

# MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 73 No. 4 April 2019



## In This Issue

Magi-Whirl Highlights	Page 1
Strolling Magicians	Page 5
President's Corner	Page 6
Ring 50 Schedule	Page 6
Dan Lacey Contest	Page 7
Birthdays	Page 7
Counts of Conjuring	Page 8
Quickie	Page 8



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

### President

Stan Hillard  
president@ibmring50.org

### Vice President

Craig Fifer  
vp@ibmring50.org

### Secretary

Marc Carrion  
secretary@ibmring50.org

### Treasurer

Mike Peckham  
treasurer@ibmring50.org

### Sergeant-at-Arms

Sam Brothers  
sgtarms@ibmring50.org

### Magi-Gram Editor

Bob Patterson, PIP  
magi-gram@ibmring50.org

## Magi-Whirl 2019

*(Many thanks to John Roberts, John Cloninger, Larry Lipman, Arnold Fuoco, and Bob Patterson for contributing to this month's column.)*

By now everyone has recovered from the two day celebration of the magical arts by the International Brotherhood of Magicians, National Capital Ring 50, **Magi-Whirl 2019** that was held on April 12 & 13, 2019.



*Craig Fifer and Marc Carrion*

Convention Co-Chairman **Craig Fifer** reports there were 110 convention attendees from around the mid-Atlantic Region that converged on Alexandria, VA and over 600 show attendees. This was a special year for Magi-Whirl because the event venue graduated from school classrooms and auditoriums to the prestigious Rachel M Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria.

**Michael Finney**, the current International President of I.B.M. led the list of world-class lecturers and performers and was also the host of the Gala Public Show which capped the festivities. Ring 50's own **Bob Patterson** was Michael's predecessor as International President which made this Magi-Whirl even more special. The Arts Center, with its spacious rooms was ideal for the nine dealers who hawked their wares behind crowded tables

There were four lectures, and a Gala evening show. Everyone had had a great time hanging out with other magicians and people devoted to magic. They learned a ton of new tricks, ideas, presentations, and of course seen some great performances and lecturers.

## The Lectures

**Michael Finney** leading off the lectures on Friday night regaled his audience with tales from his forty-some years in the magic business, including working on cruise ships, TV specials and as a stand-up comedian. Michael started his superlative lecture by encouraging magicians to improve their routines using creative thinking.

(continued on page 2)

## The Lectures

(continued from page 1)



*Laurie Curry and Michael Finney.*

By adding charismatic storytelling and revising classic effects, the magic can be elevated to a new level. After spending part of his early career as a close-up magician and a children's performer at a theme park, Michael decided to concentrate strictly on comedy magic. Along the way, he opened for Ray Charles and worked President George W. Bush's inaugural Gala.

Michael's lecture ranged far and wide over the magic landscape, displaying his unique brand of off-beat humor. He also taught the workings of several tricks including his signature rope routine with its hilarious patter.



*Christopher T. Magician*

Saturday morning began with **Christopher T. Magician**, a published author of books on Children's Magic, impressed his audience with a clear, well-organized list of proven techniques for entertaining kids and adults as

well. The techniques and silliness Christopher put forth in his books were honed over fifteen years of performing magic for children at parties and other special events. One example is "Don't": Tell the kid not to open the can of Pringles – and of course they will. By the time Christopher was finished with this bit there were "snakes" all over the platform. Another is "Subvert Expectations": You blow up a balloon and it bursts before the magician (and the audience) expect it to. Or, your trick fails for some reason and as you turn away, the balloon explodes after the expected moment. Christopher's lecture later was deemed the most entertaining and informative of all.



*Gustavo Raley and Quinton Hodges.*

Before the lunch break it was **Gustavo Raley** from Buenos Aires, Argentina where he began his artistic career with live performances at the age of four. As one of the most awarded illusionists in Latin America, Raley has brought his magic to more than 30 countries around the world. His lecture consisted of performing and explaining six ingenious effects he designed and patented that are sold all over the world. The most jaw-dropping of these was when he poured three different colored sodas into an empty ice bucket. Swished them around and scooped them out as clear and unmixed as when they went in. Then he did it again, even more baffling! When the lecture was over, audience members clustered two and three deep to acquire Gustavo's miracle tricks. When his English occasionally failed him, he was helped with

translations by Ring 50 Secretary Marc Carrion who is from Barcelona, Spain.



