

# MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 75 No. 11 December 2017

## ♣ ♣ Children's Holiday Magic Show ♣ ♣

### December Meeting Highlights

With a white bushy beard and bells on his boots, Santa Claus (**Richie Klein**) greeted and posed for photos with swarms of kids and their parents as they made their way into Ring 50's Annual Holiday Magic Show for Children.



*Santa Claus*

The Holiday Inn – Carlyle had doubled the regular meeting area to accommodate the estimated audience of 70 kids and 100 adults. When the excited children had taken their place on the floor in front of the seated audience, President **Larry Lipman** welcomed one and all to the festivities.



*Young Audience*

He began by introducing Ring 50 Member and current International President of I.B.M., **Bob Patterson** who described the organization for the benefit of the mostly lay audience.



*International President Bob Patterson*

Bob said, in part, “The International Brotherhood of Magicians was founded in 1922. It is the world's largest organization dedicated to the art of magic, with members in 40 countries. The 9,000 members include professional, semi-professional, amateur magicians and enthusiastic magic hobbyists from all walks of life. The 365 local branches of the I.B.M. are called Rings and they meet each month. The National Capital Ring 50 meets right here in the Holiday Inn the first Wednesday of each month. Ring 50 has a youth group called the Counts of Conjuring and meets at 6:00 PM the first Wednesday of each month. The I.B.M. offers many outstanding benefits, but among the most important are the opportunities to grow in magic and to have fun with

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others who love the art.”

President Lipman then introduced **Lt. Nathan Bridges** from the Alexandria Citadel of the Salvation Army who thanked audience members for their heaping donations (two large tables full) of toys and non-perishable food items; the “price of admission” to the magic show. \$54.75 also had been donated in the form of cash. Lt. Bridges expressed appreciation to Ring 50 in its continued support of The Salvation through the annual Holiday Magic Show.



*Lt. Nathan Bridges*

## Showtime

**Noland the Magician (Noland Montgomery)** led off the entertainment with a demonstration of controlled pandemonium as the kids reacted to his provocative antics. These centered on a seemingly inexhaustible supply of gags produced from his hat: A Wand that changed to bread, toilet paper (and toilet plunger), multiplying hot dogs, a banana, a spring wand, giant comb and toothbrush, a silk that had just been vanished, and less-than-pristine socks and underwear. One running gag involved the frequent discovery of donuts in kid’s ears. The last item to appear from Noland’s hat was Rocky the Raccoon who, in addition to annoying Noland, helped present a routine with a floppy rope that

mysteriously became stiff as a board.



*Noland and his assistant*

After Noland had taken his bow and the noise had abated somewhat, it was the turn for:

**Captain Token the Magician (Louis Hofheimer)**. Louis lit a torch on fire, paused, and suddenly it became a beautiful silvery cane! Next, he showed how to tie a “square” knot in a piece of rope and then opened up his wallet unleashing another burst of fire.



*Louis Hofheimer*

With the aid of several kids Louis cut a long piece of rope in half and then tied two ends together and claimed it had been “restored”. The kids were not fooled; but then he wrapped the rope around his fist, made a magical gesture and when he removed the rope it had, in fact been made whole again. Louis again revealed his pyromaniac tendencies by opening a book and allowing another blaze of fire to momentarily spring from its center. Then, from a clearly empty paper bag, Louis pulled three beautiful corsages

inside clear plastic boxes, drawing gasps from the audience. Captain Token the Magician ended by encircling two volunteers in ropes. With the help of **Matthew Nichols**, a Count of Conjuring, the ropes were given a vigorous yank and seemed to melt away, freeing the captives. Last up:

**Louis The Magician (Louis Meyer)** – opened with a “Psychic Arrow” – a test to make sure the kids could see him clearly. As long as the arrow pointed up it was a sign all was well. However, the kids began screaming as the arrow went haywire and pointed in all different directions although every time Louis checked it was pointing up. Eventually he opened the arrow up to reveal a huge pair of spectacles so that “somebody” could get it right. Louis then turned to a box labelled “COOP” and said it was occupied by “Sidney the Chicken” who could be heard clucking inside. Sidney (so-named though not a Rooster) finally appeared in the box to take part in a magic trick involving different colored eggs.



