

MAGI-GRAM

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♣ ♣ Magi-Whirl 2018 ♣ ♣

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Magi-Whirl Highlights

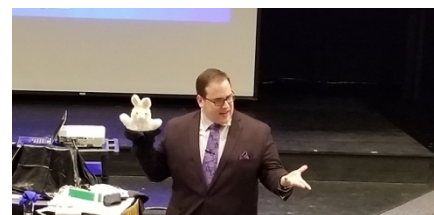
When Ring 50's **Magi-Whirl 2018** came to a close Saturday Night, on May 5th, the organizers of our annual convention gave an unusually heartfelt sigh of relief. The reason? This Magi-Whirl was staged in a brand new venue which had presented new challenges for event Chairman Danny Selnick and his team. But when the applause died down and the stage lights dimmed, when the dealers and the headline performers had left for home it was clear that our convention, a premier magic event in the Mid-Atlantic, was a resounding success. The numbers tell the story:

Magi-Whirl 2018 attracted some 125 magicians from the Mid-Atlantic Region. They came to attend four great lectures by four world class magicians and attend the Gala Family Show, which featured four internationally known performers and drew an audience of about 450 adults and children from the surrounding community. Nine magic dealers came to showcase their wares. They did a brisk business and the magicians surrounding their tables had a common theme "What did you buy?" But perhaps the success of Magi-Whirl 2018 can also be measured by the fellowship it provided; the chance to meet and

mingle with other magic enthusiasts, swap ideas, learn new tricks and, of course see some great lecturers and performers. For a more thorough review of Magi-Whirl 2018 see "A Final Word" by **Larry Lipman** below. But first, the highlights of the convention:

Lectures

Scott Green is a professional magician based in Chicago, performing hundreds of shows each year. A national leader in performing magic for children, Scott is the author of the groundbreaking book of theory and practice, *Excellence in Family Magic*.

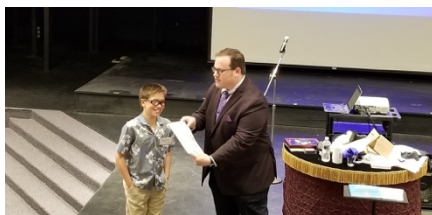


Scott Green

Scott was named one of the 100 best young writers in America in 2009, for a weekly humor column that was syndicated to outlets including *The Washington Post*. An avid game show fan, Scott has appeared on "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" and "The Price Is Right."

About 75 magicians assembled to hear his lecture which he termed "Kid's Magic 501" which he said

should appeal first to children and then to adults which he termed the “secondary audience.”. He emphasized choosing proven good openers and “getting right into it.” As an example he did an amusing 20th Century Silks with polka-dot undershorts as the finale. Scott cast a magic performance as creating a “bubble” which needs to be protected against external and internal threats to keep it intact. Minor distractions should be ignored and major ones incorporated into the “bubble”, if possible. He called this “topping and pivoting”, a valuable insight for all magicians. Along the way Scott illustrated his points with entertaining versions of Professors Nightmare, a spot card effect in which the final reveal was the spots shaped into an actual number 3 and a coloring book effect which, which instead of magic images used, incredibly pictures of Broccoli! You had to be there.



Scott Green

Krystyn Lambert has become one of the most recognized female magicians in the world. Her extensive domestic and international television performances and critical acclaim within the community of magicians caught the eye of **Criss Angel**, who has taken her as his apprentice. She was featured on his hit Spike TV series, BeLIEve, and appeared in his live show at the Luxor in Las Vegas with a brand new act for six months running. She is currently on tour with The Supernaturalists, which has been hailed by the Las Vegas Sun as “the most mind-blowing magic spectacle

out there.” Krystyn took the stage in sparkling boots which matched her personality.



Krystyn Lambert

For one solid hour, without notes, props or tricks she held the attention of her audience with an entertaining account of her life in magic beginning at the age of ten. As a teenager she lied about her age and competed in Junior Magician contests. Around then, she noticed she was the only girl involved and today she remains one of the few of her sex in the professional world of magic. Regarding her undeniable good looks, she said during her career she has always regarded herself (and encouraged others to do the same) not as a female magician, but a magician who also happens to be a woman. During a half hour period following her presentation Krystyn answered a wide variety of questions with charm and equanimity.

When **Dr. Rubinstein** took over the podium, he soon proved his reputation as a legendary authority in coin magic. He became hooked on coins after learning the French Drop at age 15, and began developing his own moves and techniques.



