

August

International Brotherhood of Magicians



RING #1

Spirit of St. Louis

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

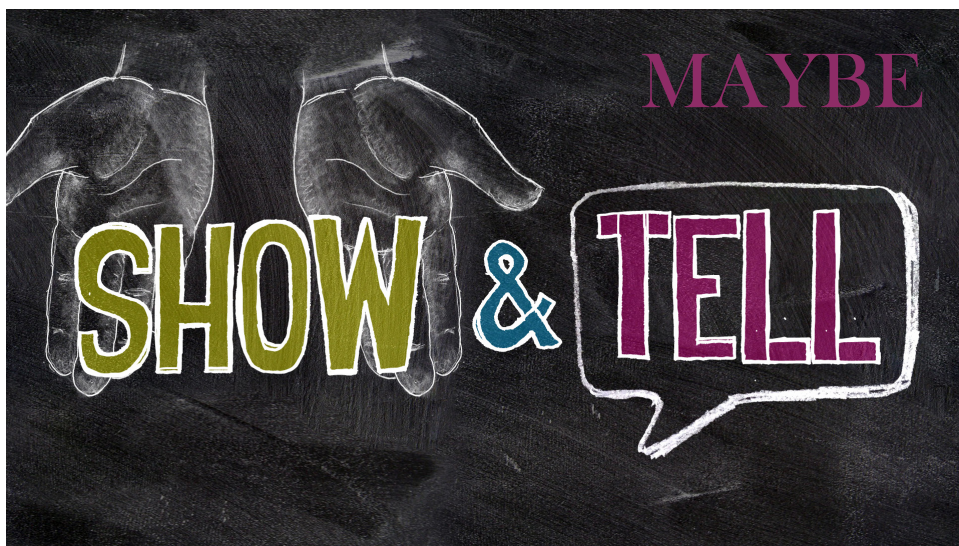
August 2021 Edition

Show & [Maybe] Tell

August 4, 2021

7pm Central

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89221747165?pwd=azR0M20xK3JWV013bmh5eDBkcVZ5UT09>



President's Message

by Scott Smith

Hello IBM Ring 1 and Friends,

Our next meeting will be virtual on August 4th 7:00 PM. I have been told that it is tradition for our officers of the club to do a magic trick to get things started. Everyone else is welcome to show off a trick or two, too. Feel free to bring a trick to show. You can optionally tell (explain how the trick is done).

We had a blast hanging at my house for the IBM International Online Convention. The Convention was as great as it possibly could be online. It does not beat in-person conventions, but it was the next best thing. Our now past international president Stephen Bargatze was on a roll. He has such a great sense of humor. Even our very own Terry Richison could not escape the humor of Bargatze. Even though it was a jab, it's cool that Terry is so well known by our president. What did he say? You should have been there. Ok, I will tell you. Do not get mad at me, Terry, it is all in fun. Stephen Bargatze came out wearing a hairpiece and Ken Scott (our new president) said his daughter is in Cosmetology school and was not very good yet. The Hairpiece was all messed up and shaggy and Stephen said, "I look like Terry Richison". We all looked at each other and asked if he really said that. I was proud that our International President knows the St. Louis Ambassador of our club so well that he could give Terry a jab. It was all in fun.

I hope that all can make it to the meeting because I want to hear from all of you. This is our club, and we all have a voice. I want to hear what you would like to see us do this next year and what to accomplish. I will go over my goals for the club and some of the things we have planned. I plan on broadcasting our live meetings (when we begin meeting in person) on Zoom. It should only allow those that cannot make it in-person, including members that have moved away. During one of the breaks in the IBM Convention, I had the opportunity to talk to our new President Ken Scott, and a few others. Ken Scott and Oscar Munoz said they are exciting about the idea of putting our meetings on Zoom and have offered to help in anyway. There was a gentleman from Hannibal, MO, that was complaining that the St. Louis, and Springfield, IL, clubs were the closest to him, and they are 100 miles away. I suggested that he join our club for the low, low price of \$15 a year. This is a great idea to go after magicians that are in these pockets without a local ring. What a great way to expand our club. If you are a past member that is not currently a Ring 1 member, please contact me. I would love to talk to you. I will be going through our list and trying to contact all of you, but there is a chance that I might not have your name on the list or current contact info. I do not want to miss anyone. Whatever the reason, we want you involved again. I know I do!