*Eric Jones.*

After the break it was **Eric Jones**. Eric was a very fortunate last-minute substitute for the scheduled coin expert David Roth who could not attend due to a serious illness. Eric is a master coin manipulator whose methods are not for beginners or even mid-level devotees to coins. It was fascinating to see his deeply detailed demonstration of just one trick, "Three Coins Across" which took up nearly one hour of his lecture. Eric finished by performing close-up card magic encircled by his audience, most of which stood on chairs to watch.

Magi-Whirl attendees were extremely happy with our lecturers and performers, who all delivered the goods! For the most part the lectures were not a dealer demo, but a lecture about their techniques and life experiences as a performing magician. However they did have some merchandise to sell at the lecture or dealer hall. The lectures were about the art of magic and were outstanding.

## The Dealers

During unscheduled periods the bustling dealer's hall was the scene of much warm fellowship. Attendees embraced old friends; tricks were shared along with chit-chat about the world of magic.

(continued on page 3)



## The Dealers

(continued from page 2)

In the Dealer Hall you could see and talk to professional magicians and look at new magic items for sale. The dealers were continuously demonstrating the latest magical items, silks, accessories, and supplies they had brought with them for sale. This gave you a chance to see the latest magic items, touch them, and see them in action before making a purchase. The dealers were: **Guaranteed Magic Co.** - Bob Little, **Mike's Magic** - Mike Hummer, **Sorcery with Class** - Scott Correll, **A-Z Magic** - Arlen Solomon, **MK Cups** - Michael Kaminiskas, **Alan's Illusions** - Wayne Alan and **Fuller's Magic** - Mark Fuller.



Mike's Magic - Mike Hummer



Sorcery with Class - Scott Correll



Alan's Illusions - Wayne Alan



A-Z Magic - Arlen Solomon



MK Cups - Michael Kaminiskas



Guaranteed Magic Co. - Bob Little



Fuller's Magic - Mark Fuller



April 12-13, 2019

## Saturday Night Gala Show

When it was time for the doors to open for the public Gala Show, more than 600 men, women and children began streaming into the Schlesinger Concert Hall to find their assigned seats. Six strolling magicians (**Matt Biegun, Louis Hofheimer, Chuck Jones, Larry Lipman, Noland Montgomery, Dwight Redman and Barney Sperling**) mingled among them doing tricks and heightening expectations for the entertainment to come.



Michael Finney waiting on the roaring laughter to die down.

The show opened with welcoming remarks by emcee Michael Finney, International President of the I.B.M. who performed the spinning spiral effect that first caused his head to shrink and then swell back to normal size. The audience gasped and then laughed at this weird collective illusion. Michael also thanked Dan Dalton who was at one end of the first row of seats providing sign language interpretation of the show.

(continued on page 4)



# Saturday Night Gala Show

(continued from page 3)



*Niels Duinker*

To begin the Gala Show Michael introduced the perfect opening act: an astonishing display of juggling by **Niels Duinker** from the Netherlands. Niels had dreamed of becoming a successful international performer since he was 12 years old. Over the last 18 years he has turned that dream into a reality by winning gold medals at major juggling and circus competitions in Europe, Asia and America, and capturing the imagination of audiences around the world. Niels seemed to fill the air above him with balls, rings and clubs that were packed with LED lights and created a brilliant color kaleidoscope of illuminated movement. It was easy to see why this young man is a four-time Guinness Worlds Record holder juggling seven items at one time.

