

MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 81 No. 6 June 2018

♣ ♣ Go-To Tricks ♣ ♣

June Meeting

When Ring 50 members assembled for the June meeting, it was clear that Magi-Whirl 2018 had faded and they were ready for some new magic experiences. This was to come from a program of “Go-to” favorite tricks from members willing to demonstrate and also explain their choices. But first there were announcements.

President **Larry Lipman** called on **Craig Fifer** who commented on two very recently retired members. Craig praised Larry himself for defending a Free Press during his career as a journalist and **Mike Peckham** for defending the country as a career military officer. Larry is stepping down as Ring 50 President and Mike is stepping up as the new Ring Treasurer. Craig Fifer will be taking over as Vice President.



Larry Lipman and Bob Patterson

Bob Patterson noted the death of Art Emerson, long-time member and partner of Larry West who passed away in 1989.

Danny Selnick, as Chairman of Magi-Whirl 2018, reported that 121 magicians from the Mid-Atlantic Region attended the Convention and that the Gala Show drew a record audience of 450. He said the club had made a tidy profit of \$3,700 most of which will defray the rental of hotel space for Ring 50 meetings.



Larry Lipman, Danny Selnick and Marc Carrion

In appreciation for his unflagging efforts to make Magi-Whirl 2018 a success, Danny was presented with a beautiful quality magic apparatus from his favorite shopping store, The Magic Wagon. It is agreed by all that if it had not been for Danny there would have been no convention at all.



Larry Lipman and Sean Mulvaney

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The National Capital Ring**

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Following club custom, **Louis Meyer** selected one of his pupils in the Counts of Conjuring class, **Sean Mulvaney** to perform a trick he had learned that evening in the Counts regular session. Sean asked **Christophe Jelenick** and Larry Lipman to each select a card and replace in the deck. Then, asking his volunteers to “cut a little deeper” he spread the cards and found that each selection was the first one face down. In both cases the selections matched his predictions. Good job, Sean.

The **50/50** for \$26 was won by **Mike Wolf** who donated his \$13.00 share back to the Club.

The new Ring 50 Officers and Board of Directors were voted on and approved for the next year.

- Stan Hillard** - President
- Craig Fifer** - Vice President
- Michael Peckham** - Treasurer
- Sam Brothers** - Sgt at arms
- Marc Carrion** – Secretary

Board of Directors:

- Larry Lipman** - Board Past President
- Danny Selnick** - Senior Board Member
- John Roberts** - Board-at-Large
- Bob Patterson** - Emeritus Board Member

The title of Emeritus Board Member was especially created as part of the voting for Bob who is stepping down as I.B.M International President.



Stan Hillard and Dwight Redman

Stan Hillard then came forward to introduce the program for the Night, “Go to tricks (and how to do them)”. Stan himself led off by asking a spectator to mentally select one of five cards. Then he had the

assistant move cards to the bottom of the packet according to the position of the chosen card. One-by-one, he eliminated cards until he was left with the card known only to the spectator. Stan also shared the secret workings with the audience.



J.T. The Unstoppable

J.T. The Unstoppable (Joe Mielnicki) was next with the silk color change followed by a one-coin routine, both inspired by renowned street performer Cellini. Joe gave very thorough explanations about the techniques involved in these tricks and later handed out written material describing both effects.



Arnie Levin and John Roberts

John Roberts called on **Arnie Levin** to help find and re-unite two old army buddies. First John and then Arnie pushed a packet out of the middle of a deck of cards and noted the top card. The cards were cut several time and the two

selected “buddies” were found side-by-side at Clancy’s Bar. John said the effect comes from Jay Sankey and is called “The Ginsberg Poke” – Ginsberg “Peek” would be more accurate.



Arnie Levin and John Roberts

Arnie Levin remained on stage and performed “They all Look the Same” described by John Roberts in a Linking Ring Parade. A two of spades kept coming back to the top of a packet no matter where Arnie placed it and it was revealed that the packet, suspected of being all the same Two of Spades was in fact all King of Clubs.



Louis Hoffheimer and Ryan Mulvaney

Louis Hoffheimer showed a playing card to **Dani Carrion** who was amazed when the card instantly turned into a dollar bill. Louis then called on **Ryan Mulvaney** to assist by holding a folded five dollar bill while Louis held a one. With a magic pass, Ryan’s five turned into a single and Louis had the five.