Dr. Michael Rubinstein

While attending veterinary school in Italy, he began lecturing on coins and won first place in the International Magic Congress Closeup Competition two years in a row. His magical creations have been published in *Apocalypse*, *Richard’s Almanac*, *Magic Magazine*, *Genii*, *Looking Glass*, *Ruminations*, *Best of Friends II*, and *Spectacle*.



Dr. Michael Rubinstein

During his lecture he performed jaw-dropping versions of classic tricks like “Midas Touch” “Miser’s Dream”, “Substitution”, “Twilight Zone” and “Coins through Table”. More importantly, he clearly showed how the moves were done and how some of them evolved from those of masters of this form of magic; **David Roth**, **T. Nelson Downs**, **Ross Bertram**, **Jack Chanin**, **J. B. Bobo**, **Stewart Judah**, **John Ramsey**, **Milton Kort** and **David Roth** to mention just a few of those cited by Dr. Rubenstein. This lecture was highly technical and not for the faint-hearted. The writer of these notes now knows a new term - “ROCS” for “Retention Open Coin Steal” but does not expect it to come up in most conversations. But beginning or advanced in coins, audience members were thoroughly entertained and informed by Dr. Rubenstein’s humor and deep knowledge of his subject.

NOTE: Before breaking for lunch, a 50/50 raffle was held leading to a windfall of \$45.00 for Magician and Illusionist **Wes Iseli**, Charlottesville. The other half,

\$46.00, went into Ring 50's coffers.

Dan Harlan began studying magic when he was nine years old. By the time he was 13, Harlan was performing stand-up for private parties and close-up at his weekly restaurant gig. Perhaps best known for his pioneering work with rubber band magic, Harlan is also famous for his many other unique creations which span all genres of magic.



Dan Harlan

Dan has appeared on and consulted for numerous TV shows in the USA and abroad, and co-published *The Minotaur* quarterly magic magazine. To date, he has published more than three quarters of 103 planned video tutorials covering the entire *Tarbell Course in Magic*.

So, expectations were high among the 100 magicians who attended the lecture by one of the best known performers and innovators in the business. It was something of a let-down then, when he opened his lecture by displaying a long, a medium and a short rope. You could almost hear a silent "WHAT?" go through the room, the "Professors Nightmare? REALLY?" But then he dropped the bomb by doing the routine in a way nobody had ever seen before, not even close. Harlan called the effect "The Awakening" and his description of the working was nearly as eye-popping as the effect itself. Dan followed this up by vanishing a signed dollar bill and finding it inside a Sharpie pen, an effect he called "Stash". Then he did a mentalism trick with a

crossword puzzle book which was indeed a puzzler, until he explained the very complicated gimmickry that went into preparation of the puzzles. He gave a shout-out to his wife, Jan, who was in the audience for doing the tedious work involved. Dan went on to do a version of 20th Century Silks using garish pairs of socks to explain why socks went missing in the wash. This was abetted by a good-natured volunteer who was assigned the hilarious job of imitating the various wash stages: first soak, agitation, rinse, etc. until the missing sock was found in "The Dryer" knotted between another pair of socks. Dan closed by doing an effect called "Cheese Whiz". This was supposed to be a version of a card with a corner torn off magically appearing between two panes of glass. In this case, however, the glass was two slices of Wonder Bread and the cards were represented by slices of wrapped Kraft Cheese. After a spectator bit off the corner of a slice (no force) he signed the "card" with catsup. In doing the trick, Dan cut the slices, (not "the cheese") shuffled them, did a double lift and other fancy card-like manipulations which had the audience howling. All this was accompanied by the longest string of truly awful puns ever heard in the English Language. At the end, Dan received a standing ovation amid great regret that he was not able to appear in the Gala Show that night.



Dan Harlan

Saturday Night Gala Show

When the doors opened for seating at the show, **strolling**

magicians from Ring 50 entertained the audience before the Gala began:

Matthew Biegun
Alec Negri
Arnold Fuoco
Louis Hoffheimer
Noland Montgomery
Dwight Redman
Larry Lipman

The show was opened by Master of Ceremonies **Eric Henning**. People often tell Eric that he reminds them of the great magicians of the past. That's no coincidence, since he has spent more than three decades studying and performing some of the greatest magic in history. While still a student, Eric's love of magic's lore took him to the Maryland Renaissance Festival. More recently, the National Theatre featured his "Turn of the Century" – a Victorian-style show with wonders not seen for a hundred years. Eric was named D.C. Magician of the Year by I.B.M. Ring 50 for 2016-2017.



Eric Henning

Eric directed attention to the presence in the audience of Bob Patterson, the current I.B.M. International President and prominent Ring 50 member, who took a bow. Eric then introduced:

JT The Unstoppable - (A.K.A. Joe Mielnicki) has performed all across the country for festivals, corporations, private events, and even occasional television appearances. He is one of the finest and funniest performing artists to

come out of the Washington D.C. area. He has been in the magic arts for over 15 years and has honed his skills in top quality entertainment.