I would like to have a Spring Show, but I need to hear from everyone first. There is no reason to put together a show if we do not have enough entertainers. A handful of guys can't pull it off by themselves. I know I can find a new venue that would be so much fun and bring



in new audiences. I will look for a place where we will not need to build a stage or do all the work that we have had to do in the past. Steven Busking has been saying this for a while now. Work hard, just not harder. Why are we not renting a location for our show, so we don't have to put together a stage? I have also thought that we could investigate creating a monthly show at a library, nursing home, schools, after school programs, school fundraisers, and orientation week at k-12 and Colleges. This is just the tip of the iceberg. This is how we can be assured that our club continues long after we are gone. Not to mention that as we get older, it would be nice to have younger members take the ring and allow us to sit back and enjoy the labors of our younger group. Just remember, as we get older it will be harder and harder for us to do a lot of the things we do today. The best place in the world to start is our own backyard. Try and get your relatives involved, then try to get your friends and neighbors involved. Let us know if you have prospective new members coming to a meeting so we can put something together specifically for them to try to get them excited about joining our club.

Our September meeting will be exciting for all. Steve Zuehlke is working on one of the most amazing meetings ever. He has lined up John Apperson and Harry Monti along with their lovely wives that have put up with these two men doing magic all these years. I don't know about you, but my wife struggles with my magic, I have gone kind of nuts with it the last few years. I blame it on Steve Zuehlke. These two giants in magic have been performing longer than most of us have been alive. These two will be talking to us about how they started Rings-N-Things and what it was like to have one of the most revered companies in magic. I could listen to them talk for days. There are rumors that there will be a few surprise guests you will not want to miss. I am guessing most if not all, already know these two giants in magic, but I am sure there will be new information for most of us. We should be proud of our successful magicians in our club. I hope that everyone comes out to help celebrate these two amazing men and the two amazing wives that supported and performed with them all these years.

We are putting together a Ring 1 Close-up contest for November. Please let us know if you are interested in performing or volunteering. It will be both in-person and on Zoom. Here is to an amazing magic and fun year!

Cheers!
Scott Smith
President
I.B.M. Ring 1

June Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis et al.


Ring 1 members are excited! The Ring's meeting place has re-opened, so Ring 1 will be able to meet in person soon. The "Zoom" members miss seeing the members who do not "Zoom." Steve Finkelstein is looking forward to rescheduling the close-up contest. Also, the newly elected president, Scott Smith, is looking forward to planning an installation banquet.

Steve Zuehlke and Steve Buesking have rescheduled *The Senior Tour* presented by *The Summit* for April 1-3, 2022. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 Senior Tour was cancelled. The following magicians have already been booked: Chris Korn, James Molinari, Alan Ackerman, Mike Powers and Howard Hamburg. The honorees will be Ring 1's long time members Harry and Trudy Monti. Both Steve Z. and Steve B. assure us this will be an event that you don't want to miss, with more talent to be announced soon.

Steve Zuehlke shared the following: Our June 2nd meeting featured our own Steve Finkelstein presenting his *Bar Bets, Cons, Swindles, and Scams* Lecture. Due to COVID, we once again met via Zoom with a total of twenty-six people in attendance. Steve is one of our more experienced and well-read members and had something to share with everyone. Steve even had notes prepared, complete with instructions, examples, credits, photos, and links to many of the effects. Steve presented over sixty different effects, ranging from a little corny to a few groaners to some real puzzlers. By day, Steve is a business consultant and presents several of these effects during his team building exercises with his clients. A very, very clever, entertaining way to get people to think outside the box. Steve took some of the simplest, oldest brain teasers and put a unique spin on them. I personally loved this approach. If your group or company is looking for something unique and different, I can't recommend this lecture enough.

