

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 79 No. 4 April 2018

♣ ♣ Dan Lacey ♣ ♣

April Meeting Highlights

Ring 50's top performers gathered at the April Meeting to compete for the prestigious annual **Magician of the Year** Contest in honor of the late **Dan Lacey** who was President of the Ring in 1999 and 2000. On hand were Dan's sister **Cecelia Ritchie** to present the winner's trophy and her husband, Howdy, who would sit at the judges table.

Ring 50 President **Larry Lipman** welcomed a capacity crowd of attendees and spoke warmly of **Dan Lacey**, his winning personality, his magic abilities and his contributions to Ring 50 during his two-term Presidency. He also welcomed guests: **Arnie Levin's** wife Ellen and his Granddaughter Hannah.

Announcements

Magi-Whirl Chairman **Danny Selnick** reported that the annual Convention is on track with ticket sales both for magician attendees and for the public Gala Show, but he said maximum efforts must continue to ensure success. He called for volunteers to hand out flyers at local food and other retail outlets in advance of the Public Show.

President Lipman presided over the election of two new members to Ring 50, **Katherine Beutner**, daughter of **Tom Beutner**; and

Mike Hummer, a longtime demonstrator at Al's Magic Shop, magic vendor and lecturer. **Richie Klein** conducted what turned out to be an unusual 50/50 raffle drawing. With \$60 in the jar, Cecilia Ritchie split her winnings into two parts. She donated \$15 to the Club and asked Richie to do another drawing for the rest. This \$15 was won by **Matthew Biegun** who literally fell off his chair when his number was called. Ring 50 was \$45 richer at the end.

The Contest

Larry Lipman introduced the judges who would select the winning act competing for the Dan Lacey "Magician of the Year" Contest: **Howdy Ritchie**, **Mike Hummer**, **Bob Patterson** (current International President of the I.B.M.), and **Keith Pass**, former Ring 50 member and President of Assembly 252 of S.A.M. Then it was time for the combatants to strut their stuff. First up,



Drew Owen

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**International Brotherhood
of Magicians Ring 50
The National Capital Ring**

President

Larry Lipman
703-859-8526
president@ibmring50.org

Vice President

Stan Hillard
703-430-4534
vp@ibmring50.org

Secretary

John Roberts
703-519-0919
secretary@ibmring50.org

Treasurer

Marc Carrion
540-809-8453
treasurer@ibmring50.org

Sergeant-at-Arms

Richie Klein
703-470-3274
sgtarms@ibmring50.org

Magi-Gram Editor

John Roberts & Marc Carrion
magi-gram@ibmring50.org

Drew Owen showed a clearly empty “Magical Box of Musical Magic” and a number of pictures of musical instruments. As audience members called out depicted examples, Drew produced them, one by one from the empty box: a recorder upon which Drew tootled “Pop Goes the Weasel”, a small “Grand Piano” a saxophone which resisted working until a multiplying red ball was removed from the open end and finally, a full-sized working saxophone!



Hannah, Alec Negri and Matthew Biegun

Alec Negri brought **Matthew Biegun** and **Hannah** to the stage as helpers. A card was chosen and signed and literally lost in the deck. When it could not be found, Alec produced a small tin of Altoids which, when opened, contained the folded signed card! Then another card was chosen which Alex managed to vanish and make re-appear in the formerly empty tin box. After the applause died down, Alec again opened the box and it was *filled with Altoids!*



Tom and Katherine Beutner

Tom Beutner and his **daughter Katherine** staged a wonderful act with Tom as the Magician and Katherine as an art student drawing on a pad mounted on an easel. As Tom did magic tricks like the color-

changing handkerchiefs and the disappearing candle flame, Katherine drew renderings of the trick on her pad which depicted the magical effects themselves. As the magician Tom did well, but Katherine stole the show.



