

December

International Brotherhood of Magicians



THE Home of MAGIC in St. Louis



The SPIRIT | Official Newsletter of I.B.M. Ring 1  
December 2021 Edition

## White Elephant Gift Exchange

December 1, 2021, at 7pm  
Dielmann Recreation Center  
11400 Olde Cabin Rd  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

RSVP with Terry Richison ([terryrich@charter.net](mailto:terryrich@charter.net) or 314-791-9108) with the number of people in your party because he needs to order food for the event. For the event, bring a wrapped magic trick for the White Elephant Gift Exchange.





## President's Message

December us upon us, wow! I am looking forward to the White Elephant and breaking bread with a bunch of great magicians! I hope we have a great turnout. Please make sure you respond and let us know if you are planning on attending because the club will be providing the meal.

I will be attending the Magifest in Columbus in January, the S.A.M. National Convention in Las Vegas in January, and the I.B.M. National Convention in Atlanta in July. Please let me know if you and/or others are going. It would be great if we could make the Ring 1 presence known at the convention(s).



We had an amazing show at our last meeting with the close-up contest. Congratulations to Gary Chan for the overall win. Congratulations to Raleigh Muns for 1st place in the beginner/intermediate group! What an amazing turnout. Thank you!!

Raleigh Muns and Joshua Weidner supported the Francis Howell High School Annual Girls Basketball Breakfast Fundraiser for the girls Basketball team. Thank you very much, guys!! I can't wait to hear all about it. Josh told me that it was a success.

As always, I would love to hear from everyone. Please send ideas for the club.

Scott Smith  
President  
I.B.M. Ring 1  
[scott@plato.com](mailto:scott@plato.com)  
618-610-5947



# Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis et al.

Ring 1's Close-Up Competition finally took place on November 3rd. The Ring had to keep on postponing it due to the pandemic. Steve Finkelstein hosted the event since he was the winner in 2019. There were two levels of contestants, beginner/intermediate and advanced. The first group was classified as nonprofessional magicians who have not won 1st place in a close-up contest previously. The advanced group were magicians who are professionals and/or won 1st place in a close-up contest in the past. However, anyone could elect to compete in the advanced category. The performance length was eight to ten minutes. This year, instead of eight categories, contestants were judged in only three areas: Entertainment Value, Presentation, and Ability/Technique. There was also a People's Choice Award. The audience members could vote for one performer to receive this award. The room was filled with members and non-members. It was also televised via Zoom to those who were unable to attend the contest in person. Even those who viewed the contest on Zoom could cast a ballot for the People's Choice Award. The Ring 1 judges were Ted Schnarre, Steve Zuehlke, and Sandy Weis. There were also two lay judges.

There were four performers in each of both categories. In the beginner/intermediate category, the following performed: D. J. Lenz, Jill (Silly Jill) Schmidt, Scott Smith, and Raleigh Muns. Each act was so different. Jill is a children's entertainer so the audience members had to pretend they were young children. D. J., Scott, and Raleigh perform for adults. The 1st place winner was Raleigh and the 2nd place winner was Jill. In the advanced category, the following performed: Steve Queen, John Davit, Terry Richison, and Gary S. Chan. The performances were quite different but all were entertaining. Gary Chan was the 1st place winner and Steve Queen was the 2nd-place winner. Gary S. Chan, overwhelmingly, won the People's Choice Award!

The audience enjoyed all of the performances. The Ring thanks all of the contestants for their willingness to perform. It takes a lot of time to prepare and also practice an act for a contest. The winners will receive their awards in the near future. The Ring also thanks Steve Finkelstein for doing such an excellent job of hosting the event. Also, a thank you to Scott Smith for streaming and recording the contest.

