

# MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 62 No. 5 May 2008

## Magi-Whirl “a roaring success”

Ring 50 President Michael Taggart, who also served as chairman of the 2008 Magi-Whirl, declared the event “a roaring success” in a recent memorandum to the membership.

“This year Magi-Whirl truly lived up to the ‘whirl’ part,” Mike noted. He commended Ring 50 members who contributed to the convention and stage show for helping make everything click.

Some of the out-of-town guests who have all attended conventions on a regular basis “rated us extremely high on the list of top quality conventions” they have seen, according to Mike. “They were all impressed with our organization and attention to detail as well as the hospitality they felt from our membership,” he said. “Let’s keep the momentum rolling on into 2009.”

Al Cohen, who ran Al’s Magic Shop for many years in downtown Washington, also offered high praise for Magi-Whirl 2008 after dropping by during the weekend. “From what I saw and what I heard it was a smashing success. You fellows have really done a magnificent job.”

Al said the first Magi-Whirls he remembered, were held at the National Press Club. “We started with a banquet on Friday night and with the dealers, lectures and show on Saturday and the gala show on Saturday night. To see this continue, after so many years, with such vigor and such great organization brings a very warm feeling to my heart.”

Ring 50 Treasurer Bob Patterson, who was the field commander for the event, was praised for his acute attention to every detail and credited with making it run so smoothly. Bob estimated that there was a 33 percent jump in convention registrations with 114 signing up this year compared to 86 last year. He figured that the total show tickets sold climbed 28 percent with 567 seeing the Saturday night entertainment extravaganza compared to 442 the year before.



**STAGE HIT**--Bob Sheets was a big hit of the Saturday night gala stage show at Magi-Whirl 2008. The show drew a record crowd. A variety of acts helped make it a success.

R  
I  
N  
G  
50



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

**President**

Michael Taggart  
(540) 370-0752

[president@ibmring50.org](mailto:president@ibmring50.org)

**Vice President**

Louis Meyer  
(703) 765-1923

[vp@ibmring50.org](mailto:vp@ibmring50.org)

**Secretary**

Laurie Curry  
(703) 698-6953

[secretary@ibmring50.org](mailto:secretary@ibmring50.org)

**Treasurer**

Bob Patterson  
(703) 490-1222

[treasurer@ibmring50.org](mailto:treasurer@ibmring50.org)

**Sergeant-of-Arms**

Reggie Rice  
(240) 298-6077

[sgtarms@ibmring50.org](mailto:sgtarms@ibmring50.org)

**Magi-Gram Editor**

Jim Flanigan  
(202) 554-3775

[magi-gram@ibmring50.org](mailto:magi-gram@ibmring50.org)

**Webmaster**

Eric Henning  
(301) 369-0025

[eric@ibmring50.org](mailto:eric@ibmring50.org)

**MAY MEETING**

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

HOLIDAY INN  
IN ALEXANDRIA

2460 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, VA

6:00 Cocktails

6:45 Dinner

8:00 Magician of Year/  
Election of officers

## Magician of Year competition set

Sharpen your skills for the annual “Washington DC Magician of the Year” contest to be held May 7. The Dan Lacey contest, named for a former Ring 50 president, is open to all Ring 50 members. A revolving trophy will be awarded to the winner. The winner will be one of the performers in the 2009 Magi-Whirl stage show. Contact Ring 50 President Mike Taggart if you wish to enter the competition.

# Coming Events

## Lecture Barry's Magic Shop

James Munton, a former Ring 50 president now living in Texas where he bills himself as Dallas-Fort Worth's Favorite Magician, will lecture. Date: July 11 at 7 p.m. Cost: Pending



Munton

Place: Barry's Magic Shop, 5544 Nicholson Lane, Rockville, Md. Contact: 301/933-0373 or email [magic@erols.com](mailto:magic@erols.com).

Visit Barry's web site for the latest events:

<http://www.barrysmagicshop.com/>

## Lecture by Levent at Denny's Magic

Levent, noted for his brilliant combination of comedy and sleight of hand, has performed to packed audiences throughout the world. He is the co-author of "Roy Benson by Starlight" published by The Miracle Factory.

