



MAGI-GRAM



Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 75 No. 7 July 2021

SHABUM! to Lecture Aug. 4

Public Show for Children to Precede Lecture

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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 feel free to invite your relatives and friends with young children. Then we will have the members-only lecture.

The 20 minute show will be

open to all family and friends of Ring 50 members at www.ibmring50.org/shabum. Please spread the word.

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.

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In-Person Ring 50 Meetings Resume

Sept. 1 Meeting Features Larry Hass

For the first time in 19 months, Ring 50 will resume in-person monthly meetings while striving to keep everyone safe.

Ring 50 will return to the previous schedule of holding meetings the first Wednesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m.

The meetings will be held in a new (for us) venue: the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria.

The Lyceum was built in 1839 to serve as a grand hall to provide a place for lectures, scientific experiments and reading. Magic performances were also a part of The Lyceum's history, and Ring 50 members will be treated to a brief history of Magic at The Lyceum from museum director Jim Holloway.

Our first magic lecturer at The Lyceum will be Larry Hass, a world-leading teacher, writer, and philosopher on the art of magic.

Larry, who recently moved to the Washington area and joined Ring 50, is the Dean of McBride's Magic & Mystery School in Las Vegas

For 11 years, Larry ran the Theory and Art of Magic Program at Muhlenberg



Ring 50 will begin meeting monthly at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria, starting Sept. 1.

College. It featured guests such as David Blaine, Jeff McBride, Juan Tamariz, Teller, and other renowned magicians.

Larry has written extensively on the topic of magic, primarily for other magicians, and has been published in leading magic magazines, both in print and online.

His internationally-bestselling books include *Eugene Burger: From Beyond* (2019), *Dying to Change* (2019), *Life Magic* (2018), *Teaching Magic* (with Eugene Burger, 2017)

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Members Perform Spooky Magic for October Meeting

Get ready to scream in terror! Okay maybe not. But get ready to be entertained with Ring 50 members' take on Spooky Magic.

It's an old Ring 50 tradition that members perform Spooky Magic at our October meeting, so we want to keep the tradition alive. Performers are asked to keep their act to eight minutes.

If you would like to perform at the Oct. 6 meeting, please contact President Danny Selnick at president@ibmring50.org.



Joshua Jay Demonstrates Coins and Cards and Talks Theory and Science

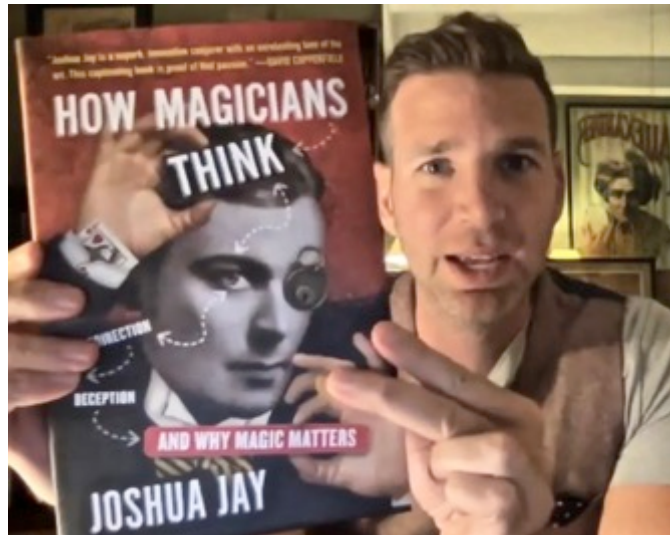
By Jason Goldberg

Joshua Jay has long been a friend of Ring 50, from appearing at Magi-Whirl to several of us seeing his show live. Joshua is an internationally known performer, not to mention one of the owners of Vanishing, Inc.

Josh started with a note about the symbolism of the Broken Wand ceremony, and how he has a framed photo with his own father's Broken Wand. This has sparked an idea that the Board is considering for future ceremonies.

