



MAGI-GRAM



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Chris Capehart to Lecture May 5 *Master Magician and 'Fool Us' Winner*

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Master magician Chris Capehart, who was a "Fool Us" winner early this year, will lecture at our May 5 meeting.

Chris is an old friend of Ring 50. He lectured for the Ring in November 2008 and lectured and performed at Louis Meyer's Kapital Kidvention in 2009 and 2016.

He is an acclaimed children's performer and has been doing magic for more than 50 years. His ring routine is legendary. So is his comedy.

On "Fool Us" he did three routines including a "Jedi Card Trick" in which he made a card fall down just by pointing at it and popped one balloon inside another one—magically. The balloon trick is the one that Penn and Teller said they were fooled by, but Chris isn't sure they really knew how he did any of the tricks.

Chris began his magic career with a performance at the Apollo Theater in Harlem in 1969 when he was 19. He later performed as a street magician in Philadelphia and New York City.

He has performed at The Magic Castle, Monday Night Magic in New York City, in Las Vegas and at the Blackpool Magic Convention in Blackpool, England. He's also featured in the March issue of *The Linking Ring*.

Here is a link to Chris' performance on Penn and Teller's "Fool Us."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92GWTTYZjq0>



Chris Capehart

Members Perform at June Meeting

Show us your stuff at the June 2 meeting when it's Open Mic Night at Ring 50.

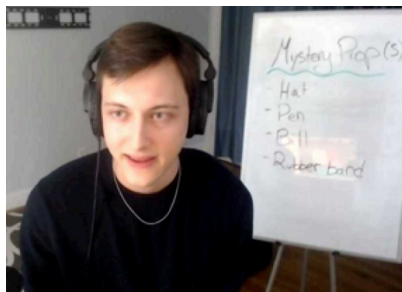
Members will have seven minutes to perform using the Zoom platform.

Those wishing to perform at the June meeting should contact Vice President Danny Selnick.

Mystery Prop Challenge Night Brings Out Members' Creativity

By Drew Owen

Ten Ring 50 members participated in a virtual "Mystery Prop Challenge" bonus meeting on March 24 hosted by Board member Christophe Jelinski. We were divided into three groups and put into breakout Zoom rooms where we had 15 minutes to



Christophe Jelinski

the following props: hat, bill, pen, and rubber band. Each group chose one member to

perform the routine.

Phillip Thomas and I were in the first group and I performed our routine using my "magical money printing hat." I used the pen to write "\$100" on a blank slip of paper, covered the paper with my fashionable black fedora, and--when I took the hat away--the paper was now a genuine \$100 bill. I then folded the bill over a stretched out rubber

Ace Magic Studio Featured for Bonus Meeting on April 22

Ring 50 will hold a special bonus meeting on THURSDAY, April 22 with Ace Magic Studio out of the United Kingdom. Ace Magic is known for its innovative and exclusive magic that is not available anywhere else.

The meeting will be conducted over Zoom. If you are a Ring 50



Stevo Watson

member in good standing – that means your current dues are paid – look for an email in the coming days giving connection instructions.

In addition to seeing exclusive magic effects, Ace Magic promises that Ring 50 members "will come

away learning stuff you may never have thought of, for free! You will also be given an unique discount code that can be used to save money during and after the lecture."

The evening's presenter is likely to be Stevo Watson, a director at Ace Magic Studio.



Drew Owen

band and the bill defied gravity, moving slowly up the inclined rubber band.

Marc Carrion presented the routine put together by his group which included Jason Goldberg and Bob Patterson. Marc, sporting a spiffy straw cowboy hat, made the pen stick like a magnet to his hand. Then he impaled a folded dollar bill with the pen, ripped the pen through the bill, and unfolded the bill to show it was somehow totally unharmed. Marc took out some cards and had a member freely choose a card, the two of hearts. Marc removed his hat and continued on page 7

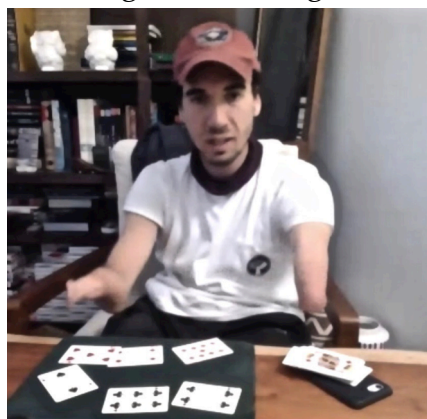
Mahdi Gilbert: Sleights Without Hands

By Drew Owen

Our lecturer for the April 7th meeting was **Mahdi Gilbert**. Mahdi is a professional sleight of hand card magician and Winner of "Penn & Teller's Fool Us!" He was born without hands and feet and so had to individually create all of the techniques he employs in his illusions.