Date: May 9 at 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$25

## Friday nights at the studio

With plenty of room now at a new location, a tradition of folks coming in to just sit around and hobnob about magic until well after midnight continues.

**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](mailto:dennymagic@aol.com).

<http://www.dennymagic.com/cgi-bin/hazel.cgi>

## Glenn Gary Parlor Show

Dates: Wednesdays and Fridays 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.

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](http://www.glenngary.com).

## 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@appsmagic.com](mailto:IBMSAM2008@appsmagic.com).

Telephone: 618/451-9749.

Fax: 618/451-9374.

## James Munton Appearances

Date: July 13 at 10:30 a.m. and 1p.m. Place: Spy Museum, 800 F Street NW, Washington, D.C.

Cost: To be announced.

## Manassas Library Shows

July 14 at 2:30 p.m. at Bull Run and 7 p.m. at Central.

July 15 at 10:30 a.m. at Chain Park and 2 p.m. at Potomac.

Contact: Call 888-773-2155 or e-mail [james@jamesmunton.com](mailto:james@jamesmunton.com)

Web site: [www.jamesmunton.com](http://www.jamesmunton.com)

## The Comedy & Mystery Society

Dates: Future show dates are Saturday, May 10; Wednesday, May 28; Saturday, June 14; and Wednesday, June 25.

Place: Gaithersburg Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg, Md. Contact: 301-258-6394 or <http://www.comedymysterysociety.com/>.

## Society of American Magicians (SAM)

Larry West Assembly 28

Date: May 21 at 7 p.m.

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

Theme: "Show us what you want to show us"

Contact: Ray Eyler at 410/798-0176 [ceyler1026@aol.com](mailto:ceyler1026@aol.com) or email SAM Assembly President Larry Lipman at [lm lipman@cox.net](mailto:lm lipman@cox.net).



**HONREE--**Al Cohen accepted a Lifetime Achievement Fellowship citation at the 40th annual Academy of Magical Arts award show and banquet at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., the night of April 5. The veteran magic dealer operated Al's Magic Shop.

## Louis Meyer nominated to be new Ring 50 leader

Louis Meyer, a full-time magician and children's performer, has been nominated to be the new president of Ring 50. Elections will be held in May.

"Magic started as a hobby as a boy and has now grown into a professional business,"

Louis says.

"My goal is to bring a style of magic for children that is contemporary and fun for all ages."

Louis has more than 10

years experience working with children as a photographer. "With this experience, I am able to read children as I perform," he explains.

Louis also has done adult, corporate and restaurant magic.

Current Ring 50 President Michael Taggart will automatically become a Ring 50 board member next year when he steps down. Two other former Ring presidents will step up as well. Dwight Redman will be director-at-large and Don Freedman will be senior director. Other nominees are Eric Redman for vice president, Sam Brothers for secretary and Reggie Rice for sergeant-of-arms.



Louis Meyer

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It hardly seems like Magi-Whirl is over for 2008. I heartily thank everyone who helped out for the event. The feedback cards are rolling in and so far we are getting high marks from everyone. If you have not filled out a feedback form get one from Bob Patterson and send it in so that we can learn from our past experiences.



**Michael Taggert**

We are already getting calls from folks who want to be there next year. I feel that we have clearly sent a national message that we know what we are doing in our club and we are a destination on the magic convention circuit.

A few special thanks go out to all of our performers and lecturers who put in a lot of energy for this event. And special thanks must go to the two Bob's—the heroes of the event. One is Bob Sheets, who stepped in at the last minute and did a spectacular job in the stage show. The other is Bob Patterson, who is the most organized guy I know. He is the one who keeps all of the i's dotted and the t's crossed. Bob keeps the Magi-Whirl ship running on time so thank him when you see him. Magi-Whirl 2009 dates have been set for April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> next year.

Next month the slate of new officers is to be presented and voted on. Please

### Ring 50 2008 Schedule

**May 7** — Dan Lacey Contest, open to all members, to select D.C.'s Magician of the Year. Election of officers.



**Dan Lacey**



**Winton Carroll**

**June 4** — Winton Carroll Contest, open to all members, to select "Most Humorous Magician". A \$100 prize will be awarded. Installation of new officers.

