



July

94 Years Of Magic!

International Brotherhood of Magicians

"Spirit of St. Louis"

RING ONE

HAPPY
4th OF JULY

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

July 2020 Edition

No July Meeting

August 5, 2020

7pm Ice Cream Social

Dielmann Recreation Center

11400 Olde Cabin Road

Creve Coeur, MO 63141

pageborders.org

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

It looks like we are not much further along than we were last month. Unfortunately, the Dielmann Recreation Center announced that they will be closed until August, at least, so there will be no July meeting. We are tentatively scheduling our ice cream social for August 5th. The I.B.M. Ring 1 Close-Up contest will be moved to September 2nd. More details to come on how we are going to handle the contest. The President's Banquet will be in October. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for performers at the banquet.

I want to take this chance to introduce the 2020-2021 I.B.M. Ring 1 Officers and Board members:

- Terry Richison – President
- Steve Queen – Vice President
- Alan Zibits – Secretary/Sgt at Arms
- Sandy Weis – Treasurer
- Steve Finkelstein – Board Member
- Ted Schnarre – Board Member
- Steve Buesking – Board Member
- Johnny Harper – Board Member

This begins my second year as president. Our I.B.M. Ring 1 Constitution limits the term of the president to no more than two consecutive years, so start thinking if you would like to be the next leader for Ring 1. You don't have to wait until next year to get involved. Step up now and get involved. Attend the board meetings and share your ideas. Everyone is welcome to attend the board meetings.

At the June meeting, we had 18 members join the online meeting and lecture by Justin Miller & Adam Weber. They shared some strong effects. Thanks to Justin and Adam for a great lecture!

Things going on in July:

- Although there is no I.B.M. International Convention or Ring 1 meeting in July, there is still plenty of magic. First of all, the I.B.M. is having its International Annual Business Meeting on July 18th. It will be held online. In fact, if you are receiving your Order of Merlin award, you definitely want to join in the meeting. If you attend the Annual Business Meeting, you will officially be inducted into the elite Order of Merlin with many of the greats, past and present. So mark your calendar!

Agenda:

Noon CDT – Current President’s Last Board meeting. All members welcome.
1pm CDT – Annual Board Meeting including the Order of Merlin Induction.
2pm CDT – New President’s (Steve Bargatze) First Board meeting. All members welcome.

Note:

1. If you are receiving an Order of Merlin award, you will be receiving an email from the I.B.M. Headquarters with the meeting and RSVP instructions. RSVP by July 10th.
 2. If you are not receiving an Order of Merlin award and would like to attend, RSVP by e-mailing Simone Marron (simone@marrons.us) by July 10th.
- If you are 13-19 years old, you can attend the Lance Burton Teen Seminar for FREE. This seminar will take place July 7th - 8th, 9am - 4pm PDT. This two-day event will give I.B.M. teens the opportunity to learn from the very best, Lance Burton, Jeff McBride, Larry Hass, and surprise guests. Go to <https://www.magician.org/blog/free-online-lance-burton-teen-seminar?blogid=536> for more information on how to register.
 - Every Tuesday at 8pm CDT: The I.B.M. JAM (Just About Magic) is a weekly lecture featuring the hottest talent. FREE to all I.B.M. members. <https://www.facebook.com/IBMMAGIC>
 - Every Wednesday at 6pm CDT: “Who Booked That?” with Harrison Greenbaum. Candid interviews with the rich, the famous, the hilarious in today’s magic world! <https://www.facebook.com/IBMMAGIC>

I hope everyone has a great 4th of July! Enjoy celebrating the birth of our great nation! If you enjoy fireworks, St. Charles is still having their annual fireworks display. July 4th, 9:20 PM CDT at Frontier Park, 500 S. Riverside Dr., Saint Charles, MO 63301.

Remember to keep your magic alive, and I hope to see you in August!



