



The Spirit

The Official Newsletter of I.B.M. Ring #1

January 2023

Happy New Year,

As this message is being written just prior to Christmas, I want to wish everyone a very warm and safe holiday and a wonderful new year.

With regrets, I was not able to make the meeting in December which is our annual Christmas party and white elephant gift exchange. From what I heard, everyone had a great time at the party and fun with the gift exchange.

Our next performance for Ranken Jordan will be on January 9, 2023. This is the second Monday of the month. We need volunteers for the performance. Please e-mail me if are are willing to perform for the children. Include your phone number in the contact information.

The Veterans and First Responders show was a great hit with the audience. We had about 180 guests to see the show. Everyone enjoyed the close-up performances in the lobby and the artists on stage. The best moment was when a little girl received a stuffed teddy bear from Steve Zuehlke. The young lady was overwhelmed with joy and couldn't believe that she was receiving the bear as a early gift. Also in attendance were Harry and Trudy Monti.

Our January meeting will be slated for video recording of our members performing effects that are level appropriate for children and adults. This recording is being made so that we can reach out to area children hospitals and other organizations. Many patients are still vulnerable to illnesses and these performances can help them while confined to their stay in the hospital. Please consider reaching out to Mike McClure if you are interested in performing one or two effects. Stand-up and close-up effects are welcomed.

Also, our member dues rate for the 2023 year is \$20.00. This is still one of the lowest rates for local clubs. We offer so much for a modest amount. We will still continue to bring in lecturers and provide other opportunities for our club to flourish.

Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis et al.

Steve Zuehlke shared the following. At our December meeting, we had our annual holiday party. A good time was had by all. Plenty of food, snacks, desserts, and drinks were on hand as well as plenty of great gifts for the white elephant gift exchange. The most popular gifts were four gift cards that kept getting stolen until it wasn't allowed anymore. We appreciate that the Ring bought two \$25 cards from each of these local magic shops--Old Time Magic Shop located in High Ridge and The Magic Shop located in Park Hills. There was also a souvenir box of magic from the 2008 I.B.M./SAM convention which was quite popular. Also, our two youngest attendees both walked away with some great gifts. It makes me happy to see that Ring One is in good hands. Oh, to be young again! Hats off to VP Terry Richison and Sandy Weis for all their help. Terry Richison also had some IBM playing cards and Insurance Policies for sale. These were made especially for the I.B.M. I purchased several and are very pleased with their excellent quality. One of our longtime members, Larry Minth and his wife Helen, are celebrating FIFTY years of marriage. Congratulations! Ring One recently raised their dues to twenty dollars beginning in 2023, after keeping it at fifteen dollars for many years. Still, one of the best deals out there. Our Ring is fortunate to have a strong treasury which brings four to five lectures a year to its members. For the Ring's next meeting in January, we will be filming an instructional video for Project Magic that will be shown at Shriners Hospital for the patients, their families and the staff.

Steve Epner added the following regarding the White Elephant Gift Exchange. Steve Finklestein wanted to pass on a giant Merlin figure. Steve Epner opened the box. He was concerned what his wife would suggest he do with it. Then Chuck Levy walked around the room looking for something to steal. He landed on Merlin. I think Chuck's wife gave him a dirty look, but Epner got a mobile packet of illusions he can carry with him when he performs magic. Chuck went home with Merlin. It was a fun time for all!

