

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 62 No. 3 March 2008

Magi-Whirl curtain going up this month

The curtain rises on Ring 50's 2008 Magi-Whirl convention and stage show this month. Tickets for the Saturday night elaborate Evening of Magic in the 750-seat theater at Bishop Ireton High School are only \$10 each.

R
I
N
G
50



**International Brotherhood
of Magicians Ring 50
The National Capital Ring**

President

Michael Taggart
(540) 370-0752

president@ibmring50.org

Vice President

Louis Meyer
(703) 765-1923

vp@ibmring50.org

Secretary

Laurie Curry
(703) 698-6953

secretary@ibmring50.org

Treasurer

Bob Patterson
(703) 490-1222

treasurer@ibmring50.org

Sergeant-of-Arms

Reggie Rice
(240) 298-6077

sgtarms@ibmring50.org

Magi-Gram Editor

Jim Flanigan
(202) 554-3775

magi-gram@ibmring50.org

Webmaster

Eric Henning
(301) 369-0025

eric@ibmring50.org

You will be able to hang out with other magicians and people devoted to magic. You may learn new tricks, ideas, presentations and, of course, see some great performances. You won't want to miss these great lecturers: Kenrick "ICE" McDonald, Aldo and Rachel Colombini, and Eric Jones. A question and answer session is planned with Richard Kaufman, editor of Genii Magazine, and there will be close-up magic featuring Wild Man Bob Little, Richard Kaufman, and Brian Morton.

Nearly a dozen magic dealers will be demonstrating and hawking some of the latest tricks and effects. You can see



**Stephon Walker
alias
Swami
Yomahmi**

Four Corners Night a learning experience

Our traditional Four Corners Night program is planned for the March meeting. Table lecturers will show you special effects that you can incorporate into your own routine. You will make the rounds of each table. for this month's meeting night. If you would like to be one of the corner specialists please call Ring 50 President Mike Taggart or email him right away.

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

**HOLIDAY INN
IN ALEXANDRIA**

2460 Eisenhower Avenue

Alexandria, VA

6:00 Cocktails

6:45 Dinner

8:00 Meeting/Lecture

and talk to professional magicians and look at new magic items for sale. On Friday night, March 28, there will be a dealer's show with the magical merchants demonstrating the latest mystical items, silks, accessories, and supplies.

The dealers are: Wild Colombini Magic – Aldo Colombini; Sorcery with Class – Scott Correll; Guaranteed Magic – Bob Little; E - m m a c u l a t e Deceptions - Eric Jones; Magic Goods – Pravin Ponnuri; Hughes Magic – Richard Hughes; Fred's Books – Fred Mitchell; Magic Enhancer – Robert Haas; Immagination – Bernardo Del Ray; Kozmo Magic, Inc. – Ted Brainard; Magic, Balloons & Dave Cresey Products - John Reid; and SASCO - Sharon Wasserman.

The 90-minute Saturday night show will spotlight The Magic of Kenrick "ICE" McDonald, Aldo Colombini, Swami Yomahmi and Ring 50's Magician of the Year Noland Montgomery. The magical master of ceremonies will be Rich Bloch.



Rich Bloch



**Kenrick
"ICE"
McDonald**



**Aldo
Colombini**



**Noland
Montgomery**



**Richard
Kaufman**

Coming Events

Lecture by Michael Kaminiskas at Barry's Magic

(Original lecture cancelled by ice)
Date: March 7 at 8 p.m. Cost: \$20
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

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.

"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



Teller

"Macbeth" in Washington, D.C.
Dates: Shows extended through April 13.
Cost: Prices vary; call box office.
Contact: 202/544-7077
Website: <http://www.folger.edu>
Special Note: Read Genii Magazine's article in its February 2008 issue.

Teller Talks

As part of the Folger Theatre's "Words on Will" lecture series, Teller

--the usually silent half of the magician duo Penn & Teller--talks with fellow director Aaron Posner about their collaboration on "Mabeth" at the Folger.

Date: Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.
Place: Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St. NE, across the street from Folger Shakespearean Library.
Cost: \$25
Contact: 202-544-7077 (box office) or www.folger.edu/wordsonwill.



Barry Taylor

Salute to Barry Taylor

Sponsor: Assembly 23, the Larry West Assembly of the Society of American Magicians (SAM) will honor Barry Taylor with its first annual "Sammy Award" in honor of Barry's three decades of service to the magic community. 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 Restaurant at 7 p.m.