Sandy Weis suggested this lecture featuring Steve Finkelstein. Steve has lectured for the Ring previously and she is always amazed with his knowledge of magic. He keeps up-to-date regarding the "latest" magic effects. Steve reads magic books extensively and is always searching the web for anything to do with magic. He is familiar with all (or most) of the names in magic. He has a huge collection of magic effects and books. When he is asked to lecture, he spends a considerable amount of time preparing for the lecture. He even prepares handouts for the members. Steve commented, "Thanks again for volunteering me. I had a great time preparing and presenting." Sandy suggested he keep his materials so he can present the lecture in person at a future in-person meeting. There are several members who do not participate in Zoom meetings who would really enjoy his presentation. Sandy would enjoy listening to his presentation again because she is sure he would add to and revise the original lecture to make it even better.

Chad Jacobs (Chef Bananas) shared that things are starting to get a little closer to normal for many kids' performers. Summer camps and other family events appear to be moving forward this summer and fall. Chad is beginning to get bookings for his magic shows. Check out his really cool website at <https://www.chefbananas.com>. Chad is also offering "foam" parties. Check out this website: <https://www.foamgonebananas.com>. Sandy Weis thinks the foam parties are really



innovative. She can't wait to participate in one -- that is, if someone will invite her.

Chad has been asked to perform and lecture at KIDabra 2021. It will be the 30th anniversary for the conference. It takes place August 18-21 in Atlanta. There is not a lot of information on the website yet as to what Chad will be doing. Final decisions are still being made. Last year, KIDabra did a full virtual conference. This year's offers two options, in-person and online. For further information, visit the website www.kidabra.org.

Steve Buesking is regularly informing the members of magic lectures, conventions, gatherings, etc. The Ring members really appreciate these emails. Gary Chan is also publicizing these events in the Ring's monthly newsletter, *The SPIRIT*.

Jill "Silly Jilly" Schmidt has begun performing at in-person events. She posted one on Facebook that Sandy Weis thought was very clever. She has really perfected her magic skills and also her computer skills.

Sandy Weis signed up for the Toronto Magic Company's virtual convention that took place May 29th and 30th. Due to a family emergency, she was not able to participate in most of the convention. However, she did have fun moving her emoji around the website. Sandy's emoji moved around the site just as she would physically move around a magic convention venue. Her emoji even took a seat and chatted with other emojis. Sandy is amazed that technology has come so far. She remembers when computers were first introduced in her work environment (which was years ago). This convention allows her to view all the lectures she missed for an unlimited time. She signed up for the next two conventions that Ben Train and Jonah Babins are sponsoring. She really likes that she is able to view the material at her own discretion. Check out their website and Facebook page for additional information regarding their UnConventional Conventions.

Mike McClure is busy updating the Ring's website. There are new items featured whenever the members visit the site. Mike is really knowledgeable regarding websites (and magic also), and he spends a considerable amount of time doing this. The Ring really appreciates his commitment on making the website a place where magicians want to visit. Check it out! <http://ibmring1.com>

Michael McClure reported that, "Our Facebook and Website presence continues to grow, receiving thousands of views/engagements every month. We have received numerous compliments from our talented lecturers regarding the large numbers we have attending the Zoom/Facebook Live presentations. Other IBM Ring members who visit our virtual meetings are amazed at the incredible participation we seem to draw. We are extremely happy to provide some entertainment and edification for the many brothers and sisters that have been isolated due to the pandemic's restrictions. We are ever hopeful that the corner is being turned and in-person meetings will soon follow. As we return to some normalcy, we will make every effort to include our remote viewers with Zoom/Facebook options. This is a grand fellowship we are privileged to enjoy, and it is our duty to reach those that cannot physically be with us, while also engaging and mentoring those that are just beginning their magical journey. An incredible debt of gratitude is due to our outgoing President, Terry Richison, for shepherding us through the uncharted territory that defines the year 2020! With his guidance and encouragement, we were able to seamlessly transition to a virtual