He's stated, "I had to become self-sufficient from an early age; there's no magic books written for me."

Over 700 million people in 26 countries have been mesmerized by his magic. He has been featured on "Penn & Teller's: Fool Us." "The Amazing Magicians,"



"Star King," "IMPOSSÍVEL," "The One Show," "Ocean of Dreams," and "Die Ehrlich Brothers präsentieren: Showdown der weltbesten Magier."



Mahdi opened our lecture by performing the trick he used to fool Penn and Teller, his oil and water routine. Mahdi took three black and three red cards and fairly mixed them red, black, red, black, red, black. He said he needed to borrow something from a member of the audience, something he didn't have...hands.

Craig Fifer volunteered his hands and Mahdi asked him to interlace his fingers just like the red and black cards were interlaced. He asked Craig to pull his hands apart

slowly and this action caused the same thing to happen to the cards; the reds and blacks were separated. He did this two more times, each time mixing the cards in a more fair manner and each time, the cards separated again.

Then Mahdi asked any of us who had a deck of cards close by (of course, almost everyone did) to remove three red and three black cards and arrange them to alternating order. After following him in seemingly random mixing and flipping of cards, we all ended up with the red cards face down and blacks face up.

Mahdi was very generous in sharing the methods for his tricks as well as

presentational tips. He told us that this routine was inspired by the work of the

great one armed magician, René



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I.B.M. is Having a 3-Day Virtual Show in July

I.B.M. Convention Registration Chairman (and Ring 50 Treasurer) Bob Patterson has announced that “out of an abundance of caution the I.B.M. made the decision to postpone our Live 2021 Convention in Pittsburgh and we are converting it into a virtual interactive experience, where everyone gets a front row seat.

“If you have rolled over your Pittsburgh convention registration to the celebration of 100 years of the I.B.M., at our 2022 convention in Atlanta, you will automatically be registered for our 2021 virtual convention, which will take place on the evening of July 8, all day July 9, and all day July 10, 2021 **FREE OF CHARGE**.

“If you were not registered for the Pittsburgh convention you can still enjoy the 3-day 2021 virtual convention for only \$99.

“This includes extending your digital membership for one year. To purchase this great event go to www.magician.org/convention/online-2021-member

“We are excited for you to see what we have planned, and we appreciate you as loyal I.B.M. members,” Bob said.

DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND



This will be the last Magi-Gram for people who have not paid their Ring 50 dues for 2021.

That means you won't get the latest news about upcoming Ring meetings. You won't be able to read what happened at the last meeting. You won't get our Who's Who and other features.

And...you won't get the Secretary's mailings containing the Zoom link to the next meetings. Go to <https://ibmring50.org/membership/> or send your dues to:

Bob Patterson
IBM Ring 50 Treasurer
3450 Wainscott Place
Lake Ridge, VA 22192-5263





Ken Scott Entertains Conjurors and Adult Members

For the April meeting of The Conjurors, Youth Activities Director Louis Meyer arranged for a live virtual magic show with Atlanta-based children's magician Ken Scott. As a bonus, the show was open to all Ring 50 members, not just the youth.

Ken, who will be installed in July as the new international president of the

International Brotherhood of Magicians, reminded the Conjurors that they can attend this year's virtual I.B.M. convention for free. He noted that one of the benefits of having a virtual convention is that it will allow more international performers to participate than is usual at an in-person conference.

At the beginning of his fast-paced, trick-packed show, Ken promised that even though it was being shown virtually there would not be



any camera tricks to enhance the magic. Then he immediately showed how a seemingly normal-size magician's top hat was actually a tiny hat that only looked big because of a camera trick.

But no more camera tricks, he promised, only to later show that one of his ear buds had grown to an enormous size.

Ken began the magic with one of his signature routines in which two different-sized ropes appeared the same size. Then he was able to pull off a knot and a loop and linked the two ropes to form one long rope.

