

# MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 78 No. 3 March 2018

♣ ♣ Mike Hummer ♣ ♣

## March Meeting Highlights

President Larry welcomed a near standing-room only gathering of Ring 50 members for a night of magic featuring a lecture by Mike Hummer, a long-time demonstrator at Al's Magic Shop and a 35-year veteran of children's magic. Before inviting Mike to begin, Larry introduced his visiting nephew from Israel, **Adi Liron**, who is also a magician.

## Announcements

**Chuck Jones** extended an invitation to all to come to the Annual Banquet of Ring 94 in Hagerstown, MD on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be from \$45 to \$50 dollars each but that could change. Stay tuned.

**Larry Lipman** reminded the audience that the program in April will be the **Dan Lacey** Contest for Magician of the Year. **Dan Lacey**, was President of Ring 50 (1999-00) who died of cancer about that same time. Larry recalled that Dan is remembered as a charismatic magician who "Could Light up a Room". He said Ring 50 created the Contest to declare the winner of a night of magical performances held in Dan's Honor.

The 50/50 raffle was won by **Danny Selnick** who walked away with the princely sum of \$14.00.

President Lipman then invited

**John Roberts** to perform a mentalism trick that John was supposed to have done last month for Mentalism night but got lost in the shuffle. John invited **Chuck Jones** to select one symbol from a pack of ESP cards as John turned his back and place it on an easel so the face could not be seen. John then called for the lights to be dimmed. John brought out an illuminated "Neutron Generator" which, in the dark, appeared as a large glass ball with eerie threads of lightning dancing inside. John and Chuck each placed a finger on the ball and a bridge of wavering energy appeared between them. John explained this was a neural pathway between himself and Chuck's mind where he searched for an image of the chosen symbol. A few moments later, the lights came back up and John looked through a packet of five ESP cards and displayed an ESP symbol he had found in Chuck's mind - and this matched the one Chuck had placed on the easel!



John Roberts

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## New Websites

Ring 50 now has a new website with comprehensive information about membership, meetings, Counts of Conjuring, area magicians for hire, and Magi-Whirl. A great deal of thanks goes to Craig Fifer for putting this site together. The site features a modern, mobile-friendly design, easy navigation, and online payments for membership dues and Magi-Whirl registration and tickets. The new site retains the same addresses of [www.ibmring50.org](http://www.ibmring50.org) for Ring 50 information and [www.magi-whirl.org](http://www.magi-whirl.org) to go straight to Magi-Whirl details.

The new site brings together three former sites with different designs and administration. Ring 50 is grateful to **Barney Sperlin** for posting monthly meeting updates, **Louis Meyer** for creating last year's Magi-Whirl Gala Show site, and **Eric Henning** for creating last year's Magi-Whirl convention site and assisting with technical details for all three sites.

## Magi-Whirl

From Chairman **Danny Selnick**: "We're asking every Ring 50 member to actively talk up Magi-Whirl 2018 to family, friends and neighbors and refer them to the URL: <http://www.magi-whirl.org/> Right now we could use two people to help with Magician Registration on Saturday. And we'll need three people for help with ticket sales before the Gala Public Show on Saturday evening. Please volunteer before being asked -- write to [daniel.selnick@yahoo.com](mailto:daniel.selnick@yahoo.com). **Craig Fifer** has this suggestion which is under consideration: "We should obviously try to sell as many show tickets as we can, but I wonder if we could also donate blocks of tickets to worthy organizations that would

not have purchased them, like Big Brothers / Big Sisters or family shelters. This would put more bodies in seats (good for our brand and the performers' opinion of us) and generate some goodwill in the community."

## Mike Hummer

Mike took the stage and opened by describing his very first Magic show for kids: it was a group of six-year-old girls in a suburb and it went so well Mike had visions of easy money. His next show was for 10-year-olds in N.E. Washington and Mike said that was an entirely different story – disaster! That happened 35 years ago and Mike drew on his experiences over the years to illustrate tips on doing kid's magic. He stressed the utility of what he called "Bullet-proof" Magic tricks that can survive unexpected challenges. To illustrate, he showed his favorite opener, Dan Tong's Gag Bag which he said always got a great response and, as an added benefit, helped identify those kids likely to be good assistants.



Mike Hummer

Mike showed other tricks in this "Bullet-proof" category; Chinese Sticks, Tricky Bottles and the Hat Tear. Mike went on to demonstrate

many good children's tricks and also some for adults. These included Rising Card, Color Changing Rope, Ribbon Thru Body, Acrobatic Knot, Popcorn Box and many more. Along the way, Mike demonstrated some fine points in handling and presentation of these tricks which he also had for sale after the lecture.



Mike Hummer

His audience greatly enjoyed seeing Mike, a familiar local magician and dealer who had clearly learned a lot from his former boss, Al Cohen. He said when he started out, he also had learned much about kid's magic from Al's son and co-demonstrator, Stan, whom Mike had seen perform a number of times. Mike added that he had spoken the day before with Al, who is retired in Florida, and that the 92-year-old legend "Is doing well."

### RING 50 MEETING LOCATION

### Holiday Inn

2460 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria,  
VA.

6:00 Dinner  
7:30 Meeting

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**President Larry Lipman**

If you were at the Ring 50 March meeting, you might have noticed a bunch of magical items for sale at the back of the room. These were items donated for the benefit of the Ring by **Jim Flanigan**, our long-time MagiGram editor, that were brought to the meeting by **Laurie Curry**.

