

MAGI-GRAM



Official Newsletter of IBM Ring50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 66 No. 1 January 2012

New Members Perform at New Location

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The National Capital Ring**

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January Meeting Highlights

By Arnold Fuoco

Before the meeting, Dwight Redman gave an impressive teach-in on card techniques. President Danny Selnick stated that he felt the pre-meeting teach-ins were meeting the goal of teaching technique that could be used to learn many new effects. Danny opened the January meeting by thanking Louis Meyer for his generous gift that provides Ring 50 with its new meeting location. This was our first meeting at our new location called Childtime Magic Party Place in Vienna VA. Magician Louis Meyer owns this theater, performs his children's shows here, and has provided it to us for our monthly meetings. He thanked all of the performers at last month's Holiday Children's show and everyone agreed it will be difficult to repeat a show that had so much energy and participation. The next subject of interest was the Counts of Conjuring. Danny explained that Theo Rushin and Louis Meyer will be leading the youth program, the program will be formalized, and that the youngsters in the program must become members of IBM.

Broken Wand Ceremony Dick Christian

We were all saddened as we moved on to a broken wand ceremony for our esteemed fellow member, magician, and friend Dick Christian who passed on in November 8, 2011. The ceremony was conducted by past I.B.M. International President Dr. Bill Wells, with a biography by Jim Flanagan, and an assist by Territorial VP Dwight Redman.



Past I.B.M. International President Dr. Bill Wells, Dwight Redman & Jim Flanagan conduct Broken Wand Ceremony in remembrance of Dick Christian.

New Performers at January Meeting

By Arnold Fuoco

Photos by Bob Patterson

Danny Selnick emceed this month's show. Opening the show with a Harry Potter motif was **John Cloninger**. He showed us his broken wand and explained he needed cash to fix it. And using magic he



transformed five one dollar bills into five twenties. With the extra cash, he purchased a repair bag into which he placed the broken wand and the cash.

John Cloninger A wave of a borrowed wand and *viola!* out came a brand new wand. He then used the new wand to affect two amazing tee shirt changes. To conclude, John used his power to "*disappearate*" by disappearing behind a cloth curtain but not completely.

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New Performers at January Meeting

(continued from page 1)

When the curtain was lowered, the audience saw the stump of his waist just above the curtain and it seemed to walk toward them. This was an excellent routine that flowed from a Harry Potter central theme.



Avi Littky

Next up was youth member **Avi Littky** who combined the professor's nightmare with a ring on rope routine to produce a series of stunning impossibilities. In a cascade of rapid moves the ropes became larger, smaller, and one rope became a continuous loop. You could hear the audience "wows" during the entire polished routine as performed by Avi.



John Cloninger, Dr. Stan Hilliard, Bob Weiman & David Watson.

Dr Stan Hilliard presented a great twist on the two card monte move. Two cards were signed and using the scientific principle of

affinity that opposites attract, he placed them back to back. The audience provided a pulling force by loudly humming a mantra and suddenly the two signed cards became one. And just as amazing the other card became a double backed blue card. Stan then moved on to a smooth version of grandma's necklace with a wand as the focal point. Two ropes were knotted to trap a wand and four silks were knotted on the ropes. With one effortless move Stan removed the wand and silks leaving two assistants holding the ends of the ropes. These were two superlative effects presented by Stan Hilliard.

Cassandra Lofgren and Gregg Clements presented a hilarious version of sawing a woman in half using two large decrepit cardboard boxes. With Cassandra inside the box, the audience howled as Gregg cut through the box with a wood saw. This stage illusion also seemed to add inches to Cassandra's height.



Cassandra Lofgren & Greg Clements

They then brought out a beautiful dove named Houdini. Houdini was placed into a paper walled box and after a magical gesture the walls were removed, the paper broken and Houdini mysteriously vanished. Thanks to Cassandra and Gregg, the audience enjoyed two very entertaining stage illusions.

