



# MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring Volume 61 No.9 September 2007

## Steve Hart lecture on tap for fall

Our September meeting will feature a lecture by Steve Hart. His appearance will give everyone something to take home and use in your next show. If you enjoy learning new ideas in magic then you don't

want to miss this opportunity. It will be both educational and entertaining.

Known as "the Motivational Magician," Steve uses the art of magic to deliver a message with applications that are entertaining and easy to understand. He is a wizard at illustrating his message.



Steve emphasizes that learning how to ask the right questions can be the key to success. He stresses that personal development and self-management are the secret to greater productivity. He teaches you how to motivate yourself to reach full potential by discovering the gifts you already possess. He is entertaining, motivating and informative, a guaranteed crowd pleaser, the perfect program for the evening.

His lectures have been presented at magic clubs, conventions and at the Magic Castle in Hollywood for a standing room only crowd. After working for almost 20 years as a full-time professional magician, including 14 years at the famous Illusions Magic Night Club in Indianapolis, he went on to perform for cruise ships and comedy clubs. An award-winning professional magician, speaker, trainer, magic inventor and international contest judge, he now serves on the board of directors for the I.B.M.

This lecture is free to Ring 50 members. Non-members who are magicians are invited to attend for a charge of \$10.

### Magi-Whirl 2008 stars sign on

Ring 50 has signed contracts from Kenrick "ICE" McDonald and Aldo Colombini as lecturers and performers for Magi-Whirl 2008. We also have a confirmation from Scott Correll to participate as a dealer.

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of Magicians Ring 50  
The National Capital Ring**

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**CHILDREN'S SHOW**--Laurie Curry won the hearts of a Ring 50 audience in August with a bouquet of red flowers. The story and more pictures are on pages 5 and 6.

## Magic shop now reopen at its new location

The last remaining magic store in the Washington area is back in business. Barry's Magic Shop is now located at 5544 Nicholson Lane in Rockville, Md. Check out the shop's web site at <http://barrysmagicshop.com/> for more details. Meanwhile, turn to page 7 of this issue to read about the move and to see some pictures of the new location.

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007  
HOLIDAY INN  
IN ALEXANDRIA  
2460 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, VA

6:00 Cocktails

6:45 Dinner

8:00 Meeting/Show

# Coming Events

## Lecture by John Carney

Carney, who has received more awards than anyone else from Hollywood's Magic Castle, studied under Dai Vernon, the greatest sleight of hand expert of this century. Besides his normal charming self, he also performs as his alter ego character, Mr. Mysto.



**John Carney**

Cost: Lecturer setting price.

Date: Sept. 26.

Place: Barry's Magic Shop, 5544 Nicholson Lane, Rockville, Md.  
Contact: 301/933-0373

## Society of American Magicians (SAM) Larry West Assembly 28

Date: Sept. 19 at 7 p.m.

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

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

Mini Lecture: Hugh Turley

Contact: Ray Eyer at 410/798-0176  
[ceyler1026@aol.com](mailto:ceyler1026@aol.com) or President Larry Lipman at [lmilipman@cox.net](mailto:lmilipman@cox.net).



*Usekh (neck collar) with gold lioness head  
700 BC*

## 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/>

## Lecture by Jamy Ian Swiss

Jamy Swiss, an acclaimed master of sleight of hand, has performed magic throughout the United States for presenters ranging from Fortune 500 companies to the Smithsonian Institution.

Date: Nov. 3.

Sponsor: Ring 50.

Cost: Free to Ring 50's members.

Others will be charged \$10 at the door.



**Jamy Ian Swiss**

## 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 gala banquet with cabaret shows and music for dancing, a gala 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: A pre-convention registration special of \$295 expired last December. The current cost is \$395 until Dec. 31, 2007. It goes up to \$495 starting Jan. 1.

Contact: John or Virginia Apperson

Email: [IBMSAM2008@appsmagic.com](mailto:IBMSAM2008@appsmagic.com).

Telephone: 618/451-9749.

Fax: 618/451-9374.