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

help keep up the momentum that our ring has created and volunteer to spend a year or two in the chairs. The officers serve one term with the exception of treasurer. (Bob Patterson has volunteered to fill that spot again this year.) As is tradition the vice president Louis Meyer is nominated for president. He has recruited others to be nominees for key posts. The organization is only as strong as the membership. Please consider a spot as an officer or on the board.

The annual Dan Lacey Competition will take place at the next meeting. Please plan on the time limit and the format for the evening. I am seeking two judges and a time keeper for this event. Noland Montgomery, who is a three-time winner, will be one of the judges this year.

The June meeting will open with the installation of officers. Then we will have the second of five Winton Carroll competitions. This is for the Most Humorous Magician Contest. Remember to plan on being in the dining room for this one. The competition is sponsored through a gift from the Winton Carroll Family and carries a cash prize of \$100 for each of the five competitions. Last year's winner was Reggie Rice.

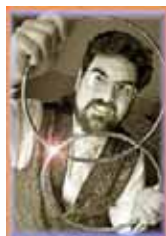
Again thank all of you for a great year.

*Michael*

### Ring 50 Notebook

#### *Eric Henning busier than ever as full-time pro*

Former Ring 50 President Eric Henning is busier than ever since he became a full-time professional performer. Whether he is appearing at a corporate gathering, fund-raising event, private party or in one of his signature Victorian-style shows, Eric delivers experience, elegance and enthusiasm to every audience. He faces a jam-packed summer teaching magic to children at



**Eric Henning**

summer day camps in addition to his regular bookings.

Eric was a partner in an investment advisory firm before he made the pivotal decision to go pro. He lives in Laurel, Maryland with his wife Betsy and young son.

#### *Jason Goldberg generates contributions as editor*

Ring 50 member Jason Goldberg is making his mark as a new associate editor of The Linking Ring magazine. Two of his three installments of a series on "The Experience of Magic" have appeared so far in the monthly magazine for members of IBM. The series is based on programs and workshops that Dr. Lawrence Hass of Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania has developed to explore the science of magic in depth.



**Jason Goldberg**

Meanwhile, Jason has recruited Ring 50 members to write reviews on new DVDs and books for the magazine's "Hocus in focus" section providing a closer look at magic on the markets. Reviews have been contributed so far by Sam Brothers, Dick Christian, Dwight Redman, Dave Shepard, Ed Spells, Michael Taggert and Bill Wells as well as Jason himself. Dick Christian also has a feature article about the "Notes on the History of Book Tests" in the April issue.

#### **Ring 50 member a candidate**

Ring 50 member Phil Milstead is a candidate for National 2nd Vice President of the Society of American Magicians (SAM).

#### **Stay in touch always**

*Between Ring 50 Magi-Gram issues, check out the latest news events and performances at the official Ring 50 site: [IBMRing50.org](http://IBMRing50.org).*



*Kenrick "ICE" McDonald greets fans after evening stage show*

# *Magi-Whirl* *2008*



*Ring 50 Magician of Year  
Noland Montgomery*

A keepsake edition

# Magic in the air at Ring 50 convention

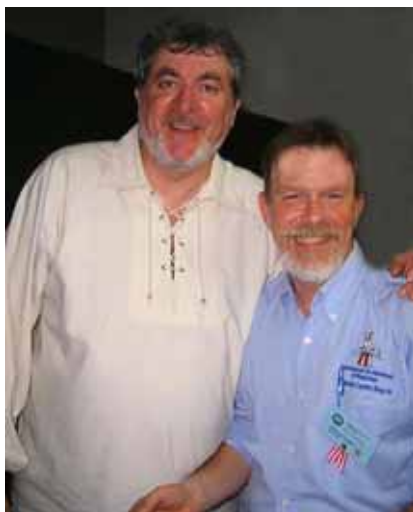
Washington, D.C.'s Ring 50 produced another hit convention and stage show in March. Magi-Whirl 2008 drew a nearly sellout, enthusiastic crowd to the gala nighttime extravaganza which was opened to the public.

The opening act of the show, presented in the auditorium of Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Va., featured the comedy and magic of Ring 50 Magician of the Year Noland Montgomery. Two husky men tied him up with rope as he stood on a stool. After one of the assistants held a drape over his tightly bound hands, Noland suddenly reached out from behind the cover with his magically free right hand to answer a cell phone call. "I'm all tied up at the moment," he told the caller on the other end of the line.