Josh started with two gifts. He noted ShowTime, which will start with Derek Hughes. He gave everyone in the Ring a free link to join the show tonight! He then noted his own card system for his card magic. Josh is putting out a book on the system at the end of 2022, and offered to give away the first set of the work as lecture notes. We have e-mailed this to all Ring members; please don't share this with anyone outside the Ring!

Josh expressed interest in coming back later to do his parlor material when he passes through D.C. as part of an upcoming public book tour for "How Magicians Think." He



noted that the book idea came up when he was doing his last tour, and he was considering the question of what you get someone who doesn't want to perform, but wants to know about what it is like to perform. The book will explore other aspects of magic behind the scenes.

Josh spoke about the loss of David Roth during the pandemic. Josh spoke about how he was drawn to one of Eugene Burger's tricks, and one of the few ones Eugene did with coins, the Three Coin Mystery with Four Coins. He shared the video. It's quick, and was a great part of the "peaks and valleys" between Eugene's longer pieces without a heavy plot.

Josh turned to a different topic, collecting. He noted that great collections can be built by writing to current performers today and asking

for something that they use. Josh wrote to Eugene, not knowing he was terminally ill. Eugene shared the spool of thread that he used for Gypsy Thread in his performance. It's an iconic piece and a real treasure of Jay's collection. While noting his respect for Eugene, he discussed Eugene's performance

of the Three Coin Mystery and weakness he had with the performance. As Eugene performed it, you set up the trick with four coins, but what happens to the fourth coin? The fourth coin is needed because you need the misdirection it provides to lap the other three coins, but nothing happens to the fourth coin itself. The next problem is the method. Eugene used a coin clip to allow three coins to be held as a silent unit so the audience doesn't hear the noise you would expect. However, you start the trick with the clip in your palm, which doesn't look natural. The third problem is that the trick is very linear. You tell the audience what you're going to do and then you do it, which runs a little flat.

Josh felt that the trick needed something more. To improve it, he developed

Joshua Jay: Magic is More Than Methods

some ideas based on neuroscience. In his version, he referred to a real scientific study where a trick was shown to an audience. One group was only asked if they knew how the trick was

done. The second group was told they win \$100 if they could guess the method. While most people would think the money group would be more likely to guess the method, the former group was more successful! Maybe because the guessers were less likely to be distracted?

In his performance, Josh offered \$100 to anyone who



could guess the method.

We visibly saw and heard the coins go into his fist. They transformed into the \$100 bill,

and the coins reappeared inside a coin purse!

The method was simple! In his version, "The Wager," Josh noted that the research study gave him something to talk about and a unique plot to work with.

He didn't want to start the trick with a coin clip. Rather, he uses magnetic coins, eliminating

the need for a coin clip. The coins are examinable as long as they are handed out to different spectators.

The last problem he solved was how to bring back the four coins in a way such that he could still casually handle the coin purse at the end. In this case, he referred to inspiration from a Sherlock Holmes story where the absence of noise made a difference. A bulldog clip holds four loose coins, which allows the coin purse to be handled casually

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Mike Hummer in November: Al Cohen's Favorite Tricks for Lay Audiences, and Props That Are New, Different and Improved

Al Cohen had his pick of any magic trick to perform. So what did Al show non-magicians when he was attending social events or just having a meal out?

Ring 50 member Mike Hummer, who worked with Al for 17 years at Al's Magic Shop in Washington,

will demonstrate some of Al's favorite tricks and routines for lay people.

Mike, who has presented his What's New With Mike Hummer's Magic for

several years at Ring 50, will also showcase acquisitions of new, different and improved magic props.



Mike Hummer

Mike recently demonstrated some of those props at the I.B.M. virtual convention.

After more than a year of not getting a chance to

see and touch magic props, won't it be wonderful to actually handle new props up close and in person?

