

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -The National Capital Ring Volume 61 June/July 2007



Winton Carroll

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of Magicians Ring 50
The National Capital Ring**

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JUNE MEETING

Wednesday, June 6, 2007
HOLIDAY INN
IN ALEXANDRIA
2460 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA

6:00 Cocktails

6:45 Dinner

8:00 Meeting/Show



Michael Taggart

New officers assume office at June meeting

Michael Taggart will be installed as the new president of Ring 50 in June. He moves up from his current position as vice president. He also was the coordinator for the recent highly successful Magi-Whirl convention.

Other officers who will be sworn in at the monthly meeting will be Louis Meyer, vice president; Bob Patterson, returning as treasurer; Laurie Curry, secretary; and Reggie Rice, sergeant-at-arms. Dwight Redman, who is stepping down as president, will become a director along with Bill Wells and Don Freedman, who are former Ring 50 presidents.

Michael began his love of magic when he was 10. He helped put on a magic show as the assistant to a friend. "I was bitten by the bug," he says.

He started learning about magic by watching Harry Blackstone Jr. and Mark Wilson on TV. Later he became one of the regular Saturday morning

(Continued on page 2)

Winton Carroll Award competition planned for June meeting

A new contest -- The Winton Carroll Award for Most Humorous Magician -- will be staged at the June meeting of Ring 50. The winning magician will receive a \$100 cash prize for displaying the most unique humor in his or her act.

This competition, which honors the memory of a former Ring 50 president, will be held each year for the next five years. Winton Carroll performed as "The Magical Major" using unique humor in his shows.

The winner will be determined by a "people's choice" vote of the audience. All performers must be paid up members of IBM Ring 50 to compete. Potential entrants should contact Ring 50 President Dwight Redman or Vice President Mike Taggart.



THE WINNER--Noland Montgomery was chosen Magician of the Year at the annual Dan Lacey trophy competition in May. **More, page 4-5.**

No Ring 50 meeting in July

There will be no Ring 50 Magi-Gram published in July. The next issue will be for August. There also will be no Ring 50 meeting in July because of the IBM international meeting in Reno.

Coming Events

Show and Lecture by Jeff McBride at Denny & Lee Magic Studio, 325 South Maryln Avenue, Baltimore
Jeff McBride—Magic At The Edge—East Coast Tour 2007 features a full evening show. His new two-hour “Survival Magic!” lecture covers close-up, stand-up and stage magic.
Date: Tuesday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$60

Jeff McBride Master Class at Denny’s
Date: Wednesday, June 6
This is an “all day” workshop” beginning around 2 p.m., going until a dinner break, then resuming around 6 p.m.
Contact: Denny’s at 410-686-3914 or email dennymagic@aol.com.

Society of American Magicians (SAM) Larry West Assembly 28
Date: April 18 at 7 p.m.
Place: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC.
Theme: “Please Mr. Postman”
Contacts: Ray Eyer at 410/798-0176 ceyler1026@aol.com or James Munton at 301-322-5605 -- james@jamesmunton.com.

The 2007 MAES Convention sponsored by the Magicians’ Alliance of the Eastern States featuring a lineup of performers that includes George Saterial, Dan Garrett, Alain Chiquette, Goldfinger & Dove, Bruce Kalver, Bob Little, Howard Mancone, Rich Baccare, Graham Fishman, Joe Lefler, Lovell Buchannan, Joan Decour, Richard Sanders, and Bill & Nadine Dickson.
Date: Aug. 23-25, 2007
Place: Trevoise, PA
Location: The Radisson Hotel, 2400 Old Lincoln Highway at US Route 1, Trevoise, PA 19053. Phone 215-638-8300
Lifetime dues for MAES are \$15. To join, fill out a membership form and send it to:
Joseph Curcillo, MAES Secretary
3964 Lexington Street
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Contact: www.maesonline.org.