Emcee Finney then brought on stage **Christopher T. Magician** who performed the classic “Bill in

April 2019



*Christopher T. Magician with Samantha Levin and the coin catch.*

Lemon” trick but there was nothing classic about it. Working with a volunteer, Christopher failed to find the lemon with the vanished bill inside, first from among several lemons and then from lemons hidden all over the auditorium. This frantic but futile search escalated until Christopher upended his suitcase and dozens of lemons poured out. By then the stage was awash with lemons and the audience was howling with laughter. The vanished bill was finally found in the cap of a Sharpie that was in the purse of a woman in the audience! Christopher ended by emulating the famous “bullet catch” trick. He first hid a marked coin (the bullet) in a roll of toilet paper (the cartridge) and loading the roll on a leaf blower (the gun). Samantha Levin aimed the gun at Christopher and fired. Something went wrong and toilet paper unwound in stream that reached across and entirely blanketed the magician who ended up looking like a snowman. Christopher uncovered his face and removed the marked coin from his mouth! A clean-up crew carted off the debris – which included Christopher T. Magician himself – to thunderous applause.

Between some of the acts and set changes, Finney entertained “in front of the curtain” with the rope trick from his lecture and his hilarious “Card on the Forehead”.

**Christophe Jelenski** was next on the program. He had earned a spot in the Gala by winning Ring 50’s “Magician of the Year Award” for 2018-19. Chris is a close-up magician and mentalism who has

given several TED talks in the region. He had a young volunteer page through a magazine and pick out the longest word in the first few sentences which Chris correctly intuited as “Grandchildren”. He then had lady and a gentleman come to the stage and sat them both well apart in chairs. While they closed their eye he touched the gentleman in several ways; on the shoulder, the top of the head, etc. and each time the lady reported feeling the identical touches even though Chris had been nowhere near her. Christophe brought off this seemingly impossible feat with aplomb and earned a hearty round of applause.



*Christophe Jelenski and helpers.*

Next up was **Jessica Jane**, a *TMT Entertainment Awards Magical Entertainer of the Year* and a first-class entertainer whose parents came from the world of magic and put her in their act at the age of 12. At 17 she joined the circus where she learned the ins and outs of fire-eating and other vaudeville stunts.

(continued on page 5)

## Saturday Night Gala Show

(continued from page 4)



Jessica Jane

Jessica opened by pouring water into a folded newspaper and then turning it upside down to show the water had vanished. Returning the paper right side up, the water poured out – where had it been? Jessica then demonstrated her circus roots by escaping from a tightly laced straight-jacket in record time. She finished with a lovely version of “Gypsy Thread” using the image of magic as a tightrope: “Walking a tightrope is living – all the rest is just waiting”.

To bring the Gala Show to a memorable end, **Gustavo Raley** performed the “Cocktail” trick from his lecture using the ice bucket and three different colored sodas. He followed this with a trick with a signed card that mysteriously ended up on a Selfie Stick – but the best was yet to come. Gustavo is a master of shadow puppetry, the seldom seen art of using just your hands to depict lifelike images in black silhouette on a lighted screen. With the house lights down, Gustavo created a wondrous series of incredibly creative shadow



Gustavo Raley mixing Cocktails

images of animals, people and short dramatic scenarios. He ended with a love story in shadows that brought the audience to its feet with applause and cheers – an ovation that rocked the hall. It was a fitting end to one of the best Magi-Whirl Gala shows in recent memory.

By all accounts, Magi-Whirl 2019 was a resonant successful event put on by Ring 50. Everyone was fantastic. Great crowd and a great show! Many thanks to the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center Technical Theater crew, and Gala Show performers for a highly entertaining Gala Show

## Magi-Whirl 2019 Co-Chairman Danny Selnick Declares Magi- Whirl a Success

By all measures, Magi-Whirl 2019 was an outstanding success delivering some of the best lecturers in the magic as well as an amazing Saturday evening public gala show to some 600 people.

That said, what makes Magi-Whirl so wonderful is the coming together of volunteers that help make it all happen behind the scenes. If you ask me, that's the real magic -- especially when you see teams of volunteers working with each other to put on a celebration of magic.

Thank  
You

Thank you one and all for helping AND your attendance that made this year's Magi-Whirl so special.

Hope to see all of you next year!!