Shabum! August 4

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Here is a link to a clip from Shabum's TV show on Telemundo in which he teaches an easy magic trick using 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

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

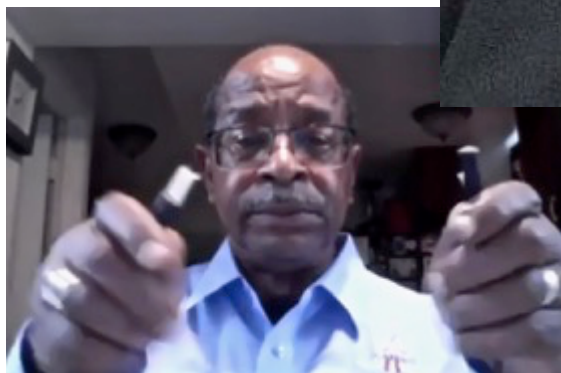
Broken Wand Ceremony Honors and Remembers Buddy Smith

The most solemn part of having friends in magic is remembering them when they pass away. We started the July meeting with a Broken Wand ceremony and farewell for Walter G. "Buddy" Smith led by Territorial Vice President Dwight Redman.

Buddy, who joined the Ring in 1974 and was an Honorary Lifetime Member, was well known for his work with coins and cards, was a frequent 4F contributor, and served as Ring president from 1978-79.



hotel hot tub!



Dwight Redman conducts the Broken Wand Ceremony for Buddy Smith

Several Ring members shared their memories. Dwight started by speaking to how Buddy was a friend with his son, Eric, before Dwight joined the Ring. He thanked Buddy for his 4F advice about never volunteering to work the backstage shows! Bill Wells spoke to Buddy's strength and determination as a former Marine and friend who was tough as nails. He



Marc Carrion

also noted Buddy's fondness for sponge bunnies and how they used the trick to get good deals on car rentals, restaurants, and more.

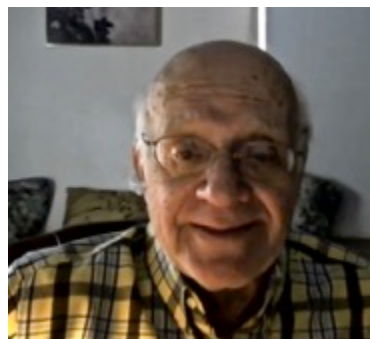
Arnie

Fuoco spoke about their friendship and told a tale about bumping into Buddy while Arnie was on travel with

his niece.

Marc Carrion got everyone laughing with a story about how he saw Buddy at a convention practicing palming coins in the hotel hot tub!

Richie Klein noted, as many did, that "Buddy was Buddy!"



Arnie Fuoco

but he had a way of getting along with our significant others. It was his spirit of giving and sharing with the magic



Richie Klein

community that endeared him to so many. Everyone said that once he got to know you and was on your side, he was very loyal.



Laurie Curry

Laurie Curry noted how she and Buddy became friends when she first started in magic and he offered to teach her anything. At lectures at Denny's, he ensured she had a spot where she could see the show.

Stu Finley noted that



Stu Finley

Continued next page

Larry Hass Lectures Sept. 1 at The Lyceum

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Inspirations (2015), *The Show Doctor* (with Jeff McBride, 2012), and *Transformations* (2007).

His philosophy of magic has been the focus of articles in



Larry Hass

The New York Times and USA Today, and he has made feature appearances on The Discovery Channel and National Public Radio, among others. His writing has been translated into nine languages.

Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to The Lyceum building. There is also metered street parking.



TAKE THE MEMBER SURVEY AND GET A CHANCE FOR \$100

\$100
GIFT CERTIFICATE

In 2018, Ring 50 conducted a member survey to help inform decisions about programming and other member benefits. It's time to update this input as we prepare to return to in-person meetings.

Please provide your feedback

at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLTJ6CZ> by

July 23, so we can ensure Ring 50 provides the most value to our members.

If you are a member of Ring 50 and would like to be entered into a drawing to receive a **\$100 gift card from Vanishing, Inc.**, please provide your contact information at the end of the survey.