format and keep our club active and connected. The club's Board and members were of great support, including leading lectures (Zuehlke and Finkelstein) and helping enlist quality talent for exceptional meetings. Reading through the Ring reports that Sandy has faithfully provided for the last 15 months, you can see our contributions to the art never paled, and our Lecture series reads like a Who's-Who of the magic elite ... Kalver, McBride, Harlan, Dean, Tait, Jonathan, Petty, and Krenz to name a few. We thank everyone for their indispensable help in keeping the magic alive in St. Louis, and especially for IBM Ring 1!



Gary S. Chan publishes Ring 1's newsletter monthly. *The SPIRIT* can be accessed through the Ring's website, <http://ibmring1.com/spirit-newsletter-archive>. Past issues can also be viewed. Gary does an excellent job informing the members of current events. He also researches and adds interesting magic history, effects, etc. to *The Spirit*. Please check out this informative newsletter on the Ring's website.

July Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis et al.

Ring 1 members are excited! The Dielmann Recreation Center is open! Our first in-person meeting will likely be later this year. We are all looking forward to socializing with members who "Zoomed" and also those who did not "Zoom" during the pandemic. Usually, the Ring plans an ice cream social for the August meeting. However, it was decided to postpone this event and not serve ice cream at the first meeting. Sandy Weis always looks forward to Ted Drewes frozen custard each year; however, she will either have to visit their location personally or wait until it is served at a future Ring 1 meeting. She has decided she will wait since Ted Drewes' two locations are on the other side of town from where she lives.

Michael McClure shared, "This past month has been wonderfully filled with unique magical opportunities. I was elected to our Ring's Board of Directors and have been working on an updated logo/header for our Ring 1. Pending Board approval, it will be showcased very soon. Locally, I have been assisting in the coordination of a new Popeye's Fall Festival for our community and was able to secure bookings for two of our Ring members, Jill Schmidt and Terry Richison, to perform there in October. David Jonathan invited me to participate in his latest effect launch, so I now have a cameo on his video trailer for "TOCAAN ... The Only Card At Any Number" ... a real stunner! It was certainly an incredible opportunity to be able to join over 800 registrants for the 2021 I.B.M. Convention, the first and possibly only virtual International Convention we will ever have. The format provided "front seat" access to every lecture, performance, and discussion group scheduled, plus a variety of Breakout Rooms that allowed members to talk freely about everything imaginable. So much gold could be mined from these conversations, as masters, intermediates, novices and collectors shared their opinions, tips, and experiences. An additional bonus was the lack of having to wait in any lines ... bathrooms, drinks, and food remained readily accessible throughout the convocation! I took additional advantage and attended all "4" days of the event. The Wednesday pre-convention link provided the opportunity for registered members to test-drive their Zoom connections. The night stretched to nearly two and a half hours. Hosts Ryan Pilling and Shawn Farquhar provided patient guidance and information to help make it a more enjoyable




attendance for everyone. Shawn performed several effects, and others posted links and shared interesting tidbits. The following three days did not disappoint!

On Thursday's opening performance, Justin Willman (a fellow I.B.M. Ring 1 member) gave a virtually perfect performance ... and chose ME to help with one of his effects! I was thrilled to be a part of his show, even though my daughters had to convince me to wear a colander on my head as a prerequisite! Would you believe it kept me from "straining" my eyes? I also designed and co-sponsored the full page, inside front cover announcement in the Convention Souvenir Program. It offered our Ring's congratulations to the I.B.M. for entering their 100th year, as well as extended our sincere thanks to outgoing Ring 1 President, Terry Richison, and his retiring Board members for their leadership during the uncharted course resulting from pandemic pandemonium. My heartfelt thanks to Ring 1 members, again and again, for all that YOU have done for our magic community.

