



# MAGI-GRAM



Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 75 No. 1 January 2021

## Alejandro Navas: Amazing Card Magic You Can Do Virtually

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Imagine doing card tricks right in the spectator's hand—but you're at home and the spectator is watching through a computer! This is the power of the magic of Alejandro Navas, a professional magician, producer and actor from Costa Rica, who has taken Penguin Magic by storm.

Alejandro will be the guest lecturer at the Feb. 3 meeting starting at 7 p.m. Watch your email for a Zoom link.

Here are the types of effects we can expect to learn from Alejandro:

- ◆ A card is chosen and lost in the deck. The card appears in the spectator's pocket!
- ◆ Two spectators say a number at random and the third spectator's card appears in that position in the deck they are holding...
- ◆ The most surprising triumph effect that happens in the hands of the spectator, even after they mix the cards. A hard to believe, impossible method that you will love!



*Alejandro Navas*

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## Broken Wand Ceremony For Al Cohen, Feb. 24

A Broken Wand Ceremony for the late Al Cohen will be held at a special Ring 50 meeting on Feb. 24, beginning at 7 p.m. This Zoom meeting will be open to the entire magic community, not only members of Ring 50.

Al was president of Ring 50 in 1957-58 and served for many years as the I.B.M. territorial vice president. He was the owner of Al's Magic Shop in Washington for more than half a century.

Persons who wish to speak at this special meeting should contact Larry Lipman at [lorenzomagic@cox.net](mailto:lorenzomagic@cox.net).



# ***FIZZWIZZPOP Show Delights Families; Lecture Highlights Clever Use of Tricks***

Our first meeting of 2021 was held via Zoom on January 13 and featured the acclaimed Northern Ireland magician Nikola Arkane.

Nikola has toured across the United States and performed at venues such as The Magic Club in Oslo, The Chicago Magic Lounge, and Mystique in Stockholm. In 2018, she won the International Brotherhood of Magicians British Ring Close Up Competition and took first place in the Ali Bongo Micro Marathon. In 2019, she performed 36 shows at The Magic Castle in Las Vegas, some as herself and some as her children's character, FizzWizzPop.

Nikola started by giving a 30 minute show as her character, FizzWizzPop, followed by a lecture on performing for children. We invited some families to join our Zoom meeting for the show so there would be children in the audience. FizzWizzPop is an eccentric and energetic character who filled the frame with colorful props and fun magic. After warming up the audience by doing a few short tricks and getting everyone moving, she performed three longer routines.



***Nikola Arkane as FizzWizzPop***

In the first, she displayed a picture of a rainbow that had no colors and then showed us the front and back of a plain white silk. Using her magic—and with the virtual assistance of the children—she pulled silks of all colors from the white silk. By rubbing the colorful silks on the rainbow picture it became filled with color.

Her next routine was a Frozen-themed trick. She had ten match boxes laid out in a circle with different Frozen-themed places drawn on them. She said Elsa was hiding in

one of these places and we would try to find her. A child from the audience named a number and, using this number, FizzWizzPop arrived at the matchbox with an igloo drawn on it. Inside, was a figure of Elsa and on the back of the box were the words “Let it go.” The other boxes were empty and their backs blank.

For her last routine, FizzWizzPop brought out three gift bags and let three children each choose one bag. They then each chose one of three different colored envelopes and the envelope was placed together with the child's chosen bag. The last child had the chance to switch envelopes with any of those already chosen. The first envelope was opened. Inside was a picture of a carrot and in the bag next to it was a cute balloon rabbit. The other two pictures, a bone and a banana, also matched their bags' contents: balloon puppy and balloon monkey.

After the show, we took a few minutes break while Nikola reset for her lecture. When the invited audience members were asked to sign off before the lecture started,



***Marc Carrion and  
Dani help  
FizzWizzPop find  
Elsa.***

# *Nikola Arkane's FLIZZWIZZPOP Show and Lecture Focus on Presentation*

we noticed that a little girl was crying. She said she was sad because she had signed on too late and missed the whole magic show. Nikola talked to her very gently and then performed a sponge ball routine just for her, leaving the child smiling and happy. Nikola is clearly an experienced performer and able to handle the unexpected. In fact, she told us that she had expected to be back in her studio in Ireland for this lecture but had gotten stuck in Sweden. She had to improvise her whole setup and go shopping for some of the props she needed for the show.

During the lecture, Nikola gave us many helpful ideas about performing for children. She said the warmup is essential for letting the kids know they can react to the magic. She



likes to do a whole routine by herself before asking for volunteers because “the kids need to know you are magic before they want to help you.”

Nikola likes to make her magic very “3D.” Throughout the lecture, she suggested great ideas to achieve this, like using confetti or wind up butterflies that can fly out of a book or picture.

