



# MAGI-GRAM



Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 75 No. 6 June 2021

## Joshua Jay to Lecture July 7 Special Zoom Presentation for Ring 50

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World-renowned magician Joshua Jay will lecture for members of Ring 50 exclusively at our July 7 virtual meeting.

Watch your email from Ring 50 for connection details.

Josh will be our third lecturer this year – following Mahdi Gilbert and Chris Capehart – to have fooled Penn and Teller on *Fool Us*.



He is a Guinness World Record holder for card tricks and has performed as the headliner in nearly 100 countries. He is a former World Champion in close-up magic and has appeared on numerous television shows including *Good Morning America*, *The Tonight Show* with Jimmy Fallon and *The Late, Late Show* with James Corden.

Josh is the author of several books, including the best-selling "MAGIC: The Complete Course," and the upcoming "How Magicians Think." He has designed illusions for stage and screen, including a collaboration with HBO for *Game of Thrones*. He consulted with the U.S. Postal Service on the design for their postage stamp series Magic. He appeared at the Inaugural Ball for President Barack Obama in 2009 and gave private performances for President Bill Clinton.

In 2020, Josh was awarded Magician of the Year by the Society of American Magicians Parent Assembly for his contribution to the art of magic.

For Josh, and many of us, the pandemic has been a stressful test of our identities as magicians. Josh's lecture--which is an even mix of tricks and ideas--will also aim to refresh our purpose in magic. Josh will share insights into how he has evolved his repertoire as well as how he has evolved his relationship to magic.

The lecture, created exclusively for Ring 50, will feature not only unpublished material for both virtual and in-person events, but

# SHABUM! to Lecture and Perform in August

Our Aug. 4 meeting will feature children's magician Shabum! a professional entertainer who has had his own magic television show for kids in Puerto Rico for over 20 years. Think of it as a cross between Captain Kangaroo, Mr. Rogers and Mister Wizard.

Like we did with the FizzWizzPop lecture in



January, Shabum! will give a 20-minute show for kids, so be ready to invite your relatives

and friends with young children. Then we will have the members-only lecture.

The theme of the lecture by Shabum! will be Teaching Magic Tricks to Children.

Kids love magic and there are many tricks you can teach them with regular household items or a deck of cards—they can even be animal cards. Many of us have, at one time or another at family gatherings, been asked to teach the kids some magic tricks. Shabum! will show us how.

Here is a link to a clip from Shabum's TV show on Telemundo in which he teaches an easy magic trick using rubber bands. This is in Spanish, but Shabum! will be lecturing for Ring 50 in English.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPcCY5Z\\_uYU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPcCY5Z_uYU)

Shabum! was a member of the I.B.M. Ring in Miami, where he grew up before moving to Puerto Rico. He's been president of the S.A.M. Assembly in Puerto Rico and was on the cover of M.U.M. magazine in 2019.

Watch your email from Ring 50 as we get closer to the meeting for details.

This meeting is only for Ring 50 and will be held on Zoom.

## Joshua Jay Lecture July 7



also an invigorating discussion on how to navigate this uncharted territory and find fulfillment in the most unexpected of places. Josh will cover:

- Virtual ACAAN: A new wrinkle on this classic plot that is optimized for virtual shows. It involves ANY card, ANY number, and ANY book chosen from your library. Intrigued? You'll use this.
- The No-Card Index: A fresh concept for being able to accurately predict ANY card named in a most unusual way. This plays well virtually or for small groups, but it plays particularly well for big groups on stage.
- Into the Wild: Josh's handling of the neo-classic Wild Card plot. This version focuses on hyper visuals and an ending that takes the plot to new heights.
- Vinferno: Josh's most popular creation, "Inferno," retooled for a virtual environment. This will include an unpacking of Josh's approach to "asymmetrical equivoque."
- PLUS more routines and surprises along the way.

# Open Mic Night Showcases Members' Talents

By Jason Goldberg

The June meeting was Open Mic Night, an opportunity for members to share some favorite routines and test out some new ideas. Before we got started though, we took a moment to acknowledge and remember longtime member Buddy Smith, who passed away recently. He will be remembered by many in the Ring as a friend, mentor, salesman and storyteller. A Broken Wand ceremony in his memory will be held at a future meetings.

Maybe it shouldn't be surprising to see how magicians have adopted to performing online. While we all long for in-person performances again, June's lineup demonstrated that there is still a lot of creativity and camaraderie to be found in magic, even online.