In case anyone is wondering about the Popeye Fall Festival, Michael lives in Chester, Illinois, which is considered the home of Popeye. Chester is the hometown of E. C. Segar, the creator of Popeye the Sailor Man. Throughout the community of Chester, one can see murals, picture cutouts, and more to commemorate everyone's favorite sailor. The community of Chester celebrates Popeye every day of the year! However, the city has an annual festival which will be held October 15th-17th, which consists of extra special activities.

Dan (the Great) Todd shared the following: "I have been teaching and playing chess in various parks in the St. Louis area on Saturdays. I am at the Steinberg Skating area in Forest Park from 10am to Noon. Then I travel to Strauss Park, located in Downtown St. Louis, and am there from 12:30-2:30pm. I now have over 50 chess-themed magic effects, and I have been entertaining kids with some of these effects on those Saturdays and also online. One very nice effect I perform consists of utilizing Wiz Spencer's "Chinese Secret." I use chess playing cards instead of regular cards, and it is a big hit. I also want to give a shout-out to one of Ring 1's longtime members, Robert Campbell. I use his dart version of "ESP Roulette" by Ton Onosaka, but I made a version with chess pieces which replace the ESP symbols on the reverse side of the dart board. I made two of these with different force chess pieces so I can repeat it for newcomers. Those that saw me perform it earlier all giggle, thinking they know what the prediction is. However, they are really fooled since it is different. I also made two versions of chess piece cards for the "Clipped Card" effect and the kids love it. This, too, can be repeated as if to help make clipping the King easier ...NOT! I also put chess pieces on the dice when I perform "Eli's Die Box" which works great. Next week, I am planning on performing "Receiver" from JS Magic with a chess piece prediction. I've been waiting to use this one for some time now."

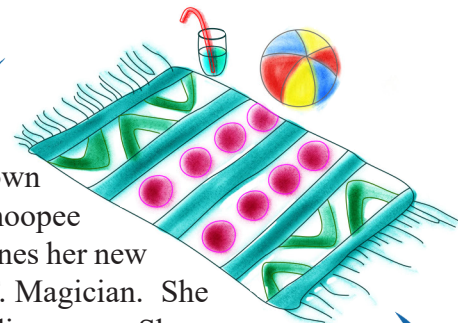


Dan is very creative and would be happy to share with other members how he has intertwined chess with magic. Please feel free to contact him at magic@thegreattodd.com.

Jill "Silly Jilly" Schmidt personally shopped at the Ickle Pickle Magic Trick store which is located in Park Hills, MO, which is about an hour south of St. Louis.

She was looking for a production box to hold her custom-made

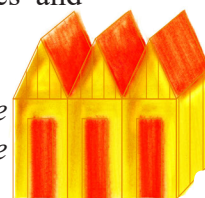




five-foot whoopee cushion and found a large drop-down mirror box that provides a perfect fit for her folded whoopee cushion. Ickle Pickle made a sale! Silly Jilly combines her new mirror box with a patter idea taught by Christopher T. Magician. She puts a small whoopee cushion in the box to try to make it disappear. She says, “On the count of three, say, ‘Go’ and don’t say, ‘Grow.’” While at Ickle Pickle, Jill overheard a customer say, “It looks like a magic store from the movies where a boy finds something truly magical.” Jill highly recommends visiting Ickle Pickle in person or online. One will be amazed at all the “magic” that is available. Jill watched the I.B.M. Convention on Saturday at Scott Smith’s house and thoroughly enjoyed it.

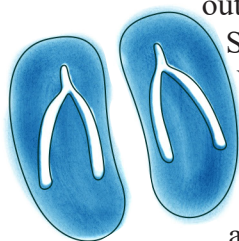
Sandy Weis also was an attendee of the I.B.M. Convention. Two of her favorite performers were Justin Willman and Lucy Darling. However, she did miss a few of the lectures and performances and is looking forward to viewing them this weekend.

Due to newsletter layout reasons, some of the articles that appear in the Linking Ring were moved out of this section and appear in other sections of this newsletter. The content is the same, but the structure is slightly different from what is published in the Linking Ring.