*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).*

## Magicians seeking membership in Ring 50's ranks

Ring 50 members are expected to vote on the acceptance of four candidates who have applied for membership into Ring 50 at the September meeting. Danny Selnick, Alexandria, Va., a graduate of School of Magic Arts, Bogota Colombia, has performed for schools, hospitals, orphanages and other places in Colombia. He enjoys stage, close-up and escapology magic. Donna Jean Audi, Alexandria, performs as "Sparkplug" the clown. Magic has

## Glenn Gary's Parlor Magic

This presentation featuring Ring 50 member Glenn Gary has moved to a new home with expanding shows.

Dates: Parlor Magic is a full 90-minute show presented every Wednesday and Friday night at 8 o'clock at The Westin Hotel, 1400 M Street NW, in Washington.

Cost: \$45 for adults; \$35 for 12 and younger. Dinner combination available.

Contact: 703/963-0790 or visit [www.GlennGary.com](http://www.GlennGary.com)

## Christian magicians forming own group

A new chapter of The Fellowship of Christian Magicians Inc. is being formed in Northern Virginia. The FCM is an international organization.

The group teaches participants how to use visual illustrations and develop talent for Gospel presentations using sleight of hand, optical illusion, ventriloquism, puppets, balloons, clowning, juggling, storytelling and other visual arts.

There are approximately 50 FCM members in the Virginia and Maryland area, but there has never been a local chapter. The immediate goal is to form the Washington area chapter with current members and help new members develop artistic and fun ways to present the word of God. The group currently meets on the first Saturday of each month at Christian Fellowship Church in Ashburn, Va., between 10 a.m. and noon. For additional information please email Ring 50 member Ron Cote at [ron4519cote@yahoo.com](mailto:ron4519cote@yahoo.com) or call him at 703-444-0026 (home) or 703-602-5118 (work).

always interested her and she wants to make a profession of it. Todd Eisenstadt, Bethesda, Md., is a college professor who has performed at charity shows and birthday gigs. He is a member of KIDABRA. Joseph Matulewicz, Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, is a member of the Air Force and has been performing card magic since he was 10 years old. He is a member of the Society of American Magicians (SAM).

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Magic is in the air as the summer winds down and we all return from our vacations and get ready for fall. This is festival season. Autumn is one of my favorite times of the year.

We have a pair of great lectures coming up this season. First in September we have published author, champion motivational speaker and member of the IBM executive board Steve Hart. He is coming up from Florida to give Ring 50 a private lecture. He also will be giving a special four-hour workshop the night before.



**Michael Taggart** Then one of my favorite characters in magic, Jamy Swiss, will be joining us in October. Jamy will be giving a monster of a lecture and has asked that we be ready to go at 8 o'clock sharp. He promises to go long so be prepared for a big session with Jamy.

As always lectures are free to PAID Ring 50 members. All others must pay a fee to sit in on the lecture and paid members have preference. Non-magician guests are not allowed at our lectures.

Ring 50 members have been representing us well around the globe as recent mentions of our members at Reno and FFFF have hit the streets. It is a great thing to be proud of your organization.

A matter of discussion was mentioned that we begin to offer Ring 50 regalia. This is something that I would like to see but we need to have input from the members before we do this. Feel free to drop me an email with your thoughts on this.

Thanks to everyone who performed for our children's night. We had a record number of kids at the show. This event gives you a chance to see in real time what a kids performer does and how they work. I know everyone got some insight and we had a lot of fun.

Remember to thank the hotel staff for helping us by setting up the room for the evening. This is

something they did because they like us. We want to keep it that way.

Finally, take the time to stop this fall and feel the magic in the air.

*Michael Taggart*



**SHOW EMCEE**--Mike Taggart, president of Ring 50, acted as emcee and presented the opening act at a Children's Magic Night show in August.

## Ring 50 Meeting

### Schedule 2007-08

#### **2007**

Sept. 5 — Steve Hart Lecture

Oct. 3 — Jamy Ian Swiss Lecture

Nov. 7 — New Members Perform

Dec. 5 — Holiday Magic

#### **2008**

Jan. 2 — "Ask The Panel" Night

Feb. 6 — Lecture TBA

March 5 — Four Corner Teach-In

#### **March 28-29—Magi-Whirl 2008**

April 2 — Auction

May 7 — Dan Lacy Contest

June 4 — Winton Carroll "Most Humorous Magician" Contest

July — No meeting -- IBM/SAM Joint Convention in Louisville, Ky.

## *Ring 50 represented at close-up event*

Ring 50's own Dr. Bill Wells was one of the participants in the annual Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic (FFFF) held earlier this year in Batavia, N.Y. He performed two magical classics--Kaps' sponge ball routine and Ramsay's cylinder and coins.