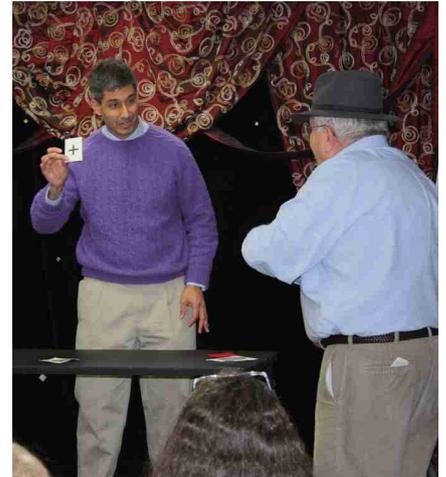
Next up was **Joe Patane**. With a nice assist from Laurie Curry and Gregg Clements, Joe took two coins and placed them on the top of a stretched out silk handkerchief. With a magic wave the two top coins morphed into one and Joe reached below the silk to catch the missing



Joe Patane & Laurie Curry.

coin as it penetrated the handkerchief. Kudos to Joe for this interesting version of Bob Swadling's "Double Deception."

Bob Weiman placed a mommy sponge bunny into a spectator's hand and put the papa bunny into his pocket. A magic wave and both bunnies wound up in the spectator's hand. When he repeated this there was a family of bunnies emerging from the spectator's hand.



Bob Weiman & Rucj Uffelman

Next, with his back turned, he had an assistant turn over one of four ESP cards, had them collected and shuffled, and mysteriously found the assistant's card. He repeated this under more difficult conditions by never seeing the cards and the audience was genuinely puzzled. He closed with the gypsy thread effect comparing the thread to life's challenges and happy events that we all encounter. These were three very clever routines by Bob Weiman.

(continued on page 3)

New Performers at January Meeting

(continued from page 2)

Youth member **Andrew Lindgren** had a spectator select a card and return it to the deck. He shuffled the cards and had a lot of difficulty finding the card while stating the card may be evil. Finally he dropped the deck into a hat and assumed the role of a cowboy with a lasso. The rope was lowered into the hat and when raised it had the selected card wrapped in the noose at the end.



Steve Javes & Andrew Lindgren

Next, Andrew placed two coins under a silk handkerchief and magically removed one through the cloth of the handkerchief. Both of these effects had lots of laughs and the audience enjoyed Andrew's deft performance.



Members of Ring 50 watched in amazement as the New Members Perform.

Closing out the show was **Bob Wilcox**. Bob had a card selected and shuffled back into the deck. He then tried to divine the card using his mentalism powers but was unsuccessful. Fortunately he had taken out an insurance policy with a subsidiary of *Lloyd's of London* called *Larry's of Lorton*. He read the fine print of the insurance policy but when it was unfolded there was a huge photo of the selected card, the King of Diamonds. This was quite a humorous and skilled routine by Bob Wilcox



Bob Wilcox



TLR Reviewers to Perform at February Meeting

The February 1st meeting will be demonstrations of the latest magic items on the market by our Ring 50 *Hocus in Focus* Linking Ring reviewers. New items arrive at TLR editor's office for review. He sends them to the associate editor, Jason Goldberg, for his reviewers to examine, tear apart, perform, and evaluate. Many are new items, books, DVDs, and some are revisions or modifications to classic magic effects. This will be a good chance to see a demo of an item you saw advertise and wanted to know more about it.