Louis Hoffheimer and Bob Weiman

Bob Weiman convincingly penetrated a dollar bill with a pencil and then revealed the chicanery that

made the illusion possible. Bob then performed and explained a very entertaining routine in which blank cards were exchanged with a spectator. When the card that ended up in Bob's right hand was turned over, it read "The card is in my right hand" – likewise for the card in his left hand. A third card was inscribed "in the spectators pocket" where it was indeed found.



Marc Carrion

Marc Carrion performed a baffling "Follow-the Leader" card trick of his own invention. A packet of red-faced cards and one of black-facers were dealt to the table. "Leaders" of each color were turned face up. Then, no matter how the packets or the cards were switched around, the next pair turned face up "followed the leaders". A final color change of the last two cards drew gasps from the audience.



Dwight Redman and Dave Roberts

Dwight Redman asked **Dave Roberts** (no kin to John) to pick a number from 10 to 20; he chose the

number 12. Then Dave was asked to picture a card in his mind. Dwight then dealt down cards from a deck to the number 12 – and there was the so-called "invisible" card!



Chuck Jones

Chuck Jones had a spectator select a card – it was the Six of Spades – and to guard it safely. Chuck then dealt the remainder of the cards into four piles and then riffled the piles together, face to face and back to back until they were completely mixed. He then spread the deck face down showing all the spades face up – except one; the six, still held by the spectator. Chuck then did a very nice coin matrix, followed by a banana trick. Seriously, assistant **Ritchie Klein** peeled a banana and discovered it has been magically cut into four parts *inside the skin*. One of the parts concealed a diamond – the four pieces plus the diamond matched a Four of Diamond Ritchie had selected at the outset.



Brendan Mulvaney and Christophe Jelenski

Christophe Jelenski had **Cristian Vidrascu** stand in front of the audience. Cristian reported feeling touches on his arms and shoulders caused by Christophe who was nowhere near him at the time. Christophe then performed Slydini's "paper towels over the head" with **Brendan Mulvaney (Sean's father)**, gradually

increasing the size of the vanished bundles until the final disappearance seemed completely impossible.



Mike Peckham

Mike Peckham showed three Chinese coins with holes in the middle. He explained the holes dated back to a time when clothes did not have pockets and coins were threaded on a string and kept securely like necklaces. Suiting action to words, he hung the three coins on a string and proceeded to magically remove them one by one, proving there were flaws in the security system.



Alec Negri

Alec Negri , in the front row to imagine a quarter, a nickel and a dime hung in the air in front of him. When one of the coins, the quarter, was picked, Alec opened his hands to show they contained the the quarter only had been imagined – but not chosen!

The new Ring 50 President, Stan Hillard, thanked all the participants and reminded the audience that there would be no meeting in July, given the proximity of the date to that of the I.B.M. National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Hawaiian Ring 50

Did you know that our Ring 50 was not the first to bear that number? It turns out that nearly 90 years ago there was a Ring 50 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Here is what is known of the story, beginning with a query this past April from a prominent Hawaiian educator and magician named Kelvin Chun. Kelvin is a member of I.B.M. Aloha Ring 185 (Hawaii Magicians Society) and Territorial Vice President for the 50th State. Kelvin is researching the history of the Hawaii Magic Society and wanted information on the origin of our Ring 50 and how it acquired that number. This is what we have been able to piece together from the various sources sent to us by Kelvin Chun.

I.B.M Ring 50 in Hawaii received its charter in Honolulu in 1930 with a leading figure in the Magic Community, Harry Hanaoka, as President. The May issue of the 1930 Linking Ring celebrated the occasion:

We're up to 50 – Hurrah!

“Honolulu Ring No 50 formed on May 6th. It is said that “All things come to him while he waits” but we want to amend that saying “All things come to him who hustles while he waits”. Several months ago we urged that we have 50 Rings by the time of the meeting of the (June) Convention and we are glad to say that authority

to form Ring No. 50 at Honolulu, Hawaii, and vicinity has been granted and this organization has now been perfected as will be noted in our Ring Directory and is headed by Harry Hanaoka, who is a prominent member of the order and who has been a wonderful contributor to the Linking Ring and who is one of the Representatives of the I.B.M.”