Otherwise, this information is optional.

Buddy Smith Honored and Remembered

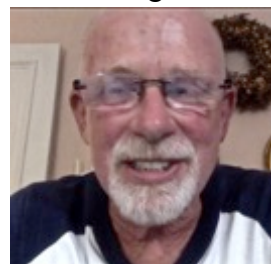
Buddy would write full letters with complete instructions and everything written out!

Roy Eidem also spoke to how Buddy would teach you anything.



He also said Buddy was a solid magician, especially with the rabbits, and was "a magician's magician."

Watt Hyer, president of the Richmond Ring, talked about meeting Buddy



at Watt Hyer

conventions, and meeting Celeste Evans' daughter, which had Buddy beside himself. He also spoke to Buddy's deep contacts in the magic world.

Reggie Rice concluded by talking about getting to know the



Reggie Rice

"real" Buddy, getting past the "stage persona."

Farewell Buddy, and thank you.

-- Jason Goldberg



Conjurors Learn New Magic Tricks

And Get a Demonstration of Misdirection From Slydini

Members of Ring 50's youth group, The Conjurors, had their first meeting this month with new Youth Activities Director Drew Owen. They learned a couple of clever card tricks, worked on using video properties for a virtual trick, and watched a classic performance by Slydini.

Drew, a professional magician who performs for children and adults--often in the wizard character of Professor Fizzwiffle--

asked the young members what they thought of the group name The Conjurors. While most were satisfied with it, one Conjuror suggested expanding the name to The Capital Conjurors. No final decision has been made.

Drew reminded the Conjurors that the Aug. 4 meeting would feature children's magician Shabum! for a 20-minute public show followed by a lecture. He urged them to invite friends and families to watch the public show, which will be on the Zoom link: ibmring50.org/shabum.

Then the Conjurors started learning tricks. For the first trick, Drew had one of the members work with him in a version of Do-As-I-Do. Drew said that he had recently had a dream in which the Conjuror who was assisting him did a card



Youth Activities Director Drew Owen teaches a trick to the Conjurors.

trick. First they shuffled. Then they spread their cards with the faces toward the camera and then placed the cards on the table.

Drew wrote a prediction on a Post-It note and stuck it on his forehead where he could "keep it on my mind."

He then had his volunteer deal a number of cards face down--the number chosen by the volunteer. The remaining cards were put aside. The volunteer then picked up the stack of cards and dealt them again into two piles.

He asked the volunteer to pick up the top cards in each pile. Drew said those would identify the value and suit of the predicted card. Sure enough, they matched the prediction he had written on the Post-It note.

Then Drew explained to the Conjurors how to perform the trick.

For the next effect, Drew showed the Conjurors two small signs he had made and attached to sticks. One sign said "Small" and one said "Big." But the Small sign was larger

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Who's Who in Ring 50

Julian Oteyza—Magic, Music and Art *Embracing the 'Gift' of Dyslexia*

Julian Oteyza was born in the Philippines in the province of Baguio. His family moved to Manila when he was 3 years old. A few months after he graduated from the University of Santo Thomas, where he studied Fine Arts, his family moved to the United States.

As a youngster, Julian became interested in art by watching his father paint. Victor Oteyza was one of a group of neo-realists who started the modern art movement in the Philippines in the early 1950s. He also worked at the advertising agency J. Walter Thompson and was a radio and TV director.

Julian's mother, Leonila Madrid Oteyza, worked at the Agency for International Development. Her boss recommended her for a job at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. She was hired and traveled to the U.S. alone. She stayed with friends until she was able to save enough money to bring the rest of the family—including Julian and his sister and brother-- to America two years later. A few years later, his mother bought a house in Arlington.

Julian's interest in magic started when he was about 10 years old and his uncle plucked a coin from his ear. He never stopped wondering how he did that. One day his father took him to the Opera House in Manila, where he saw an Indian



magician named Gogya Pasha. Julian recalled he was blown away. He couldn't get enough. He later saw Slydini and Harry Blackstone. The "Zombie Ball" and "Chinese Linking Rings" routines kept him yearning to be a magician.