Terry Richison
I.B.M. Ring 1 President

Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis

Dan Todd was featured in “Scouts Demonstrate Chess Knowledge: An Online Journey”, posted by St. Louis Public Radio/NPR and dated May 28, 2020 (news.stlpublicradio.org). The article shares that, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the St. Louis Chess Club started offering Online Chess Merit Badge Workshops on April 25. More than 120 scouts from 22 states signed up to earn their chess merit badge online. Dan, one of the instructors, is quoted in the article regarding the positive feedback he has received from parents and scouts. Trudy Monteith congratulated him and also asked if he has seen Ricky Jay perform “The Knight’s Tour.” This gave him an idea to create a version that allows him to use any starting point instead of the corners. He also is able to do this blind-folded. Check out the article online for further information about the online chess classes. Congratulations Dan! <https://saintlouischessclub.org/scoutsbsa>

Jill "Silly Jilly the Clown" Schmidt recently purchased an 8' x 8' backdrop that weighs just 12 pounds, including the case. Jill's excited she found a backdrop that she'll be able to carry along with her magic and large balloon pump into a party with just one trip from her car. The backdrop unfolds like an umbrella, is called a ShowFlex, and is available from DRC Printing. She is looking forward to being able to use it in future shows/parties.

Steve Zuehlke shared that he is still working from home but will be returning to the office shortly. He has been reading a lot, especially articles and books featuring St. Louis magic history and the men and women who helped shape the Ring and Assembly. He commented that he doesn't think the younger members of the clubs realize how fortunate St. Louis is to have so many great names that called and still call St. Louis their home. He read an interesting piece from a Gene DeVoe newsletter advertising that if one was a member of either of these magic groups, they could call ahead and he would have the order ready or he would mail it to them. Gene advertised that this was a value-added service for belonging to the clubs. This was from the late 1950s. The man was ahead of his time!

Laurence “Chuck” Levy has been working at home the past couple of months developing magic which will be both magical and funny from six feet away. Also, it will not require him to touch any of his guests or for them to touch any of his props. Recently, St. Charles, MO allowed some of their restaurants to begin inside service. He is now presenting “Magical Fun Tableside Magic and Comedy” at Mellow Mushroom in Cottleville every Tuesday evening.

Chad Jacobs (“Chef Bananas”) has been busy performing shows via Zoom. I watched one which was offered through the University City, MO, library. He incorporated magic with children’s books. It was very well-planned and organized.

The magic effects aligned with the books he shared with the audience. He was also featured on Show Me St. Louis, Home Edition, on KSDK, Channel 5, on May 27th. Chad is one of the most popular children's entertainers in the area. Congratulations, Chad!

The Ring hosted a live, online lecture in place of their regular meeting on June 3rd. The lecture was presented by Justin Miller and Adam Wilber. The members enjoyed this two-hour presentation. After the lecture, there was a question and answer session. They also offered two different magic packages which were discounted for those who attended.

The annual Close-up Competition is now scheduled for September, contingent on the Dielmann Recreation Center reopening. It probably will be one of the best competitions since the contestants have had extra time to practice their routines. Ring members are anxious to return to the regularly scheduled meetings and activities.

A Simple Top Change Trick

by Steve Zuehlke

Here is a quickie card trick that takes less than a few minutes to perform. A deck is freely shuffled and returned to you (the magician). Upon receiving the deck, spread the cards with the faces towards you and tell the audience you are looking for a prediction card. When the deck is spread towards you, the bottom card is the same as the top card when the cards are face down. Suppose this card is the seven of spades. Pull out its mate, the seven of clubs. Place the seven of clubs face down on the table and don't tell anyone what that card is.

Spread the cards face down for a free selection by the spectator, but do not let him or anyone else see the card. Take the card back from the spectator and comment, "Wouldn't it be amazing if your selected card matched the prediction card? Of course, that would be impossible since there is only one of each card in the deck. Cards do come with mates, though. Mates have the same value and color as each other, but the suit might differ." Ask the spectator to turn over the prediction card as you execute a top change (exchanging the selected card for the top card of the deck. Don't get scared here. All of the attention will be on the spectator.) When the spectator turns over the seven of clubs, you can comment, "Of course, I can't have another seven of clubs in my hand, but I can have the next best thing," as you turn over the seven of spades.

Quick and easy, magical and a good excuse to learn this classic move, THE TOP CHANGE.

ShareMagic: Live 2020

by Vanishing Inc.

In these unsettling times, we feel the world needs magic more than ever. Therefore, we at Vanishing Inc. decided to do something special and organize the world's largest magic event. Over 30,000 magicians tuned in to view the event live ... and now it's your turn to watch it!

Hosted by Vanishing Inc. cofounders Andi Gladwin and Joshua Jay, with appearances by David Blaine, Dynamo, Justin Willman, Jeff McBride, Dani DaOrtiz, Danny Garcia and many more, it's no wonder that attendees were calling this the most fun magic convention ever! And now you can download the entire five-hour event totally free, courtesy of Vanishing Inc. Magic.