Honolulu Ring 50 endured for the next decade with Harry Hanaoka listed in The Linking Ring along with “Representatives from Other Lands”. Harry, who joined the I.B.M in 1926 (Mem. # 556), died in 1969.

At some point prior to 1947, The Hawaii Ring 50 either lost or gave up its I.B.M. charter for reasons unknown and 50 as a Ring number was vacated. It is worth noting that the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor came on December 7th, 1941 One can only speculate whether the attack and its aftermath had anything to do with the dissolution of Hawaii Ring 50.

On March 2nd, 1947, the Hawaii Magic Society was formed with Vernon Kuhns, “Sherlock,Wizard of Telepathy”, as president. It is reasonable to assume that the Society was mostly a reconstituted version of the former Hawaii Ring 50.

Coincidentally, that same year, on September 2nd 1947, magicians in the greater Washington area received a charter from the I.B.M and was assigned the orphaned number 50 to form the National Capital Ring 50 with Carl Shoemaker as President. In all probability the founders of the 1947 Ring 50 knew little or nothing about the Hawaii connection.

On December First, 1966, The Hawaiian magicians received their full Charter as the Hawaii Magicians Society Aloha Ring # 185, the name it bears today.

The intriguing question remains: why, in fact, did the Hawaii Ring 50 lose its Charter? Hopefully, further research by Kelvin Chun will uncover the cause. Kelvin has also asked the

I.B.M central office for any information it may possess in this regard.

When the Washington area Ring 50 was contacted by Kelvin, he noted that had the first Hawaiian Ring 50 endured, it would have had the perfect number since the islands were declared the 50th State of the Union in 1959. It also would have meant that our own Ring would today have a totally different number. We will never know.

RING 50 MEETING LOCATION

Holiday Inn

2460 Eisenhower Ave,
Alexandria, VA.
6:00 Dinner

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President Larry Lipman

As the June meeting program unfolded, I sat in the back of the audience and reflected on the past year of Ring 50. My conclusion: We have much to be proud of.

More than a dozen members sought to perform their “go to” tricks at the June meeting. We’ve had similar strong participation from members at the Dan Lacey Contest, the New Members

Performance Night and the Past Presidents Performance Night. We've also had strong participation from members at the annual holiday party and the teach-in. In my opinion, giving members the opportunity to perform for and learn from our compeers is one of Ring 50's strengths. Our other strength is that our size (and our treasury) allows us to line up top-notch lecturers. I think we did a pretty good job of that this past year, but I know there is considerable room for improvement. The key is to find the proper balance: We don't want to have all lectures and we don't want to have only members performing. I'm confident that our incoming slate of officers will admirably continue that winning formula.

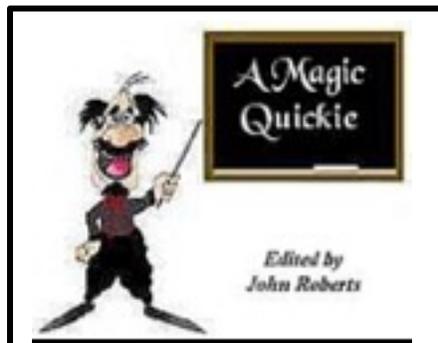
Three other things make our Ring strong, in my opinion: First, the success of Magi-Whirl over the past 15 years has attracted magicians from around the area and around the world. It's given us the financial wherewithal to hire talent and hold our meetings in a comfortable setting. We overcame significant hurdles this year and learned much; next year's conference will be even better. Second, the continuing flourishing of the Counts of Conjuring attracts young people who have been welcomed into our organization with open arms. They are now an integral part of our club. I hope in the future we'll see young girls participating as well.

Finally, the real strength of our club can be seen before the meetings: the camaraderie of so many members gathering to have a meal together in the hotel's Bistro. Ideas and trick are swapped and friendships are initiated and strengthened. I don't care how good an organization's programs are, it's strength is measured in the

bonds formed between the members. Ring 50 gives us that opportunity to establish and solidify friendships. I am tremendously proud to have had the opportunity to be the Ring 50 president this past year and I look forward to continuing to be part of such a vibrant and exciting club moving forward.