Michael McClure convinced his fellow Ring 1 Board Directors to allow him to film several of our members performing family-oriented effects, and then produce a DVD of the same that would be distributed to the hospitals that are not yet allowing in-person magicians to entertain for their clients. As a community outreach program prior to the onset of Covid, our Ring members had been regulars at the local Shriners Children's Hospital. The hospitalized children and their families need the unique escape that our art provides. The hospital staff often voiced great appreciation of the performances. Our next regular meeting has been moved to January 11, and it will be our first night of "Lights! Camera! Magic!" ... the premiere attempt to collect about nine different acts to be arranged to form a virtual magic show. Michael will film, edit, and handle all of the production duties, with the capable editing assistance of his son, Michael II. They have a mobile theater setup which includes curtains, lights, and all video and sound equipment necessary to accomplish the task. What is somewhat unique to their setup is that they use a 10 by 10 tent frame as a mount for the curtains and accessories. This allows an impromptu performance to be filmed easily anywhere it occurs. As an interlude between live acts, Michael plans to insert interactive magic, jokes and visual

activities to keep the audience entertained. The final program will be available on DVD to those hospitals that need a physical disc to play for their patients. It will also be hosted on our website, through an unlisted YouTube channel, for places that would rather avail themselves of that streaming service. It promises to be a fun experiment for a very worthwhile cause. If anyone would like to participate they must contact Michael to discuss their ideas prior to our meeting on January 11. His contact information is on the Ring One website.

Bob Blattel shared the following. Each year my wife, Chris, and I organize a Toy Drive for needy children. We collected over 100 trash bags full of toys. I then do volunteer magic shows. On Saturday, December 11th, I did a show for the Dutchtown Opportunity Coalition for Youth. They had about 25 in attendance and at the end of the show I gave each child an appearing magic wand as a gift. On Sunday, December 18th I performed a magic show during Breakfast with Santa for St. Mathew the Apostle Catholic Church located in St. Louis. I hope all IBM members are doing well and have a Merry Christmas.

Jeff Lefton shared the following. I recently did a show at a senior citizen center. At one point my Rocky, the raccoon, jumped out at a spectator. She put him under her sweater and would not give him back! The staff went over to try to get her to let go of it, but she refused. Then one of them tried to trade her a stuffed animal for Rocky, but she did not go for that either. They told me they would reimburse me for the Rocky. As I was packing up and ready to go, lo and behold, a staff member brought me my Rocky. When the show was over, and she stood up to leave, Rocky fell to the floor and a staff person was able to nap him. I have never had that happen before!

Paul Gregor has developed a new close up station for outdoor festival work. It is just large enough to hold a magician, a stool and a day's worth of props. It appears to look like an information booth yet has a front half circle counter to perform the magic. The back curtain, in a red and white carnival pattern, sets the tone for fun. A sun shade can be added if necessary. The bright red sides are about 34 inches high which helps keep everything hidden except the magic at hand. Transporting and setting up this mini theatre is easy because of the modular design. It's a magic oasis at the festival. The Ring members are anxious to see this new station Paul has designed and built. He is one of the newer members and is volunteering his time to help the Ring in many ways. For example, he is helping Gary Chan with the monthly newsletter, *The Spirit*, and has great, new ideas for this publication.

Dan Todd shared the following. I owe a debt of gratitude to Silly Billy, David Kaye, for his lecture on the magic coloring book a decade or so back. I think I saw it in Reel Magic Magazine. David shared several versions of this effect in the article. Each had certain qualities to consider and up until then, I had never used a magic coloring book in any of my shows. Once I did and got such positive reactions, I continued using it in all my magic shows. Therefore, I decided to make a magic coloring book by incorporating ideas from a kids chess book. The book I chose was *Winning Chess Strategy for Kids* written by Jeff Coakley of Canada. It is a fun and comprehensive chess course written for children 7 to 13 years of age. It is full of cartoons and appeals to children. He also has the following website which also teaches children chess-- ChessKids.com. I emailed him about using some of its content on-line during the pandemic. I also said that I'd like to make a magic coloring book, too. I even offered to

send him a copy. He granted me limited use of some of the content and said I could make the coloring book for my use only. By adaptation of a real chess book, some of my students even have it at home! It is not a booklet, but a full soft cover book costing about \$40. Of course since I am repeating pages, I left out 2/3rd of the book, but they never say anything about that. Instead of vanishing crayons, I use a colored silk streamer that magically changes to black. Very visual! I got one with Instant Art that I bought from Duke Stern at a MMJubilee in the 70's. B/W drawings are magically colored in only when I create the magic spell. After the awe struck kids quiet down, I tell them that "I have another class to show it to, so can they help me remove all the color?" They get so excited and wiggle their fingers and thumbs. I say "Stop, not too much!" And when it is shown completely blank, I say "Oh no! You made all the colors disappear, even the black!"