Joe Mielnicki

His specialties include comedy, sleight of hand, stage and close-up magic, circus stunts and escape artistry. Joe was named D.C. Magician of the Year by I.B.M. Ring 50 for 2017-2018. Joe's specialty is miming and his routine was a wordless skit performed by a gangly and oddly dressed young man, down on his luck, searching for something to eat in his satchel. He found a package of uncooked steaks and AI Sauce but these were rejected. Then he found a bag with a single cracker which he ate – but when it began to disagree with him, he spit it whole back into the bag. Next he fed a number of white balls into his mouth and even though he removed each one, they kept coming back and he abandoned that effort. After more silent clowning, Joe blew up a long balloon, ate it and appeared satisfied – but there was a surprise finish, best left to the imagination. Joe's performance was received by much laughter and applause.

Before introducing the next performer **Eric Henning** performed an illusion with a spinning spiral disk which caused the audience to see his head shrink and then swell back to normal size. He then brought on-stage:

Scott Green had lectured on Children's Magic the night before

and his stage act was proof of his impressive resume described earlier. Scott performed the well-known trick called "The Mutilated Umbrella". He displayed a large umbrella made of six brightly colored silk panels. The umbrella was closed and wrapped in a newspaper. The tip and the handle were in full view throughout. Small matching single silks were shown and placed in a bag from which they vanished only to be replaced by the umbrella cover! Then he pulled the umbrella from the newspaper and the vanished silks were seen hanging from the tips of the umbrella's ribs! Scott then boldly reversed the trick so everything was back to normal.



Scott Green

Another highlight of Scott's act involved a "Bank Night" effect and two volunteers from the audience, a man and a woman. Scott placed a carton of eggs on a table and assured the lady that the eggs were hard-boiled – all but one that is. And he added that if the worst happened, raw eggs are good for the hair. One by one the woman gave a number from one to six and that egg was cracked over her head only to be found harmlessly hard-boiled. As the number of eggs dwindled the tension mounted and the kids in the audience started to yell advice. Finally just one egg was left. The egg was handed to the man who cracked and poured it into a glass – it was not hardboiled at all much to the relief of all concerned.

Before bringing on the next act, **Eric Henning** performed

"Sidewalk Shuffle" a monte trick with a wandering ace which was never found where it was expected. Then it was time for:

Krystyn Lambert, one of the most recognized female magicians in the world, confined her act to mentalism effects with audience participation. She handed a man and wife in the audience two separate popular magazines and asked each of them to find a page they liked. This done, the couple was further asked about some details on their pages and it turned out they had both chosen images and words which, while not exact copies of each other, showed they shared a common sensibility and a magical connection. Krystyn invited another couple up to the stage where they occupied adjoining chairs. Krystyn touched the man on the shoulder and the lady reported she had also felt the touch, on the same side, even though the magician had been nowhere near her. This effect was repeated several more time in various ways leading to a stunning climax: Each volunteer was asked to extend their right arm in front of them. When Krystyn slowly pushed the man's arm down, the woman's arm came down by itself as though the two were mysteriously synchronized. The audience, thoroughly amazed by this eerie demonstration of mental powers responded with prolonged applause.



Krystyn Lambert

Kohl & Company, from the moment **Dick Kohl** strode onto the stage entangled in a microphone

cord to a mind-boggling comedy illusion, the Magi-Whirl stage was the scene of unrestrained mayhem and hilarity. Kohl, who projected an air of cool befuddlement was aided and abetted in the chaos by his two assistants “Farky” (**Al Hollis**) and “Farkmeana” (**Karen**). Farky, who behaved as though he had forgotten to take his meds, fought a losing battle with a folding chair and was levitated by such an obvious device that the audience was near-helpless with laughter. Farkmeana (a lady of no small proportions) delivered and extracted props with an improbable mixture of boredom and sexiness. Another priceless moment was when Kohl attempted to vanish a dove only to have it explode in a cloud of feathers. Kohl tenderly scooped up a handful and placed them gently on a swinging perch decorated with a small American flag. And then he lowered to the flag to half-staff – the perfect end to the bit. Needless to say, Kohl & Company was the smash hit of evening comprised of wonderfully entertaining magic.



Kohl & Company

(NOTE: Combining classic vaudeville with modern day magic, slap-stick musical masterpieces, and fall-on-the-floor audience participation, this act is truly “one of a kind”. For over 45 years, this comedy magic team has performed their madcap act throughout the world. From Atlantic City to Las Vegas, from Canada to Guam, Tokyo, Chile, London, Holland, Italy, Paris, and many more. Magic Magazine calls Kohl & Company

one of the top ten comedy acts in magic today.