One of the Ring's Past Presidents, Mike Niehaus, posted the following on Facebook: "My 13th Season at the Eckart's Millstadt Fun Farm is over. I had a Jim Dandy of a time for 8 weekends. Rusty Pliers performed 175 Pumpkin Cannon Shows, and just over 1,750 pumpkins went flying thru the air. Honestly, sometimes it was raining pumpkins. During the 40 minutes I had off between Pumpkin Cannon Shows, I ran the music for 45 shows for the dancing cloggers." Check out Rusty Pliers on Facebook for further comments and pictures. Make sure to see his show next year if you are in Millstadt, Illinois.

Trudy Monti-Monteith has taken the initiative and organized the St. Louis Magic Roundtable again. Before the pandemic, magicians would meet every Saturday to share/talk about magic. These were discontinued during the pandemic. However, Trudy recently invited magicians to meet again on the first Saturday of each month at a local Panera's. Now Trudy has found another

location with a meeting area (a Dierberg's Grocery Store at 1080 Lindemann Road, Des Peres, MO 63131) that will allow the members to meet every Saturday at 1:00 PM. Trudy describes the store as follows: it is a beautiful store with a lovely café loft, an escalator to indoor parking, and an elevator to the loft. All magicians are invited to attend these weekly meetings.

Jill "Silly Jilly" Schmidt shared the following: For the Ring 1 competition, I figured having a trick that fooled most magicians would help me win. That motivated me to do the arts and crafts and engineering to make a trick I learned in one of David Regal's Zoom lectures (this lecture was a Zoom lecture he performed for a South African magic club). This trick is also included in David Regal's 2019 book, *Interpreting Magic*. I really liked the trick but procrastinated on making it. I eventually finished it only two days before the competition. My friend, David Brenn, suggested I use this trick as a running-gag/call back. Therefore, I showed a cup empty and then I placed it on top of a piece of candy. During the routine, I continued to lift the cup and show the audience that the candy was still there. However, at the conclusion, when I lifted the cup, a toy spider appeared, and the candy was gone. I have performed this trick at gigs, and the kids are always surprised by the spider. When Steve Finkelstein announced my name as the 2nd place winner, he said it was due to the spider trick (I think, maybe, he was fooled and didn't know what happened to the candy). This is the first contest I have entered and I was thrilled to win 2nd place. I think the competition has made my show better because it motivated me to make two new tricks. The other one, "Mummy/Mommy Monte", I learned because I bought a membership to a Halloween Magic Facebook group by Christopher T. Magician.

Dan Todd shared the following: I continue to include magic effects with my chess classes. (Dan is one of the instructors for the St. Louis Chess Club.) Recently I found a really cool Holy Grail on Facebook Market Place. I am going to use it with my "Mother of All Diamonds" effect. I also bought an Indiegogo Center Cam which I use for Zoom, MS and Google Meetings. My eyes are no longer looking to the side. I found a trick I have been looking for, "Find the Monkey" (an exciting new version of the classic sleight-of-hand game). Also, I figured out how to use a special ink blotter to magically promote a Pawn to a Queen. Finally, I now can stab through a chess piece card (under glass) and the glass is untouched. It seems I am able to transform almost any magical effect into chess magic. (Since Dan is very creative and also very handy, he has always been able to make/invent really unique magic effects).



INDEGOGO  
Center Cam: Finally- a middle-screen webcam!



Michael W. McClure says, "I am pleased to report that the expanded Chester Fall Festival was a huge success, and in no small part due to the performances of two of our Ring 1 members – Jill Schmidt and Terry Richison. Jill thrilled young and old alike with her balloon creations, while Terry gave an outstanding performance ... yes, he was out(side) standing on our main stage. Everyone who was fortunate enough to attend was thoroughly mystified and entertained. Our City thanks you both for your help with this year's festivities!

"Our October 20th Board meeting was dedicated to the logistics and final preparations for the upcoming Ring 1 Close-Up Contest. The extra planning certainly paid off! The Nov. 3rd event



was well attended, and those not able to be there in person were delighted to be able to view the competition via a Zoom link. Everyone had a great time, and no one was arrested.