The delightful comedy magic of Bob Sheets came next with a presentation of his very own Hang 'Em High illusion in which he pulled a long length of rope through his body. He also tendered a wonderful routine involving eight delightful kids from the audience. He combined a Nest of Wands effect with a Cups and Balls effect that ended with the production of a lemon, orange and potato.

Aldo and Rachel Colombini impersonated a European count and countess to produce a very funny mind-reading act. Standing in the audience, Aldo told a blindfolded Rachel, "I'm holding an object. You may be able to see it." She immediately responded, "Eyeglasses," to the knowing audience's laughter. Aldo ended with a smooth and very pretty linking rings routine.

Kenrick "ICE" McDonald was the featured performer of the show as he orchestrated his award-winning act with a dramatic series of dove productions. In a change of pace, he invited a man and woman on the stage for a torn and restored card routine. In another phase, he invited two young girls on stage for a funny change bag parody. He ended by delivering a beautiful and moving presentation involving an older woman from the audience. He turned paper roses into



**STAR POWER**--Aldo Colombini greets Ring 50 President Michael Taggart at a morning workshop.

real ones to give to her. He ended by producing a swirling snowstorm on stage and dancing with her.

Rich Bloch was the evening's ringmaster as the emcee of the night. He provided his own delightful and sophisticated magic mixed with wry humor. One of his funniest bits was when he brought out a floral bouquet on one end of the stage. In a quick moment of misdirection, he pointed out a lady assistant carrying on a tray of metal containers from the other end of the stage which suddenly clattered to the floor. When the audience looked back, the flowers had vanished.

There was a 33 percent increase in registrations for the convention over the previous year and a 28 percent jump in show ticket sales with 567 tickets sold for the Saturday night gala performance.

During the day-long convention, delegates had a chance to meet some of the stage stars up close and personal. ICE McDonald, who was accompanied by his assistant Robbie Waddell, and Aldo and Rachel Colombini gave standup lectures.

One of the afternoon highlights was a question-and-answer session with Richard Kaufman, publisher of *Genii* The Conjuror's Magazine, conducted by Ring 50 President Mike Taggart. Kaufman talked about having the

chance while growing up in New York City to brush elbows with some of magic's greats in informal settings. "I grew up with a very unique circumstance," Kaufman observed. Kaufman, who revived *Genii* 10 years ago and turned it into a first-rate magic publication, conceded he is a workaholic but loves every minute of his creative time in front of a computer.

During the afternoon, attendees were treated to revolving close-up shows featuring Kaufman, Bob Little and Brian Morton. Kaufman proved he is a close-up performer in his own right with some slick card work including one in which he turned a deck into a "gun" to shoot out a chosen card. Bob Little used a hatchet to chop a large Smiley face cookie into crumbs to reveal a chosen card. Brian Morton used a deck of cards and a film noir detective story to reveal a "criminal" represented by a signed queen.

Early arrivals the night before the day-long convention were able to have a preview of the dealers' room. They also were treated to a lecture by Eric Jones, one of the dealers, which turned out to be a surprise hit of this convention or any magic convention. His *Four Kings Revelation* in performance appeared impossible to perform although his finger-flicking routine seemed almost obtainable when explained. His coin magic drew raves of "outstanding" from even the most experienced at the lecture. His *Three Fly* effect took the magic to even another level. He also did a whole new twist on the *Karate Coin*.

Among the dignitaries who attended the convention were Maria Ibáñez, president of the Society of American Magicians, and Al Cohen, the longtime Washington magic dealer who was being honored by the Magic Castle in Hollywood in April for his contributions to magic.

Another guest at the Saturday night show was Em Carroll, widow of former Ring 50 President Winton Carroll. She was brought to the evening production by Ring 50 member Wayne Alan.