Bill, a former president of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM), was in good company at the event. Others attending included IBM President-elect Phil Willmarth, who since has been elevated to the leadership post, and retiring IBM President Fred Casto, among others.

Bill also is a former Ring 50 president who still is active with our group.

Obie O'Brien was the emcee for the kickoff show at the FFFF gathering.

This year's guest of honor was noted Japanese magician and magical innovator Ton Onosaka. His famous but small magic shop in Tokyo, "Magic Land," is located near Kayaba-Cho subway.

The invitation-only FFFF convention is billed as the "Original Close-Up Magic Convention" and the prestigious gathering has taken place since 1971 featuring the best performers, creators and lecturers in the world.

The 38th annual FFFF convention will be held on April 23-26, 2008 in Batavia when the guest of honor will be Boris Wild.

Commonly referred to as the 4F convention, the FFFF gathering started at the Forks Hotel in Buffalo, N.Y., with Eddie Fechter, Bill Okal and "Obie" O'Brien organizing it to focus on close-up magic. Bill Okal is no longer involved and Eddie Fechter died in 1979, but O'Brien continues to produce the convention.

## **Recovering from surgery**

Ray Eyler, a lifetime member of Ring 50, is recovering from emergency major surgery. If you wish to send him your best wishes, his address is Ray Eyler, 103 River Road, Edgewater, MD 21037-3824.

*Children's magic was the theme for the August meeting of IBM Ring 50. It was the appropriate time to focus on hocus-pocus for kids with the seventh and final series of Harry Potter books just released. Some of Ring 50's best children performers were on hand to entertain many youngsters from the Washington area. There were almost 100 attending this enchanted evening. -- Bob Patterson*

# Some Enchanted Evening

*Nearly 100 entertained by Ring 50 children's performers*

Ring 50 President **Michael Taggart**, who emceed our August children's show, opened the evening by blowing bubbles and magically catching one which he turned into a crystal ball. A child assisted him in catching more bubbles and placing them into a box. The bubbles then turned into bubble gum for all the kids in the audience.

Capt. Token (aka **Louis Hofheimer**) offered his very own Harry Potter fireball wand which spit out fire darts. Concluding his act, Capt Token wheeled out a large dollhouse which was rotated around and shown on all sides. The audience shouted the magic word "Abracadabra" and a clown doll appeared in the doorway. Again Capt Token urged the crowd to shout out the magic word. A life-size assistant, Janie Johnston, wearing a clown costume, popped up out of the dollhouse roof.

**Laurie Curry**, dressed in white tails accented by a red boa, showed a bunch of green stems without any flowers. With her back turned while the stems were under her arm, red buds appeared—prompting the children to shout that the stems had bloomed. When Laurie turned back around, the flowers were gone again. She repeated this several times until she was finally able to catch the flowers in bloom. Next a child was given a wand, but to everyone's surprise the magician still had another wand in her hand! As the wands multiplied, the young helper could barely hold all them and even had to tuck one under her chin. Laurie then enlisted the help of a half dozen children and produced enough wands for all of them to help her change yellow and blue scarves into a single green handkerchief using a magical change bag.

Lorenzo the Great (**Larry Lipman**), a past president of Ring 50, placed colorful tubes over large jars of peanut butter and jelly. After a few magic incantations, he told the kids the peanut butter and jelly had changed places. The kids were unconvinced until Lorenzo finally lifted the covers and showed that the change really had happened. Next Larry showed two pieces of bread and placed them into a brown paper bag. A young girl from the audience named Valentina Selnick, who was celebrating her sixth birthday, held the bag. When the bag was opened she found the two pieces of bread had magically transformed into a real peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Lorenzo also did a nice needle-through-balloon routine with the help of a boy



*Janie Johnston pops out of a doll house in an illusion presented by Capt. Token (Louis Hofheimer) at an annual children's magic show*



*Hugh Turley offered a humorous version of the Three Little Pigs story*

from the audience. He finished with an animated rendition of his special kids show version of the classic Professor's Nightmare routine using green ropes to represent varying lengths of snakes.