Chuck Jones

Chuck Jones asked if any audience member could claim a large wad of cash with a rubber band around it that had been found in the parking lot. When a few hands went up Chuck obligingly returned the rubber band. Chuck removed his watch and placed it in a small velvet bag which he proceeded to throw on the floor and smash with a foot. But then the bag proved empty and the watch was discovered back on his wrist. Chuck asked if anybody wanted to see the trick again and pushed up his sleeve to reveal six or seven more watches. Chuck then displayed a special Japanese newspaper, “U-Sa Today” and

did a very nice job of tearing it into pieces and restoring It.



Cecilia and Christophe Jelenski

Christophe Jelenski lobbed a ball randomly into the audience and then tossed the receiver of the ball a deck or cards. As the ball and the deck were passed around, three members were instructed to riffle the cards and remember one as it flashed by. Christophe then named three cards and asked the recipients to raise their arms if they heard their card mentioned. All three arms shot up. The magician then asked **Cecilia Richards** to sit with him at a table for a demonstration of the paranormal. His assistant was asked to close her eyes.

Christophe touched, for example, a point on his left arm and asked Cecilia if she had felt anything. She replied that she had felt a touch on her arm. Which one? The reply; the left one. This eerie event was followed by a number of similar pressure-point experiments seemingly demonstrating that Christophe and Cecilia were somehow communicating with nothing but their minds, much to the utter bafflement of the audience.

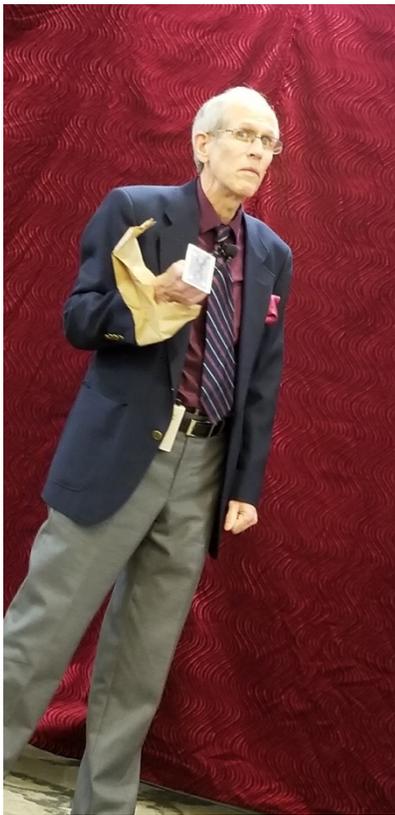


Cristian Vidrascu

Cristian Vidrascu said that rather than a demonstration of memory ability he would show his uncanny facility for forgetting. Showing the

back of four jumbo cards, he asked an assistant to hypothetically choose among four queens. First, red or black? Answer; “red”, so Cristian “forgot” black. Next, Heart or Diamond? Answer; “heart”, so diamonds were also forgotten.

Cristian then fanned the cards and the Queen of hearts was the only card showing. Not only that, the other queens were *really* forgotten as well – the other cards were all blank! Cristian ended with a selected card being matched by a prediction on the back of an evil-looking machete.



Noland Montgomery

Noland Montgomery, Ring 50’s notable street magician, used his hat as the main prop for his act. From it, he produced a bunny, a bouquet of flowers, a cell phone and various other objects. Nolan then had **Bob Ellis** select a card selected, show it to the audience as the eight of clubs and return it to the deck where it was lost. The deck was

dumped in a paper bag and shaken up while Noland produced a pair of scissors. After much humorous by-play, Noland stabbed through the back and when the scissors point emerged the eight of clubs was impaled on it!