<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/card-magic-downloads/sharemagic-live-2020/>

Running time: 5 hours 30 minutes

Conditioning & Cleaning Playing Cards

“I am forever amazed at how little attention most magicians pay to the way in which they prepare their cards for use. Pianists are very particular about the tuning and regulation of their instrument; violinists carefully tune the violin and resin the bow; drummers tune and tighten the drum heads, nail their bass drums to the floor, adjust pedal tension and make sure that the kit doesn't ring. Magicians, regardless of conditions, whip out a deck and expect it to perform. They complain bitterly when the deck ‘acts funny.’” -- Dr. Wesley James (*Enchantments* 2004, pg.474)

Learn how to condition and clean playing cards:

<https://www.leeasher.com/condition-cleaning-guide-605s-asher.pdf>

Although the instructions are based on a specific deck of cards, the same methods can be applied to other cards.

Magic in the New Normal – A Few Thoughts

By Phil Tilston

Once the lockdown conditions are eased, there will be changes in our performing environments that will last for some time. In particular, social distancing requirements will probably continue. Even after they are relaxed, many spectators will be nervous about standing close to other people and handling performers' props. That means that, as performers, we will need to perform “No Touch” magic (a term borrowed from Jeff McBride) where the spectators remain a

distance from the magician and do not handle props.

Below are a few thoughts on performing in this environment. Although I include a few thoughts on Internet and Zoom magic, I am something of a luddite when it comes to social media. Therefore, there are better sources of ideas and information on that than me.

Where are performances likely to be?

Initially, the bulk of performances are likely to be over the Internet. However, as people are allowed out and permitted to be in small groups, then I see the following types of venues being suitable for “live” performing:

- Spectators’ gardens or driveways with friends
- Public parks
- Beer gardens of pubs
- Street busking – It may be necessary to mark the areas where spectators can stand. Social distancing will mean that audiences are very small, so short repeat shows may become the norm rather than 30 minute shows.

What kind of magic is suitable?

The type of magic that can be performed must be “No Touch”. It will also depend on whether a table (i.e. a busking table) can be used, but social distancing may prevent items like cards being easily seen if they are laid flat on the table. Much may depend on the regulations on distancing at the time and the willingness of spectators to stand close together.

Therefore, I can see an increase the amount of parlor and stage magic being performed. Although these are normally played to larger audiences, it means that the effects are visible when spectators are not standing close.

Here is a selection of tricks that do not involve touching:

Close-up on a table:

- Ace Assemblies
- Gambling Routines
- Out of the World
- Ace Productions
- Wild Card
- Presto Printo (Daryl)
- Sam the Bellhop (Bill Malone)
- Matrix
- Cups & Balls

- Chop Cup

Close-up not on a table and parlor:

- 3 Fly
- Spellbound
- Some coin productions & vanishes
- Professor's Nightmare
- Color Changing Silks
- Silk productions & vanishes
- 6 Card Repeat
- Invisible Deck
- Chase the Ace (with jumbo cards)
- Rising card (Rob Bromley)
- Cut & Restored Rope
- Rope through Neck
- Acrobatic knot (Daryl)
- Linking Rings
- Miser's Dream
- Torn & Restored Newspaper
- Ring and Rope routine

Categories of magic that would play well in these venues:

- Rope Magic
- Some card magic
- Silk magic
- Some mentalism
- Billiard balls

Sources of Parlor Material

DVDs and Downloads from:

- Thom Peterson
- John Archer
- Andrew Normansell – Comedy Stand up (100% Commercial DVD)
- Tarbell Courses from Penguin Magic
- Paul Romhany
- Worlds Greatest Magic

Books from:

- The Magic of Paul Potassy
- David Regal
- Tarbell Course
- Stand Up Card Magic by Roberto Giobbi
- Magic Page by Page by Pat Page

- Older books (such as books by Al Baker, Karrell Fox) that include more parlor and stage magic than many of today's books which seem to focus more on close up magic.

Note: I do not perform a lot of mentalist work, so that is largely missing from the lists above. However, I am sure there is a lot of material that would work well but you may need to talk to the dealers to ensure the effects can be "No Touch".

Handling issues for close up tricks

As I mentioned above, when I perform close up magic, I like the magic to happen in the spectator's hands, have them sign playing cards, etc. The new normal means that some things change. Some effects, such as sponge balls that use the spectator's hands, are out – although it may be re-routined so that all the handling is done by the performer. The visual impact may be the same, but the emotional impact of the magic happening in their hands is lost.

