

January

94 Years Of Magic!

International Brotherhood of Magicians

"Spirit of St. Louis"



RING ONE



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

## Jason Dean Lecture

Jan 6, 2021  
7:00PM CDT

Zoom information will be sent out via e-mail.



# Happy New Year!

## President's Message

by Terry Richison



Now that 2020 has come to an end, I don't know if I am glad its over or afraid of what we might face in 2021. But I have decided not to fret about what is in the past and face the New Year with a positive outlook.

We have a many things to be thankful for. Each of us should take inventory and write down what we are thankful for. I bet you would be surprised how long your list is. I'm thankful for having friends like each of you. I was thinking of my New Year's resolutions. Everyone makes them, but they are always hard to keep. My best resolution that would be "to keep my New Year's Resolutions." I'm not holding my breath!

There are a couple resolutions that everyone could make for the betterment of Ring 1. First, it is that time of the year to pay our Ring 1 dues. Our dues allow the club to bring in some great lectures and guests. So let's all go to [www.ibmring1.com](http://www.ibmring1.com) and get our dues paid.

Secondly, this year has been tough for everyone. We have kept the Ring moving forward with our online meetings and all the great lectures. I have been extremely impressed by the level of enthusiasm that our Ring has exhibited this past year. We need to harness that enthusiasm to help build our club membership. Even with everything that we have faced this year, we still picked up a couple of new adult members. But we can't forget about our youth members. Without the youth members, our club will not continue to grow. Youth members provide an opportunity to our elders to mentor and pass on the important aspects of the Ring as well as magic in general—ethics, classics, and presentation, just to name a few.

We also need to look at ourselves to see what qualities, opportunities, and talents we each have to offer the Ring. It will take a lot to keep Ring 1 moving forward. It is not just performing, teaching, or setting up lectures. Hopefully, we will be able to resume the Spring Parade of Magic and our Veteran's Holiday show. We will need help organizing all of these events. Let me know what you want to volunteer to do to help keep Ring 1 moving forward. We want Ring 1 to continue to be one of the best clubs in the world. Remember, there is always room for improvement, and you can help by volunteering in 2021.

We have a great online lecture, by Jason Dean, coming up at our next meeting on Jan 6th. I hope I will see everyone there. Lastly, with the worst of the Covid epidemic over and with the vaccine now being distributed, I hope we will soon be able to safely meet again in person.

Happy New Year Everyone!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Richison".

I.B.M. Ring 1 President



# Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis

On December 2nd, the Ring held a Zoom meeting featuring Dan Harlan as its guest lecturer. Dan previously entertained the Ring's members at its 2019 President's Banquet, and members were excited to see him again. Amongst many routines, Dan also shared how he performed some of the effects at the banquet!

Before the lecture began, Steve Finkelstein prepared a "Trivia Contest" for the members. It contained ten questions, and he explained that the website where he found the questions had a lot more questions. Although many of the questions were difficult, members performed well on the pop quiz!

Approximately 50 members joined the meeting, and the Ring randomly selected two winners to receive attendance prizes. The winners this month were Michael Henry and Ted Schnarre. They both won books donated by Steve Zuehlke and Steve Buesking. Congratulations to the two winners!

Scott Smith set up the Zoom lecture, and he introduced Dan Harlan to the members. Scott shared several of Dan's accomplishments. The first effect Dan shared was one he has been using as his opening effect for ten years. *The Awakening* is advertised on his website as "the Fastest, Funniest, Most Visual Version of Professor's Nightmare Ever", and Ring members agreed.

The next effect he shared was *Hold it Buster!* He invented this effect when he was 14 years old! He explained that it is a "sucker" or "gambling" effect. However, he recommended not allowing an audience member to be "the sucker" in a performance. Instead, this effect included a conversation between Dan and his Dad. Dan ends up being the "sucker."

The next effect was one of his newer creations. It involved his version of the Torn and Restored Newspaper. However, it can be performed impromptu since one can use whatever they have nearby, such as Kleenex, napkins, etc. instead of a newspaper. He added that he likes to sprinkle magic dust on it as part of the routine.

Next he performed Psychic Saga, which is a close-up mentalism effect. He selected a member to help him with this effect. Usually, the magician reads the volunteer's mind, but Dan had the volunteer read his mind. Very clever!