Years later, Julian would not only perform tricks and illusions but also play music and create works of art inspired by magic.

There were no magic stores or magic clubs in the Philippines in the 1960s. Julian didn't even know anyone who wanted to be a magician. One day his father took him to the only

big bookstore in town and he found two little pamphlets: one on card magic by Howard Thurston and the other on coin magic by T. Nelson Downs. Those were all he needed to be permanently hooked on magic. This was the first time he learned about the front and back palming of coins and cards. He was so intrigued and kept trying to perform them even if his fingers were too small. He was never sure he was doing it right until he came to America and discovered Al's Magic Shop on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC in 1967.

Julian said he thought he was in a fantasy world when he first walked into Al's shop. He was 18 years old by then. He visited the shop regularly, mostly to watch Al and Stan Cohen demonstrate tricks to customers.

A Big Thank You to Past President Craig Fifer

As you know, I was voted in as Ring 50's 2021/2022 president and I'm happy once again to serve you and the local magic community (stay tuned for my characteristically bad jokes). Before I go on with anything else, I'd like to say a few words about our past two-term president, Craig Fifer.

We all owe a great deal of thanks to Craig for having carried Ring 50 through so many trials and



Craig Fifer

tribulations while still keeping us all together as one of the largest magic clubs anywhere. Two years ago, we needed to find a new home for our in-person meetings and Craig tirelessly worked and found us the Lyceum in Alexandria. Sadly, because of the pandemic, we haven't yet had the chance to meet there -- but we'll be doing so in September -- just a few short weeks from now. While many organizations (not just magic clubs) fell still during the pandemic, Craig offered the Zoom platform to keep us going, and with great success. Over the past year and some months, he's hosted regular meetings and even special lectures where attendance was always good. He worked incredibly hard to bring diversity to our lecturers, and with help from your board, we brought many

greats from all over the world. Craig is now Ring 50's vice president and I'm delighted to have him remain engaged. Thank you Craig for all you've done!

A few other important items to mention:

- All members will be receiving a **2021 Ring 50 Survey** to fill out to let your board know what you want out of your membership, be it the

kinds of meetings you want, lectures, or anything else.

We're looking for 100% participation and to make it fun, we'll be giving away a \$100 gift certificate for all those that fill out and send back their survey.

- **So what's with Magi-Whirl?** We're planning Magi-Whirl 2022 and look to make it bigger and better than ever before -- even looking to make it two full days of lectures, meetings and gala show -- and to make this an annual event the likes of other great magic conventions. Volunteers are welcomed to help suggest and look for lecturers, performers, dealers, etc. Please

President's Message

President Danny Selnick



send me a note of your interest

at president@ibmring50.org

- **John Roberts Magic Collection:** Our dear recently departed friend

and master magician, John Roberts, left his magic collection to Ring 50 and with that, I'll be arranging a Saturday (Date TBD) when all members of Ring 50 can stop by my house for a two hour look through John's magic and take a few items (first come, first served). Left-over items will be shipped to a magic dealer for them to sell as estate items where monies will go to the Ring's treasury.

On behalf of the entire board of directors, I look forward to having a more engaged magic club and community and I'll be looking to everyone for input and ideas. Stay tuned for more.

Danny



Join The Conjurers

Al's Magic Shop Opened Doors for Julian Oteyza

Continued from page

Tricks were not cheap.

Until he found a job, Julian couldn't afford to buy any tricks. All he could do was dream and try to build props himself. He was excited to find books on how to build props. Seeing the originals on display at the store made it even more inspiring for him to build his own and paint them the way he wanted to.

Julian was never sure he was correctly back-palming cards and coins, so he asked Al, who eagerly showed him the proper way of doing the moves. Al had no idea that he would be seeing Julian's face at lunchtime a few years later almost everyday when he moved his magic shop to Vermont Avenue, just two blocks away from where Julian worked at the American Chemical Society as a meetings planner.