Magically yours,

Larry Lipman



**Rickey Jay Ten Card Poker Pick
(Submitted by Bob Patterson)**

Setup: On top of deck; AH, Ind, KH, Ind, QH, ind, JH, Ind, 10H, Ind.

Cards from this stack can be selected to yield a solid poker hand for yourself. Shuffle so the top 10 cards remain on top. Explain that you are going to perform a demo of two poker hands. "Since your opponent is not a poker sharp you will keep the rules simple." "I will deal 10 cards to the table." "Each person will select a card from either end." "To start I'll select a card from this end" (You move card #1, the AH, over to your side of the table). Tell the spec he can select from either end -his choice will be either card #2 or card #10. Repeat the process and always take your card from the same end as the card the spec takes. When the process is complete you will have a Royal Flush and he will have whatever the five indifferent cards yield. If you prefer to make the *spectator* the winner, take card #10 first and follow as above.

*John S. Roberts
Editor*

Who is who in Ring 50



Eric Henning

Eric Henning: Ring 50 Past President Eric Henning has been doing magic professionally for more than 45 years. He's been full-time for the past 11 years, having retired from a partnership in a money management firm in 2007.

He began doing magic at age eight. Three big things happened that year.

"Magician Dick Gray came to my school," Henning recalls. "I remember three things about him. I remember the Hippity-Hop Rabbits; I remember him plucking silver coins from the air and dropping them into a golden bucket; and I remember that I wanted to be him."

The second event was his school talent show, where he took the stage for the first time with a comedy lip-sync routine - and liked it.

The third was a book that would change his life. "I didn't really know what Scholastic Book to buy with my 25¢," Eric says. "My teacher recommended a biography of Harry Houdini." Fascinated with the magic of the Victorian Era, Eric found magic books at his local public library and began studying. "But magic books aren't like other books; eventually, you have to leave

your room and start doing tricks for people.”

Doing magic for school friends required a new trick every day, so Eric quickly burned through material. He soon discovered Al’s Magic Shop in Washington, DC, where, under Al Cohen’s guidance, Eric built a repertoire of classic tricks. Soon, people started asking if he did shows.

“My first paid magic show was a disaster,” he recalls. “It was a Cub Scout banquet, and I was horrible. The cloth fell off of my Abbott zombie, revealing the workings. I forgot how to do the Professor’s Nightmare.” Eric learned an important lesson that night: always step on stage fully prepared.

He started doing birthday parties with an unconventional show. “I had seen magicians like Jimmy Grippo and Ricky Jay on Johnny Carson, so I did close-up table magic at kids’ parties,” he recalls. In junior high school, he put together a stage show by practicing at a nearby nursing home. It was fun for them and helped Henning hone his skills. “It was a win-win,” he remembers. “I would do the same show every week during the summer, figuring that if people with visual, auditory or cognitive impairments could enjoy it, it was ready for the public.” Soon, he was touring for Park & Planning, doing two shows a day in summer day care centers.

While pursuing a drama degree, Eric busked at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, alongside Penn & Teller, Avner the Eccentric, and the Flying Karamazov Brothers. After graduation, he spent a summer doing street magic in Geneva, Lausanne, Avignon and Paris.

Returning home, he apprenticed with a stockbroker, which led to a nearly 25-year career in the investment field. Eric became an

internationally recognized financial expert and radio personality, and was sent by the US Government on a diplomatic goodwill mission to counteract a speech by Fidel Castro.

He has had the privilege of performing at the Presidential Inaugurals in 2001, 2005 and 2013, as well as performing for the Obamas in the White House. He has also appeared at two White House Easter Egg Rolls, and three National Christmas Tree Lightings. He has also appeared at the National Theatre, the Smithsonian, The Birchmere, and The Hamilton.

Eric has served as President, Vice-President and Secretary of Ring 50, and was its first Webmaster. In 2003, he helped resurrect Magi-Whirl under then-President Larry Lipman.

Today, Eric specializes in shows of Parlor Magic and Mentalism for small banquets, dinner parties and other VIP events. His distinctive Victorian look and conversational style have won him many repeat clients. He also has recently launched an educational podcast, “The Financial Wizard,” which attempts to “De-Mystify Money.” His websites are EricHenningMagic.com and MagicAfterDinner.com

Ring 50 New Members & Applications & Dues

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! You can pay through PayPal now!

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.

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 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.