**By Jim Flanigan. Ken Norris and Bob Patterson contributed to this article.**

# Dealers provide Friday night show



*Fred Mitchell does his stuff*



*John Reid with a dancing cane*



*Scott Correll offers paper tear*



*Veteran magic dealer Bob Little shows crowd the ropes on opening night*



*Eric Jones delivers top-notch lecture*



*Pravin Ponnuri of Magic Goods*

*Friday night arrivals enjoyed a Dealers Show and they made some early purchases.*



*Rachel Colombini wows them*

# The Dealers Room

**Wild Colombini Magic**  
– Aldo Colombini

**Sorcery with Class**  
– Scott Correll

**Guaranteed Magic**  
– Bob Little

**E-mmaculate Deceptions**  
– Eric Jones

**Magic Goods**  
– Pravin Ponnuri

**Close-Up Magic**  
– Justin Miller

**Fred's Books**  
– Fred Mitchell

**Magic Enhancer**  
– Robert Haas

**Kozmo Magic, Inc.**  
– Ted Brainard

**Dave Cresey Products**  
– John Reid

**SASCO**  
– Sharon Wasserman

## *Welcome to Magi-Whirl 2008!*



*Ring 50 Treasurer Bob Patterson, wearing an Uncle Sam hat, welcomes Louis Hofheimer to registration table at Bishop Ireton High School in Virginia*



*Becki and Bill Wells process tickets for Saturday night gala stage show*

## Morning sessions with the pros



*Kenrick "ICE" McDonald struck his classic pose with Ring 50 members Reggie Rice and Ed Spells*

Saturday morning began with a rousing motivational lecture from top corporate magician **Kenrick "ICE" McDonald**. He offered his real-world principles for both the "show" and the "business" of magic, including a special section on ethics. He also shared an amazing routine he uses to audition for corporate bookers. At the end, the audience was clearly ready to go another two hours, but we had to break so the magi could lunch at the many fine restaurants within walking distance of Bishop Ireton High School, the convention site.

After lunch, attendees were wondering what could possibly follow the sleight of hand and great ideas they had already seen. The answer was in two parts: **Aldo and Rachel Colombini**. They gave us a double dose of practical, effective stand-up magic, suitable for most venues. The crowd made their enthusiasm evident and then swarmed the product table at the end.

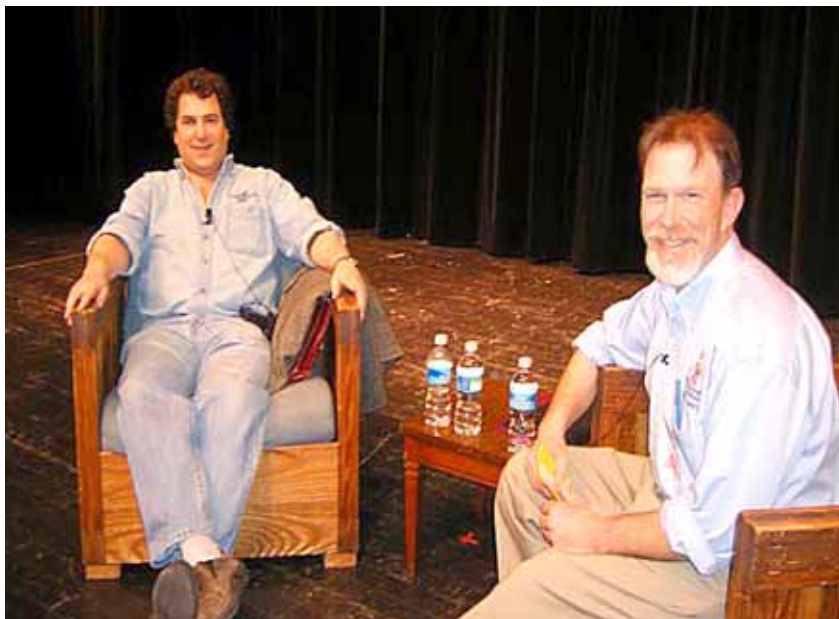


*Rachel and Aldo Colombini were captured in this sly pose simultaneously broadcast on a large screen in the lecture room.*



*Ring 50 Michael Taggart's image is reflected on the giant screen of the lecture room as he welcomes participants to Magi-Whirl. The turnout for the convention and show was greater than the year before.*

## ***Genii editor reflects on publication***



***Richard Kaufman, publisher of Genii The Conjuror's Magazine, provided insights into the magic world in an interview conducted by Mike Taggart***

Bill Larsen Jr. assumed control of Genii magazine in 1952, but as he became ill, the editorship was assumed first by Dante Larsen (son of Irene and John Daniel) and later by Erika Larsen. The publication faltered and it appeared it would end in 1998 when it only was published three times.