Kohl & Company

Kohl & Company was invited to perform as special guests at the F.I.S.M. world magic competition; appeared three times in Las Vegas on the **Jerry Lewis** telethon; became the only comedy magic act to receive the **Siegfried and Roy** “Golden Lion” 1st place award; and is the only magic act to receive the “Life-Time of Laughter” award from the International Clown Hall of Fame.)

In a curtain call, **Dick Kohlhafer** told the audience that at the age of 80, he was beginning to wind down but he did not confirm rumors that this performance might have been the last. His company is based in Baltimore where Dick is a member of I.B.M. Ring 179. He recalled that one of his first performances as Kohl & Company was for Ring 50 which made the evening especially meaningful. And so, with a performance by one of, if not *the*, greatest comedy magic act of all time, Magi-Whirl 2018 came to its successful conclusion.

John S Roberts
Secretary

**RING 50 MEETING
LOCATION**

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

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President Larry Lipman

In the waning moments of Magi-Whirl 2017, I made the most important appointment of my term as Ring 50 president when I asked **Danny Selnick** to chair Magi-Whirl 2018. Danny agreed, not because he had nothing else to do, but precisely because he is a very busy person. That may sound like a contradiction, but I’ve learned that if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. Danny has a fulltime job in public relations and is extremely active in other groups beyond Ring 50. You could have thought he would say he was too busy. He said just the opposite.

I write these words a day after Magi-Whirl 2018, which in my opinion was a smashing success. About 125 magicians attended the conference and more than 450 people attended the evening gala. If those aren’t records, they’re close. Much, but of course not all, of the credit is due to Danny’s exceptionally hard work and dedication, even as he was producing other events for other groups. We had many hurdles to overcome for Magi-Whirl 2018, first and foremost being the question of where we were going to hold it. For a variety of reasons, we were not able to return to Bishop

Ireton. Unfortunately, instead of giving us a prompt answer about whether we could return, the school strung us along for several months. Then we had to scramble to find a new venue, an exceedingly difficult and complicated task. Thanks to Danny and Treasurer **Marc Carrion**, we were able to relocate to West Potomac High School in Alexandria. That entailed months of tedious effort to get all the paperwork and insurance done to meet the stringent requirements of the Fairfax County school system. Until that was completed, we couldn't even begin to contact talent for the conference and the show.

I'll confess I despaired so much that I was ready to cancel this year's Magi-Whirl. But Danny was a rock of confidence and repeatedly assured me that it would be great. Once we hired the talent, the trick was to drum up attendance among magicians for the conference and the public for the gala. Danny set the goal of attracting 100 magicians for the conference, a task I believed to be pretty much out of the ballpark considering our previous attendance had been in the 80s. And he set the goal of 400 to 500 for the gala. Then he began tirelessly publicizing the event. I won't detail all of his efforts, but I can tell you he was relentless and creative and exhorted the officers and members to constantly do more.

Magi-Whirl 2018 was a testament to Danny's hard work, but as I said, he didn't do it all alone. One of the really heartening things about this year's effort was how many folks stepped up and took on a major task. I will not try to name everyone here, I'd unintentionally omit someone. But there are a handful I want to focus on, including some new members. Marc really stepped up to

fill the big hole left by **Bob Patterson**, whose International President's responsibilities made it impossible for him to handle the day to day treasurer duties (but a big thanks, Bob for your wisdom and guidance every step of the way.) New member **Craig Fifer** set up our online system for taking reservations both for the conference and the gala. That was a huge contribution that made it easy for people to sign up. New member **Chuck Jones** stepped up to handle the design and printing of the program. Longtime member **Mike Wolfson**, who has done photo duties each month at Ring meetings, volunteered to head up efforts to get advertising for the program—and also photographed during the event. Several members volunteered to hand out fliers one weekend. Of course many members volunteered the days of the conference for duties such as registration, ushering, security, stage hands, walk-around performers etc. You know who you are and if I don't personally thank you, know you have the thanks of the Ring.

My point in this President's Corner is not only to thank those who contributed, but to note that it was because people stepped up and volunteered their talents and services that Magi-Whirl 2018 was so successful. Each of us has acquired a lifetime of talents and expertise, and much of that can help our Ring. I ask each of you to consider how you, too, can help in the coming year. To paraphrase my hero, **John F. Kennedy**: Ask not what Ring 50 can do for you; ask what you can do for Ring 50.

Magically yours,

Larry Lipman

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.

