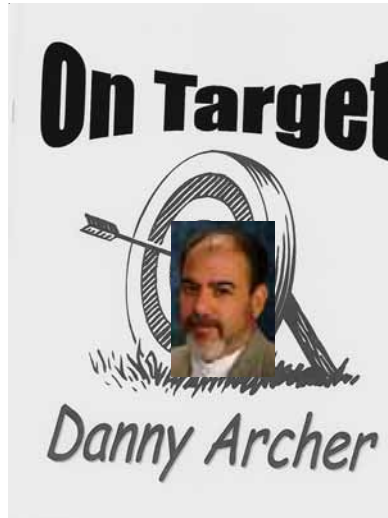
"The river of magic is very wide and very deep," the guest magician told his audience.

Archer's creative magic, engaging personality and performance style came through in the "On Target" lecture presentation. He began with several prediction effects including his popular Animental routine using four laminated plaques featuring zoo animals.

Our lecturer captured everyone's attention with a clever three-coin routine called Sub-Atomic. He began showing two totally empty hands and then cleanly produced the trio of silver dollars. He then vanished the coins before reproducing them once again.

Archer capped the evening by assuming the role of a tough-talking mobster named "Geno Mozzarella" for a slick three-ball routine. Helping him out by holding a mesh netting to catch the balls were Ring 50 members Keith Harmon and Allen Cleveland.

Archer announced at the lecture that he and Robert Allen will host the fifth annual Las Vegas Magic Invitational in the Nevada entertainment capital June 12-14. The three-day event of close-up



Lecture notes with Archer cameo

and cabaret magic will be held in the Palace Station Hotel and Casino. The Las Vegas event features close-up, stand-up and mentalism with everything from self-working to imaginative sleight of hand. This year's special guest of honor will be Paul Harris. Other performers scheduled to appear will be Eric DeCamps, Allan Ackerman, John Bannon, David Solomon, Chris Randall, Daryl, Michael Ammar, Gazzo, John Bannon, Earl Nelson and Gaetan Bloom.

Ricky Jay "master" of sleight-of-hand in Washington show

Ricky Jay displayed "absolute mastery" in his wizardly one-man show "Ricky Jay and His 52 Assistants" which ended a long run in May at the Studio Theater in Washington, according to Peter Marks, the theater critic for the Washington Post.

While Jay fools you again and again and again with his sleight-of-hand, he never makes a fool of you, the newspaper critic noted.

"He allows an audience to believe it's being let in on the joke when in fact it's being kept completely



Ricky Jay

clueless," Marks wrote.

"They say there's a sucker born every minute. This genial raconteur makes you happy to claim your birthright," he observed.

Jay's friend David Mamet directed the show which ran through May 22.

"All the history Jay recounts may be true. Still, as his entire theatrical raison revolves around misdirection, how do we know that this professional trickster isn't gaming us? We don't, but what the heck?" Marks said.

The set used in Jay's act is a book-filled study.

"Of course, the real goal here is not to edify but to astonish, and Jay accomplishes this with a few basic props. His style is the antithesis of that of David Copperfield, whose illusions incorporate more working parts than a Boeing 757. As the title implies, a deck of cards is all Jay requires for some marvelous bits of legerdemain," the Post critic said.

"Once or twice, it must be stated, there's a teeny-weeny flub," Marks observed. "In the cups-and-balls segment, what appears to be a mistiming of half a millisecond or so allows you to see him slip the little balls under one of the cups."

"Does it matter? Of course not," Marks concluded. "By this point in the proceedings, Jay's thoughtful narrative and nimble fingers have broken down any resistance you may be harboring,"

Copperfield performance draws some mixed reviews

A contingent of Ring 50 members held premium balcony seats for the recent David Copperfield stage show at the Warner Theatre in downtown Washington. The master magician's performance drew mixed reviews.

Those watching Copperfield for the first time marveled at the rapid-fire and well-choreographed evening of magic, mystery and comedy. Others who have seen magic's super star in the past experienced a feeling of déjà vous and observed that he was delivering his lines mostly by rote.