Passing the Gavel

by Steve Zuehlke

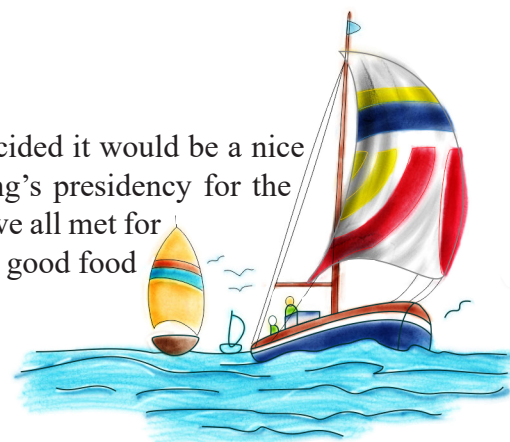



Goodbye by the Beatles might be a fitting title for our August meeting which will see outgoing President Terry Richison literally pass the gavel to our newly elected President, Scott Smith. This meeting also will mark our first in-person gathering since the pandemic. What more can be said about our outgoing president? A personal friend, Terry has been the glue that has kept the club running over the past few years. Everything from our fundraisers to his commitment to International to finding time to chair our annual convention, The Midwest Magic Jubilee, to doing magic professionally when time allows! Terry will stay on the board of directors, helping our new President along the way. Scott Smith will have some big shoes to fill, but he is already full of ideas to take the club to the next level. Scott brings with him twenty-five years of magical experience and an impressive resume, having chaired numerous boards for several fraternal groups, such as the Moose Lodge, Optimist Club, Rotary Club, and a host of others. Scott’s love of magic shows through his ever-growing magic library, always trying to acquire more knowledge. A true erudite! When not doing magic, Scott enjoys a good round of golf.

A Saturday of Magic

by Steve Zuehlke

On June 27th, our newly elected President, Scott Smith, decided it would be a nice day for everyone to get to know him as he takes over the Ring’s presidency for the upcoming 2021-2022 year. For those early risers, we all met for breakfast at a local diner. Nine people showed up for some good food





and good company. After that, we all headed to President Scott Smith's new home, which sits on the bluffs, high above the Mississippi River. The view was spectacular! Within the hour, the late risers showed up until we had a group of almost twenty people! Scott's magic room is more of a magic "man cave" with an extensive library and a huge table that is big enough to seat the entire group. Everyone had a chance to meet Scott and his lovely wife, Kathy, who was gracious enough to give up her husband and house on a Saturday. The group was also introduced to two new members, too. Everyone shared stories, effects, and played with Amazon Alexa. Afterwards, Scott treated everyone to a catered lunch from one of the area's best caterers. A good time was had by all those who attended. We can't thank Scott and Kathy enough. I look forward to seeing everyone in person at our August meeting, which will be our first "live" meeting since the pandemic began.

IBM International Convention Review

by Steve Zuehlke

July 8-10 was the annual IBM International Convention. This year's event was a Zoom-based virtual event. It was a sold-out event with five hundred attendees. Considering this was a "first", I was very impressed.

Our new President, Scott Smith, once again opened his home to the Ring. I personally stopped by all three days. In attendance were Randy Kalin, Jill "Silly Jilly" Schmidt, Darryl Lenz, Gary S. Chan, Steve Buesking, Darrell Peplow, and Barb Langston. On Friday, Steve Buesking treated us to his version of Skyline Chili. Very tasty, and he even bought lots of cheese. For those that know what Skyline Chili is, you'll understand. During the breaks, those in attendance traded secrets and told stories. A good time was had by all. Once again, a big thanks to Scott Smith and his family for allowing us into their homes. And a big round of applause for all the folks on the International level who worked behind the scenes to pull this convention off!

Magic Square
from Steve Finkelstein

20	21	32	27
31	28	19	22
25	30	23	22
24	21	26	29

If you don't know what this is for, you haven't been attending our Ring meetings...