Hanging out at the magic shop gave Julian an opportunity to meet famous magicians. One day, Doug Henning casually walked in the shop while Julian was there. Julian was so thrilled to meet the popular magician that he grabbed a Doug Henning book from the shelf and asked him to sign it. He later got the autographs of David Copperfield, Harry Blackstone Jr. and Andre Cole when they performed in DC.

Julian hardly came back from visiting Al's Magic Shop without a new trick or book, especially if it was payday. He loved buying tricks that he read about when he was a child but never could afford to buy, like the linking rings, feather flowers, silks, precision machined coin gimmicks, thumbtips, production tubes.

In the 1970s, Al vouched for him and Julian became a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He said he couldn't believe he was an official wizard! This encouraged him to work harder at getting better and he started working on a routine. He had accumulated a lot of tricks and props and tried to build an act using them in some way that told a story. Some of the tricks he bought were simply just to find out how they were accomplished. He eventually realized that most of them were very simple and that they were done exactly the way one

would think they were done, using trap doors, black art, invisible thread, glue, springs, rubber bands, mirrors, etc.

Julian joined Ring 50 about 10 years ago and got to meet magicians in the area as well as magicians from all over the world who come to perform or lecture, including Jeff McBride, who influenced him to incorporate masks in his act,



Julian presents one of his artworks to Juliana Chen at the 2013 Magi-Whirl.

and Dirk Losander, who taught him how to perform his famous "floating table" trick.

While at the shop one day, Julian asked Al if he could help script a routine. He realized he couldn't just be performing one trick after another without telling a story. Al politely advised him that he should use his imagination and create something that would fit his image. After much writing and re-writing his script, Julian decided that he would play the part of a lazy kid who had magical powers that he could use to accomplish chores that his mother would give him but that he was too lazy to do: like clean the house, do the laundry, do his homework, cook. He would call himself "Juan Tamad" which in English means "Lazy John."

Continued next page.

Julian Oteyza Turns Dyslexia on Its Head With His Art

He practiced daily in front of the mirror and his family for several weeks. Then he took his act to the Philippine Embassy, where he performed in front of the ambassador and the Filipino-American community. This led to bookings for private parties and special events. He even built bigger stage props and used his daughter and nieces as assistants. He added doves and a rabbit to his act, which his audience loved.

He performed at restaurants and private parties singing as a one-man band, accompanied by his guitar and electronic drum machine. In between songs he would perform tricks. He used his semi-hollow guitar as a secret compartment to produce flowers, silks, business cards and also to hide small props. He built a wireless transmitter into his guitar so he could roam into the audience and get close to them..

These days Julian spends his magic time watching great performers on America's Got Talent and similar shows. Magic has evolved into something so different from the classic tricks. He finds it so entertaining and mystifying. He spends his time teaching his grandchild, Tristan, how to perform his tricks.

To Julian, magic is more of than performing tricks. He finds magic in everything he sees and touches.

Julian worked on his art at the same time he was working on his magic and music. He painted at night--initially portraits of Filipino personalities and rock stars, and native dancers.

He joined the Foundry Gallery in Washington, to meet other artists and get his works exhibited.. He eagerly searched for places to get exposure like libraries, restaurants, banks, bookstores, etc. He joined an art club in New York named the Society of Philippine-American Artists, which he still belongs to. They have annual exhibits. He has exhibited in India, China, Egypt, the Philippines and elsewhere.

Julian has created several unique styles of paintings, which he attributes to his "Gift of Dyslexia." He didn't realize he had dyslexia until he came to the United States. Growing up, he didn't know why he found it so

difficult to read and remember what he read. He used to study for hours at night before a test only to forget the following day what he studied. One day, he decided to Google the word "dyslexia" and a whole new world opened. He found sites, mostly in Europe, discussing and explaining the brain short circuit that caused dyslexics to see words jump and letters get scrambled. He also learned that famous people had dyslexia. That's when he decided he had a "gift."

