

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 76 No. 1 January 2018

♣ ♣ Past President's Nite ♣ ♣

January Meeting Highlights

Indeed it was an unusually cold winter's evening but a capacity crowd of Ring 50 members turned out to watch a parade of eight former Ring Presidents strut their magical wares. President **Larry Lipman** welcomed the audience to the first meeting of the Ring in 2018. He outlined the calendar of program for the next few months beginning with February which will be Mentalism Night with a twist: members versed in this this branch of magic can perform an effect and then follow it up with a short explanation - a sort of mini-teach-in. March will feature a lecture on "Children's Magic for Non-Children's Magicians" by **Mike Hummer**. Many of us who do not perform for children as a matter of course sometimes are called on to do so anyway. Mike will offer some easy ways to handle this situation combining tricks with useful advice on this specialty. April will be the **Dan Lacey** "Magician of the Year Contest", an annual highlight of the year's program schedule. There will be no regular meeting in May because Magi-Whirl is set for the 4th and 5th of the month. More on that from event Chairman **Danny Selnick**:

Magi-Whirl

Danny announced that this year, our annual convention will be held in a new venue, West Potomac High school which has ideal facilities including a 900-seat auditorium for the Gala Show. The line-up of talent so far, includes: a prominent children's entertainer, **Christopher T. Magician**; **Krystyn Lambert** an internationally known female magician who has been on Penn and Teller. She will perform on stage as well as lecture and **Kohl and Company** - a hilarious comedy magic stage act. **Danny Selnick** said this may well be their farewell performance as they are thinking of retiring soon. Also signed up as a lecturer is **Michael Rubinstein**, a well-known expert in coin magic from the Big Apple. Negotiations are still underway to secure other top-notch entertainers for this (don't tell anyone yet, but it looks like we may get **Dan Harlan** too!), Ring 50's premier event of the year. Danny asked for anyone willing to help in contacting and arranging for dealers to E-Mail him at Danny.Selnick@yahoo.com. Danny emphasized that we must make an all-out effort to publicize this Magi-Whirl to ensure it is a financial success.

Counts of Conjuring

Louis Meyer announced that the second course in this series of magic classes began this month for an average of ten young magician

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hopefuls. Louis said registration is open to all kids from 7 to 18. The Counts of Conjuring meet at 6 p.m. before each monthly meeting of Ring 50. A newly-recruited Count, **Sean Mulvaney** was introduced by his guest mother Samantha who told us she was inspired to check out the club when she and her kids, Sean and Ryan, attended our Annual Children's Holiday Magic Show. Sean was picked to demonstrate that night's trick learned from Louis's prior teach-in. He showed a small box and, with his back turned, had a spectator (**Kenny Wardrick**) place a six-sided die inside with his favorite image on top and cover the box. Sean then correctly divined the correct image in the box.



Sean Mulvaney

The 50/50 raffle was won by **Dani Carrion**, son of Treasurer **Marc Carrion** - \$24 for him and \$25 for the club. These preliminaries out of the way, it was time for

Past President's Nite

Past and Present Ring 50 President **Larry Lipman** began by noting that **Buddy Smith** is the Dean of past presidents, having served from 1978-79. Buddy was supposed to be the first performer of the evening but was unable to appear due to an attack of flu. His absence was regretted especially because there was a 40th

Anniversary cake in his honor ready for post-meeting consumption. Also missing from the Past President ranks was **Eric Henning** (2003-04) who had the same bug as **Buddy Smith**.



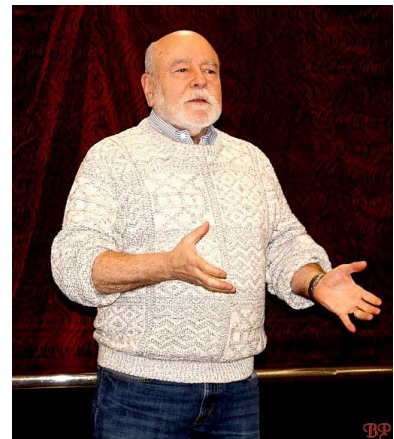
All Performers

Louis Meyer (2016-17) was present but declined to perform because of a hoarse throat. Larry announced that, in a departure from the norm, M.C. duties for the program would be carried out by three Counts of Conjuring, **Matthew Biegun**, **Jacob Miller** and **Will Boettcher**.