Using two young brothers to help him do some magic, Ken showed a \$5 bill which he folded length-wise and was able to get to float by holding one end balanced on his thumb. But his helpers said they knew how the trick was done—and they correctly identified the method. Ken complimented them on having learned such magic. (Ken might not have remembered that he taught the Conjurors that trick last summer, and some remembered how it was done.)

With a lightning move, Ken transformed a candy bar into a Rubik's Cube, which



Ken Scott Conjures Virtual Magic Show in April

he said he could solve in seconds. But after struggling with it for a few seconds, he said he was not yet ready to perform that trick. He would use this as a running gag for most of the show.

Identifying with the young Conjurers, Ken said he started doing magic when he was 8-years-old. He showed a



cardboard box that he said he had built when he was at age. Then he demonstrated a Five-Card Repeat routine in which he would discard cards and still end up with five cards. Using jumbo cards, he explained that, "The cards were big and my hands were kind of small."

Each time he performed the repeat trick, he showed the box with lettering that was messier until finally it was just scribbles. He also claimed that he started showing the trick at a younger age in front of a larger audience. Finally, he discarded all of the cards



into the box, and then indicated that the box was completely empty by showing it had no bottom.

With the help of another Conjurer, Ken performed an Invisible Deck-type routine. But this one had a twist. After showing that the chosen card was the only one reversed in the deck, Ken said that the cards themselves heard the spectator identify the selected card, which then rises and turns around in the deck. As he said that, the card rose out of the deck and slowly turned around without being touched.

Showing five cards with pictures of famous movie posters on their face, Ken had one of the Conjurers tell him where to place five more cards that had an image of a movie ticket on the back. The said the object was to see if the tickets would match the posters. Then he got an adult

participant to move two of the tickets to different poster cards. Yet when he turned over the ticket cards, the image on the face of each card matched the poster card it was next to.

Occasionally between tricks Ken would come back to the Rubik's Cube, but repeatedly put it away saying he was not yet ready to perform it.

Then he showed a QR code and asked the spectators to focus their smart phone cameras on the code. That brought up a link which showed a picture of Harry Houdini. Ken had Ring 50 member Laurie Curry select a card and the selected card showed up in a reflection in Houdini's eye.

Getting Conjurers and adult members to help him personalize a card with a



unique name, number and color written on the face, Ken then did a quick Torn-

Ken Scott Conjures Virtual Show

Continued from previous page
and-Restored card routine in which the card was folded and ripped into quarters and then flash restored to show the writing on the face.

Ken showed six index cards in a folding clear holder and asked Ring 50

member Arnold Fuoco to pick one of the cards. Ken said he would share the prize listed on the back of the card with all of the Conjurors and Ring members. Arnold selected the number 5, which had the word "SMILE" written on the back. Ken said he was sharing the smile with everyone watching the show. Then Ken turned the cards around showing that each of the other cards had \$100 written on the back. Those are the cards that were not selected.

Finally, Ken said he was ready to solve the Rubik's Cube puzzle, but he needed to put it into a brown paper bag. He placed the cube in the bag and immediately pulled out a solved cube. The Conjurors protested. Ken held the bag upside down to show that it was empty.

The Conjurors were not convinced. Several shouted for Ken to crumple the bag. He said he couldn't do that. At last, with shouts for him to crumple the bag, Ken crumpled

it, proving there was no extra cube in the bag.

Ken concluded

by saying he was looking forward to seeing I.B.M. members again in person at the 2022 convention, to be held in his hometown of Atlanta.



Mike Leggett	April 18
Bob Weiman	April 18
Peter Ackerman	April 22
Eric Henning	April 24
Christophe Jelinski	April 29
Bill Wells	May 1
Louis Hofheimer	May 3
Dick White	May 3
Dan Krevere	May 6
Stu Finley	May 7
Roy Thompson	May 7
Mike Peckham	May 10
Kevin Sievers	May 14

Mystery Prop

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stuck to his head was...the two of hearts!



Marc Carrion

Michael Wolfson, wearing a very practical canvas hat, represented the last group which included Linda Barrett and Cat Woytowicz. Michael wrote his initials on a one dollar bill, folded it, and wrapped it in a rubber band. He pushed it into one ear.