Check out Ring 50’s blog site anytime for updates

Between Ring 50 Magi-Gram issues, check out the latest news events and performances at the official Ring 50 site:



The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion featuring breath-taking illusions by modern-day Houdinis.
Place: The Rouse Theatre in Columbia, MD
Date: June 16 at 8 p.m.
Cost: Tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$10; seniors and students, \$30, \$20 and \$7.
Contact: <http://www.columbiainfestival.com/the-spencers.htm>

Daily Magic in Ancient Egypt
Place: Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore
Dates: Occurs every week on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday continuing through Nov. 18, 2007.
Time: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Cost: Admission free.
Contact: <http://www.thewalters.org/>

“Illusions at Illusions” featuring Geo the Illusionist (Geoffery “Geo” Weber) on Friday evenings.
Dates: Every other Friday.
Place: Illusions Thai Cafe (formerly Haad Thai), Mark Center shopping complex, 1472 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311
Contact: www.illusionsthai.com or <http://www.magicbygeo.com/illusionsad.html>

IBMRing50.org. For information, email info@ibmring50.org.

New officers

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kids at Earl Edwards Magic Shop in Norfolk. He attended the Governor’s High School for Theater in Norfolk.
After high school, Michael joined the U.S. Air Force. In the Air Force he worked with its talent program and helped with the 1982 worldwide talent competition and the 1983 “Tops in Blue” tour

After his military service, Michael returned to Norfolk where he met and married the young lady who was the manager at “Magic and More, Inc.” in Norfolk. Michael and Pam moved to Fredericksburg in 1988 to start their family. All the while Michael has performed and worked around the state of Virginia as well as the rest of the country.

Michael has been doing magic professionally for more than 20 years. He has performed over 2,000 times up and down the East Coast. His magical career has taken him to all of the continental United States and to England, Germany and France. Along the way he was selected as the Norfolk Magic Society’s “Magician of the Year.” He has won an American Chamber of Commerce’s communication award for excellence in corporate presentation.

He also has performed for the Embassy of the Royal Netherlands in Washington and at most major festivals in the area. He has been honored as a Virginia Premier Professional Performer. And he has recently been seen at the Helen Hayes Gallery of the National Theatre performing for a Saturday morning children’s series.

Among those who have influenced Michael’s magic are Harry Anderson, George Schindler, Doug Henning and Jeff McBride. He bills himself as Michael Taggert, Magician Extraordinaire.



Mike Taggert

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ring 50 Members:

They say time flies when you're having fun. The last year seems like it zoomed by. My year as your President is over and I want to thank you for the privilege to lead our club. I want to thank all of the club members for your participation in the club's activities all year. Thanks goes out to all of the members who performed in our monthly meetings, those who supported us by buying dinner in the restaurant and if all you did was to help put the room back together after the meetings, I want to thank you too.

I want to especially thank my fellow officers, Mike Taggart, Bob Patterson and Geoff Weber. I could not have been successful without your dedication and efforts. I must thank Jim Flanigan for his fantastic work on the Magi-Gram and Eric Henning for his tireless work as our webmaster. I solicited advice from many of you to help me make my decisions and I want to say thanks to Buddy Smith and Bill & Becky Wells for listening to me.

At the beginning of my term, I set three goals for the year: I wanted to make the meetings something the members would look forward to, I wanted to have two lectures and I wanted to have a successful Magi-Whirl.

I think the meetings we had last year were not only entertaining for the members but hopefully we learned something new at each session. We averaged between 40 and 50 attendees at the meetings and even more when we had our lecture and contests. The membership grew from 92 to 102 members and we are attracting new people to each meeting.

We had one lecture this year. We enjoyed the fantastic magic of John Born and he liked the club so much, he attended one of our meetings as a guest later in the year. The second lecture did not happen because of all the attention placed on Magi-Whirl but we substituted the lecture with a teach-in that all of the members enjoyed.

Magi-Whirl consumed most of our energy and attention this year. We not only had to put the event together but we had to provide the confidence to the club that it could be done. There was some doubt because of the problems we had with past MagiWhirls but everyone pulled together and we made this year's convention a rousing success for the club. We had 80 attendees at the convention and 442 attended the Gala Show. The dealers were happy with the turnout and the problems we encountered were few and manageable.

We are seizing the momentum from this year's successful Magi-Whirl to move ahead with plans for next year's convention. We already have a commitment from Bishop Ireton to provide the school for next year and we are starting to look now for the best talent for Magi-Whirl 2008. Let's help Mike make it bigger and better next year as he assumes Ring 50's leadership role for the coming year.

We had our annual Dan Lacey contest last month and had a repeat winner. Noland Montgomery won for the third time in five years.