For Magician Chef Bananas (Chad Jacobs), holiday shows are in full swing. He's got five to seven shows booked for every week in December. One of his favorite events to do is "A Carlinville Christmas." It's a small-town event where they hire Chef Bananas for the day and give him his own tent. This year he did four full shows starting at 10:30 AM and ending at 6:15 PM. People appear to be eager to get back to live entertainment for their family events. Birthday parties are also looking up for Chef Bananas, as folks are starting to welcome others into their homes again. Chad thinks the outlook for 2023 is really good as he's already got dozens of bookings for next year as well.

Jill "Silly Jilly" Schmidt is devastated that she needs to reduce her balloon twisting due to arthritis pain in all of her fingers. She's been making balloon animals almost every week for half of her life and has literally tied approximately one million knots. Her doctor explained that arthritic joints can be compared to tire tread in that the more you drive your car, the more the degradation. She's afraid if she doesn't make a significant change, she'll regret it years from now. For Jill's regular restaurant gig and pediatric dentistry gig, she will try switching to simpler balloon animals and adding more gags and magic. For large events where kids line up as Jill makes sixty balloons animals per hour, she will pass on those. Jill plans to promote her magic shows more and learn more magic tricks, including some tricks applicable to restaurant table hopping.

I want to thank Ring 1 members for providing me with input for the Ring Report. I recently came down with the flu (hope no one else catches it) and didn't know how I was going to have enough material to finish the report. Thank you, thank you, Ring 1 members for helping me so I was able to submit this report by the due date.

Sandy Weis

Attention: Ranken Jordan needs volunteer magicians
to perform at the January 9, 2023 performance.

Contact D. Jay at djay1000@yahoo.com to set up your performance date.

Check it out: If you are looking for prop supplies, check out **Leftovers, etc.** in Chesterfield Mall at the lower level near Macy's. And next to them is **St. Louis Teachers' Recycle Center**. They each have similar items. You enter through a back door loading docks between Dillard's and Macy's. Follow the signs in the hall way. At leftovers, you pay by the bag, not weight, so load it carefully. At **St. Louis Teachers' Recycle Center**, there is a weight fee. These are the stores where I picked up the fabric and other supplies to make my vests. At Leftovers, etc., you can find old playing cards in a tub, craft items, paper products and little knick-knacks that can be used in a magic routine. There are always new donations hitting their shelves. You never know what you'll find so check back often.

Leftovers etc. <https://www.facebook.com/Leftoversetc/>

St. Louis Teachers' Recycle Center <https://www.facebook.com/STLTeachersRecycleCenter/>

The Veteran and First Responder Tribute Holiday Magic Show was quite an evening of stellar magic. There was something for everyone, with five magicians taking the stage with tricks, gags and illusions. Children and adults alike, were called to the stage to be part of the act. One routine after another was performed wonderfully and the audience got a two hour show packed with top notch magic! A picture has a thousand words. Check out the next page for photos from the show.

It Is Time To Pay Ring 1 Dues for Calendar Year 2023

To pay online: <http://www.ibmring1.com/dues-payments>

To pay by mail: Write a check payable to "IBM, Ring 1" for \$20.

Write "2023 Dues" on the memo line.

Mail the check to: Sandy Weis, 1755 Elkins Drive, St. Louis, MO 63136.

Dues for 2023, 2024 and 2025 may be combined with your payment.

VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS TRIBUTE HOLIDAY MAGIC SHOW 12/17/2022

Terry Richison • Steve Zuehlke • Christian Misner • Jeff Lefton • Ted Schnarre



Idea Sharing Page: This is the section of the Spirit publication for members to share creative ideas and projects that can help encourage others to grow their magic world. It can be anything that you have learned from performing or something you have created that might inspire others in their work.