“To fully commemorate this year’s Halloween celebration, I attended (virtually) the annual Houdini séance with several members of his family. Unfortunately, the late Weiss wizard was, once again, too late to make an appearance. This only served as a warm-up for our family’s evening performances. We decorated our front room to resemble Harry Potter’s Hogwarts environs, and invited the town’s trick-or-treaters (and their families) to step into this fantasy environment. As three talking portraits led a “Haunting 101” class at the far end of the room, my son, youngest daughter, another friend, and I produced candy from thin air in a myriad of ways that gave our guests a peek at what it would be like to live in this famous wizard’s world. It is such a delight to watch the parents enjoy the magic as much as the children do ... but that is exactly why magicians strive to create a “moment in time” where everyone can once again experience the child-like wonder of our past).”

Ring 1 always welcomes visitors to its meetings and activities.





## I.B.M. Ring 1 Holiday Party is Dec 1st at 7pm

We are gearing up for this year's I.B.M. Ring 1 Holiday Party at our regular Dielmann Recreation Center location on December 1st at 7pm. This event includes food and the ever popular White Elephant gift exchange. Immediate family members are welcome to celebrate with us, too. We need to know if you are coming and how many will be in your party. This year, due to COVID, Ring 1 will be providing all of the food for the event, even though in the past, some of those side dishes were very delicious.

As soon as possible and before the event, please e-mail, text, or call Terry Richison ([terryrich@charter.net](mailto:terryrich@charter.net) or 314-791-9108) with answers to the following questions even if you are not able to come: (1) Will you be attending the event? (2) If yes, how many people (including you) will be in your party?

On December 1st, bring a wrapped magic trick for the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

### White Elephant Gift Exchange Rules

Traditionally, a "White Elephant" is something lying around the house that you don't want (some horribly ugly item that someone gave you as a gift). For our meeting, we are asking you to bring a magic item for our white elephant holiday get together.

Here are the rules:

1. There is no requirement to participate in the White Elephant. You can just come to the meeting and enjoy the evening. Each person wanting to participate in the gift exchange must bring a WRAPPED, COMPLETE MAGIC effect, INCLUDING INSTRUCTIONS, if needed. The effect does not have to be new, but it must be in presentable and working shape and no less than \$5 in value if new.
2. Participants will sit in a circle with the packages in a pile in the middle. Each person participating will draw a number out of a hat. The lowest number goes first and selects a present from the pile.
3. Once a present is selected from the pile of gifts, the trick is unwrapped for all to see.
4. The next person may choose from the wrapped pile of gifts or may "steal" someone else's gift that was already selected. If a gift is "taken", the person that lost the gift may choose to select a new gift from the unopened pile or may "steal" a present from another person (and not the person that "stole" the gift from them).
5. A single gift can only be "stolen" a total of 3 times.
6. This is continued until all of the presents are exhausted or everyone has a gift. As an added bonus, it is a known fact that there will be at least one gift that will be worth over \$50 and a couple of Ickle Pickle Gift Certificates! You might be the lucky one!

The meeting will be open to immediate family members. Anyone who brings a gift is able to participate in the White Elephant, even family members. We need a good count of the number of people who will be coming, so please e-mail, text, or call Terry Richison ([terryrich@charter.net](mailto:terryrich@charter.net) or 314-791-9108).

The background of the page is a photograph of a stage. The stage is lit with a mix of purple and blue lights. There are several spotlights at the top, casting beams of light downwards. Vertical light bars are positioned around the stage, creating a rhythmic pattern of light. The floor of the stage is covered with circular patterns of light, possibly from a floor monitor or a similar effect. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and professional.