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

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@appsamagic.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.-1 a.m.
1025 S. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: (410) 727-5811

Magician and part owner Spencer Horsman works the floor, dazzling the crowd with card tricks and more thoroughly with an elaborate escape routine. Located south of the Inner Harbor. The management suggests calling for reservations on Friday and Saturday nights. There is a \$5 cover charge on weekend nights starting at 8:30 p.m. until the end of the stage show.

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



Al Cohen

Al Cohen Lifetime Achievement

Date: April 5

Place: Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Sponsor: The Academy of Magical Arts --"The Magic Castle"

Purpose: Former Washington magic shop owner Al Cohen will receive this year's Lifetime Achievement Fellowship for his outstanding contributions as a demonstrator and dealer. 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 Brown.

Ring 50 2008 Schedule

March 5 -- Four Corners Teach-In

March 28-29—Magi-Whirl. *"The best little convention in the National Capital Area"*

April 2 -- Auction. Dust off some of the great effects you no longer need and put them in the auction. There will be a silent auction and a live auction for bigger items.

May 7 — Dan Lacy Contest. Sharpen up your skills for the annual "Washington DC Magician of the Year" with competition open to all Ring 50 members.

June 4 — Winton Carroll "Most Humorous Magician" Contest. Present your comedy magic and win a \$100 prize. Open to all Ring 50 members.

July — No meeting -- IBM/SAM joint convention in Louisville, Ky.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings,

Magi-Whirl is upon us! If you have not registered, your last chance to get your tickets at the deep discount price is at our next regularly scheduled Ring meeting. After that the price jumps up and no other discounts will be offered. Remember, as a Ring 50 member you can obtain your convention reservation and stage show ticket for just \$40 if you come to the March meeting. This will save you \$20 off the not discounted last-minute price.

I am excited that we have a great line-up of performers and notables coming to Magi-Whirl. We want you there to be part of this growing event. Keep in mind that this is fundraiser for our organization and for the high school where the convention and show will be held. So the first thing you can do to help is to sell tickets to the gala show and get your registration.

Do you own a business? Consider a program ad. Another thing we are doing is if you have clients you would like to give something to we have a coupon available you can use for such a purpose. This will get them ONE free ticket to the gala show when accompanied by another ticket buyer. We will tally your tickets and charge you for the cost. We have several members who are doing this. You get a nice giveaway to a client and we get the ticket sale. Using this method you do not have to buy a block of tickets. You only pay for the ones you actually use. You may only use the coupon that Ring 50 Treasurer Bob Patterson will provide to you.

The next thing we need you to do is to volunteer to help. If you have not signed up please email me right away. I will be calling in the next few days to get you on the lists. We particularly need help on Thursday night setting up the tables and demo rooms. Friday evening at 5 o'clock assistance is required to load in the dealers. Support also is required for



Michael Taggart

security and ushering. Clean up on Saturday night is another essential. And people need to work the refreshment services during the day on Saturday.

There will be several extra events again this year! Friday and Saturday night it is come-as-you-can to Houlihan's Bar at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield. Enjoy tall tales and adult beverages with the gang after the evening has ended. Sunday I will meet everyone who wishes to attend at a yet to be determined restaurant for brunch.

If you are available I would love to make the Sunday brunch part of the annual festivities. All of the extra events are pay as you go and are not part of the actual conference but are fun none the less. Lunch will again be on your own this year but — given the large number of folks who went to Generous George's last year — I bet you will find a bunch of us there again. Bring some impromptu magic to lunch. Several of us picked up a booking or two last year just over the lunch.

There is much going on in the Ring. We have asked Reggie Rice and Becky Wells to help put together a Magic Youth International (MYI) group for Ring 50. Those who would like to help with the young people in our organization please contact them for more information.

I was very happy that Len Frank was in attendance at the last meeting when Larry Hass, founder of the "Theory of Art and Magic" program at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, was our lecturer. Mr. Frank has been a member of the IBM for 73 years. He recently moved to the Gaithersburg, Md., area from California after suffering a stroke. He has asked to become a member of Ring 50. If you would like to stop by his nursing home I can get you his contact info.