In a spectacular finish, Copperfield repeated a feat in which he vanishes a dozen randomly chosen members of the audience from the stage. In the past, the spectators have almost immediately reappeared in a balcony section above the stage. This time the theater crowd was told the missing

people could be found in the lobby as people were filing out of the auditorium.

Copperfield also dredged up an illusion in which a young woman who



Copperfield

supposedly was parted from an estranged father is reunited with him in a split second on a remote island thousands of miles away from the theater thanks to video magic. He did the same bit on the same stage several years ago.

Cynthia McMullen of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, who had reviewed Copperfield's earlier appearance in the Virginia capital, speculated that if the magician-illusionist-trickster job doesn't work out, Copperfield could always take a run at stand-up. "He has the comedy thing down pat," she said.



New Ring 50 President Don Freedman performs as Mr. Mysto on some occasions

Meet the Prez

Ring 50 leader outlines goals

For more than 30 years, Don Freedman has used magic to illustrate the principles of the graduate level courses he taught. He has also performed at various professional symposiums and corporate development sessions where he ties his magic performance to the session theme and the presentations of the major speakers.

Don Freedman enjoys the skills displayed by our membership. However, he believes what really makes a difference between a good magic performance and an excellent performance is the story that surrounds the magic. According to Don, the magic he does is pretty simple by the standards of most magicians. He tries

to make his magic memorable by the story he tells.

Don's approach to magic tends toward humor rather than portraying himself as having any special powers. He tries to surprise his audience by having things turn out differently than they expect. That is why he always has liked the 3 ½ of clubs and Color Monte. He also believes in respecting the audience. If he is going to surprise his audience, he tries to make himself the butt of any joke rather than embarrassing his audience assistant.

Don hopes to accomplish three things during his term. He wants to see Ring 50 take a leading role in making the public in the metropolitan Washington area more aware of the

wealth of magic talent that exists here. He would like to expand the role of the Ring 50 in promoting young people's interest in magic with members acting as mentors. Finally, he wants a more active Ring 50 membership. To this end, he challenges each member to work to increase our rolls by 10 percent and increase our attendance at the monthly meetings by 25 percent. He welcomes your ideas on how to accomplish these goals.

Perhaps, the most important quality that Don will bring to his role as the Ring 50 president is the ability to make people believe in themselves, in magic, and in their own unique talents and personalities.

I.B.M. Ring 50--The National Capital Ring

is pleased to announce

MAGI-WHIRL 2005

Saturday, June 25, 2005

10 A.M. - 10 P.M.

(Registration opens at 9 AM)

Featuring

KOHL & COMPANY

As seen on ABC TV's "World's Wildest Magic"

*Stand-up Magic lecture by JOHN ROGERS

*Exclusive Q&A session with Dick Kohlhafer (Kohl & Co.)

*Dealer Room Open All Day

*90 minute Public Evening Show



Kohl & Co. trio noted for its wild antics

*Beautiful location--Meeting rooms with 500-seat auditorium on a 63-acre horse farm
Hotel and restaurants nearby*

Location:

Cedar Ridge Community Church

2410 Spencerville Road

On MD Rt. 198, 5 miles west of I-95, 2 miles west of U.S. 29

<http://www.Magi-Whirl.org>

Cost is only \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door (includes evening show)

Evening Show only tickets are \$10 (for family & friends)

PLEASE NOTE: Up to 300 (out of 500) seats are being donated by local businesses to families of military personnel, so it's quite possible that the evening show will be sold out well before the event. If you are planning to buy show tickets for family and friends DO IT NOW when you register to avoid disappointment.

Full info at <http://www.Magi-Whirl.org>

Major credit cards accepted only at the web site, checks accepted by mail

Cash ONLY at the door.

Not going to Reno? Getting Ready for Reno? Whet Your Appetite for Reno!

Go to Magi-Whirl 2005! <http://www.Magi-Whirl.org>