I have put down some thoughts below on a couple of standard effects where the handling may need to be altered.

Signed card to wallet:

Having the spectator take a card, sign it, and return it to the deck will not happen. It involves the spectator touching the props and ignoring social distancing guidelines. I believe the way around this is as follows: If it is a full deck and does not require a force, then just have the spectator name the card they want and use that. However, to make it unique in a way that you could not have anticipated, then write their name on it and ask them for two (or as many as they want) words or symbols for you to write on the card. This should suffice for proving that there are no duplicates of this card, and then you can perform the card to wallet effect. You cannot give them the card at the time but could take a photo of it and email the picture or snail mail the actual card to them. This would provide a memento and the follow-up may also provide an additional marketing opportunity for you.

Coins Across where the coins appear in the spectator's hand:

I regularly perform a coins across routine where the final coin disappears and then appears in the spectators closed fist to join the other coins. I could perform the same effect, but the final coin would disappear and joins the other coins in a card box (for example). The handling would only be marginally changed – however, the presentation for possibly the entire routine would need to be significantly changed. I can envisage a presentation where the card box is a bank (or a safe), and the coins jump from my hand to the bank. There would need to be a reason why they travelled to the card box.

A danger exists, however, in that because we cannot give props out to be inspected, such as the ropes for a professor's nightmare routine, then we may over-prove that everything is fair, which can adversely impact the flow of the routine.

What does it mean for the use of gimmicks?

When I work, I tend not to use many gimmicks. There are some wonderful card effects that are too gimmicked for me to feel comfortable using. To be fair, that is probably more a comment on me as a performer than it is on the effects themselves. Ordinarily, I worry about spectators being "grabby" when a heavily gimmicked deck is in play. However, in a "No Touch" environment, that concern completely disappears. Therefore, some of those heavily gimmicked effects that have been languishing in a drawer may once again see the light of day!

What can we learn from Buskers/street performers for open area/driveway performances?

I am sure that we can all learn some useful things about performing in these new environments from street entertainers and buskers. Some things will not transfer. For example, building a crowd and then moving them in close together is not feasible. However, there are some key points that are critical for busking that will be useful to remember. In no particular order:

- Be heard. Unless you are performing a silent act, you will probably need to project your voice more than you would in a normal close up environment.
- The magic should be visible and easy to follow. Long involved plots are probably not going to hold the audiences' attention.
- Play to the whole crowd. It may not necessarily be a big crowd, but due to the distancing regulations, it may be spread out.
- Ensure to regularly make eye contact with all the audience.
- The magic should be easy to follow. In the types of performances envisaged, the audience may be all adults or may be a mixed family audience, comprised of adults and young children.
- Try and ensure that there is verbal interaction with the crowd, even though it is somewhat dispersed. Try to involve them all.
- Wind is your enemy. It blows cards and other items off any table you have. It makes silks uncontrollable and can carry your voice away from the spectators. Ensure that you have a wind-proof act (or that you can swap in effects and take out wind-impacted ones, if necessary).

This article is a re-print (with permission) with editing.

Upcoming Events

2020 Magic Conventions

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

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| July | No Ring 1 Meeting See “President’s Message” for list of other magic activities. |
| Aug 5, 7:00pm | Ice Cream Social No Magic 101 |
| Sep 2, 7:00pm | IBM Ring 1 Close-up Contest. Open to the Public, so let your friends know. No Magic 101 |
| Oct | President’s Banquet |

Ring 1 Volunteer Activities

Volunteer your time so that we can grow and improve our Ring for everyone. Moving forwards, we’ll publish a consolidated list of volunteer activities for our membership in the monthly SPIRIT. Opportunities from most to least recent:

| # | Task | Contact |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Volunteer to do close-up at a table or walk-around magic at Francis Howell Central’s cafeteria on Saturday, November 21st, 8-11am. There will be 500 people for a fundraiser for a girl’s basketball event. | Steve Finkelstein See last page for contact info. |
| 2 | Bring new magicians or send in ideas. We need to grow our membership, especially youth magic. | Terry Richison & Steve Queen See last page for contact info. |
| 3 | Project Magic (Shriners Hospital for Children). See next page for details. | Darryl “D. Jay” djay1000@yahoo.com |
| 4 | Attend the monthly Ring 1 board meeting. See next page for dates and times. | Terry Richison & Steve Queen See last page for contact info. |
| 5 | Write an article for the SPIRIT on any topic related to magic. Your fellow magicians will enjoy reading it! | Gary Chan See last page for contact info. |