*Louis and Sidney the Chicken with their assistant*

Sidney was blindfolded and a yellow egg was selected by an audience member. During this action Sidney tried to cheat with the blindfold but was found out and reprimanded by Louis the Magician. All three eggs went into the henhouse and Sidney went to work to find the selection. More cackling and squawking was heard and then

an egg shot up out of the henhouse – wrong color! Sidney tried again with the same result. After more hilarious byplay the front door of the henhouse opened and out rolled a giant yellow egg! Sidney took a well-deserved bow amid a wave of loud applause. Louis the Magician then apologized to the audience because **Frosty the Snowman**, who was supposed to make a surprise appearance, had failed to show up. As he said this, the lid to a box set off to the side began to slowly open by itself. Screaming kids tried to alert Louis but he seemed not to hear. The lid opened more and a white shape began to slowly bulge and grow until it was an immense Frosty himself, all decked out with scarf, top hat and carrot for a nose! – a killer ending for the Holiday show.



*Frosty the Snowman*

After order was restored, Santa Claus appeared and had his picture taken with the three Magicians of the evening: **Noland Montgomery, Louis Hofheimer and Louis Meyer** along with President Larry Lipman who wished the happily applauding crowd good night and a safe trip home.



*Santa with the performers*

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



### President Larry Lipman

In November we had a fabulous “New Members Performances Night.” It was a chance for members who have recently joined to show their stuff and for those of us who have been in the club for a while to get to know these new folks a bit better. In January, we’ll have an opportunity to explore the other side of the coin with a “Past President’s Performances Night.” We are blessed that so many of our former presidents are still active in Ring 50. While I don’t yet know how many of them will perform, I want to highlight two of them for particular attention. This coming year, 2018, marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the induction of **Buddy Smith** as president. And right behind him the following year was **Augie Arnstein**. Both Buddy and Augie are still loyal, active members of the Ring, and I cannot even begin to imagine how many magicians, and Ring 50 members, they have helped and influenced over the past four and more decades. While our new members are the future of Ring 50, our past presidents are the stalwart backbone of the club: folks who have shown a willingness to pitch in to do a variety of tasks for many years both before and after their

terms of office. I hope we have a great turnout to honor the contributions and leadership each of these presidents gave the club. Have a happy holiday season and see you in January.

Magically yours, **Larry Lipman**,  
President, Ring 50.

*Larry*

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## Magi-Whirl

Event Chairman **Danny Selnick** and Treasurer **Marc Carrion**, sent in this report on our annual convention:

“Planning for Magi-Whirl 2018 (set for May 4-5) is moving along faster than a magician's "sleight of hand." We now have a location that central to many magicians -- at West Potomac High School, located one mile south of Alexandria on Route 1. AND we're now reaching out to some of the very best magicians and lecturers anywhere! We don't want to name them until they can confirm they'll be with us -- so hold tight! What we can say is that we've worked hard for find magicians suited to everyone's style and love of magic. That said -- we will need everyone to help. This is Ring 50's biggest event each year, and the major source for funding our regular meetings at the hotel and for lectures. Seating at West Potomac's theater maxes out at 800 that that's great and because we've had to contract directly through Fairfax County, we won't be sharing the profits like we did at Bishop Ireton. We need everyone to help us fill all seats (more on that later)! We hope to have our registration page up by early February, if not sooner. Also, there will be opportunities for some Ring 50 members to help behind the

curtain, or helping escort individual performers while they are in town. If you have never hung around a professional magician for a day, this is your chance. Their stories are always fun. Let's make sure we make this Magi-Whirl 2018 is the best one yet!

## Ring 50 Past Presidents to Perform



The January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will showcase a variety of talents by the Past Presidents of Ring 50. This evening will be packed with effects ranging from the sublime to the miraculous. The following 14 Past Presidents still have an active membership in the Ring are ask to contact **Larry Lipman** [lipman.larry@gmail.com] to confirm their performance at the meeting: **Buddy Smith**, (1978-79); **Augie Arnstein**, (1979-80); **Robert Greenwald**, (1995-96); **John Roberts**, (1992-93); **Stuart Finley**, (1994-95); **Katherine Rettke**, (2001-02); **Larry Lipman**, (2002-03); **Eric Henning**, (2003-04); **Dwight Redman**, (2006-07); **Louis Meyer**, (2008-09); **Arnold Fuoco**, (2010-11); **Danny Selnick**, (2011-12); **Kevin McGuire**, (2013-14); **Tom Kee**, (2014-15). Those named should contact **Larry Lipman** if they wish to perform.

## RING 50 MEETING LOCATION

### Holiday Inn

2460 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA.

6:00 Dinner  
7:30 Meeting

## Who is who in Ring 50

**Richie Klein:** How appropriate that Richie, our in-house Santa Claus for the Holiday Magic Show, was able to share his background with our readers:

“I was born in D.C. and brought up in a large family (10 brothers and sisters) that lived on a small farm at Bailey’s Crossroads. At nearby Lake Barcroft there was a gypsy camp, a spring home to a band of gypsy carnival types including dancers, a fire-eater and, a magician named Charles. My grandfather and father had made friends with some of them and when the magician’s coffin illusion needed repair, he turned to my father, who could fix anything (some say I inherited this talent). I was hooked on the idea you could made someone disappear through magic.