Meanwhile, as I have outlined here, there is a lot going on this month with Magi-Whirl and everything else. Once again, please jump right in now and assist us. Let's make this the best convention we have ever put on!

Michael

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



Rich Bloch

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



Swami Yomahmi



Kenrick "Ice" McDonald



Noland Montgomery

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 magicians in the lobby

7:00 PM Seating for the Gala Evening Show begins

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



Aldo and Rachel
Colombini

“Macbeth” play gets magic touch from Vegas star

Shakespeare’s chilling Scottish tragedy “Macbeth” is unfolding this month at the Folger Theatre in Washington. The production is the creation of Emmy-winning magician Teller (of Penn and Teller) and Helen Hayes Award-winning director Aaron Posner. It is a startling, supernatural show brimming with magic, mayhem and madness.



There will be a rare chance to hear the usually silent Teller and Posner discuss how magic has been incorporated into the play. They will discuss their co-direction of the play the night of

Macbeth Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 6 o’clock in the Lutheran Church of the Reformation across from the Folger Shakespeare Library. Tickets for this special evening will be \$25.

This classic piece of Shakespeare follows the murderously ambitious and guilty Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in their quest for the throne. The cast features Ian Merrill Peakes as Macbeth and Kate Eastwood Norris as Lady Macbeth.

“Aaron and I have been talking about this for three years,” Teller said recently. “We hit on this simple goal: to use Shakespeare’s images and ideas to scare the living hell out of the audience.”

Teller continued, “We put the audience exactly into Macbeth’s place: they will see the phantoms and share the hallucinations and be baffled”

The production opened in January at the Two Rivers Theater in Red Bank, N.J., before moving to the Folger in the nation’s capital. “Macbeth” will run at the theater here through April 13.

Peter Marks, the theater critic for the Washington Post, first saw the Teller-Posner version of “Macbeth” in New Jersey.

“For a guy who gets paid plenty not to talk, Teller...puts a lot of stock in the importance of words. Or at least



Penn and Teller

that’s the impression he gives when immersed in the job of directing Shakespeare,” Marks noted in a recent review.

“Yes, you heard right. These days, when Teller has not been performing with his large, loquacious partner (Penn) in their standing 46-weeks-a-year gig at the Rio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, he’s been hanging out on the stage and in the rehearsal halls of a little theater company in this old business hub close to the Jersey Shore,” Marks observed.

Marks said that the “obsession” of the 59-year-old Teller is an illusion- and blood-filled production of the Shakespearean tragedy. “The professional magician is applying his sleight-of-hand skills to a play chockablock with ghosts and witches and other aspects of the supernatural that seem a natural showcase for his peculiar talents,” he said.

The impish-looking Teller talked to Marks in an interview over lunch when the show was taking place in New Jersey

“There’s nothing in the production,” Teller explained to the newspaper reviewer, “that Shakespeare doesn’t place before us.”

Posner, who worked in theater in Philadelphia for many years, and Teller, who is a native of the city, met a decade ago at the Arden Theatre, where Posner was directing a production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” there, according to Marks.

Marks said that the current production of “Macbeth” allowed Teller to assemble a roster of helpers such as a magic consultant, Matthew Holtzclaw, and a mask and special-effects makeup designer, Frank Ippolito, whose credits include “Pirates of the Caribbean” motion picture.

Without divulging any of the tricks Teller has devised for this “Macbeth”, Marks pointed out that some of the most famous illusions associated with the history of magic acts have been adapted for the play. “Some characters vanish and some objects levitate,” he observed.

When Teller had to return to Las Vegas during rehearsals, Holtzclaw, who is a New York actor, playwright and magician, stepped in to make the actors comfortable with the techniques of illusion-making.

In 1603, at about the middle of Shakespeare’s career as a playwright, a new monarch ascended the throne of England—James VI of Scotland, who then also became James I of England. Immediately, Shakespeare’s London was alive with an interest in things Scottish. Many Scots followed their king to London and attended the theaters there.

Shakespeare’s company, which became the King’s Men under James’s patronage, sometimes staged their plays for the new monarch’s entertainment, just as they had for Queen Elizabeth before him. In Scottish history of the 11th century, the Bard found a spectacle of violence—the slaughter of whole armies and of innocent families, the assassination of kings, the ambush of nobles by murderers. He came upon stories of witches and wizards providing advice to traitors.