Danny

## Pre-Show Strolling Magicians



Strolling Magicians for the gala pre-show at Magi-Whirl. Barney Sperling, Noland Montgomery, Larry Lipman, Dwight Redman, Louis Hofheimer, Matt Biegun and Chuck Jones. (Photo by Bob Patterson)



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President Stan Hillard

### A Job Well Done!

Members of International Brotherhood of Magicians, National Capital Ring 50, wherever you are as you read this; please stand and take one of your hands, reach over your shoulder and pat your back several times, repeating as you do so, "we did it and we did it with style" Magi-Whirl 2019 was a wonderful success for all who participated and I, for one, am proud to be a part of this organization that brings so much entertainment, knowledge, and comradeship throughout the year to its membership.

Yes, many of us are still recuperating from exhaustion and near burnout but now that we can look back on everything it was definitely worth the effort. And I'm not talking about the efforts of only the Officers and Board members, there was so much help coming in from all directions that it brings tears to my eyes just thinking about it. My hat is off (oh, I didn't have one on but it would be off if I had one) to all those who stepped in and marketed the Magi-Whirl event, helped make sure we could technically pull off the wonderful

Gala show, provided platforms for online ticket sales, found unique ways to place tickets in the public's hands, and worked with performers, lecturers, and Schlesinger officials to secure the incredible lineup of talent that kept us enthralled for two days. And there was a myriad of other functions that people stepped in to satisfy.

While we had a decline of about ten percent in magicians who attended Magi-Whirl 2019, we set event records (tentative numbers) for public attendance to the Saturday evening Gala show featuring Michael Finney, Gustavo Raley, Jessica Jane, Niels Duinker, Christopher T Magician, and our own Christophe Jelinski, and the lectures on Friday night and during the day on Saturday. We also probably set an event record for profit (not an unimportant outcome), but we'll see when the final tally is computed.

We are within sight of the end of this program year and I hope that the initiatives to improve our program will continue to build so that each of us can achieve our goals in magic and bring the wonderful art of magic to more within our Community.

Don't forget that on Wednesday evening, 1 May, we will be holding our Dan Lacey Magician of the Year Competition and you are all invited to compete. Several positions are still available for competitors and I would love to see your "stuff". If you intend to compete, please declare your intent and send me an email ASAP at:

President@IBMRing50.Org

Stan Hillard,  
President, I.B.M. Ring 50

## RING 50 MAGIC FOR SALE

Ring 50 has great magic items and DVDs from the Paul White collection for sale. The proceeds go to I.B.M. Ring 50. Price is HALF of the current retail price (retail price marked on package).

Some are new, some are nearly new, and some are slightly used. Most have been reviewed and all pieces have been assembled and sealed in the packaging. Be sure to review the URL listed at the right side of the spreadsheet for explanations of the items.

Send the Ring 50 Curator Bob Patterson an email at: [Magic.Bob@Comcast.Net] and we can work out delivery. **The magic and DVD listing for sale 11 is attached to Magi-Gram email.**



### IBM Ring 50 Schedule

(Subject to Change)

May 1 ... **Dan Lacy Contest**

Jun 5 .... **TBA, Officer Elections**

July ..... **No meeting in July**

See you at the I.B.M.  
Convention Scottsdale AZ.  
July 10-13, 2019.

Aug 7 ... **Past Presidents Perform, & Installation of Officers**

Sep 4 ..... **TBA**

**Have you paid your Ring 50 dues for 2019?**



## Dan Lacey Competition to Pick Title Holder "Magician of the Year"

Sharpen up your skills and compete at the **May 1<sup>st</sup>** meeting for the Dan Lacey Memorial Trophy and the title "Magician of the Year". The winner will receive a rotating trophy, a spot to perform at the 2020 Ring 50 Magi-Whirl, and a free convention registration.

All paid-up Ring 50 members both new and veteran members can seek the title. A panel of judges will declare the winner.



*Dan Lacey*

The late Dan Lacey was a president of Ring 50 (1999-2000) who inspired others - especially newcomers to magic - to hone their skills. The contest provides an opportunity to recognize the exceptional magic skills of our members. The contest was started in 2003 to honor the deceased magician.

Contact President Stan Hillard: President@IBMRing50.Org or call 703-430-4534 if you are interested in being in the competition.