Another recurring theme was her use of very versatile

props that can be adapted to different settings or holidays. All three of the routines from her show had alternate versions.



The methods for the magic in Nikola’s show were straightforward and most are already well known to magicians. The routine with the matchboxes is based on a very old mathematical principle called “the tail of the nine.” The magic with the three gift bags is based on a routine by Rob Driscoll. Nikola also taught us a routine not included in her show based on Eric Mead’s “Tie One On,” but using socks instead of neckties. It ended by revealing that the mate to a sock chosen



by a member of the audience was on her foot.


What made these routines so fun and amazing is not so much the method as the skillful way Nikola adapted them to fit into the framework of her FizzWizzPop show. We all appreciated her ideas and routines as well as her willingness to stay up until 3 a.m. her time to share them with us.





**Augie Arnstein Jan. 30**  
**Tommy Halladay Feb. 7**  
**John Cloninger Feb. 9**  
**Stan Hillard Feb. 28**

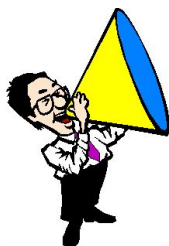


Profit and Loss Statement		
12/1/2020 through 12/31/2020		
		
Last Months Balance		27,097.48
Date	Description	
Income		Amount
12/9/2020	2021 Deposit Dues - 7	\$140.00
12/23/2020	2021 Deposit Dues - 4	\$80.00
12/31/2020	2021 PayPal Dues - 8	\$160.00
Total Income		\$380.00
Expenses		
12/14/2020	Lecture Fees (PayPal)	\$300.00
12/31/2020	PayPal Fees	\$5.28
Total Expenses		\$305.28
Overall TOTAL		\$27,172.20
Total Financial Position		\$27,172.20

There is \$340 in Eventbrite to be closed and transferred to our BB&T account in January.

## The Treasurer is Now Collecting Dues for 2021

Ring 50 annual dues of \$20 for 2021 are due by Feb. 28. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic suspension of group meetings, you may begin paying your dues now by mail or PayPal. Ring 50 Treasurer Bob Patterson requests that you pay by check, as this eases the record keeping. Make checks payable to **IBM Ring 50**. Please send your check to his home address at:



Bob Patterson, 3450 Wainscott Place, Lake Ridge, VA 22192-5362.

Or you may pay by PayPal at [Payments@IBMRing50.Org](mailto:Payments@IBMRing50.Org). Your 2021 Ring 50 membership card will be sent upon receipt of payment.

Enjoy your Ring activities and the Magi-Gram throughout 2021 by paying your dues now.





## Conjurors Learn Importance of Scripting

Professional comedy illusionist and Ring 50 Sgt.-at-Arms Reggie Rice gave members of the Ring 50 Conjurors a crash course on the elements of a magic

trick and a magic show as the guest lecturer at the January meeting.

All magic tricks and all magic shows have a beginning, a middle and an end, Reggie said, and urged the Conjurors to think about each element when performing a trick and creating a show.

Reggie stressed the importance of scripting and mixing the various types of magical effects. With the help of the Conjurors and



*Reggie Rice was the guest lecturer for the January meeting of the Ring 50 Conjurors.*

Youth Activities Director

Louis Meyer, the group listed the nine primary types of magic effects: production, vanish, transformation, restoration, teleportation, escape, levitation, penetration and prediction.

It's important to understand which type of effect each trick is

so two tricks using the same type of effect are not repeated one after another, Reggie said. Louis gave an example of three different cut and restored tricks, including cutting a Coke can in half and then restoring it. Although the tricks are



*Youth Activities Director Louis Meyer explains how different tricks can use the same effect—something to be avoided in a show.*

# *Conjurors: Vary Effects for Impact*

different, the effect—cut and restored—is the same.

Louis asked the Conjurors to name three different tricks using three different types of effects that they have already learned through the Discovery Magic Course being used by the Conjurors. The group came up with the Bermuda Papers trick, in which a dollar bill can appear from a folded bunch of blank papers; a Map trick, which is a prediction; and the Houdini Ball trick, in which a ball seeming penetrates a clear solid box.

While tricks are important, Reggie noted that what makes tricks magical is the story that goes along with a trick. Reggie encouraged the Conjurors to try to develop a story for each trick they perform. He used the



example of seemingly penetrating his ear with a pen and then pulling it out of his mouth. Then he performed the same trick with a story.

Showing a running order for one of his illusion shows, Reggie explained how he varies the types of tricks and is mindful of the need to consider other aspects including the use of music and possible costume changes as he moves from one trick to another.

When it comes to scripting, Reggie urged the Conjurors to think about the flow of the trick and develop a story to go along with the trick. Then write out all of the elements of the trick including a word-for-word script of the patter and directions such as when to make each move in the trick.