**John Roberts**, another past president of Ring 50, introduced his world-famous bunny buddy "Waldo" to perform his rendition of the rabbit in the hat card revelation. A card was selected and returned to the pack. John picked up a black hat and a rabbit popped into view. The cards were shown to the rabbit and the rabbit was asked to find the selected card. The deck was dropped into the hat. The rabbit tried and tried as cards flew wildly out of the hat. The rabbit reappeared with a sign saying he couldn't find it, but eventually the clever rabbit reappeared with the selected card between its paws.

**Noland Montgomery** attempted to bake a cake by magic with the help of the birthday girl Valentina. She is the youngest daughter of Ring 50 newcomer Danny Selnick. Noland produced a baker's cap and apron for her to wear while she held a cake pan. Several attempts were made to gather the correct ingredients for the magical batter for the cake. With a flash of fire the pan was covered. When the lid was removed, a spring snake leaped out in place of the cake.

Turley the Magician (**Hugh Turley**) entertained everyone with the classic bedtime story about the three little pigs with the help of a boy and girl. One child wore a wolf mask and the other sported a pig's nose to act out their respective parts. Turley's rapid-fire patter added laughter to the story as a plain cloth bag was changed into various patterns to represent the straw house, stick house and brick house of the legendary three pigs.

Closing the show, Ring 50 Vice President **Louis Meyer** made a pet white rabbit appear. However, the rabbit was flat as a pancake because it had been run through a wringer. Louis brought out a box with a crank on the side and rollers in the front and showed the box empty. A young assistant was asked to show her magic powers by helping him feed the flat rabbit through the wringer into the box. When the box was opened, a live 16-pound white rabbit appeared. After the show, each child in the audience was given a chance to pet the big bunny.



*Larry Lipman magically transferred a jelly and peanut butter jar in the wink of an eye*



*Noland Montgomery helped Valentina Selnick, above, bake a cake using his magic*



*Louis Meyer fattened up a flat rabbit with help from a young assistant*



*John Roberts introduced his pet rabbit Waldo to find a card*



*Laurie Curry found lots of help in a colorful scarves routine*

**Book Review** By Denny Haney of Denny & Lee Magic Studio

## *Remembering Cardini captures about “being” a magician*

Most of my clients already know my work ethics here in the studio.....Twelve hours a day, seven days a week. Each day is full of phone calls, emails, and visits by magicians in search of answers, books, tools, etc. to improve or add to their magic repertoire.

I rarely get the chance to sit down and watch a DVD all the way through or to read a new book or magazine. So how does someone with so little time have the freedom to read a 600 page book in only three days?? I simply had to place the importance of reading this book above all else. As I closed the book on the last page, I realized that I had made the right choice. This is NOT a book on billiard ball and card sleights. It is NOT a book on tricks. We all have enough of that.

“Cardini, The Suave Deceiver” is an adventure story, a love story, and a book about “being” a magician. This book has consumed me totally for the past few days. On page 539, as Cardini’s last few days are chronologued, I actually came to tears as I read “November 12: Died at 8:40 AM.” I never met Cardini, nor did I ever meet his wife Swan. What made me so emotional? I KNEW how the book was going to end!! I cried because I knew that Cardini could teach me no more about “being” a magician. He had nothing left to give.

At the age of 61, do I really need someone to teach me how to be something I have been all of my life?? Perhaps not. I only wish that I were thirty or forty years younger so that I could have used this book to make me better at my chosen profession.

As a teenage magician, I had heard of “the most perfect act in magic.” Unfortunately, there was very little information on Cardini at that time. Speaking with older magicians who met him or had seen the act, was my only connection. Oh how I wish I could have read this book back then.



*Cardini and Swan*

John Fisher has written the definitive work on this great magician. I cannot even imagine the amount of effort that has gone into the writing of this book. Here is the information that I had sought out for so many years. Much more than a biography, throughout this book you will read the thoughts of those who knew him or saw him work. These thoughts will grab at your soul and teach you what it means to “be” a magician. I must call particular attention to the sections by Bobby Bernard, one of Cardini’s close friends. His words will make you think and, hopefully, will guide you as a magician. This book is just full of inspiration and guidance by so many.

Who will buy this book?? There is no doubt that this book will be a best seller. It will most likely go out of print at a faster rate than most books. Sadly, it will most likely be bought by the older magicians such as myself. The \$150 price tag may prohibit the younger magicians from buying this book and yet it is the younger magician who needs this book the most. Will this book only be in the libraries of those who already “get it” or will the younger ones make the monetary sacrifice to

gain access to this great book? Will this book be buried under the glut of information available on the internet, DVDs, and so called “new tricks?” Will this book be taken for granted? I sincerely hope NOT!