Congratulations for an outstanding performance.

We also elected new officers for next year. Congratulations to your new president, Mike Taggart. The new vice president is Louis Meyer, Laurie Currie is the new secretary, Bob Patterson is remaining as treasurer and Reggie Rice is the new sergeant-at-arms. Good luck and congratulations to all of them.

Again, I want to say thanks for the great experience of leading the club and thanks for all of the support you gave me to make this year a year I won't forget.

Dwight Redman, Sr.



Dwight Redman

During Ring 50 President Dwight Redman's tenure, which ran from June 1, 2006, to May 31, 2007, there was a 13 percent increase in membership. There were a total of 92 members by June of 2006. There were 96 active members by June 2007 plus eight honorary members for a total membership count of 104 Ring 50 members. The ring gained nine new members from the first of June last year to the end of May this year.



Photo by Kevin Curry

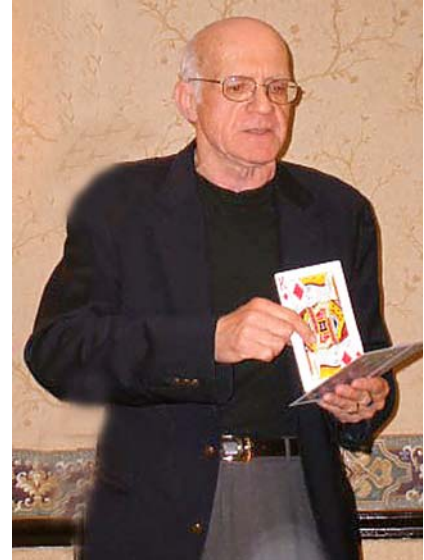
BIG PAYOFF -- Ring 50 officers Michael Taggart and Dwight Redman presented a giant-sized check for \$2,210 to Bishop Ireton High School in May for the school's share of the recent 2007 Magi-Whirl stage show. Jessica Seeley, a student at Bishop Ireton High School, accepted the proceeds from the show. The evening performance attracted more than 400 patrons.

Dan Lacey competition a big hit with crowd



Noland Montgomery regained Ring 50's title of "Magician of the Year" at the Dan Lacey Memorial Trophy competition held in May. He previously earned Ring 50's revolving trophy in 2004 and 2005. His presentation included a humorous street version of the cups and balls. He wrapped up his routine producing two large balls from under the cups and a coconut from a seemingly empty hat. As the winner, he will perform at Magi-Whirl 2008.

The fifth annual Dan Lacey Memorial Trophy competition for the title of Magician of the Year was a big hit at the May meeting of Ring 50. Dan was a former Ring 50 president (1999-2000) who was noted for promoting goodwill and fellowship. Judges based their selections on originality, presentation, performance and entertainment skills.



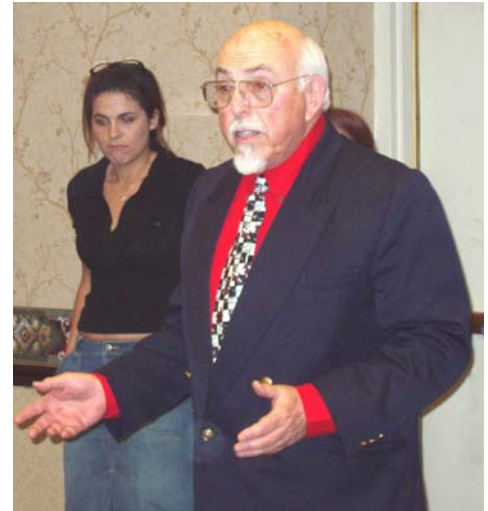
Arnie Fuoco demonstrated how a jumbo-size king could be placed on a card diet when he was placed between two other large cards and stretched.



Dwight Redman, who was last year's trophy winner, lightened the tone with a whimsical egg production routine using an empty egg bag. Finally, he placed an egg on a table and magically a dove appeared.



Sam Brothers showed a deck on which the backs were all different. No two were alike. A spectator was asked to deal the cards face down and stop anytime they wished. At that point a marker card -- a three of spaces -- from another deck was placed face up. The pack was squared and the spectator again dealt cards face down stopping anytime they wished. Again a marker card -- a three of clubs -- was placed face up. When the cards were spread on the table the card facing the marker cards matched exactly. When the deck was turned over, all the cards were jacks.