I was drafted into the army at 18 and I had a roommate named **Jeffery Wyatte Jones** who was a great slight-of-hand artist who would use me as a prop assistant when he performed out in the town. When I spoke with him two years ago he was still in the business as a carnival manager/agent on the West coast. He always said he never had a stage name for longer than the law would allow.

I have been reading and learning magic on and off for the past 30 years. I finally decided to join Ring 50 six years ago so I could learn from other folks and now I spend my time performing for friends and family and, of course, as Santa Claus.

I worked as Process Instrumentation and Automation Technician /department head for the Fairfax Co. Public Works Environmental Services division for 30 years. I now have my own business “25 Northpole” LLC. My problem now is I have too many hobbies: woodworking, electronics, leatherwork, ham radio, metalwork and of course magic just to name a few and these keep me pretty busy. I have been Sgt.-at-Arms for Ring 50 for the past two years and it has been a very rewarding experience for me in many ways. HO HO HO”!

## Ring 50 New Members & Applications & Dues



### Membership

Have YOU brought a prospective member to the meeting? They must be interested in magic and be a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Applications are available from the Treasurer.

New members are always welcome at Ring 50. You must be interested in magic (full time or part time performer, hobbyist, collector, etc.). You must join

and be an active member of International Brotherhood of Magicians prior to belonging to Ring 50.

For current members, remember to pay your dues before February meeting!



**“Lazy Man’s Card Trick”**  
 (An Al Koran effect Submitted by “Anymouse”)

Put Ace thru King of any suit (say Hearts) on bottom of deck, Ace on bottom. Shuffle, controlling the bottom cards in place. Spread, ask spectator to select a card. Cards are cut at that point and spectator’s card is placed on top half, then the bottom half on top of that, thus putting the AH next to the selection. Spectator cuts about 1/3 off the top of the face down cards, and then cuts again about 2/3s. Cards are turned face up and more cuts are made until a heart appears. The value of that card equals the location of the selection counting down in the deck. (Ex. If the JH shows up the card is 11<sup>th</sup> from the top). Make up any story you like for having him count down. (Editors Note: You could riffle or spread the deck facing you to “memorize” it. Ask the spectator to name his card, then count down to where you “remember” it is.)

## Counts of Conjuring Meets January 3, 6:00pm



The International Brotherhood of Magicians, National Capitol Ring 50, “Counts of Conjuring” meets first Wednesday of every month at the **Holiday Inn Alexandria–Carlyle, 2460 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA** at 6:00pm. The “Counts” is a way for youths to learn about magic and the performance of magic.

Louis the Magician teaches the *Discover Magic* course. This is an amazing course that not only will teach the youths magic but will also teach them important “life-skills”. This class is normally taught in after-school programs and summer camps and costs \$275 per child but will be FREE for the Counts of Conjuring (only cost is \$35 for the actual magic tricks).

Each month the youths will learn one new magic trick and have a chance to perform it.

The Counts of Conjuring is for youths 8 to 17 years.

**January 3, 2018, 6:00pm**

### Magic Quickies Needed

Send **John Roberts** a short trick you would like to share with newsletter readers. There are no guidelines other than the entry should be brief, simple, doable and fun; the offbeat and quirky are encouraged. Send to John:

[Barjorobts@comcast.net](mailto:Barjorobts@comcast.net)

## Be Sure to Keep Your I.B.M. Membership Current

You must be an active member of I.B.M. to belong to Ring 50. If you haven’t already, don’t forget to keep your membership active in the International Brotherhood of Magicians to enjoy the benefits of membership. Send dues to: **International Brotherhood of Magicians, 13 Point West Blvd, St. Charles, Missouri, USA 63301.**

### Silent Auction at Ring 50

In August, we started a silent auction before each meeting between 7 and 7:30 p.m. As always, 10 percent of the sale price goes to the Ring. Each person having items to be auctioned in the **Silent Auction**, must complete an **IBM Ring 50 Silent Auction Bid Sheet** for each item describing the items and any reserve bid if necessary. Each seller should provide a full and accurate representation of the item, such as missing instructions, repairs, wear and tear, etc. Otherwise it shall be assumed that all items are complete and in working order and includes instructions.

The form is will be sent by email to all members and a few will be available at the Auction. At the end of the silent auction, turn in the tally sheet along with 10% to the Ring 50 Treasurer.

