

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 60 No. 10 October 2006

John B. Born booked for guest appearance at November meeting

John B. Born, who placed first in the close-up competition at the annual IBM convention in Miami, will be our guest lecturer at our Nov. 1 meeting of Ring 50. He also won the close-up competition at the Columbus, Ohio Magi-Fest in February.



John B. Born

This past year he issued "Cutting Edge Cards and Coins," a three-disc DVD set in which he teaches new coin routines as well as some of his card magic. His latest book, "Meant To Be," received rave reviews as "something special." The "any card at any number" method is a road well traveled, but this work has raised the bar. Earlier, he produced a combination book and DVD titled "Matrix God's Way."

Born promises "elegant theatre of the mind" as his entertainment mantra. He now travels the world as a full-time entertainer, lecturer, writer and innovator in the magical arts.

Altogether, he has written three instructional books on magic and is featured on 10 instructional DVDs. Members of the National Capital Ring 50 will be able to attend the lecture for free. All other magicians pay \$10 at the door.

OCTOBER MEETING

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2006
HOLIDAY INN
IN ALEXANDRIA
2460 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA

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

Theme for October meeting Spooky Magic



An evening of *Spooky Magic* is in store for the October meeting of Ring 50. Each year, to mark the end of the summer harvest and the beginning of the long, cold winter, ancient Celtic nobles assembled for a grand feast. Not ones to miss out on the fun, friendly spirits and ghosts were known to join in the frivolity, sometimes returning in the form of magicians.

The goblins and ghosts may be appearing in the spirit of Halloween magic. There will be plenty of tricks and lots of techniques with our lineup of entertainers. Dust off the cobwebs and grab a seat early.

Magi-Whirl being revived with April 2007 dates set

Ring 50's popular Magi-Whirl is returning after a hiatus with April 13 and 14, 2007 set as the dates for the popular event.

Directors of Ring 50 are now in negotiations with administrators at Bishop Ireton High School in Northern Virginia to use the school's stage and other facilities. They also are in contact with some top-notch performers and magic dealers.

Bishop Ireton is in easy access for participants from around the region. It also has a first-rate facility for an evening show. There are nearby restaurants and nearby hotels. Dealers should be able to set up in the school's cafeteria and the upper lobby is ideal for lectures and "meet and greet" functions

The magic in the world seems strongest in October.--Hans Friedrich

If you would like to perform, just contact Dwight Redman. He can be reached at 301-927-7717 or email him at dredman1@comcast.net. You also can contact Bob Patterson by phoning 703-490-1222 or email him at rpatterson99@comcast.net.

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The National Capital Ring

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Coming Events

Lectures at Denny & Lee Magic Studio
325 South Marlyn Avenue, Baltimore.
Lecture by Richard Sanders of Canada
Date: Friday, Oct. 13, at 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20

Lecture by Michael Vincent, Magic Circle's three-time Magician of the Year, with theme The Tapestry of Deception
Date: Saturday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m.

Lecture by Duane Laffin
featuring silk magic, comedy tricks, by former international president of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians.
Date: Saturday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20

Contact: Denny's at 410-686-3914 or email dennymagic@aol.com.

Eric Henning presents a special program of Victorian magic
Date: Oct. 30 at 6 and 7:30 p.m.
Place: The National Theatre of Washington in the Helen Hayes Gallery.
Cost: The shows are free to the public but seating is very limited and will be available only at the door starting one half-hour before each show. Tip: It may be best to get there at least an hour ahead of show time to avoid missing out on seats.
Special Note: The show is appropriate for adults and children 8 and older.
Contact: <http://www.HenningMagic.com/news.html> for more information and links.

Society of American Magicians (SAM) Larry West Assembly 28
Date: Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.
Place: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC.
Theme: Lecture by George Woo.
Cost: SAM members free; others \$10.
Contacts: Ray Eyler at 410/798-0176 ceyler1026@aol.com or James Munton at 301-322-5605 -- james@jamesmunton.com.

The Theory and Art of Magic -- Muhlenberg College of Pennsylvania.
This popular program is the first ongoing symposium on the magical arts. Date: Lectures and shows began in September for six weeks. Dr. Lawrence Hass, a philosopher and magician from Muhlenberg College, is coordinating the event. Teller of Penn and Teller will be featured on the event's final day Nov. 29.