Don Freedman offered his own "Masters of Fate" routine in which audience members randomly selected foil-wrapped packets containing colored poker chips. When plaques on which the assistants were standing were turned over, they matched the colored chips they had taken.



Geoff Weber borrowed a \$20 bill from Dan Lacey's sister Cecelia and had her mark it. He slipped the bill into a silk and asked her to hold it. Then he gave her a choice of three oranges. When Geoff took the silk back, the bill had vanished. He then cut open the chosen orange and the missing \$20 bill was inside the fruit.



Jason Goldberg donned a pair of cool x-ray glasses. Another sister of Dan Lacey, Kay, selected a card which Jason tried to identify without any luck. However, when he took off his special glasses, the chosen card was on the inside of them.



Barry Taylor stands in middle of new shop as he readies for move

Barry's Magic Shop relocation coming soon

Barry Taylor and his wife and partner Susie Kang, along with Frankie the Wonder Dog, will be opening Barry's Magic Shop at a new location at 5544 Nicholson Lane in Rockville, Md., in mid-July. Their last day at their longtime Wheaton location will be Saturday, June 2.

They have been working day and night to be ready for the change. The new store is three times the size of the current location with 4,000 square feet of space. "It's big—it's really big," Barry said. "We are practically at the intersection of Rockville Pike and Nicholson Lane," Susie added.

After they move their merchandise, they will have a fire sale in the old shop on a Saturday or a Sunday in June and try to sell off everything they do not bring to the new store.

"We will notify everyone when we are ready," they said. "This is a huge and back-breaking move. We've never moved before so we cannot tell you the exact date for anything yet."

Barry said they have many plans for the new Barry's Magic Shop including a small theater seating 40 people. In September they will host a "Magic Idol" competition similar to American Idol. The grand prize will be a \$250 gift certificate from Barry's Magic Shop and a trophy. A photo of

the winning magician will be displayed at the magic shop. The winner is selected by audience votes.

Entrants in the contest can perform close-up or stage magic. "We're probably going to have two series—one for children and one for adults and it will probably be held on Saturday evenings. The audience ticket price will be \$10 and people will be able to buy seat tickets on line.

In addition to the Magic Idol competition, there also are plans to bring back the popular Open Magic Night for area magicians to perform before live audiences.

And Barry's will hold monthly lectures and magic classes.

"We are totally excited about our new location when we open and we hope you visit us," they said.

Meanwhile, you can stop at the present location on Georgia Avenue in Wheaton, Md., to see the magic shop of 33 years for the last time.

Barry said he will have Mike Kaminkas as his first lecturer at his new location. Michael Kaminkas is a close-up magic artist who centers his routines around common objects, making for the best kind of seemingly impromptu magic. His most recent DVD, being sold at Barry's, is "Half A Miracle" in which a two-toned color handkerchief is used.

"Master magician" Woody Landers dies in accident

Woody Landers used to hold both laymen and magicians alike spellbound with his classic close-up magic. He was a longtime friend of Ring 50 who had lectured in the past.

A number of magicians, including Buddy and Betty Smith and Bill Wells from the Washington area, attended an afternoon burial service for Rodger "Woody" Landers at



Woody Landers

Mount Calvary Cemetery in Richmond on May 18. He was 64. He died in a tragic traffic accident on May 14. The largest number of magicians represented at the service came from Ring 180 in Richmond.

"Woody touched almost everyone in the magic community," according to Lou Dean of Richmond.

"The magical fingers are now still, but the man and his wonderful talents will never be forgotten," an obituary in the Richmond Times Dispatch observed.

Woody was a master magician and for many years was a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He had an enthusiastic fascination with magic. He spent more than 50 years honing his skills. He was a charter member of the Society of American Magicians Williamsburg Assembly. His specialty was eye-popping sleight of hand.

Woody lectured at many magicians' societies, clubs and conventions. Amateurs and technically-skilled alike sought him out for advice and instructions. If you sincerely loved the art of magic, you became Woody's friend

"It's tough to lose a good man and a wonderful magician like him," one magician said.

"Woody, one of our honorary members, was known and loved by

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many in the D.C. Area. He will be missed," another noted.