## Sam Brothers



One of the Ring's resident cardicians, Sam Brothers, started things off by sharing some of his favorite decks, including the House of Spades deck and a 1970s authentic Jerry's Nugget deck. Sam then kicked off the evening with a great

performance of Lennart Green's Stolen Cards, based on Karl Fulves' Gemini Twins, in turn based on Herb Rungie's Hidden Mystery. It was a great piece based around a plot involving a bit of forensic card analysis.

## Larry Lipman



Larry Lipman was up next. Larry did a fun Harry Potter book test with a spectator from our Conjurers (youth magician group), Kylan! The routine was based on Robert Baxt's Better Book Test. Kylan picked his favorite Harry Potter book and page number and Larry was able to divine what the text in Kylan's book said at that page.

## Drew Owen



Drew Owen followed with a piece of his own creation. When pressed for a name, he first suggested "I hope this is the last trick I have to do on Zoom." His second suggestion also fits: "Imagine Who?" If his other tricks are as good, we

hope not! Drew showed a stack of business cards. One of the cards was blank and placed in a wineglass. Drew suggested that the card might not be blank at all, but might actually represent someone who does not yet exist? Spectators helped come up with the person's gender, first name, last name, age, clothing, location, and hairstyle, and a restaurant recommendation (in this case, a pizza store). The wineglass was turned around to reveal that a Post-It Note had appeared on the card, revealing the pizza store. Under the note was a *printed* (not handwritten!) business card with all of the predicted information!

## Marc Carrion



Marc Carrion followed with the Intuition Shuffle using face cards, his own version of Card Conclave from Card College, Volume 1. Through a series of choices, Marc had a spectator determine the order of facedown cards in a packet. He later revealed that the spectator had successfully matched each card next to its mate!

The shuffling was extremely fair and a great way to surprise spectators watching from home.



# Ring 50's Got Talent—and Creativity—and Magic



## Dwight Redman

Dwight Redman combined several tricks into a surprising routine, based in part on Dice Flight, Tenyo's Ultra Tube, and a trick he got from fellow Ring 50 member Stan Rosenthal that he calls "Impossible 7 of Diamonds."

The trick started with a spectator selecting a card. Dwight used the Crazy Dots card to try and predict the selected card, initially without success.

As Dwight scanned the deck with the Crazy Dots, the pips on the Crazy Dots transformed into the shape of the Seven of Diamonds!

He followed this up with a dice trick using three red dice and one red die.

The red die was placed in a small container while the three white die were hidden in his pocket; they moved invisibly into the small container and then into a small tube!

## Chuck Jones

Chuck Jones kicked off the next trick with a brief musical interlude, J. Geco's Chicken Song, as he set four eggs

on pedestals on a blue platform, which was itself set on top of four glasses. He quickly pushed the tray out of the way, *almost* making it: two of the eggs made it into the glasses. Chuck says this always works, guess



there's a first time for everything! (Alert Mr. Wizard.)

This, of course, led to a plethora of really bad egg puns from the audience that were eggstremely entertaining and cracked everyone up. (And those were just to start.) In a more serious but still light-hearted vein.

Chuck then performed an updated version of Nails through Balloon, also known as Juice Pop, to a little Henry Mancini.

A balloon was inserted into a frozen juice container. A straw was then inserted through the juice box without popping the balloon, and he drank the juice!

## Krishan Mathur

Krishan Mathur followed with the 9 Card Down Swap, ending in a bit of American history. Nine envelopes labeled 1-9 were dealt down. As the cards were dealt, spectators were asked if they wanted to deal cards down or swap the card's places, leading to a



random deal of the cards onto the table! Once in place in rows of four, one, and four, the cards inside each envelope were taken out and turned over to reveal that they perfectly spelled out "July 4, 1776!"



## JT the Unstoppable

Joseph Mielnicki performed a routine comprised of Gregory Wilson's Split Focus, the three appearing and vanishing coins, and his take on Tony Slydini's Cut and Restored Rope routine and Pop Haydn's Mongolian Pop Knot, called My Witchcraft Rope Routine.

The three silver dollars he produced from mid-air vanished just as quickly as they appeared! The musical accompaniment of Frank Sinatra's Witchcraft, was a very nice touch.





# Louis Meyer Steps Down After Five Years as Ring Youth Director

Members of the Ring 50 Conjurors got a chance to show what they've learned over the years from youth director Louis Meyer at the group's June meeting.

After five years of leading the Ring's youth group, formerly known as the Counts of Conjuring, Louis is stepping down.