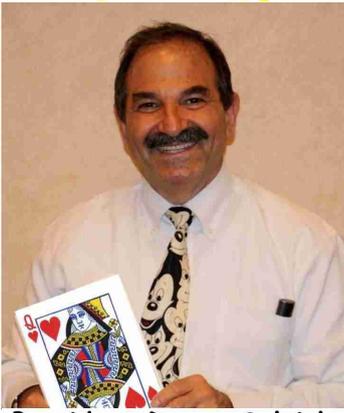
We appreciate the time the *Hocus in Focus* team spends on their reviews. It is not an easy task to critically examine the hard work of others. Ring 50 reviewers are: Jason Goldberg, Eric Henning, Bill Wells, Paul White, Ed Spells, Larry Lipman, Louis Meyer, Sam Brothers, Rucj Uffelman, Dick Kahane, Bob Patterson, Dave Shepherd, Arnie Levin, Mike Taggart, Dwight Redman, Tom Bohacek, Danny Selnick, Geoff Weber, and Kevin McGuire.

IBM Ring 50 Schedule

2012

- Feb 1 *Hocus in Focus* Night
- Mar 7 Auction Night
- Apr 4 Dan Lacey Contest
- Apr 13-14 Magi-Whirl 2012
- May 2 Geoff Williams Lecture
- Jun 6 Humorous Magi Contest
- July No Ring 50 Meeting
- Jul 3-7 ... IBM Convention Norfolk
- Aug 1 Joshua Jay Lecture
- Sep 5 Teach-In by Members
- Oct 3 ESP/Mentalism Night
- Nov 7 Simon Lovell Lecture
- Dec 5 Children's Magic Show

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President Danny Selnick

Happy New Year again ... and Ring 50 is off to a great start! We have a new home, an invigorated youth magic group (Counts of Conjuring), and with your help -- we'll make 2012 an even better year for Ring 50 members. For those that came to last week's Ring 50 "New Members Perform" night, I'm sure you'll agree that all our magicians were great-- super fun, entertaining, and very magical. By the way-- they all survived the ordeal of getting up in front of all those in attendance. We are all very proud of all you.

For those that didn't make it to the meeting, we began the evening by celebrating Dick Christian -- by remembering him as a very special and dedicated member of Ring 50 ... and to the magic community, in general. Thanks to Jim Flanagan, Bill Wells, and Dwight Redman for leading the Broken Wand ceremony. Dick will be sorely missed.

February is "Hocus in Focus" night for reviewers to perform the latest and greatest of new magic on the market -- so step right on up and send a note to Jason Goldberg and me that know you'll be on stage. You know who you are!

March is Auction Night and we promise to make the process more streamlined this year and we'll let you know the details in the next Magi-Gram newsletter (as soon as we figure them out).

Oh -- just because we have our schedule together for the next six months (you can see it listed on page 3) -- it doesn't mean we should all sit back and relax, too much. We've got Magi-Whirl 2012 coming up and we'll need volunteers to help. Theo and M-W committee members will be letting you know shortly what needs to be done.

You can also help the Ring by volunteering to lead a mini teach-in session that we hold now before each meeting ... or even by suggesting what you'd like to learn. While I can usually read people's minds, for some reason, your brainwaves to me are experiencing some strange interference-- so, help me out -- pick up the phone or send me an email.

Finally, I realize our move to Vienna is new and we're learning how to be get there (and for many members it's farther away from our former location), but I encourage all Ring 50 members to come to meetings as best you can. If you need help with carpooling, a lift to the Metro or whatever, let me know. I'll try to help you out. It's only once a month that we meet -- but it's worth everything -- where else can you have so much fun and gain magical skills?

Magically yours, **Danny**

RING 50 NEW LOCATION

I.B.M. Ring 50 meetings are held at "ChildTime Magic Party Place" located in Vienna VA. The address is **312 Dominion Rd. NE, Vienna, VA 22180**. If you need assistance in locating the meeting call: 703-765-1923. The meeting room will be in the 1,000 square foot Theater area. Over flow parking is available in the Church lot on the corner of Ayr Hill Rd and Dominion Rd. Meeting starts at 8:00 PM.

Ring 50 New Members & Applications

New members were welcomed aboard at the January 4th meeting. **David Watson**, (70319Y) Oxen Hill MD does close-up, parlor, street magic and manipulations. **Andrew Lindgren** (70404Y) Centreville VA has performed magic at his school's Talent Show and a few times at other schools. He became interested in magic thru his brother and magic books from the library.