Joe Mielnicki

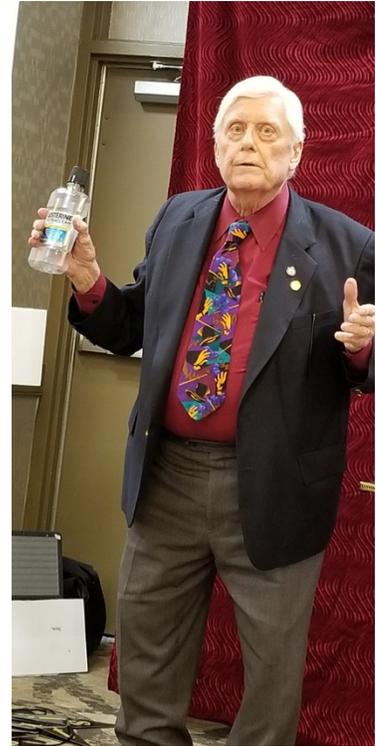
Joe Mielnicki, last year’s contest winner, did a very entertaining silent act depicting an odd-ball personage waiting for a bus. This involved a forbidden cigarette, a succession of balls emerging from his mouth only to reappear and various other miming gags. Joe ended by discovering a scrap of newspaper on the “street” which he proceeded to read and then to pick up other scraps so he could continue perusing them. Finally, Joe took the stack of pieces and magically transformed them into a wholly intact newspaper.



Arnold Fuoco

Arnold Fuoco started his routine by telling the audience that he takes his pets along whenever he does a magic show. He showed a tiny bag from which he produced his pet goldfish in a large goldfish bowl. Next he introduced his pet Mr Sombi--a round gleaming ball that moved along his arm and levitated around his body until it finally disappeared. He then brought up Keith Harmon and had him remove

his sport coat. Arnold then plunged a knife through the jacket, moved it up and down, and finally restored the jacket to its original condition. And with that, the contest part of the evening was over.



John Roberts

As the judges began to tot up the score sheets, **John Roberts** entertained the audience during the waiting period. First, he made an aqua-colored silk genie appear in an empty, capped bottle of Listerine mouthwash. Then he told the story of a rich king who had a scepter covered with a variety of bright jewels on both sides. Hannah chose the green one, which disappointed the king because he had wanted it; but it was okay because he had plenty more – and John changed all the jewels on both sides to emeralds! Finally, John showed an old 45 Rpm recording of Frank Sinatra singing “That Old Black Magic”. John sang the song (off-key) as he threaded a ribbon twice through the hole in the record. When the song (mercifully) ended

John grabbed the ends of the ribbon and yanked it *through the record* which was unharmed.

The Winner! After due deliberation, the judge's decision was read out by President Lipman: **CHRISTOPHE JELENSKI** was the new Magician of the Year in honor of **Dan Lacey**. Dan's sister, Cecilia, presented Christophe with a trophy and certificate. He also won a spot in the Public Gala show in next year's annual Magi-Whirl Convention. Good job Christophe!



Christophe and Cecilia

Addenda

Addenda: Arnold Fuoco wants to remind members of a famous U-Tube clip in which Mike Wallace interviewed Johnny Carson on 60-Minutes. The clip shows Johnny performing a card trick called "Psychic Stop" and Mike's incredulous reaction. Arnold urges

members to go to <https://youtu.be/BDLX2ajgWSI> and enjoy this magical interplay between two giant figures of TV history.

**RING 50 MEETING
LOCATION**

Holiday Inn
2460 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria,
VA.
6:00 Dinner
7:30 Meeting

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

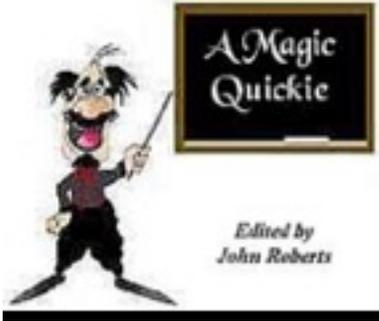


President Larry Lipman

Once a year, I get to meet some of the best magicians in the world. I've met such magic masters as **Jeff McBride, Eugene Burger, Dirk Losander, Rachel and Aldo Colombini, "Ice" McDonald, David Kaye, Eric Jones** and many more.