Drew Owen, the former Ring secretary and a professional magician who performs children's magic as Professor Fizzwiffle, will take over as youth activities director at the July meeting.

Although turnout for this meeting was less than usual, those who participated had an opportunity to discuss the types of magic they had learned over the years and show some of their favorite tricks.

Jayden Bowers, who has been with The Conjurors since their beginning, recalled that the first trick they learned was the Houdini Ball trick. Many professional perform versions of this clever trick.

Here's how it goes: a wooden ball with a hole drilled all the way through it is shown. Two ropes or shoelaces are passed through the hole.



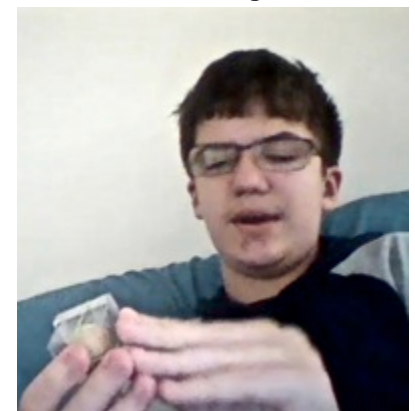
*Louis Meyer has been teaching The Conjurors magic virtually during the pandemic.*

The laces are tied around the spectator's hand and suddenly the laces have passed harmlessly through the hand, which is still holding the ball.

Jayden demonstrated a trick the young members learned early on: the Bermuda Papers. Jayden told the story of a ship that sank in the Bermuda Triangle. Years later, divers found the captain's wallet (the papers). Upon unfolding the papers, they found a \$1 bill inside.

They folded the papers up and opened the wallet again and the bill had changed to a \$100 bill.

When they got back to the ship and opened



*Jayden demonstrates the Bermuda Papers.*

Continued on page 11

# Who's Who in Ring 50

## **Brian Curry—Would He Lie to You?** ***New Member Has Been a Pro Since He Was 13***

*Editor's Note: New member Brian Curry lectured and performed with Mark Phillips at Ring 50 in September 2018. Here is his story:*

At 13, about a month after learning my first trick, I was paid minimum wage to perform magic at Cox Farms. I was being overpaid and it was fantastic. I was a shy kid and that attention was addictive.

The next year I applied and got a job at a magic kiosk at Tysons Corner mall. It was here that I was able to perform regularly in front of hundreds of people. I later discovered that my boss, a funny Irishman with whom I had become good friends, was also a conman. He was picked up by federal agents at our shop. My introduction to the magic community was very dramatic, and I was hooked.

At 15 I booked my first restaurant gig performing magic at Clyde's of Tysons. This is where I learned the art of the schmooze. I learned how to get people to like you, and to fool them badly enough that they wanted to hire you for a private gig. Many of my corporate gigs originated here. I worked most Sundays at Clyde's for over 20 years until they bulldozed down the building (which, by the way, was not entirely my fault).

By the end of high school, I was still just a close up magician. To make it as a full timer, I had to face my fears and get up onstage. So I got my BA in theatre from JMU and set off to conquer the world of magic.

It turns out making a living doing magic was harder than I thought. So, I interned at the



Comedy Magic Society. It was amazing to work with and learn from Barry Wood, Bob Sheets, Alain Nu and Mark Phillips. Between the lot of them they had the four corners of magic covered--it was like a graduate school. They invited me to perform on stage with them, and eventually made me a producer of the show.

I jumped with both feet into performing school assemblies. I had never really gone after the kids or family market--but it was an exciting new challenge. I spent the next 12 years learning and building a steady business in schools (until Covid). These shows taught me how to perform for big crowds, how to incorporate music, and how to incorporate a theme or message. I love working schools, and can't wait to get back to it.

I love to travel, so I picked up some cruise gigs that took my wife and me to all 7 continents. I wanted to try something local so I wrote and produced 'The Magic Duel', which ran successfully for 5 years before I passed it along to Mark Phillips. I'm really proud of that show--it turned out really good and the audiences loved it. It still runs at the Mayflower--after the pandemic, you should check it out.

*Continued page 11*



# Outgoing President Craig Fifer Looks Back on Two Years of Triumph and Tumult

## President's Message

Craig Fifer



As I pass the Ring 50 presidential torch, I look back on the 2020-2021 board term with gratitude and amazement. With 18 events in 12 months, the last year was packed with magic!

We kicked off the 2020-2021 board term at the height of the pandemic with the legendary Max Maven's first-ever virtual lecture. I'm very proud that the following months demonstrated the incredible diversity of the magic community.