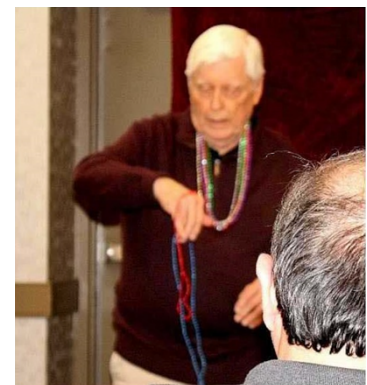
Matthew Biegun, Will Boettcher and Jacob Miller

First up was **Augie Arnstein** (1979-80) who succeeded **Buddy Smith** as President. Augie did a mentalism effect which is simple to describe but jaw-dropping in its effect. Three spectators, **Tony Nichols**, **Craig Fifer** and **Chuck Jones** each cut off a portion of a well-shuffled deck. Each one looked at the bottom card of his portion and then the deck was re-assembled. So far so good – then it got really spooky. Without asking any questions – or using any sleight of hand -- Augie was able to call out each of the three selected cards. A stunning effect from the hands of a master.



Augie Arnstein

John Roberts (1992-03), removed from his case a mysterious "vault" and a number of brightly colored Mardi-Gras bead necklaces which he placed around his neck. From the otherwise empty "vault" he removed a single gold necklace which he tied in a knot with just one hand and then removed and tossed away the knot! He then took out a red and a blue necklace and in a flash linked the two together with a bright green silk tied between them. Using the same two necklaces, he spun a tale of how a young man and woman magically linked up, married and produced offspring – two miniature linked red and blue necklaces which appeared with no warning. John went on to magically link successive necklaces until he had a chain of six displayed between his outstretched hands. John then looked into the previously empty "vault" and poured out a cascade of linked gold necklaces for an impressive finish.



John Roberts

Larry Lipman (2002-03). The audience quickly sat up expectantly when Larry introduced three green lengths of rope as THE SINGING WORMS! It seems that there were three hungry birds sitting on a limb each complaining of hunger. This led to a storm of silliness with audience members “creeping along ‘worm song’”. Each hungry bird located a worm (short, medium and long) and brought back to the nest for a feast. Fighting broke out when the birds realized the worms were un-equal in length – not fair! In desperation the birds consulted a forest wizard who cast a spell resulting in three worms of equal length. Back in the nest, the spell proved to be short-lived and the worms returned to their original lengths and the birds had to find some other source of nourishment.



Larry Lipman

Dwight Redman (2006-07). Dwight dealt a deck of cards into four face-up piles and then placed an ace on top of each pile, the aces were cut into the deck as it was reassembled. Dwight then spelled to the Ace of Hearts, cut to the Ace of Spades, shuffled to the Ace of Diamonds and then cut to the Eight of Clubs which told him the Ace of Clubs was 8 cards from the top – and there it was. Dwight then asked **Ryan Mulvaney** to name his favorite ace. He had Ryan cut the deck into 4 piles, pick up each pile

one at a time, deal three cards to the bottom of the pile, then deal a card onto the other three piles. Once Ryan had finished, three piles were eliminated and Sean’s favorite ace was atop the last pile. For his last trick, Dwight first confessed that he cheated with marked cards and he would demonstrate how easy this was to do when you know what to look for. Four spectators told Dwight to stop as he mixed up the cards. Each time, the spectator managed to stop on an Ace which Dwight placed face up on the table. Dwight then proved how easy it was to find the aces: The Ace of Clubs had an orange back, the Ace of Hearts was blue, the Ace of Spades was silver and the Ace of Diamonds was red! Marked cards indeed!



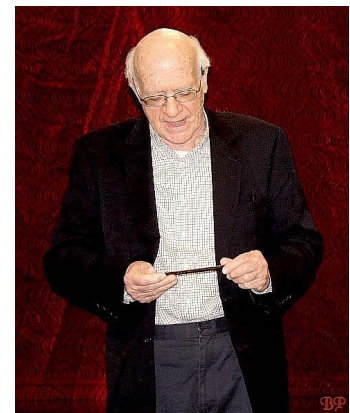
Dwight Redman

Mike Taggart (2007-08) enlisted the help of **Tammy Miller** to perform some classic sponge ball effects. Then Tammy chose a card which Mike placed into a shuffled deck which he dropped into in a card case. He gave the case to Tammy to hold high above her head and after a few seconds one card mysteriously rose up from the rest and proved to be Tammy’s selection.



Mike Taggart

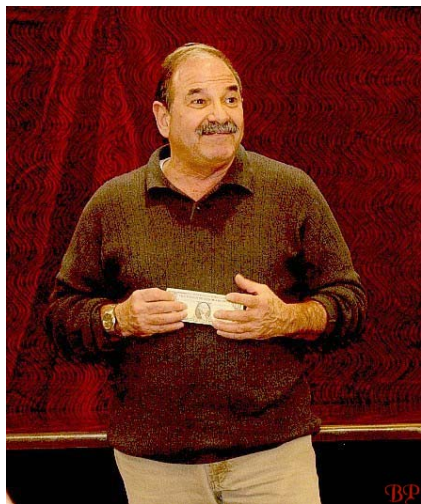
Arnie Fuoco (2010-11) told of finding a lump of coal in his stocking as a child which he produced from an empty hand. He went on to display a large number of coal nuggets which he loaded into a canister. He then explained what happens to coal when subjected to tremendous amount of pressure. He applied a magical force field to the canister and when he poured out the contents, the coal had turned to a glittering stream of diamonds! Arnie then had six members of the audience select cards from a deck. After shuffling the deck, Arnie located each card using a variety of methods including finding one of them in his sock!