One day while he was painting, he noticed

he kept rotating his painting on the easel as he painted and no matter how he looked at it, it looked great. That's when he decided to work on a series of paintings that were rotatable. He mounted them on "lazy Susans" so people could rotate them and have a fresh look each time. He noticed how people enjoyed them, so he tried linking three panels together, which could still spin independently. They



caught the eye of some art critics and curators who wrote articles about it in the Washington Post and other publications. He decided to call his style "Dyslexart."

He followed this with another creation, this time it not only rotated but also "Emerged"--meaning the canvas actually raised as the viewer rotated a wheel on the side of the frame. He called this series "Emerging Dimensions."

Julian has been featured and interviewed by several TV stations which can be viewed in his youtube channel titled "Dyslexart."

Julian welcomes comments at julianoteyza@gmail.com

Conjurors Learn About Optical Illusions and Misdirection

Continued from page 7

than the Big sign. Drew urged the Conjurors to squeeze the Small sign in their mind and—amazingly—the Small sign appeared to shrink.



Drew explained how the signs were an example of using the properties of perspective in a video performance to make an object look larger or

smaller depending on how close it is to the lens. Members of The Conjurors then showed how they could do the effect using their own signs or playing cards.

The Conjurors experienced a classic trick using misdirection as they watched a famous video clip of Slydini performing the Balls Over the Head trick on The Dick Cavett Show.

Drew then showed the Conjurors



another trick using cards that is sometimes referred to as the Ninja Card

Trick (although it probably has other names as well.) He showed two cards that he said were his favorites: a red and a black Four. He placed the cards fairly in the middle of the deck and then, with a quick flick of the wrist, disposed of all the cards except a red and black Four. After the young members failed to guess how the trick was done, Drew revealed the secret.

Slydini performing Balls Over the Head. See the ball?

Drew showed another way of doing the trick by placing the cards in a shirt pocket. One of the Conjurors offered a way to expand the trick by adding another layer of reveal.

As the meeting ended, Drew reminded the Conjurors to practice their tricks before performing them (even in front of family members) and stressed the importance of "knowing what you are going to say" at each step of a routine.

Drew and the Conjurors are looking forward to when Ring 50 meets in person, starting in September. The Conjurors are open to any youth age 8 and above interested in magic. The meetings begin at 6 p.m. prior to the monthly Ring 50 meeting on the first Wednesday of every month.

**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 Magicians, 13 Point West Blvd, St. Charles, Missouri, USA 63301.

Joshua Jay: Magic Research Reveals Performance Secrets

Continued from pg. 4

with the four normal coins that are revealed at the end. The clip can be palmed away and lapped, in a technique that calls back to some Slydini vanishes.

Josh followed this up with a card effect, “Printing,” based on tricks by Dominique Duvivier and Peter Kane. A series of red, black, and blank cards were alternated, then shown to magically transform, complete at the end with the card backs “printing” part of Josh’s wallet and face! The trick opened a discussion about what makes a card trick magical? When things become whimsical, an unexpected space emerges. Josh noted how he has taken a gaffed wallet and further gimmicked it to become an effective switching wallet. He covered how he chooses the pictures he wants the pictures to reveal and all of the details to perform, including how to introduce the wallet.

Josh’s description of the scientific research for his card plot opened a productive discussion. Josh has started working with researchers to explore questions about what audiences really think. He asked how many of us would give an introduction to the emcee before performing? Probably not many. Many acts, even the top ones, don’t. Yet, research shows that audiences that are given an introduction perceive the same



trick as 50% more enjoyable. Something that prequalified the trick seems to increase enjoyment. It also made the audience guess less accurately about how the trick was done. If you want your magic to be perceived better, you need to have an introduction. When there is an introduction, audiences are more likely to want to see the magician again! Key tip: Write an introduction! (Hey, it’s a real “one weird tip” that actually works!)