So, here is the first edition.

I'll kick it off.

Introducing **The Magic Station,**

by Paul Gregor.

I wanted to make a comfortable performance space, specifically for close up work which I feel will be a good start as I begin performing for the public. I designed and built this performance station to offer close up magic in a miniature theatre setting. It has a half circle performance table and a back curtain to set the scene. There is easy access to props under the table for a full day of trick and gag supplies, along with other tools of magic to make the visit exciting and full of surprises. The station is modular, light weight and can be assembled quickly. The bright red walls and a large sign in the front is very eye catching. This approachable booth style allows me to be seated for comfort throughout the day and more importantly it allows me to be at eye level with the audience for a good communication experience. In a busy



festival setting, which is where I plan to perform, this close up act gives the guests an opportunity to stop and engage in a conversation with the performer, with magic at the center of it all. I will have giveaways on hand as well.

Next, the vests you see in the picture are a few that I made for the show. The plan is to have these at the station and let kids wear them as they assist me with making magic. I believe it will enhance their experience, as they participate in the show. The vests are wildly colorful in a variety of sizes. The slogan I will use is 'I'm the vest magician.' Not that I have to wear a vest to perform but that I have vests with me

for the assistants to wear. Another play on this wording is that I'm the 'vest' magician not the 'best', as stated in the sign to the right.

Please share *your* ideas, large and small, for publication in future Spirit editions. Send your information to paulsmusicplus@gmail.com



Scheduled Events:

The St. Louis Magic Roundtable meets every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Dierbergs, 1080 Lindemann Rd, Des Peres, MO 63131. Check the following website for the latest information before attending each week: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/374210993307299>

Board meetings are generally held the third Wednesday of each month over Zoom (virtual meeting), and all members are welcome to attend. To attend, please contact the President and Secretary (contact info on last page).

All events are in-person unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Event
Jan. 9, 2023 6-7 p.m.	Ranken Jordan Performance
Jan. 11, 2023 7 p.m.	Ring 1 meeting - Video recording magic tricks for children in hospital.
Jan. 26, 2023 7 p.m.	Ring 1 event at Dielmann Recreational Complex, 11400 Olde Cabin Rd, Creve Coeur, MO 63141, Hosting Guy Bavli and Ham Goldenberg
Feb. 1, 2023	Ring 1 meeting - Canceled
March 1, 2023	Ring 1 meeting, Ed Ellis lecture scheduled
April 20-22, 2023	The Senior Tour at Double Tree in Collinsville, Il

Encore Performance

\$150 PER PERSON LIMITED REGISTRATION
THIS WILL SELL OUT!

The Senior Tour

APRIL
20-22
2023

A MINI CONVENTION
SHOWCASING DECADES
OF CLOSE-UP MAGIC
EXPERTISE

Guest of Honor:
HOWARD HAMBURG



THE DOUBLE TREE by HILTON
1000 Eastport Plaza Dr.
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-345-2800



FEATURING

ALLAN ACKERMAN, DOUG CONN, BILL GOODWIN,
KEVIN KELLY, JIMMY "CARDS" MOLINARI, MIKE
POWERS, STEVE REYNOLDS, RANDY WAKEMAN

SHOWS, LECTURES, PANEL DISCUSSION, INTERVIEWS

STLSTEVE2009@YAHOO.COM

FOR MORE INFO:

<https://www.baskervilleproductions.com/seniortour>

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From the assistant editor:

This January newsletter appears different than previous issues. The pages are without borders and with just a few snowflakes. This is to symbolize us beginning a new year with a clean slate so new ideas can be free to grow. Here's to a vision of the new year with new members, new events and new ideas as we move forward. Your contributions are essential to make this happen. Keep in touch and let's take some chances. -Paul Gregor