"What a shame. Woody was a good friend and a faithful customer for many, many years," noted longtime Washington magic dealer Al Cohen.

A Louisville, Ky., man remembered first encountering Woody at the Divine Magic counter on Lakeside Avenue in Richmond. Woody was there along with Hun Woo and his wife, Donna, owners of the shop.

The Kentucky patron remembered that Woo, as they call Hun, was hilarious. He showed him everything from a comic sponge ball shell game to slight of hand and pyro-tech stuff. "Over there is Woody Landers, one of the best coin and card men around today."

"Woo was right," the Kentuckian said. "Woody Landers was a fabulous talent. With cards or coins in his hands it was true magic."

Woody was riding his moped in the early morning when he was struck while trying to make a left turn at Gateway and Parham Roads in Henrico, Virginia State Police reported. He died later at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond.

Woody was survived by two brothers and one sister. He was predeceased by a twin brother. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to one's favorite charity.

Ring leaders soliciting ideas about lecturers

Ring 50's new officers want your help to select some lecturers for the coming year. If you have some lecture recommendations or wish to convey the types of lectures you would like to have at a Ring 50 meeting, please send your comments to President-elect Mike Taggart or Treasurer Bob Patterson. We need to build a list that meets your desires and then we will, make every effort to bring these lectures to the National Capital Ring meeting. If you have bios or reviews on any lecture that you are interested in, pass it on.

IBM convention countdown underway in gambling mecca

Tribute to Blackstone's magic planned

The countdown has started for the International Brotherhood of Magicians annual convention in Reno, Nevada, where a lineup of performers is sure to entertain the participants. It will start June 26.

This year there will be a special stage presentation... "In the Spirit of Blackstone, 100 Years of Magic History" ... focusing on the legendary Harry Blackstone Sr., who performed as "The Great Blackstone," and his son Harry Blackstone Jr.

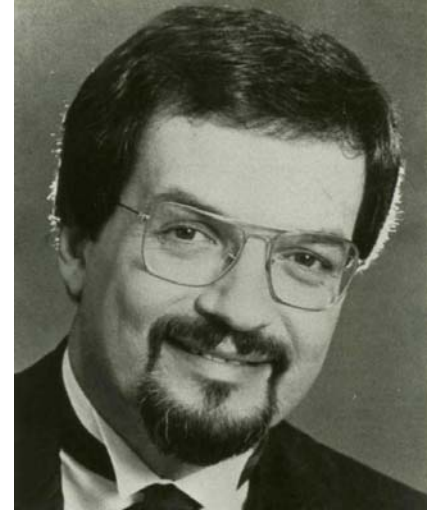
Harry Blackstone Jr. was an American stage magician, author and television performer who received the Magician of the Year Award in 1979 and 1985. Growing up, he was seen in his father's act. Blackstone developed his own show using some of his father's best effects as well as many of his own in which he modernized his performance. Blackstone died May 14, 1997 from complications related to pancreatic cancer.

Blackstone's widow, Gay Blackstone, is the current president of the Magic Castle in Hollywood. She was his assistant in his stage show. She will be at the IBM convention again this year.

Reno's own Mark Kalain and Jinger also will appear at the 2007 IBM convention in Reno. They will be presenting a new lecture for the first time. They have their own Magic Underground theater in Reno which offers an amazing show in itself.

The lineup for the convention at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno includes Trevor Lewis, Tony Chapek, Rich Bloch, Ali Bongo, Murray Hatfield and Teresa, Hikari, Chuck Jones & Co., Mark Merchant, Antje Pode Mertens, Terry Seabrooke, Yugi Yasuda, Arthur Trace, Michael Close, Jon Armstrong, Henry Evans, Patrick Przysiecki, Boris Wilde and William Jarvis.

Any Ring 50 members who plan to attend this year's convention should



Harry Blackstone Jr.



Mark Kalain and Jinger

contact Treasurer Bob Patterson to arrange for a group portrait.

SAM group performs at National Press Club

A half dozen magicians from Larry West Assembly No. 23, Society of American Magicians, entertained two standing-room-only crowds at the National Press Club in mid-April. The acts by the SAM magicians ranged from a street-wise rendition of the classic cups and balls, to a dazzling array of card dexterity and the transformation of a rolled up newspaper into a paper fern tree.