Michael Wolfson

He tried to pull it out of the other ear but the bill seemed to be stuck half way, (maybe Michael never heard that you should never put anything into your ears smaller than a football). It turned out to be okay though. The initialed and banded bill was found inside Michael's hat.

After the performances, we all had a chance to talk about the process we went through to come up with our routines.

Who's Who in Ring 50

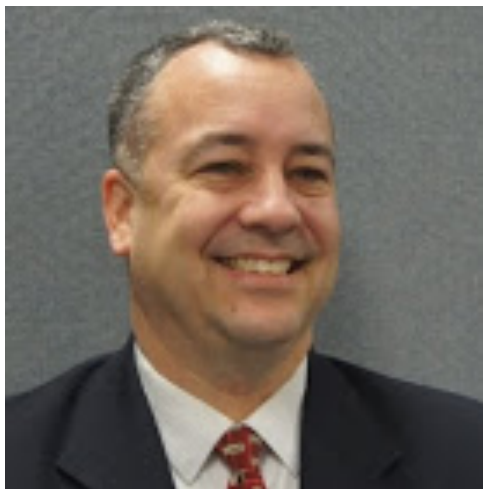
Brendan Mulvaney—A Marine Makes Magic

Ring 50 member Brendan S. Mulvaney says he's loved magic as a spectator since childhood, but an incident in 2002 changed his approach to magic. Here's how Brendan tells it:

"On a trip to Niagara Falls, we were eating in a restaurant overlooking the falls, and they had a strolling magician. Most people didn't engage with him, or let him do one trick and then went back to their meal. He came to our table, where Samantha and I were excited for a little magic. He 'stole' her wedding ring--looped it onto a key ring in his back pocket. That had us hooked, he stayed for probably 15 minutes, doing a variety of close-up magic, the memory of which still amazes me to this day. This really rekindled my love of watching magic.

"Then, for my birthday one year, Samantha got me tickets to see David Copperfield perform in Shanghai. It was terrific; everything you hear about his performances was true. And finally, once we had kids, and with the advent of YouTube and streaming, one year we spent the entire day of New Years Day watching magicians--famous and 'unknown'--and the whole family was riveted.

"I first heard about Ring 50 and I.B.M. in 2017 during a holiday show when the Ring invited our Cub Scout Pack. I loved it, and our twin boys—Ryan and Sean—were enthralled. They joined the Counts of Conjuring (now The Conjurors), and I followed along, both for the Counts and



and I followed along, both for the Counts and then for the Ring meetings.

"Although I try my hand at card magic from time to time, it really was Sean that took to it like a duck to water. He now has a collection of over 80 decks from around the world."

Brendan said he and his family had been looking forward to attending the International Brotherhood of Magicians

conventions in Pittsburgh (twice!), both of which have been cancelled (the 2021 convention will be held virtually) because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have loved the Ring 50 Zoom meetings, and watch them as a family, while Sean practices some of the techniques that are on display. We look forward to the magical journey."

In his professional life, Brendan served for 25 years in the Marine Corps flying AH-1W Cobra attack helicopters. He served in Iraq, Okinawa, the Western Pacific, as well as in Washington, D.C., finishing his career in 2016 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel at the U.S. Naval Academy as the Associate Chair of the Languages and Culture Department, teaching Chinese.

Brendan was selected as an Olmsted Scholar and lived in Shanghai, China from 2003 to 2005 where he earned his Ph.D. in law from Fudan University, writing his doctoral dissertation on international relations in Mandarin.

"Now I work for the U.S. Air Force, as the Director of the China Aerospace Studies Institute, located at Ft. McNair, across from Nationals Stadium."

John Roberts Remembered With Broken Wand Ceremony

Long-time Ring 50 member John Roberts, who died last October, was remembered April 7 with a Broken Wand Ceremony.

John served as Ring 50 president in 1992-93, was a recipient of the Ring's SABAR Award for lifetime contributions and was made an honorary Life Member of the Ring. He also served for many years as the Territorial Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. In addition to his many contributions to Ring 50, John was a prolific creator of magic effects. He authored a record nine One-Man Parade articles for *The Linking Ring*.