In October 1998, the Larsen family sold Genii, The Conjurors' Magazine, to a new company headed by author, self-taught illustrator and publisher Richard Kaufman. Since the first issue published by The Genii Corporation appeared in January, 1999, Genii has been on time every single month and grown to more than 100 pages an issue with much of it in color.

Kaufman talked about the magazine and his role in its publication in a special Magi-Whirl 2008 interview conducted by Ring 50 President Michael Taggart.

"Here was a door through which I could walk," Kaufman said.

Despite the competition from the Internet and often poorly produced videos, Kaufman has persevered. A big advocate of reading, he maintained that books still offer much more for learning.

With a fresh start, Genii has once again become the premier magazine in the field of magic and has a long future ahead of it in the 21st century. The entire history of magic for the last three-quarters of a century is contained in the pages of Genii.

## Afternoon closeup shows a hit



*Brian Morton told a tale of crime and passion in presenting a card effect*



*Richard Kaufman displayed his skills as a magician with some beautiful card work*



*Bob Little provided his own brand of comedy*

## *Going backstage at Magi-Whirl*



*Rich Bloch, who was emcee for the show, briefed performers before curtain time*



*Performer Bob Sheets, center, poses with Ring 50 member Eric Redman, left, and Ring 50 President Mike Taggart outside stage door*



*Rich Bloch spent hours before the show making sure all was in order for the evening performance*

# Strolling magicians entertain before the show



*Capt. Token (Louis Hofhiemer)*

*Ring 50 magicians strolled the lobby before the main show to entertain patrons. They drew crowds of all sizes and ages.*



*Lorenzo the Great (Larry Lipman)*



*Larsen Eisenberg*



*Matgik Matt (Matt Hiller)*



*Sam Brothers*



*Dwight Redman*



*Rick Beatty*



*Eric Redman*

## *Showtime! Magi-Whirl's gala Stage Extravaganza*



*Bob Sheets, wearing a jester's hat, entertained a band of kids from the crowd*



*Headliner Kenrick "ICE" McDonald*



*Two audience members tied Noland Montgomery up...but he escaped*



*Aldo Colombini charmed audience*



*Emcee Rich Bloch was hardly dressed for the occasion when the curtain opened on the show, but in a split second he came out wearing a tux.*

**We'll see you April 17 & 18 at Magi-Whirl 2009!**



Photo by Joseph Tessmer

**MAGIC DEALER CITED**—Barry Taylor, center, owner of Barry's Magic Shop in Rockville, Md., receives the first SAMMY Award for his lifetime contribution to magic from the Society of American Magicians Assembly 23 President Larry Lipman at SAM's March meeting. Legendary retired magic dealer Al Cohen, bottom left, looks on.

## Barry Taylor recognized for his contribution to the magic world

Holly Morris from Fox Morning News in Washington celebrated April Fool's Day by fooling around at Barry's Magic Shop's new location in Rockville, Md. Shop owner Barry Taylor showed the popular TV personality some of the tricks of the trade. The Great Zucchini (Eric Knaus) and 15-year-old magician Davey Richardson made guest appearances on the show along with Barry. Will Slade, another magician, also made an appearance. And Frankie the Wonder Dog, the shop's official greeter of customers, also performed magic.

Barry's Magic Shop, a long-established magic tradition since 1974 in the Washington area, is owned and operated by Barry and his wife Susan. They had just returned from a whirlwind trip to Las Vegas when they appeared on the Channel 5 morning production.

"We went out just to see the shows," Susie said. "We saw six shows in four days. We saw Lance Burton and Mac King again, and both were fabulous again."

You can watch the two four-minute segments of the TV show produced here on the Internet by going to: <http://www.myfoxdc.com/myfox/pages/>.

As a professional magician, Barry is well known and has performed his magic both locally and internationally. He performed in his own critically acclaimed Psychic Ghost Theatre production, which successfully entertained and mystified audiences for more than four years, from 1998 to 2002.