Arnie Fuoco

Danny Selnick (2011-12) Opened by showing a dollar bill and explaining that sometimes plastic is preferable to paper – at which point the bill changed instantly into a credit card. Danny next told a story about a King of

Clubs and a Queen of Hearts who met at a dance. They married and from those two cards appeared a third small infant card named, naturally, “Jack”. Next, a spectator selected a card which Danny returned to the deck which he then threw into a bag held by **Will Boettcher**. Will thoroughly shook up the bag and Danny, face averted and with his “Magic Fingers”, was able to locate the selection.



Danny Selnick

Tom Kee (2014-15). Tom invited **Stan Hillard** to look over a stack of specially printed cards, each one bearing five sayings which could be true or false. Stan selected a card at random and was instructed to choose one statement which was true for him and two which were not. After asking Stan to read his three statements, Tom was able to discern the one that applied to him – his liking for math. Then, Tom showed a small notebook with the names of Las Vegas casinos and their chip logos. Tom had **Danny Selnick** choose a page in the notebook and that very Logo showed up on Tom’s cell-phone. Lastly, Tom blew up a black balloon which was tossed into the audience and

passed around. At each successive stop, members made choices that narrowed an imaginary selection down to the Jack of Diamonds. **Barney Sperling** popped the balloon and inside was a folded up Jack of Diamonds!



Tom Kee

With that the show was over and amid a mighty wave of applause, the performers gathered for a group photo. Then one and all hurried to devour **Buddy Smiths** beautiful cake which had been procured by **Stan Hillard**. **Laurie Curry** was caught on camera eating the piece reserved for Buddy.



Laurie Curry

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President Larry Lipman

Experts say that the way to grow, at any age, is to get out of your comfort zone and try something new. Maybe you never do mentalism; maybe you’re afraid to perform for children. The February and March meetings will help you try something new.

In February, several Ring 50 members who enjoy mentalism will demonstrate some of their favorite routines and help us learn how to do this amazing magic. Personally, I’ve done very little mentalism, but I’m always fascinated when I see it done. I’m hoping to learn a lot.

As for children’s magic, we have several members who perform professionally for children either part-time or full-time. They can tell you that performing for children is entirely different than performing for adults. Kids are more likely to call you out when you make a mistake, and they’re more interested in the journey of getting to the magical conclusion rather than being amazed by the seemingly impossible. I know some kids performers who can make a great five minute routine out of vanishing a red silk and producing it somewhere else.

So what do you do if you don't regularly perform for kids, but a relative or friend who knows you are a magician asks you to perform at a family gathering or birthday party? Find out at our March meeting. Veteran magician **Mike Hummer**, a long-time demonstrator at Al's Magic Shop and someone who has done hundreds of magic shows for kids, will explain some of the key principles of performing for children and demonstrate some tricks and routines that any of our members can quickly master. I'm a longtime children's magician, but every time I see Mike lecture—and I've seen him many times—I learn something. If you're interested in learning how to perform for kids, don't miss this lecture.

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

Larry

**RING 50 MEETING
LOCATION**

Holiday Inn

2460 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria,
VA.

6:00 Dinner
7:30 Meeting

Who is who in Ring 50

Michael R. Wolfson: I was raised and schooled in West Palm Beach, FL and went to the University of Florida. I was head of the percussion section of both the high school and the U of F Gator Band. My first exposure to magic was in elementary school when my mother showed me a cut and restore

string trick by chewing the string back together.

In high school our four piece Dixieland band had a wash board player who was a magician. We played on live network TV on the **Ted Mack** Amateur Hour in January 1957. Before the show Mr. Mack tried to impress us with a changing color knife trick and our magician showed him an even better trick.

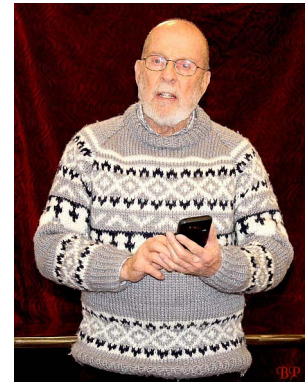
My third and lasting exposure to magic was in 1960 when we took a Gator Variety Show from the U of F in the summer of 1960 to the military bases in the Panama Canal Zone, GITMO, Cuba and Puerto Rico to entertain the troops. Our trumpet player did a few magic tricks in the bar of the officers club and attracted a group of women our age. I didn't pursue magic until a moved to Washington in 1966 when I found Al's Magic Shop across the square from my workplace. I bought some tricks, read the instructions and started entertaining some friends which is mostly what I continue doing today. I also did two magic shows for Bring Your Children to Work Days at the Department of State. I joined Ring 50 in 2007 and enjoy the many friendships and learning experiences.