The following applications for membership have been received by the Membership Chairman: **John Huggins** (70262R) Leesburg VA and **Steve Ralston** (48727R) Fairfax VA. These Magicians will be voted upon at the next meeting they attend.

Ring 50 Treasurer Collecting Dues for 2012

Only 32% of the members have paid their dues for 2012. Ring 50 annual dues of \$15 for 2012 are **due by February**. Anyone, wishing to do so, can pay their dues at the



February 1st meeting. The Ring 50 Treasurer, Bob

Patterson, requests that you pay by check, as this eases the record keeping. Make checks payable to **IBM Ring 50**. Cash will be accepted providing you have the correct change (\$15). If you are unable to make the meetings, you can send a check to his home address at 3450 Wainscott Place, Lake Ridge, VA 22192-5362. Enjoy your Ring activities throughout 2012 by paying your dues now.

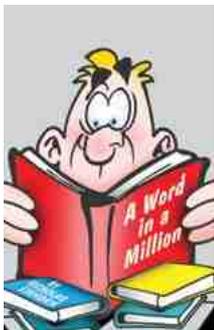
Be sure to visit Ring 50's Website at www.IBMRing50.Org for current happenings.



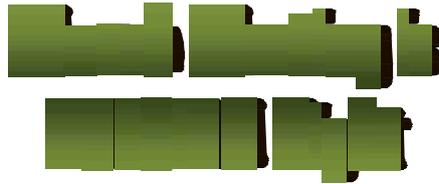
**Ring 50 Magic Youth International
“The Counts of Conjuring”**

The Counts of Conjuring ushered in the New Year by welcoming a few new potential Counts at our new meeting location. Our theme for the night was Rope Magic. After reciting the magician's oath Theo Rushin, our Royal Prince of Conjuring, presented several rope techniques. He also talked about his sources for rope magic including the Tarbell Course in Magic, and DVDs by Aldo Colombini, George Sands, and Richard Sanders. At the end of the meeting a drawing was held for a copy of the Knot a Card trick which, Theo demonstrated for the entire group. Congratulations Nikki.

Don't forget to encourage a youth to attend the Ring 50 MYI. The youth meeting starts at 630 pm at the ChildTime Magic Party Place Vienna VA. The Youth Ring is open for children ages 7-17. Please let **Theo Rushin**, Chief Instructor for the youth group, know if you are bringing any youths so that we can be better prepared for them.



One of the many benefits of belonging to a magic club like Ring 50 is learning from each other. So come, enjoy, and perhaps learn. See you at the meeting.



March 7th is Auction Night. Gather up those great effects that you no longer need and put them in the Auction (include the instructions too, if you can find them). There will be a **silent auction** for small items and for the bigger items with a retail value over \$25 we will have a **live auction**. Please keep ALL BIDS in even dollars.

Volunteers Needed

We are putting out a call to the membership for volunteers to help with the Auction on March 7th. There has been a small core group of members helping run the auction for many years now. It's time for some new blood to step up and lend a hand during this annual event. Helpers need with collecting fees, bagging the winning items, tabulating the results of each winning bid, etc.

If you would like to help make this auction the best auction to date, please contact a board member and volunteer some of your time this coming March.

THE MAGIC CASTLE (partially) RE-OPENS AFTER OCT 31 FIRE!



After months of improvised schedules, relocated dining, relocated performances and even some "dark" nights, the Magic Castle will re-open its Main Bar and dining room floors on Friday, January 13, 2012, starting with their Friday (Member's) Lunch.

The Castle is once again accepting reservations for members and guests for seven nights every week! (If you're a guest, please note that they have reset the door charges back to their original levels: \$20.00 on Sundays through Thursdays, \$25.00 on Fridays and Saturdays.)