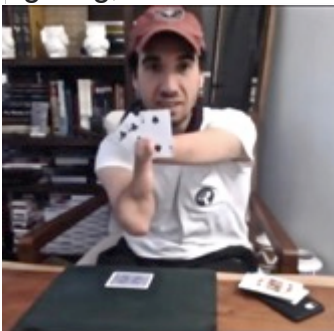
Ice McDonald taught us about the history of Black magicians; Woody



*Ice McDonald*

Aragon stayed up late in Spain to wow

us with his card magic; Sarah Trustman helped us sharpen our memories; Carisa Hendrix imparted her wit and wisdom about everything from character development to lighting; Nikola Arkane shared her Irish charm,



*Mahdi Gilbert*

live from Sweden; Mario Marchese showed us how to make magic (literally); Mahdi Gilbert amazed and inspired us with cards; Stevo Watson shared the latest

magic products from the U.K., and Chris Capehart showed us

that simple is sometimes best.

We also showcased a huge lineup of home-grown talent, with a Member Teach-In, two Mystery Prop Challenges, a Virtual Performance Contest, an Open Mic Night, and our annual public holiday show. We even reunited a whopping 17 former Ring 50 presidents from the last 50 years, who each performed for our members. Sadly, we said

goodbye with moving Broken Wand ceremonies to honor longtime members Al Cohen, John Roberts, and Scotty Scafidi.

All this programming would have been impressive enough in any year, but it was particularly remarkable in a year with so much adversity and uncertainty.

I'm grateful to everyone who performed and attended (we averaged about 35 participants at every virtual meeting), and to all the family members who occupied kids and pets so we could gather around our screens.

Special thanks to Danny Selnick for being a



*Danny Selnick*

great partner as vice president; to Drew

Owen and Larry Lipman for documenting all our activities through announcements, minutes, Linking Ring reports, and the Magi-Gram; to Bob Patterson for overseeing our finances; and to Reggie Rice, Marc Carrion, and Christophe Jelinski for contributing their energy and creativity to the Board.

Special thanks to Louis Meyer for five years of passionate service as the leader of our Conjurers program, which is so important to Ring 50 and the future of magic.



*Louis Meyer*

While we absolutely made the most of the virtual environment, nothing can replace being together in person. We expect to meet at The Lyceum in Alexandria starting with our September 1 meeting, and we are already planning Magi-Whirl for early 2022!

It has been a privilege to serve as president of the largest local Ring of the International Brotherhood of Magicians for the past two years. As we begin the 2021-2022 term, I look forward to working with the new Board, and all of you, to continue building on Ring 50's many accomplishments.





We apologize to anyone who encountered the glitch with the Ring 50 Book Club earlier this month.

We will try again on Wednesday, June 23, 7 p.m.

As a friendly reminder, we'll be starting with the first routine from Robero Giobbi's **Card College Light**. We'll send out Zoom info as time gets closer. Hope to see you there!



### January 13-17, 2022

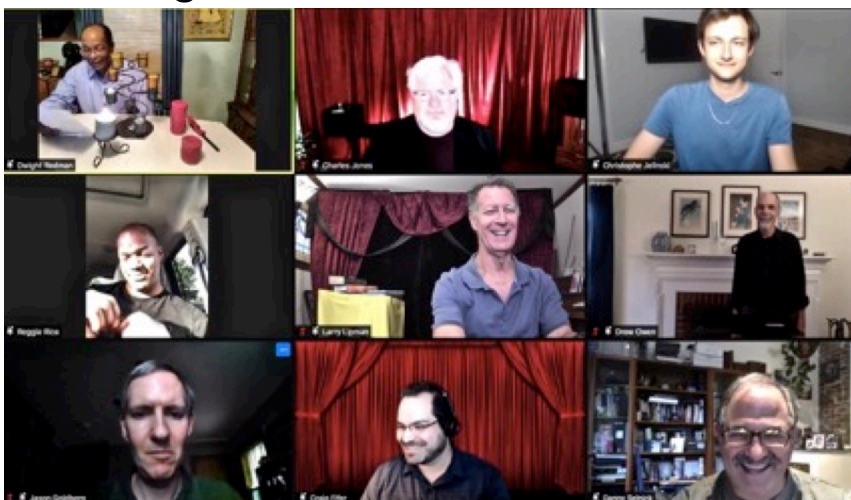
Whether you are a magician, clown, face painter, balloon artist or ventriloquist, Kapital Kidvention has everything for the Children's Entertainer, including tons of business classes to get more gigs.