Contact: <http://www.muhlenberg.edu/cultural/magic/index.html>.
You can receive all the latest Teller updates on the 2006 program by emailing lhass@muhlenberg.edu.
Cost: Tickets for all events (including special lectures for magicians) are on sale from the Muhlenberg College Box Office. Complete information on how to purchase tickets can be found on the Internet.



Glenn Gary's Parlor Magic
Dates: Every Friday at 8 p.m.

Place: The 13th floor of the National Press Club at 529 14th Street NW in Washington, DC.

Cost: Advance purchase required. Call 1-800-961-3119 for assistance.
Check available dates and buy tickets online.
Contact: Glenn Gary Productions at 703-963-0790 or glenn@glenngary.com.

Web Site: <http://www.glenngary.com/>

Criss Angel show renewed for third season on A&E

A&E will bring back Criss Angel Mindfreak for a third season, the network announced recently. The reality show will return with new episodes in 2007. In one illusion, Criss pulls a woman apart and then half of her crawls away.

You can always access Ring 50's happenings by going to <http://ibmring50.blogspot.com> where Eric Henning is our Webmaster.

Washington Post's book section focuses on Dai Vernon bio

A Washington Post review of author David Ben's new biography on Dai Vernon recalls how the master of magic received the title of "The Man Who Fooled Houdini" on a February night in 1922 in a Chicago hotel banquet room.



Vernon, who was dressed in a suit and tie, made a pack of Aristocrat cards gracefully dance in his hands. He repeated his performance a half dozen times. Houdini was baffled about how the then young performer did it. He finally just turned and walked away.

This is the first of a two-part biography of Vernon by Ben. It ends with Vernon plunging into the East River in New York while working on a construction job when he was 47. He injured his right arm in the fall. He was told the limb was gangrenous and needed to be amputated. Readers will have to wait for the second half of the biography to learn what happened next.

The newspaper review of the first edition was written by Daniel Stashower, a member of the Society of American Magicians (SAM) for more than 25 years, whose new book, "The Beautiful Cigar Girl," will be issued this month.

Vernon, who died in 1992 at the age of 98, also was the subject of last year's popular book "The Magician and the Cardsharp" by Karl Johnson. Often considered the world's greatest sleight-of-hand artist, he was fondly called The Professor by his followers because he was considered a gifted teacher as well as a performer. A native of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, he was born David Frederick Wingfield Verner on June 11, 1894. He gained his professional name when a typographical error in a newspaper called him "Dai" instead of his first name David and he adopted his last name using the first name of the popular dancer Vernon Castle. He spent three decades as the magician-in-residence at the Magic Castle in Hollywood.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Ring 50:

I want to thank the new members who performed at last month's meeting. The lineup included Ashley Taggert, Bert Udovin, Bryan McDaniel, Larson Eisenberg, Mano Mandal, Reggie Rice and Sam Brothers. They all deserve our applause for a job well done. All of the acts were well received by the audience.

The business portion of last month's meeting was longer than usual. The pros and cons of having our Magi-Whirl convention was the topic of discussion. After some spirited conversation, the club voted in favor of holding the convention. The last couple of weeks were spent trying to acquire a location in this area to have the event. After some disappointments with



Dwight Redman

the hotels in the area, we are 90% sure that we will be able to use the Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, VA for our venue. We should have a definite answer in the next couple of days. If we can use the school, I think it will enhance our opportunities to draw a larger audience for the convention and for the evening show. The school is located near hotels and restaurants, and parking will not be a problem. The school has a good auditorium and we can use other spaces in the school for the lectures and dealers. The most favorable aspect is the cost savings compared to a hotel.

Now that we have a tentative site for April 13th & 14th of 2007, the real work begins. We are going to need people to help in all areas from performing to sweeping floors. At this month's meeting, we will have sign-up sheets

Combined IBM-SAM convention planned for 2008

The International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM) and the Society of American Magicians (SAM) will hold a combined six-day convention in Louisville, Kentucky two years from now. Headquarters for the July 21-26, 2008 event will be the newly renovated Galt House and Suites.