Meanwhile, Barry was the recipient in mid-March of the first annual "Sammy Award" presented by the local Society of American Magicians assembly at the National Press Club.

All the dinner attendees moved to a larger room in the club and were treated to a standing room only roast in honor of the longtime magic dealer.

The roast began with a video from Dallas-based James Munton featuring James wearing various disguises to portray some of the top names in the magic field such as Jeff McBride, Aldo Colombini, Max Maven and Dan Harlan. There also was a beautiful and touching video montage created by Barry's wife Susie.

Larry Davidson provided several hilarious stories about Barry struggling to get his start with his magic store. George Woo spoke about other very funny situations regarding Barry. Barry Wood spoke about his relationship with Barry and expressed his frustration as always getting called "the other Barry". Al Cohen of Al's Magic Shop in Washington spoke at great length about his relationship with Barry.

SAM Assembly President Larry Lipman, who also is a former Ring 50 president, presented Barry with a beautiful SAM Assembly 23 Sammy Award plaque. Barry then gave a warm and, at times, emotional speech, and presented a wonderful poem about the rewards of being a magic dealer. He closed the evening with a fantastic stage version of the 3 Card Monte in which all three cards ended up being the same!

### *Ring 50 considering forming youth unit*

Ring 50 is considering establishing a youth unit in the organization. Bill Wells, a former president of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, is working with Ring 50



member Reggie Rice to achieve this goal. A Magic Youth International Ring handbook has been revised outlining the goals and objectives of M.Y.I. Bill helped contribute to this effort in cooperation with the 2007-2008 Youth Committee of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.



**READY, AIM...** -- Auctioneer Dick Christian takes aim with a magic sausage gun as Don Freedman watches from the sidelines.

## Auction nets profit for Ring 50

Fifty-four members and guests attended our annual Ring 50 Auction at the April meeting. Auctioneers Dick Christian and IBM Past President Bill Wells did a fantastic job demonstrating the live auction items and nudging the best dollar for them.

Lucky bidders gained some fine magic equipment from the sale. High bidders walked off with such interesting pieces as a collector's item polo shirt from the former Al's Magic Shop, a silk fountain, a set of 8-inch linking rings and a water bowl vanish.

Tom Paxton won a neat spike through the neck item. Dwight Redman was top bidder for a Collector's Workshop Samurai sword, John Roberts carried home a very nice silk caddy and Wayne Alan bought a peanut butter and jelly (well, at least the peanut butter) passé passé effect for a little bread. Eighty-seven items sold in the auction netting \$79 in fees and donations for Ring 50's treasury. Twenty-eight items were bought in the live auction and 59 magic effects and props in the silent auction.

**SAUSAGE** -- A load of sausage is held by Dick Christian and Bill Wells after the sausage gun was discharged.



## New Yorker essay delves into magic, past and present

The March 17<sup>th</sup> issue of The New Yorker magazine features a lengthy essay by Adam Gopnik about the current state of the magical arts. The article heavily focuses on the magic scene in New York City—



especially on Gopnik's friend Jamy Ian Swiss, a magician and fellow essayist.

"At every moment in the history of magic, there is an anti-magician to go along with the mainstream magicians," Swiss is quoted as saying. "The opposition between Vernon, the chamber genius, and Houdini, the charismatic star, goes on. The anti-magician of the moment is David Blaine, the patron saint of street and YouTube magic, the prophet of the new illusionism, but also its subverter."

Gopnik's article takes you from magical gatherings at the Joshua Tree restaurant and bar in New York to the Hollywood Castle in California and illusionist David Copperfield's massive warehouse in Las Vegas filled with the world's greatest collection of magic paraphernalia.

The magazine correspondent's piece is titled "The Real Work—Modern Magic and the Meaning of Life".

Gopnik, a regular contributor to the magazine, elaborates on his article in a National Public Radio interview on the NPR program "Talk of the Nation". You can access it on the Internet by going to: <http://www.npr.org/templates/player/>. The NPR broadcast poses the question of how modern magic will fare in the 21st century.

### Slide show features Ring 50

A slide show of Ring 50 magicians and activities during the past year was playing across from the registration table at Magi-Whirl 2008. This CD was compiled and donated by Larry Lipman and is available from Ring Treasurer Bob Patterson for a small fee of \$5.