If you are a children's entertainer and don't attend Kapital Kidvention next year, you will be missing a good one. Kapital Kidvention is a must for any family entertainer. Keep January 13-17 open for Kapital Kidvention to be held again at the Hilton Mark Center.

You can't register yet, but there will be a special Deal Day on Sept. 13 when you can register for \$225.

For more information, go to: [info@kapitalkidvention.com](mailto:info@kapitalkidvention.com) or 703-765-1923.

## New Ring 50 Officers Installed for 2021-2022



I.B.M. Territorial Vice President Dwight Redman conducted a virtual installation ceremony for Ring 50's officers for the year 2021-22 at the start of the June meeting.

They are, from top left next to Dwight: Chuck Jones and Christophe Jelinski (Board members), Reggie Rice (Sgt. At Arms), Larry Lipman (Magi-Gram editor), Drew Owen (Youth Activities Director), Jason Goldberg (Secretary), Craig Fifer (Vice President) and Danny Selnick (President). Craig also fills the position of immediate past president. Not shown in the screen shot is Treasurer Bob Patterson, a past international I.B.M. president.

**Be Sure to  
Keep Your  
I.B.M. Member-  
ship Current**



Bob Patterson of the I.B.M. Membership Committee reminds us that 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 Magi-  
cians, 13 Point West Blvd,  
St. Charles, Missouri, USA  
63301.**

## 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, Bob Patterson.

# Former Ring 50 President Buddy Smith Dies at 82.

Ring 50 member Walter G. Smith—better known as Bud or Buddy—died May 30 of natural causes. He was 82. He joined Ring 50 in September 1974, served as Ring 50 president from 1978 to 1979 and was an honorary lifetime member of the Ring. He was also a member of the I.B.M. Order of Merlin.

While many members and friends called him Buddy, he referred to himself as Bud. That's how he signed his emails and that's the name he used on his Facebook page.

Bud was a familiar face at Ring 50 events for many decades, including often appearing as a teacher at the Teach-Ins. He was renown for his coin and card work and his willingness to share his knowledge of magic history and performance techniques.

He was such a master of coins that his email address was [coinpurveyor@aol.com](mailto:coinpurveyor@aol.com).

Ring 50 member Marc Carrion recalled that Bud “and a small group of friends would meet for dinner every Monday. Sometimes we did magic, sometimes we didn't. But he would always perform the sponge bunnies for someone at the restaurant. He would tell you stories of his youth, or that he studied under Slydini and Roth. He missed his wife dearly, and now he is back together with her.”

Bill Wells, a former Ring 50 president and past international president of the I.B.M., also remembered those sponge bunnies.

“He always carried them with him and did them for every clerk,



waitress and individual that happened to be in the area! I have to admit that his doing so sometimes resulted in getting extra treatment at car rentals and other places when we traveled to conventions like 4F.”

Ring 50 member Allen Cleveland remembered: “Bud and I met many years ago at one of the magic shops when I was just a young magician.

Over the years we found ourselves constantly meeting up within the same circles of magician friends of ours. He was like a living encyclopedia

of magic. I was lucky enough to have his guidance

and support throughout my magic career. He truly loved magic. I felt so honored whenever he visited the various restaurants I was performing at and would always bring a couple other

magicians along with him. I even had Bud perform at the restaurant for some families while I sat back and enjoyed watching him amaze the kids and adults that night.

“That was just the kind of guy he was. He loved to entertain and do magic. He also always had a small entourage of highly skilled magicians hanging out with him. Rightfully so. You could ask him any question about a sleight or move used in magic and he could tell you what it was and who invented it. He introduced me to many other great magicians and we shared so many interesting conversations regarding magic over the years.”

I.B.M. past international president and Ring 50 Treasurer Bob Patterson noted that “Buddy has always been an inspiration to other magicians. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.”



*Former Ring 50 presidents Bill Wells, Augie Arnstein and Bud Smith.*

Ring 50 President Danny Selnick said, “He was a great magician and in later years was always ready to help others in the Ring. RIP Buddy.”

A broken wand ceremony will be held at a future Ring 50 meeting. Watch your email and the Ring 50 Facebook page for details.