I've chatted with many of them one-on-one, and while they might not remember the experience a day or so later, I remember it years later. Some, like Eugene Burger and Aldo Colombini are no longer with us, which makes my experience even more valuable.

It's not because I'm rich and famous (I'm not) or because my "singing worms" Professor's



*Edited by
John Roberts*

Electile Dysfunction
John S. Roberts

(Note: Thanks to fellow Magician Bob Eaton of Beaverton, OR for sharing this Max Maven trick with me.)

Use seven cards, one being the Joker which is marked so you always know where it is. Effect uses the PATEO force (Point At Two, Eliminate One: that is, you never push out the joker and if *they* do, you see the marking and select the other card.)

You begin by pushing out two cards, first spinning your patter about elections, saying the first one will be for membership on the **School Board**. Winner is selected and set aside, loser returned to pile. Six cards left, inc. joker

They push two cards for **City Council**. You select winner. Five cards left w/joker

You push two cards for **Mayor**. One selected, four cards left w/joker

They push two cards for **Governor**. Three cards left w/joker

You push two cards for **Senator**. Two cards left, one is joker.

They now give you your turn to choose a **Vice-President**.

And **You** let them turn over the last card as their selection for **President**, the **Joker!**

John S. Roberts
Editor

Nightmare routine is legendary (it's not), but because I'm a member of IBM Ring 50 and have avidly attended Magi-Whirl every year since we reinstated it over a dozen years ago.

As a result, I've sat in small classrooms and heard them lecture. I've seen them perform live and in person in front of hundreds of spectators. I also have had the

privilege of meeting other magicians from outside our Ring. Those who, like us, practice the art of magic for fun—and sometimes profit—as hobbyists, part-time and full-time professionals.

Magi-Whirl is where I stock up on magic. And I'm not just talking about the dealers' table, although there is plenty of magic to be had there. At Magi-Whirl, magic is in the air. It's the people you meet. The new techniques you learn from new magic friends over lunch or during a break in the lectures. Every lecture is an opportunity to explore new magical horizons, literally learning from some of the best in the business.

This year's Magi-Whirl offers plenty such opportunity, regardless of what type of magic interests you. Coins, cards, clever props and new insights on how to perform await the magicians who attend.

Here is your opportunity to immerse yourself in magic for a day and a half, capped by a wonderful gala show in a state-of-the-art theatre.

We're in a new venue this year at North Potomac High School. There will be new experiences and new memories to forge. This is the high point of the Ring 50 year. If you haven't already registered, I urge you to do so today. This is your Ring and Magi-Whirl is your ticket to magic. Go to www.magi-whirl.org and register today. Experience a magical whirlwind of excitement!

Larry Lipman

Who is who in Ring 50

Alec Negri: I cannot remember a time not being fascinated with magic. I never missed watching **Mark Wilson** on the Magic

Land of Alakazam show back in the 60's and recall receiving a Superman magic set at around six years old. I did kid's shows in my teens and 20's, but got tired of hauling all the props around and wanted to perform "Light". It felt more personal doing close-up.

My first restaurant gigs were in California when I was 25. While in California I also performed as a cowboy stuntman in a wild west show at the California State Fair.

I moved back to Virginia and performed at various restaurants including the occasional subbing for **David Williamson** at the Hayloft Dinner Theater. In 1983 I found an ad in the paper for magicians to perform at a new magic theater opening up. They interviewed a lot of magicians but **Alain Nu** and I were number one and two of the lucky eight who were hired. The **Great Foodini** gave me a ton of experience dealing with the public. I was fortunate to have been able to work with people such as **Denney Haney**, **Bobby Baxter** and **James Randi** among others.

Recently I was presented with the I.B.M., Order of Merlin Shield for 35 years of continuous membership. Currently, I am only performing adult private and corporate events with an occasional public performance at shopping centers and such.

I am also an NRA certified firearms instructor, lighting showroom manager and repair technician. My other loves are my wife, son, three cats, fishing and collecting "The Weird".

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!

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.