"Scripting is the most important part of magic," Reggie said, although he noted that too many magicians fail to script their tricks or their shows..

That results in the performer looking like he or she is unsure what comes next.

Although the scripts are written, Reggie noted that they constantly evolve as the performer repeatedly performs the trick. He urged the Conjurors to practice all of the elements of each trick "until you've got it down" before moving on to the next trick.

The Ring 50 Conjurors meet every month at 6 p.m., before the regular Ring 50 meeting, which is usually the first Wednesday of every month. The Conjurors are open to any youth 8 or older who is interested in learning magic. To learn more, contact Louis at: [youth@ibmring50.org](mailto:youth@ibmring50.org).



# Who's Who in Ring 50

## Adam Stone - Blame It On the Nutcracker

Arriving home from work one autumn day in 2016, Adam Stone was surprised to discover that his two daughters and wife, Jenny, had signed him up for the role of Drosselmeyer, the magician uncle, in the Mid Atlantic Youth Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker." He would be dancing with all of his family. Strangely, Adam had little personal experience dancing in a ballet and even less with magic.

Determined to be a good father, he quickly agreed to the task and went about trying to learn magic. This mission took Adam down the Yellow Brick Road, quite literally, to the Denny and Lee Magic Studio, located on Yellow Brick Road in Rosedale Md. There he met legendary magician and magic dealer Denny Haney, who took Adam under his wing, and the two began working on the logistics of the upcoming "Nutcracker" performance.

What began as something he wanted to do just for his wife and daughters, soon took on a personal



element. He started carrying cards with him and even practiced different techniques while driving to and from his home in Cockeysville to his work in Baltimore, often a trip of more than an hour, sitting in traffic much of the time.

"I wanted my daughters to see me do something I had to work at, not just something I already knew how to do; I wanted them to see me struggle and get better because I worked hard." And struggle he did. Many of the techniques were very difficult to learn and required hours of practice just to be dexterous enough to get through them slowly. It would take months until he was at a level where he could perform for others.

Finally, his first day of

rehearsal came. Thanks to Denny's support and training, Adam was ready with three illusions never before performed on the Towson stage for MYB's version of "The Nutcracker."

Adam performed in all three productions that year, and his life would forever change: All he could think about was the next show, one year away, and the fun he would have. Since then, Adam has performed magic for children's parties, a street party for a local business and as a volunteer at the University of Maryland Hospital in the Children's Cancer Ward and a local orphanage. In response to the pandemic, Adam has been sharpening his magic and technical skills and performing Zoom shows for schools.

As an undergraduate at Michigan State University, Adam took courses that would allow him to teach and work with the blind. Although he did not have any relatives or know anyone who was blind, he said learning to teach the blind was something that he felt was his calling. While at Michigan State, Adam and Jenny met



# Adam Stone - Zoom Master

at a swing dance class.

They both took graduate classes at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (now the Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry— she to become an optometrist, him to get a degree in Orientation and Mobility, training the blind in how to orient themselves and travel in an unfamiliar environment. Adam can read braille and can cook, clean and cross streets while blindfolded.

Adam was a special education teacher for a decade at the Maryland School for the Blind in Parkville, Md., and was the technology, engineering and robotics teacher when he left in 2016. He was named the Special Education Teacher of the Year for Maryland in 2014.

Adam now works in Baltimore as in IT tech for University of Maryland Medical Systems. He makes adaptations to electronic medical records to make them easier for doctors to use.

Since his debut in “The Nutcracker,” Adam has been



*Adam's daughters, Ava and Elaina, help with puppetry for a recent Zoom show.*

consumed with magic, attending conventions, lectures and befriending magicians around the world, and building his part-time magic business. Initially, Denny was his mentor; more recently, Adam has been working on hypnotism and mentalism with Las Vegas mentalist Kent Axell.

“I like to perform on stage and make people laugh. I love the interactive element of magician and audience member.”

Not surprisingly, Adam's daughters, Ava, 11, and Elaina, 8, are often his first audience as he works on perfecting a trick. They've also become involved in some of his shows, doing puppetry in front of a green screen.



## A Gentlemen's Game

**Effect:** The magician keeps winning a Gentlemen's Game until the spectator tries to cheat, and the magician catches him. This is not really a trick, but it's a way to introduce the four aces.

**Method:** I learned this routine from Lew Brooks. It's a very funny way to introduce the four aces.

Take the cards out of the box, but leave the 4 aces inside the box. Explain to your spectator that you will play a gentlemen's game: He will cut to a card and tell you what it is. You don't need to see it, because after all, this is a gentlemen's game. After he announces his card, you also cut the deck and it does not matter what you cut to, announce that you cut to something higher than his card.