Some of the Castle is still recovering from their recent fire. Once repairs are finished, hopefully in the next few weeks, the Museum Room and the Hat & Hare area, we'll be re-opening.

FEBRUARY MEETING
Wednesday,
February 1, 2012
ChildTime Magic Party Place
Vienna, VA
6:15 Counts of Conjuring
7:30 Mini Lecture
8:00 Meeting

Coming Events



Sea the Magic
Norfolk

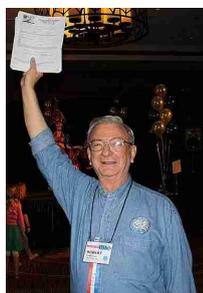
July 3-7
2012

Marriott Hotel – Norfolk VA
July 3 thru July 7, 2012

The 2012 I.B.M. Convention will be held in Norfolk Virginia, July 3-7, 2012 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel.

There will be three big evening stage shows in the Chrysler Theater! Lectures galore! Optional is a banquet with an exciting cabaret show. Learn from the best in the business with a stellar line-up of lectures and great close-up shows, fantastic youth activities and events are in the works, and some great new activities for spouses, and the Order of Merlin. Of course experience 'dealer's room' with expected 40 or more vendors. And you'll see the Gold Medal and Gold Cups Contests - often regarded as the best-run contest in magic!

Register early to get close in seats and before the price goes up, at www.Magician.Org or see the I.B.M. International **Registration Chairman**, Bob Patterson.



S.A.M. 2012
Convention, Las Vegas, NV

The 2012 S.A.M. Convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, Monday, July 23 - Thursday July 26, 2012 at the Golden Nugget! Go to <http://www.magicsam.com> for more information. Featuring **David Copperfield and Mac King**.



Kidvention has everything for the Children's Entertainer. Whether you are a magician, clown, face painter, balloon artist or ventriloquist! The Kidvention will have 3 days of classes for everyone. Including tons of business classes to get more gigs! There will be 20 different presenters this year!

Out with the old and in with the new. There will be a Kidvention Auction, so bring items from home that you want to get rid of and pick up some new items in the Dealer Room. Saturday night is the Magic Performance evening with Oscar Munoz.

Kapital Kidvention will be held at the Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan National Airport 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA

The Registration fee is \$225. Sign up at: <http://kapitalkidvention.com>.



RING 50 MEETING LOCATION

I.B.M. Ring 50 meets the first Wednesday of each month (except July) at 8:00 PM.

New Location:

Childtime Magic Party Place, 312 Dominion Road, NE in Vienna, Virginia.



April 13 & 14, 2012

January Update

Magi-Whirl Chairman, **Theo Rushin** has updated the Magi-Whirl website to reflect our 2012 convention. Here is the convention line-up so far: Lectures: Gustavo Raley, Ken Scott, and George Saterial. We have just added to the Magi-Whirl 2012 Line-Up - The Aldo and Rachel Colombini Farewell Tour. For those who may have seen Aldo and Rachel in a previous lecture in 2011, they have promised to present some new material for the Magi-Whirl 2012 convention attendees. Close-Up Performers: Gustavo Raley, Ken Scott, and the Colombini's.

Gala Show Performers: Noland Montgomery, Gustavo Raley, Ken Scott, and headliner George Saterial. Watch for updates and other news at: www.Magi-Whirl.Org website

We plan on having several dealers scheduled for the dealer room. You can see and talk to professional magicians and look at new magic items for sale, touch them and see them in action before making a purchase.

Magi-Whirl is held at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Rd, Alexandria VA. For details go to: www.Magi-Whirl.Org. Come and join the fun and meet new magical friends.

Registration forms will be available at the Ring 50 meetings and online. Registration for members signing up at the meeting until March 23rd is \$45, non-members \$50. After March 23rd it will be \$65 for everyone.

Magi-Whirl is a Ring 50 production supported by the help of it's members. Volunteers, contact Theo Rushin at rushint@yahoo.com.