I am going to go back and read this book again! I am actually going to take a yellow highlighter to passages in this book. As a book collector, this is something I NEVER do. This is an IMPORTANT book. It MUST be read. Not reading this book is like saying you’re a magician but have never read a book on Houdini. This is NOT a book for “tricksters”....this is a book for MAGICIANS!!

*The author of this book review is the veteran proprietor of Denny and Lee Magic Studio in Baltimore.*



“**Cardini, The Suave Deceiver**” by John Fisher.

Edited by Todd Karr.

Introduction by Lance Burton.

*A complete biography of magic’s master!*

The book is a step-by-step analysis of Cardini’s act with almost 600 pages and more than 800 illustrations plus 350 frame-by-frame shots of Cardini’s act.

Beautiful color section

Cost: \$150

**Denny & Lee Magic Studio, 325 South Maryln Avenue, Baltimore**

Contact: Denny’s at 410-686-3914 or email [dennymagic@aol.com](mailto:dennymagic@aol.com).

# Barry's Back!

**Magic shop reopens at new location in Rockville**

Floating cards. Magic pencils and pens. Chinese sticks. An impromptu stage show for children and their parents. Barry's Magic Shop is back in business. These were just a few of the things happening one recent weekend in a new site which just opened.

The popular magic emporium is now at 5544 Nicholson Lane in Rockville, Md., not far from the White Flint station on the Washington Metro Red Line. You are apt to be greeted by Frankie the Wonder Dog, a 6-year-old unofficial magical mutt, before you are welcomed by Barry Taylor and Susie Kang, the shop's proprietors.

The shop moved from its longtime Wheaton location after a lengthy property dispute with Montgomery County. Its survival goes against the trend taking place elsewhere with dozens of magic shops closing because of competition from computer sales and other factors. The shop was in the old, ramshackle building for 33 years.

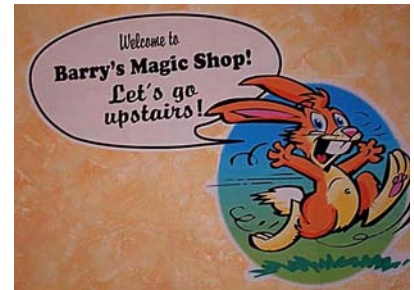
"Our new store is above the Spa East and near an Exxon gas station, Jerry's Sub, Theatre Vision and across the street from the old Eatzi's," Barry and Susie note. "We are practically at the intersection of Rockville Pike and Nicholson Lane."

The new store is a spacious 4,000 square feet with magical merchandise invitingly displayed. There is a small 40-seat theater where there are plans for regular lectures, shows, classes, teach-ins, magic lessons and other events. One catch is you have to climb three flights of stairs to reach the shop. There is no elevator.

John Carney will be the first on deck as a lecturer when he appears at Barry's on Wednesday, Sept. 26, to present his unique magic artistry. He is considered one of the top sleight of hand magicians and his presentations are often hilarious. He has performed in casinos in Atlantic City, Lake Tahoe



**Carney**



*This sign greets visitors to the new magic shop in Rockville near the White Flint Metro Station.*

and Las Vegas. He also has appeared on the Jerry Seinfeld HBO Special and CBS Magicians Favorite Magicians.

Later this fall, the shop hopes to host its Open Magic nights, which were popular in the upstairs theatre at the old location, and a Magic Idol contest patterned after TV's American Idol series. The audience will pick contest winner who will receive a grand prize \$250 gift certificate from Barry's plus a trophy. Their photo will be displayed at the magic shop. There probably will be two competitions—one for young magicians and one for adults which will be held on Saturday evenings. The ticket price will be reasonable and tickets will be available on line.



*Barry Taylor suspends an ace of spades in midair for Ring 50 Vice President Louis Meyer. Louis later did a brief impromptu children's performance on the stage at Barry's Magic Shop.*



*Susie Kang showed Phil Thomas of Ring 50 a magic No. 2 pencil in the new shop. Phil decided later to buy a magic pen noting he likes ordinary objects when he performs casual magic.*