The combined convention was first

for the different committees. Although this is a big job, we can manage it if we have enough people to break the big job down into a bunch of little jobs. If we share the work and everyone who is able does a little, we can make Magi-Whirl an event that is the highlight of our club. I am thanking everyone in advance for stepping up

and being a part of something we all want to be proud of.

"Thou must realize that plans are only dreams without action."

—The 6th commandment of success from Og Mandino's book, "The Greatest Success in the World".

--Dwight

New members perform at September meeting

New members put on a dazzling program for Ring 50's September program. All were great performers with amazing skills and many new techniques were demonstrated. The 45 members in attendance enjoyed the show.

Bert Udovin opened with an attempt to reveal cards selected by three spectators. Upon failure he sent the spectators to their seats and went on to cut three pages from a newspaper, origami style, to reveal the three cards previously chosen. Next he made a card, animal and number prediction on a slate. These were revealed to be those named by the spectators. An audience member shuffled an imaginary deck and named an imaginary card. The real card was found reversed in a real deck.

Bryan McDaniel did a comic grocery store mind reading routine where he correctly predicted the "thought of" price of a randomly chosen grocery store item by displaying the bar code. Then Bryan presented an original comedy effect titled "Practice is Overrated -- Instant Magician Course".

Using a computer, a layman was able to scroll through the directions in the "course" and instantly become a magician by spelling out the name of a randomly chosen card and accurately

locating its position in the shuffled deck.

Larsen Eisenberg, who was next, had a freely selected card appear as a

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"Secret Life of Houdini" due out on Halloween

"The Secret Life of Houdini: The Making of America's First Superhero" by William Kalush and Larry Sloman will be released on Halloween. A New York Sun article quotes a number of magicians about the book. These include Arthur Moses, Kenneth Silverman, Richard Kaufman and James Randi. And a Sunday New York Times feature refers to the premise that Houdini was a secret agent who gathered some top-secret information in Germany when he performed there before World War I. The 608-page book, which will retail for \$29.95, tells how Houdini got a break that put him on the front page of a Chicago newspaper after years of struggling on the dime museum circuit. Soon he was performing for royalty, commanding vast sums, and exploring the new power of Hollywood to expand on his legend.

New members perform at September meeting

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photographic negative in the deck. Then mysteriously the card became double

exposed. Later a selected card and a thought of card were revealed from the deck. An audience member, using an

imaginary palm pilot selected a number and a card. Larsen then revealed these written on a piece of paper in a wallet that was shown from the beginning of the performance.



Mano Mandal



Ashley Taggart



Larsen Eisenberg



Bert Udovin

Mano Mandal began with two equal lengths of rope that changed sizes, changed to three ropes, and then to one long rope with a knot flying in the air. He then had two spectators write down information. After a deep mind reading trance, he was able to identify the items that were written down.

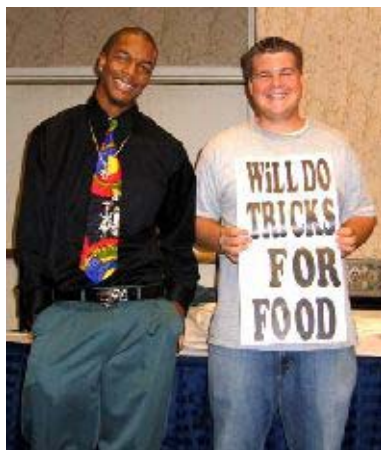
Ashley Taggart had a card selected and placed in a spectator's pocket. A rubberband was placed around the deck and passed to eight audience members to take a peek at a card in the deck.

Using the Mathematical Algorithmic Geometric Interlanionary Calculus -- or M-A-G-I-C formula--Ashley revealed the eight cards viewed by the audience and the card selected by the spectator.

Sam Brothers, using the skill offered in John Bannon's "Origami Poker," had a volunteer shuffle a deck and name a favorite suit. The cards were scattered and mixed up with some reversed. When reassembled following the spectator's directions, all the cards face up were revealed as the same suit selected by the spectator.

Reggie Rice entered with a bowling bowl production from a briefcase. During his performance he opened a hot hardbound book and real flames shot out! Reggie built a sign saying "Will Do Tricks For Food". He performed a straitjacket escape in 21 seconds.

-- Bob Patterson



Reggie Rice and Carton Silvestro



Bryan McDaniel



Sam Brothers

Photos by Larry Lipman