Teller was inspired by the witches and wizards in Shakespeare’s famous play. He felt the story should be done “as violently and amazingly” as a modern supernatural horror movie.

Stay in touch always through Ring 50 site

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.



GUEST LECTURER--Ring 50 President Mike Taggert, left, greeted Larry Hass before Hass delivered a lecture.

“Art of Magic” founder urges “more magical” performances in acts

Larry Hass, founding director of “The Theory and Art of Magic” program at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, urged Ring 50 members at their February meeting to “make performances more magical” in a new lecture he has developed.

Hass, a philosophy professor at the college who is a magician in his own right, has written a new book, “Transformations: Creating Magic Out of Tricks,” which serves as the foundation for his lecture. He pointed out that experiencing magic is not commonplace but rare.

“It touches your heart,” he stressed.

Hass noted he personally experienced a feeling of real magic that made him exclaim “Wow! when he saw the late Tommy Wonder, a creative Dutch magician, perform in Chicago. He then invited others to complete the declaration: “I will never forget the night I saw...”

Former Ring 50 president Eric Henning said he would never forget the first time he saw Harry Blackstone Jr. on stage. Rucj Uffelman topped that by recalling witnessing Harry Blackstone Sr. perform. Sam Brothers added he was inspired when he first watched the late Doug Henning.

Hass encouraged magicians to develop individual presentational frames for their own acts. He told the Ring 50 audience that frames should “come from your own imagination” and

he emphasized that even silent presentations have frames.

Hass also told his lecture crowd of more than 65 that some standard card moves such as the finger break, which has been used by magicians for a half century, may be “on their way out” because lay audiences now are quick to recognize the method. He added that frustration count and double lift also may be on the endangered list. While some methods are close to extinction “we can try to repair them,” he said.

Ring head performs at Shakespeare fete

Ring 50 President Mike Taggert will perform on Sunday, April 27, as part of an annual William Shakespeare birthday celebration at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington. The event is from noon to 4 p.m. It is free, but there will be a charge for food and drink. There also will be jugglers and jesters, music, song and dance, stage combat workshops, and more. A cake-cutting ceremony in honor of Shakespeare will be presided over by Queen Elizabeth I at 3:30pm on the front lawn of the Folger.

Calling all teen magicians for World Magic Summit

All contestants must submit a tape/DVD of their act to be considered for entry in the Teen Stage Contest to be held at the 2008 World Magic Summit in Las Vegas. The deadline is March 1. Preliminary contests will be held on Monday and Tuesday mornings of the April 27-30 convention at The Orleans Hotel and Casino. Eight finalists will be chosen to compete on Wednesday in the Orleans Showroom. Teens should contact Bill Wells, 1105 Potomac Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308. For additional information email BWells@WorldMagicSeminar.Com.

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



Siegfried and Roy Magic duo set date for show

Siegfried & Roy have announced they will come out of retirement next year to perform at a “Keep Memory Alive” Alzheimer’s fundraiser. It will be their first stage appearance in more than four years, since Roy Horn was attacked by a white tiger and nearly died on Oct. 3, 2003, at The Mirage in Las Vegas.

The magical duo made the surprise announcement at the recent 12th annual Alzheimer’s benefit for the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute during the gala at the MGM Grand Garden in the gambling and entertainment mecca.

Asked if the show will include their white lions and tigers, Siegfried Fischbacher indicated the animals are “the signature of Siegfried and Roy.”

On his blog, Robin Leach told the story behind the story. Leach is an English celebrity writer famous for hosting his first show, *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, in the 1980s focusing on profiles of well-known celebrities and their lavish homes. He has long been a big supporter of the Brain Institute and a friend of the magicians. The magic reunion idea began when Leach suggested the idea to Siegfried.

Siegfried and Roy, who both grew up in Germany, met in 1957 on an oceanliner. Roy saw Siegfried pulling a rabbit out of a hat on stage and soon became his assistant.

Two new members join Ring 50

Two new members have been inducted into Ring 50. They are Peter Zawadzki, who has been a Yogi Magic Mart student in Baltimore and was inspired by Jeff McBride, and Brandon Tucker, a junior member who started magic when he was 9 years old.

Curtain going up on Magi-Whirl 2008



Bishop Ireton High School auditorium and stage



Buy show tickets now for friends and neighbors!

For details go to <http://www.magi-whirl.org>