The Ceremony was conducted by John's longtime friend and current Ring 50 Vice President, Danny



Selnick. Danny gave us some biographical information and also expressed how meaningful his friendship with John had been. Larry

Lipman also shared some words and presented a wonderful slideshow of photographs taken over several decades. Two things that especially stood out in the pictures were John's spirit of comradery with his fellow magicians and his love of performing. It was impossible not to smile while watching the pictures of John performing magic, most of it tricks he had devised himself.

The wand Danny broke during the ceremony had very special meaning. It was made for the occasion by John's boyhood friend and magic partner, David Hanselman. John and David had lost touch for many decades but reconnected after David saw an article about John in *The Linking Ring*.

Among the other friends and members who spoke about John were Arnold Fuoco, David Hanselman, Arnold Levin, Sam Brothers, and Craig Fifer.

Mahdi Gilbert

Lavand, who had a big influence on him. The last phase was a trick, which Mahdi put into the routine for his virtual shows, was from Juan Tamariz. Mahdi advised us to always make sure the climax of our trick was clear to the audience and to come up with a presentation that is our own.

One classic trick Mahdi has made his own is Dai Vernon's Triumph. He showed us his version as he told the story of how he would practice all day and all night. He would have to wait until the sun came up to find out if the cards were in the right order. Day after day, the cards would end up completely mixed, face up and face down until one morning, they were finally all facing the same direction.

This is when he knew he could do magic.

It was a beautiful presentation based on reality. In order to learn to manipulate the cards, Mahdi had to practice even harder than magicians with hands. He would sometimes actually practice all night. Mahdi told us that he practices extra hard because he never wants the audience to see him struggle.

When Mahdi was young, people told him he wouldn't be able to do magic, that it would be "impossible." His answer to that was, "Being a magician means doing impossible things." In fact, one of the joys of watching Mahdi perform is how easy he makes it all look.

Of course, he has had to come up with his own unique methods but it was interesting that many of the slights he uses are actually adaptations of slights already familiar to two handed magicians. The "Triumph" routine, for example, uses a method that is pretty much what Dai Vernon invented.

Continued on next page



The Token (Gabi Pareras)

Effect: Some cards are split in half. Two spectators pick half a card and their picks match.

Method: I think I read this in Fulves or Giobbi, but recently saw Gabi's handling and I really like it.

Start talking about one of the guilty pleasures of the magicians. It is the sound of cards being torn in half. As you tear some cards, get spectators involved in the process. Shuffle all the half pieces haphazardly (does not matter). Ask one spectator to pick less than half of the pieces and count them; the other spectator counts the remaining pieces.

Ask them to remember their number, do not forget, as you pick all the pieces and mix them again.

Ask the first spectator to remember the card at her position as you show them piece by piece (dropping them on the table in front of you)... when you pass half the packet, you can shuffle, a little, and drop from anywhere in your hand.

Use the last half piece in your hand to scoop the pieces on the table. And you will repeat the process with the second spectator.

You can insert some false charlier shuffle, or false cuts here if you wish. After the

After the second spectator has picked a card, you can mix the pieces one more time.

Ask one spectator to look for her piece. Then ask the other spectator to do the same. Both will have matching pieces.

The presentation 'The Token' is because Gabi talks about tokens that were used to identify people in the past. A token was split in two: you would keep one half and gave the other half to someone. If anyone came with the other half, you knew they were sent by the person you gave it to.

More Mahdi

Mahdi also showed us his take on the Ambitious Card, Out of This World, and demonstrated some methods he uses for forcing a card.

The set of cups and balls that was visible on a shelf in Mahdi's room prompted questions from our members about what other magic Mahdi can do. Even though he is known for his work with cards, he said he loves all types of magic. He has been playing with the cups and balls and hopes to put a version into his performances some day. He also has ideas about performing bigger stage magic such as the Zig-Zag or sawing in half illusions.



Alec 'Sly' Negri – StageCoach Theatre Company, Ashburn. May 14 and June 19. Each show is an hour long. Masks are required at the in-person shows. Get more details and buy tickets at:

<https://stagecoachtc.com/slysmagic/?fbclid=IwAR0yClwR9g7FwliCu5Exuo1ofUB6NkZP2UFuvqckeX45wLg0Rv5eK2oCvnQ>

Washington Magic – Celebrating Eric Henning's birthday April 24. Performances by Eric, Krishan Mathur, Rahaan Jackson and others. Go to: <https://www.washingtonmagic.com/april-24-2021-show/>