Perfect Recall

by Gary S. Chan

Have you ever wanted to learn a stack and do it easily? Thom Parkin created a deck of illustrations that help you memorize the Mnemonica stack and Aronson stack. Even if you don't care to learn the stack, just looking at the drawings is worthwhile. Here are a couple:

Q ♠



♠

Queen of Spades
48th position

A ♥



♥

Ace of Hearts
22nd position

The two decks are sold here: <https://www.memdeck-trainer.com>

The Stranger

by Gary S. Chan

Jonathan Levit was a Ring 1 member, and he invented a popular magic routine that uses smart phones (Android or iOS). The effect: A spectator names a playing card, a word, a number, picks an envelope, mixes a Rubik's cube, says something, anything. A TOTAL STRANGER is called. The Stranger reveals what the spectator is thinking! The impact: Your audience will be dumbfounded how this can be done. There is an entire community devoted to this app, and they will help you with your performance.



<https://thestrangerapp.com>



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.

Upcoming Events

Magic Conventions

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

IBM and Ring 1 Events (US Central time)

Date	Event
Aug 4, 2021, 7pm	Show and tell by members (virtual)
Aug 18, 2021, 7pm	Board meeting (virtual)
Sep 1, 2021, 7pm	St. Louis Magic Living Legends (in-person)
Sep 15, 2021, 7pm	Board meeting (virtual)
Apr 1-3, 2022	The Senior Tour (in-person conference)

2021 Mid-West Magic Jubilee cancelled.

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

Magic Round Table

Most should know that St. Louis has a Round Table, a gathering of local magicians that have been meeting every Saturday for the last forty years or so. Needless to say, since COVID, our meetings have been put on hold. With the recent "loosening and reopening of indoor dining", the Round Table met Saturday, June 5th, at the St. Louis Bread Company in Sunset Hills. With almost twenty people in attendance, I would say that people are ready to get back to some type for normalcy. It was great to see so many faces. Dan Fleshman was in town. Jim Holmes from Branson and Keith Alan from Marion both made the long distance trip just to hang with old friends. Both Randy Kalin and Dan Fleshman brought their bag of tricks and kept everybody entertained. A good time was held by all! Check out our Ring One Facebook page (link below), hosted by our own Michael McClure for updates as to when the Round Table will meet next.

<https://www.facebook.com/IBM-Ring-1-137745769621072>

Show & [Maybe] Tell Ring 1 Meeting

August 24, 2021, 7pm Central

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89221747165?pwd=azR0M20xK3JWV013bmh5eDBkcVZ5UT09>

Meeting ID: 892 2174 7165

Passcode: 578715

One tap mobile (audio only): +13126266799,,89221747165#,,,,*578715# US (Chicago)

Sep 1 Ring 1 Meeting

Mark your calendars for an evening with TWO St. Louis Magic Living Legends, John Apperson and Harry Monti, and their wives. Behind every great man stands a great woman, and these two are no exception. The evening will be moderated by Tom Reilly, who is an apparatus historian and has one of the biggest collections of Rings N Things (RNT) products in the Midwest. Tom has graciously agreed to bring a small display of RNT props for all to look at. RNT made some of the finest metal products as well some unique apparatus that has yet to be duplicated in quality and workmanship. John and Harry were both instrumental in RNT's success. Hear these two past SAM National presidents talk about the founding of the company, how they came up with prototypes, and the unique finish that was applied to all of their products as well as Harry's performing days at the famed Magic Castle. Find out from their wives what attracted these two ladies to the "magic." Both women have assisted their husbands on stage in numerous shows across the country as well helped behind the scenes at numerous magic conventions across the country.

IBM Ring 1 Contact Info

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Board Member	Steve Buesking	svbuesking@gmail.com	(314) 732-5678
Board Member & Webmaster	Michael W. McClure	djay1000@yahoo.com	(618) 826-5125
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Spirit Newsletter	Gary S. Chan	ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com	(857) 342-2349

*What's wrong
with this photo?*