Jim was a stalwart at our Ring 50 meetings for many years, and he used his considerable talents to produce the monthly MagiGram. For his dedication to the Ring, he was presented with our coveted SABAR Award, given to a member who has provided extraordinary service to the club. He's also an Honorary Lifetime Member of Ring 50.

For the past year or so, Jim's health has been deteriorating and he has been unable to attend our monthly meetings, although I'm sure hoping that he and his wife, Pat, will make their annual appearance at the Magi-Whirl gala show. Jim is still interested in magic and magicians. So, I'm asking you to help repay Jim's many years of service to the Ring. Drop him a note or card (he's a big St. Patrick's Day aficionado) and let Jim know he's in our thoughts here

at Ring 50. Jim's address is: 821 Sixth St. SW, Washington, DC 20024.

And speaking of Ring 50 stalwarts, a tip-of-the-Leprechaun's hat to another big St. Patrick's Day aficionado, our current secretary and co-editor of the Magi-Gram, **John S. Roberts**. John is one of those guys who just keeps giving: to the Ring and the magic community in general. For proof, look no further than this month's Linking Ring where pages 83-96 are devoted to yet another one-man Hocus Pocus Parade by John. This is his third in the past couple of years, not counting the one he organized recently for the Ring and another article about him and his long-distance Magic Pen-Pal in Australia.

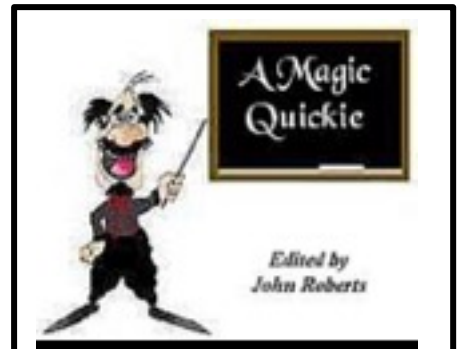
John has a way of taking magic concepts and innovating to make a trick his own. And then he shares it with the world. John is also one of the most generous people you will meet in magic. (I confess that I use a prop or two in almost every show I perform that was given to me by John.) John is also a past president of Ring 50 and another SABAR winner. He is truly a magic treasure right here in our Ring.

*Larry Lipman*

## Who is who in Ring 50

**Craig Fifer**: When I was seven, my family moved from New York City to Roanoke, in southwest Virginia. As luck would have it, **David Copperfield** performed in Roanoke two months later, and my parents took me to see the show. Perhaps that's what started my lifelong love of magic.

I was very fortunate to have a small magic shop down the street from my house, where my parents bought me some tricks and books. When I was 12, I joined I.B.M.



### The Old Piano Trick John S. Roberts

This trick is so old (1900's) it has whiskers. **Larry West** showed it to me many years ago.

Have a spectator place all his fingers curled on a table as though in position to play the piano. Place a *pair* of cards between his/her right pinkie and ring finger, two cards in the next gap and so on until you reach the end of the left hand, where you place a single card between the left pinkie and ring finger noting there is one extra *odd* card. Pick up the two cards you first placed and begin to form two piles as you retrace your first steps. As you go, keep emphasizing you are putting down *even pairs* of cards and that you are left with the *odd* card. Ask on which pile they want to put the odd card, say, the one on the right. They do so and you use that pile to re-create the first steps, placing pairs of cards between the piano-playing fingers. It will turn out that the right hand now holds an *even* number of cards. The *odd* card has vanished from the chosen pile (!) and will end up in the left hand between the left pinkie and ring finger. If they pick the left-hand pile to receive the odd card, start placing the pairs left to right to achieve the same result. The "secret" is that when they choose a pile for the odd card, each one has seven cards so no matter which one they choose, it will end up an even number and the other pile will contain the odd card. Sprinkle your patter with musical references i.e. "Which hand do you want to play the odd note? Now the musical becomes magical"...etc. etc.

Ring 222 in Roanoke. The grownups didn't quite know what to do with me, and I lacked the discipline to study and practice on my own. (This is one reason I'm so proud of Ring 50's Counts of



Conjuring program for young magicians.

For the next 25 years, there were no significant developments in my magic journey. In late 2016, I saw **Steve Brundage** perform his Rubik's Cube routine on America's Got Talent, and I was in awe. I looked him up, and was amazed to find I could actually purchase his trick. It turns out that somewhere along the way, magic found the Internet. I was overwhelmed by the sheer volume of information and products available online, and I started to rediscover my childhood hobby. I had the chance to visit The Magic Castle in early 2017, and I was hooked. I joined Ring 50 in 2017, renewing my I.B.M. membership for the first time since 1990.

By day, I'm the Director of Communications and Public Information for the City of Alexandria, where I've lived since 2003. I'm no stranger to public speaking, having delivered hundreds and hundreds of interviews and conference presentations. But when I was asked to participate in new member night in November -- my first-ever magic performance for strangers -- I was terrified. Despite choosing a great effect and developing engaging patter, I lost a pinky break and the rest of the performance was a cascade of follies. It was an important lesson in mastering the basics before worrying about anything else.

I'm very grateful for the warm welcome I've received from everyone in the Ring. I've had the opportunity to contribute by creating a new combined website for the Ring and Magi-Whirl, and working on the Magi-Whirl planning committee. I look forward to continuing to be an active member of Ring 50!



Craig Fifer

## Ring 50 New Members & Applications & Dues

ATTEND THE MEETING



**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 **April** meeting! You can pay through PayPal now!

## Counts of Conjuring Meets April 4, 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.



The Counts

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.

**April 4, 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

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.