Volunteer for Project Magic

Volunteer to place a smile on a child's face at the Shriners Hospital for Children on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm and finish by 7:15pm. We are looking for two magicians for each month.

| Date | Magician 1 | Magician 2 |
|--------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jul 21 | Jason Stack | Bring a smile to a child! Volunteer! |
| Aug 18 | Volunteer! | Bring a smile to a child! Volunteer! |
| Sep 15 | Volunteer! | Bring a smile to a child! Volunteer! |
| Oct 20 | Volunteer! | Bring a smile to a child! Volunteer! |

Shriners Hospital for Children cancelled the sessions Apr - June and will confirm July closer to the date. Volunteer for July onwards!

Contact Darryl "D. Jay" at djay1000@yahoo.com to sign-up!

Directions to Shriners Hospital for Children ,4400 Clayton Avenue St. Louis, MO 63110: If coming from downtown or IL, take 64 and exit north on Boyle St. and turn left onto Clayton St. If coming from West County, head east on 64 and go North on Boyle and then left on Clayton St.

To check-in, go to the front desk and show a photo ID. The room we will be going to is on the 3rd floor. Take a left after getting off the elevator, and go towards the area where there is a sitting area with a large flat screen TV. It will be a small room (smaller than our Dielmann Recreation Complex meeting room).

Board Meeting Dates: Jul 15, Aug 19, Sep 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, and Dec 16

7:00pm IBM

Experience on Demand, 16020 Swingley Ridge Rd, Chesterfield, MO 63017. Register with Terry Richison so that you get any last-minute location change notifications. His contact info is on the last page.

Contribute and help shape the future of our organization. All members are welcome!

September 2, 2020 @ 7:00PM

**Open to the Public
Admission is FREE!**

*Dielmann Recreation Center
11400 Olde Cabin Road
Creve Coeur, MO 63141*

**The Annual
International Brotherhood of Magicians
Close Up Magic Competition**

Sign up for the I.B.M. Ring 1 Close Up Contest!

Contact Steve Finkelstein to sign up!
sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net or call 314-409-6869

Beginner/Intermediate and Advanced Groups

Now is your chance to show off your Close-Up talents. If you are an I.B.M. Ring 1 member in good standing, you could be the next I.B.M. Ring 1 Close Up contest winner! There are two categories in the competition: the Beginner/Intermediate category and the Advanced category. If you have never participated in the contest, now is your chance to shine! You'll never know if you can win if you don't participate. Each member must register with last year's Champion, Steve Finkelstein, prior to Aug 20, 2020. Sign up early so you don't miss the deadline.

Here is what you can tell your friends and neighbors: The International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 1, will be hosting its Annual Magic Close Up Contest on Sep 2, 2020, at the Dielmann Recreation Center, 11400 Olde Cabin Road Creve Coeur, MO 63141. The Contest will start at 7:00 PM sharp and is open to the public. Magicians from all over the Metro area will be competing for one of the highest awards given by the International Brotherhood of Magicians. It will be an evening of fun, laughter, and Magic! Best of all, it is FREE to the public!

Steve Finkelstein
314-409-6869
sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net

See the April 2020 Spirit edition for the competition rules.

International Brotherhood of Magicians St. Louis Ring 1

| Role | Name | E-mail | Phone |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| President | Terry Richison | terryrich@charter.net | (314) 791-9108 |
| Vice President & Sgt at Arms | Steve Queen | stevequeen85@gmail.com | (314) 651-9162 |
| Secretary | Al Zibits | Alan.a.zibits@boeing.com | (636) 273-9974 |
| Treasurer | Sandy Weis | sweis50@yahoo.com | (314) 378-4403 |
| Board Member | Steve Finkelstein | sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net | (314) 409-6869 |
| Board Member | Marty Kopp | martin.kopp@gmail.com | (636) 359-0201 |
| Board Member | Steve Buesking | svbuesking@gmail.com | (314) 732-5678 |
| Past President | Johnny Harper | johnnyharpermagic@gmail.com | (505) 977-8768 |
| Spirit Newsletter | Gary Chan | ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com | (857) 342-2349 |

Submission Deadline for Next Spirit:
July 17, 2020
E-mail your article to Gary Chan at
ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com

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