If he cuts to a King, say you cut to a King too, never mention an Ace. You can do this three or four times. Obviously he will think you are lying about the cards you name. So at this point you tell him, that obviously, he may think you have an advantage because he cuts first, and that you--being magician--can always cut to

*Continued page 10*

# Paul White Collection Raises Over \$11,000 for Ring 50. More to Come.

Remember perusing mounds of magic props and items on the tables outside our meeting room at the Holiday Inn before the Ring 50 monthly meetings?

That was just a small portion of the collection of magic donated for sale by longtime Ring 50 member Paul White. The proceeds went to benefit Ring 50.

In the spring of 2018, Paul moved to an apartment in Spain. He could not take his magic collection with him so he gave it to Ring 50 to be sold and the sales to be donated to the Ring 50 treasury.

Bob Patterson, Ring 50 treasurer and I.B.M. past international president, managed the collection, listing items for sale each month and bringing a large quantity of magic to the meetings from the storage unit. Arnie Levin often helped transport and sell the items at the tables.

Because of the pandemic, sales have gradually dwindled so that the monthly revenue no longer covered the cost of storage.

As of December 2020, 780 items had been sold with a sales value of just over \$11,000. The 32 months of storage fees was \$2,568 leaving an \$8,470 donation to the Ring 50 treasury.

Vice President Danny Selnick contacted Hocus Pocus



*What? No one just waved a magic wand and the items jumped into the packing crates? Ring 50 Board Member Marc Carrion, Treasurer Bob Patterson, Vice President Danny Selnick and Secretary Drew Owen pack the Paul White collection for shipment to Hocus Pocus.*

about selling the remaining items in the collection and the Executive Committee unanimously approved the proposal.

On Jan. 9, Danny headed up a team that included Secretary Drew Owen, Board Member Marc Carrion and Bob to pack and ship the remaining items to Hocus Pocus for sales. Ring 50 will receive a percentage of the sales from the Hocus Pocus. This included at least 63 magic items, illusions, and 295 books and booklets with a retail value estimated to be over \$8,000. Ring 50 will receive regular income and updates from the sale of the collection.

**Editor's Note:**

**Paul White was featured in the June 2015 issue of Magi-Gram. Here is a reprint of that article.**

## A MAGIC CARPET

### RIDE

Have FUN! Be AMAZED are the qualities that Paul E. White strives to impart to his audience on what

he calls his "magic carpet ride."

As a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State, Paul travelled to more than 100 countries over a 40 year career. He performed magic and mentalism in many of those countries, sometimes with luminaries such as Bette Midler, Bono, Muhammad Ali, Walter Mondale, and Shirley Temple Black.

He has performed magic for the King of Laos, President Cory Aquino of the Philippines, and for General Omar Torrijos of Panama.

*Continued next page*



# Paul White Who's Who



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something higher.

So, offer to change the roles, and you will cut first.

When you cut, regardless of the card, announce that is a King. At this point, some shy spectators may still be truthful and announce a losing card. So, you do it again, and announce that you cut to a King. This may go for another two or three times depending on how shy the spectator is, but eventually he will announce that he cut to an ace.

*That's it, that's what you have been setting him up for.*

At that point act surprised, remind him that this is a gentlemen's game, and gentlemen don't cheat, that's why you removed the aces from the beginning.

This is to be played tongue in cheek. And will get a laugh from him, and other spectators watching. If you don't think this is worth a try, I can only tell you this is one of the effects that I choose to perform for Juan Tamariz, and got a nice laugh from him.

Paul has been the guest magician in annual Magic Festivals in Guatemala and Peru and has performed on TV in Korea, Japan, and the United States, on a cruise ship in China, and on the Trans-Siberian railway.

Paul's interest in magic started in childhood after seeing performances by the Great Dunninger and by Harry Blackstone Senior. Paul had an illusion stage show, and also performed for embassies, universities, and corporate events. He still enjoys performing for children. Paul is well known for a unique storytelling approach to magic.



*Paul teaches Ali in Tokyo*

Married for 50 years to Somphon Siriphot. Somphon has been Paul's co-performer and magic assistant on every continent except Antarctica. Paul and Somphon live in Annandale, Virginia. For years he taught magic and



*Paul White*

presentation skills for the Fairfax County after school enrichment program. A severe stroke has slowed his participation in the Virginia Magic Society and IBM Ring 50.

Paul is an Eagle Scout and holder of the Order of the Arrow. An active Toastmaster, he served as Governor of the 10<sup>th</sup> largest Toastmaster district in the world. He is honored to have been named host for the large (expected 2,500 attendees) Toastmasters International Convention to be held in Washington D.C. in 2016.

Paul received prestigious Presidential Meritorious Awards from Presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George Bush for his diplomatic service to our nation.