## Close-up Contest Summary

by Steve Zuehlke

November was the Ring's annual Close-up Contest which had been postponed from last year due to COVID. Under the direction of last year's winner, Steve Finkelstein, we had a great turnout with almost forty people in attendance as well as a handful of Zoom watchers. This year, we had eight contestants in all. Four were in the intermediate/beginner category and four were in the advanced category. While space won't allow for a full review, here are some things of note: The intermediate/beginner category featured President Scott Smith, Vice President DJ Lenz, newcomer Raleigh Muns, and Jill Schmidt. It should be noted that this was Scott's, Raleigh's, and Jill's first contest. We are very proud of their debuts. The advanced category featured past President Terry Richison, past Vice President Steve Queen, Spirit Editor Gary S. Chan, and longtime member John Davit. All four are no strangers to performing which was evident by their performances. After the judges' votes were tabulated, Raleigh was the first place winner in the intermediate category with second place going to Jill Schmidt. In the advanced category, first place and the People's Choice Award went to Gary S. Chan with second place going to Steve Queen. Hats off to all who competed, our contest chair, all the judges, and our Zoom photographer. Magic is alive and well with Ring One. We can't wait to see what next year's contest brings!



## Pay Ring 1 Dues for Calendar Year 2022

Annual membership is \$15 and is a bargain, considering our lineup of performers, lecturers, and activities! If any of your contact information has changed, please let Alan Zibits know at [alan.a.zibits@boeing.com](mailto:alan.a.zibits@boeing.com).

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

To pay by mail: Write a check payable to “IBM, Ring 1” for \$15. Write “2022 Dues” on the memo line. Mail the check to Sandy Weis, 1755 Elkins Drive, St. Louis, MO 63136.

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St. Louis, MO 63136

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## Volunteer for Shriner's

Volunteer to perform either by streaming with Zoom and/or creating a short video of performing one or two simple effects. It also works if you want to teach one or two effects that kids can perform. Contact D. Jay at [djay1000@yahoo.com](mailto:djay1000@yahoo.com).

## Upcoming Events

I.B.M., Ring 1, and St. Louis Events (US Central time)

Date	Event	Type
Dec 1, 2021, 7pm	Monthly Ring 1 Meeting: White Elephant Exchange	In person
Dec 4, 2021, 1pm	Magic Roundtable (see next page)	In person
Dec 15, 2021, 7pm	Board meeting	Virtual
Apr 1-3, 2022	The Senior Tour (conference)	In person
	Spring Show? Contact Scott Smith (contact info on last page) if you would like to perform or help with the show	In person

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend all of the events, including board meetings.

### Magic Conventions

<https://www.themagicwordpodcast.com/magic-convention-guide>

Remember to contact Scott Smith if you are attending Magifest in Columbus in January, the S.A.M. National Convention in Las Vegas in January, and/or the I.B.M. National Convention in Atlanta in July.







## Magic Roundtable

Hi everyone!! I am really excited because I found a new location for the St. Louis Magic Roundtable to meet. It is the Dierbergs, 1080 Lindemann Road, Des Peres, MO 63131, just about three minutes east of the Schnucks where we previously met.

It is a beautiful store with a lovely cafe loft, an escalator to indoor parking, and an elevator to the loft. I think everyone will be really pleased with it.

Our next meeting is scheduled to be Saturday, December 4, and I suggest we meet there at our previous time of 1 o'clock and have a real magic holiday gathering. Pull out your holiday sweaters, bring your favorite holiday trick, and let's celebrate the season.

Because the first meeting in 2022 would be on Saturday, January 1, New Year's Day, I suggest we make our first meeting of 2022 on Saturday, January 8 at 1:00. Also, if everyone is in agreement, I would like to start off the new year returning to our former tradition of meeting every Saturday. Please let me know your thoughts on this.

Anyway, I am thrilled I found a new location for us. It is lovely. I am sure the food will be very good, and I think all of you will be pleased with it!

Until then, please let me know your thoughts, and ... Happy Holidays.

Trudy Monti / Monteith  
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**APRIL 1 - 3, 2022**

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## I.B.M. Ring 1 Contact Info

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