After university I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Peru and then worked at PC headquarters for 22 years, first as an auditor and then as Director of Inspections and Investigation in the newly created Office of Inspector General (OIG) serving as the first Acting Inspector General in 1976.

In 1989 I started work as a Special Agent/Criminal Investigator in the Department of State OIG and then as a staff assistant to the IG and other assignments. I retired in 2014 with more than 44 years of Federal service. During these years I worked TDY in more than 45

countries throughout the world.

Although I don't play drums anymore I am a big jazz fan and attend many performances. I volunteer one night a week in the surgical recovery room at Inova Alexandria Hospital and volunteer with the Embassy of Peru for some of their cultural events and presidential elections. (Ed. Note: Mike is also the official photographer of record for Ring 50)



Michael Wolfson

**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!



*Edited by
John Roberts*

“L’Chaim”

The title of this effect* comes from the Yiddish word that means “To Life!” and is often used as a toast. The root word “Chai” is composed of two Hebrew Letters; “Chet” and “Yud” which are respectively, the 8th and 10th letters of the Hebrew alphabet, adding up to 18. The number 18, with its twin meaning of “Life”, has great significance in the Jewish religion and also is a very lucky number for magicians. Here’s why: you have a spectator write a three-digit number with the highest value first, then reverse the number and subtract it from the first. The resulting three numbers will *always* add up to 18. (Ex. 732 minus 237 is 495 = 18) The middle number will always be a 9 and the sum of the two outer numbers will always be 9. Thus armed, you have previously put the 9D as the 18th card in a deck of cards. In another deck, put a duplicate 9D in the 9th position down. Have a spectator do the math and add the three numbers to make 18. Deal down in the first deck to the 18th card – it is the 9D. Using the card value of 9, deal that many cards in the second deck – a match! Or, you can skip the second part and just match the 9D to a prediction you have placed in an envelope in full view from the beginning. L’Chaim!

**Magic with Cards*, Garcia & Schindler, pp. 67-68

Counts of Conjuring Meets February 7, 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.

February 7, 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

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

Last year, 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.



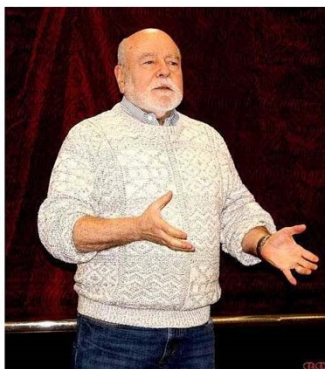
*“Daddy doesn’t know any magic tricks.
Daddy knows accounting tricks.”*



Three Ring 50 "Counts of Conjuring" were the Emcees for the performances.



A "Count" led off the evening performances.



Augie Arnstein (1979-80)



John Roberts (1992-93)



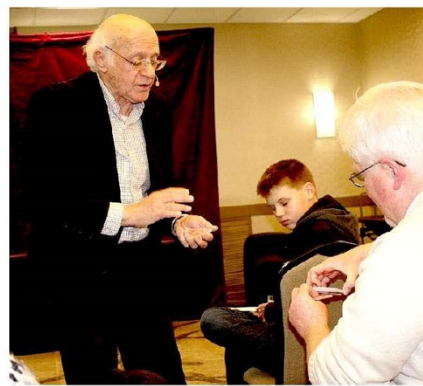
Larry Lipman (2002-03 & 2017-18)



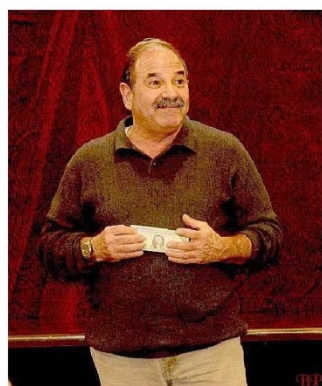
Dwight Redman (2006-07)



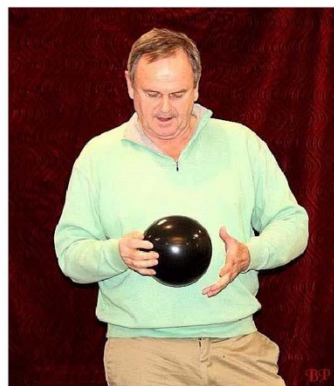
Michael Taggart (2007-08)



Arnold Fuoco (2010-11)



Danny Selnick (2011-12, 2012-13 & 2015-16)



Tom Kee (2014-15)

Past Presidents Perform at Ring 50.

January 3, 2018