## 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



Eric Henning -	24-Apr
Christophe Jelinski -	29-Apr
Dr. William Wells -	1-May
Louis Hofheimer -	3-May
Dick White -	3-May
Dan Krevere -	6-May
Stuart Finley -	7-May
Roy Thompson -	7-May
Michael Peckham -	10-May
Kevin Sievers -	14-May

## Ring 50 New Members & Applications

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 to belong to Ring 50.

Be sure to keep your membership active in the I.B.M. to enjoy the benefits of membership. Send your I.B.M. dues to: International Brotherhood of Magicians, 13 Point West Blvd, St. Charles, Missouri, USA 63301

## Other Conventions & Shows

April 24-27, 2019

**Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic**  
Batavia, NY

May 3-4, 2019

**Michigan Magic Day**  
Flint, Michigan

June 23, 2019

**Bob Little's Super Sunday**  
Bensalem, Pennsylvania

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 Secretary Marc Carrion.



The 2019 I.B.M. convention  
will be in Scottsdale, AZ,  
July 10 – 13, 2019.

Registration \$329.00

Spouse \$210.00

See you there!

**Reserve your Talking  
Stick Resort room early!!!**





## Counts of Conjuring Meets May 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 pm



The International Brotherhood of Magicians, National Capitol Ring 50, "Counts of Conjuring" meets first Wednesday of every month at the Holiday Inn at 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 \$40 for the actual magic tricks).

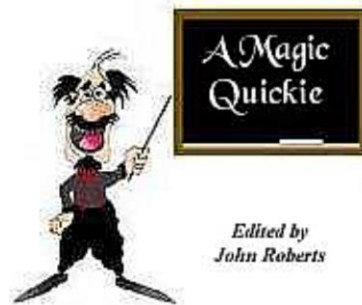
Each month the youths will learn one new magic trick and have a chance to perform it. The Counts of Conjuring is for youths 8 to 17 years.

**Third meeting of 2019:  
May 1, 2019, 6:00pm**

### Magic Quickies Needed

Send John Roberts a short trick you would like to share with newsletter readers. He will pick the best one (in his judgement), one for each edition of the Magi-Gram. 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)



### April Quickie

(Here is a bit of tom-foolery from David Williamson - Arnie Levin is not entirely innocent either.)

When you invite a necktie-wearing gentleman to assist you on stage pretend to notice there is a loose string at the end of his tie. Hold the tie between thumb and forefinger about two inches from the end. If you mime pulling on the thread and at the same time, wiggle your middle finger against the fabric below your fingers it looks very much like you are unraveling the tie from the bottom. Try it and see. Then continue, if you wish, by saying *"I've always wondered which end of the tie would win a race to the bottom"*. Roll up the long part and have your victim hold it under his chin. Do the same with the shorter end. Tell him to let the ends go on the count of three. The two ends will unfurl at the same time – *"It's a tie!!"*

**John S. Roberts**  
*Quickie Editor*

### RING 50 MEETING LOCATION

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

## Ring 50 Treasurer Collecting Dues



The Ring 50 annual dues of \$20 for 2019 were due by 28 February. To stay current you may mail your dues to the Ring 50 Treasurer, **Mike Peckham**, Make checks payable to **IBM Ring 50**.

Send a check to his home address at 901 15th Street South, #1515, Arlington, VA 22202-5041. Or you may pay by PayPal to: [\[payments@ibmring50.org\]](mailto:payments@ibmring50.org). Be sure to indicate that the money is for 2019 dues.

Enjoy your Ring activities and the Magi-Gram throughout 2019 by paying your dues soon.

Thanks!

## Ring 50 Shirts for Sale



There seems to be an interest in doing the Ring 50 shirts again. At present time we have 6 members requesting shirts; we need a few more for the price break. If you are interested let Bob Patterson know [[Magic.Bob@Comcast.Net](mailto:Magic.Bob@Comcast.Net)]. The anticipated cost is \$30 (2XL & 3XL add \$3). Sizes available are: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, & 3XL. The shirts will be light blue made of easy care material with button-down collar. The sharp look is complete normally with a box back pleat and patch pocket. Minimum order is 8 shirts. If we get that many requests I'll order them.