Josh offered another example. What do people remember when their recall is tested? Research shows that people remember the last part, then the first, then the middle part of the show. Spectators could remember some tricks with particular accuracy six months later, but they don’t seem to remember the plots of card tricks. Digging deeper, researchers found an anomaly; people could recall card tricks if it involved another object that they could anchor their mind to, like Card Through Window, Card in

Orange, or Card Stab. The lesson is, whenever possible, anchor your cards to an object! For parlor magic, this can be really important! (And yet another “one weird tip” that can make a big difference!) While it wasn’t part of the research, Josh noted in response to a question that it’s possible to make a card trick more memorable if the cards had different themes. For example, Gypsy

Curse uses Tarot-style cards, and audiences might not perceive that as a card trick.

The survey Josh contributed to asked 1,000 people what they liked best and least about magic. When asked what people don’t like, he thought they wouldn’t like to be fooled or the corny jokes. It turns out that most people disliked seeing tricks they *think* they’ve seen before. They disengage and their interest goes down. It doesn’t mean we can’t do the classics, but we need to find something different in our performance that the audience hasn’t seen before, such as a prop, script, or something else that tells audiences they haven’t seen this before. When asked what people like, it’s not the feeling of mystery or the challenge of trying to figure the trick out. Rather, the majority of people wanted to be surprised.

Joshua Jay Teaches an Amazing Card Trick

Has the research helped Josh's show? He confirmed that it has made a difference, and he has been a part of recent research looking at what impresses audiences. For example, spectators are most impressed when magicians are able to predict numbers between 1 and 100 and less so when numbers are predicted between 1 and 1,000. There seems to be a sweet spot between impressive and believability.

Josh ended his lecture with a card demonstration. Shuffling the cards in several ways, he dealt out the cards and had Danny call stop as Josh fanned out the deck. Josh completed several dead cuts, identifying several Kings. The cards then transformed amazingly into the four Aces after being set aside!

Josh then had Craig pick a card. He not only predicted the card, but he was also able to state its position in the deck! It was a great ACAAN. He then asked Bob Greenwald to name any card. Bob selected the Nine of Clubs. Turning away, Josh cut the deck once without looking at it and cut to the Nine of Clubs. He did it again with Alex Wohl. Alex named any pair of cards, in this case the black Sevens. Josh dealt through the deck and Alex said stop. The card was a red

Seven. Reversing the red Seven and squaring the deck, Josh cut the deck such that the two black Sevens surrounded the red Seven!

Stephen DeSimone and Craig Fifer were brought in. Craig selected the Ace of Diamonds. Josh dealt the deck into three piles between him and Stephen and Craig, dealing



himself twice as many cards as Stephen and Craig. As part of the bet to see who had the Ace of Diamonds, Josh kept giving more cards to Stephen and Craig to sweeten the pot, ultimately leaving himself with only card. Despite seemingly randomly shuffling and dealing, Josh ended up with only the Ace of Diamonds!

Josh concluded by asking everyone to think of a card. Through some amazing shuffles, Josh produced all of the Diamonds in order, ultimately showing the entire

deck was in full order!

Josh proceeded to teach the methods of these tricks – you'll have to watch the video or study his notes to learn more. All in all, it was a great lecture, and we look forward to seeing Joshua Jay again soon!

References:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTmPdbCWXms>
(Eugene Burger's Four Coin Mystery)

Coins for Wager:
<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/magnetic-coins/>

Printing 2.0:
<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/card-magic/printing-20/>

<http://www.magicconvention.com/video/joshua-jay/>
for (Scientific research video / paper)

Given the interest in science and magic, we recommend a few other references:

<http://www.sleightsofminid.com/>

Book: Experiencing the Impossible: The Science of Magic, by Gustav Kuhn

There's also an entire organization devoted to this topic: The Science of Magic Association

(<https://scienceofmagicassoc.org/>)

If this topic interests you, please let Jason know at secretary@ibmring50.org. Maybe we'll do a book club discussion?