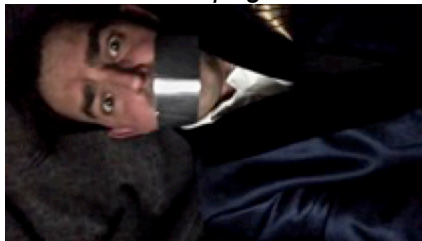
# Buddy Smith – A Magician’s Magician



*Former Ring 50 president Bud Smith loved the company of fellow magicians. Seen in photos from left with Bud are Allen Cleveland, I.B.M. Territorial Vice President Dwight Redman, Hun Woo, proprietor of Divine Magic Shop in Richmond, where Buddy often demonstrated magic, and Eric Jones.*

## Open Mic Night Shows Ring 50's Many Talents

*Continued from page 4*



### Adam Stone

Adam Stone started off with a hypnosis demonstration, but his routine quickly went off the rails. His screen went to static and Adam appeared duct taped. Regurgitating a razor blade, he cut his bonds!

As Adam reported frantically to the audience, Teller had kidnapped Adam and trapped him! The audience helped Adam identify which car he was in by moving through a selection of cars on our screens, eliminating a car each time. Video followed showing a car trunk opening each time. The audience helped focus their psychic power to help find Adam and then open the trunk

Adam and then open the trunk of the car he was in, allowing him to escape. (And here we thought Teller was a genial fellow.)



### Jason Goldberg

Jason Goldberg ended the night with a performance of the Invisible Deck. His plot focused on how people can come together, even in the most difficult of circumstances, to make magic, whether tricks or the kind that happens between friends.

One spectator selected a face value based on a happy memory where the number of people in their memory became the face.

Another spectator picked another memory and tied it to the suit.

Combining those two, the deck was opened to reveal that it was the only one reversed in the deck, this highlighting the power that still exists in the Ring.

Again, thanks to the leadership of the past year for keeping us moving forward, and looking forward to seeing everyone again in person soon.



**Bob Ellis**  
**Jack Crouch**  
**Kevin McGuire**  
**Doug Jarman**

**June 16**  
**July 1**  
**July 2**  
**July 11**



# Conjurors show their stuff at June Meeting

Continued from page 5

the wallet again, they were pleased to see that the bill was still a \$100.

Jayden acknowledged that the ending was supposed to reveal that the \$100 had changed back to a \$1, but because of a mistake in the presentation, it was still a \$100. That touched off a lengthy discussion about the value of a magician learning how to handle a trick when it doesn't go exactly as planned.

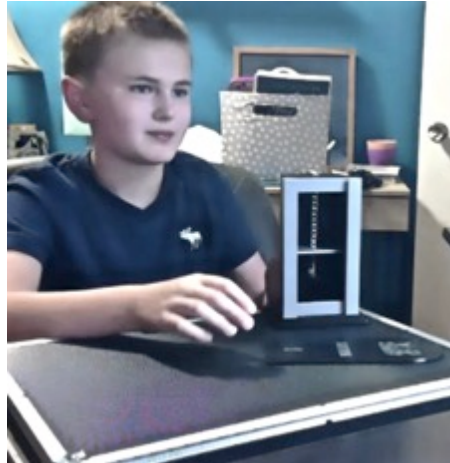
Louis noted that the audience doesn't know how a trick is supposed to end and the good magician is able to handle the trick even when it doesn't go as expected.

Sam Neville was unable to connect his video, but he discussed one of his favorite

tricks that he learned from the youth group: the Lightning Ball.

According to legend, a tree was hit multiple times by lightning. Finally the tree was chopped down and small pieces were made into wooden balls.

The balls had magical qualities: for example, they could be placed in a clear Lucite box and held closed



*Kylan demonstrates the workings of the Houdini Box.*

with rubber bands. But a magician could make a magical pass and the ball

would penetrate through the box, still leaving the rubber bands in place.

Jayden then demonstrated the Lightning Ball trick.

As the meeting ended, Louis welcomed Drew as the new youth director and wished him well.

The Conjurors meet at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, just before the regular Ring 50 meeting. Members are allowed and encouraged to participate in the Ring meetings.

The Conjurors are open to kids 8 to 16. If you know of a young person interested in magic: give them the gift of becoming a member of the coolest place to learn magic this side of a certain castle in the highlands of the United Kingdom.

For more information about The Conjurors, contact Youth Activities Director Drew Owen at [Youth@ibmring50.org](mailto:Youth@ibmring50.org).



*Continued from page 6*

In September 2019 I opened my newest project called 'The Good Liar.' It's a mentalism show where the audience decides if I'm psychic, a mentalist, or just a good liar. Before the pandemic it had a lot of great momentum, and got some solid reviews. My hope is to get that back on its feet. If anyone from Ring 50 would like to attend, please let me know and use the code DCRing50 for \$15 tickets (normally \$50).