Next he had everyone get a deck of cards. He gave instructions as to what to do with the cards. He called this *The Human Condition*, which is explained in the book *Verbal Magic* by Juan Tamariz. This version uses the Gilbreath Principle. According to a website, Tamariz's book is one of the best interactive books and is back in print. The website states it is perfect for live shows and also Zoom. This was Scott's favorite effect of the night.

My favorite effect was the Hexaflexagon/Color Mixer. According to the website, Dan does

not make these anymore. It is based on Martin Gardner's "Hexaflexagon," which I researched after the lecture. It seems to be complicated and time-consuming to make.

The lecture was excellent. Dan performed each effect and went into detail explaining how each was performed. He is a great lecturer. He did not charge for this lecture and wasn't trying to sell his products. However, he did share that if anyone buys anything from him and it wears out, he will replace it for free. One of our members confirmed that Dan replaced one of his effects recently. The Ring really enjoyed this lecture and highly recommends it.

Scott Smith recommended the following: "If anyone is looking for a very entertaining download, look for Scott Alexander and Dan Harlan Holiday Special 4 Live (Penguin Magic). It is so funny! Also, on last Sunday's Penguin Magic Review video, there is a segment towards the end entitled "Magic Celebrity Jeopardy." Dan Harlan plays Max Maven as the host. They make fun of the greatest active magicians today. You won't be able to stop laughing and it's free!" Jeopardy Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKRT846XwOI&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKRT846XwOI&feature=emb_logo)

Jill "Silly Jilly" Schmidt shared that she appreciates how easy it is to attend magic conventions virtually. Her favorite was Kidabra because the classes focused on entertaining kids, and the classes can be watched over and over again. Her second favorite was the UnConventional Fun Convention because it had an ingenious setup for the after-party and also had breaks between lectures. Attendees could move their avatar around a virtual convention hall, including a lobby with tables and a dealers' room. As one approached other attendees, their camera and mic came in to view, and one could talk, jam, and hang out just like at a real convention. Jill has signed up for Kidabra's Virtual February 2021 Convention, and she's awaiting details on Unconventional Fun 2.

Michael McClure said, "It was quite a treat for me, and 5 other Ring 1 members to virtually visit IBM Ring 252 and meet their retiring President, Alan Fisher, on Dec. 8th, and then join the crowd at the IBM JAM on Dec. 9th for Fisher's online lecture. I was one of three in the "audience" that was invited to help with an effect, but not before our Ring 1 got a big shout-out from Alan. We had more members represented at his Ring's meeting the night before than any other group ... including his own! If a magician wants to satisfy the urge to get in more magic during these strange times, they should check out the resources at [www.mymagicmeeting.com](http://www.mymagicmeeting.com). This is an IBM-recommended site for Rings to publish their meeting dates and encourage visitors from all across the globe to attend. An excellent way to grow our magic skills and learn new presentation methods is by sharing the fun we have with each other. The more we experience virtual meetings, shows, and lectures, the easier it will be for us to adapt to this growing medium of online entertainment."

Michael also asks that Ring 1 members submit images of themselves in action so he can showcase the fun they have on our new website. The world is visiting OUR [www.ibmring1.com](http://www.ibmring1.com) to see what the excitement is all about! E-mail a photo of you performing magic (or your preferred headshot) to him at: [watson7654321@gmail.com](mailto:watson7654321@gmail.com). Your photo may magically appear on our Ring 1 website!

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. Hopefully, our lives will return to normal in the near future.



## Jason Dean Lecture

January 6, 2021, at 7pm Central

We are happy to be hosting Jason Dean as our guest lecturer for our January Ring 1 meeting. He has talent running out of each of his fingers. You will be wowed and enjoy his lecture immensely. There will be something for every level. Here is some info about Jason and his lecture. We will be sending out the meeting info next week.

Jason Dean hails from Kansas City. After traveling and entertaining for 10 plus years exclusively for national and international touring rock bands, he has decided to share some of his inspired tricks and techniques.

“Magic resonates like music, it gets inside you!”

These routines are the tricks he developed on the road to entertain his audiences. As with all good tricks most were inspired by classic plots and approaches in magic. These are Jason’s workhorse routines that are sure to get the reactions you desire out of your audience.

Along the way, Jason will share some of his rock star stories about traveling, performing, and meeting people. Grab some cards, and let’s do this!

You can find Jason’s magic spread throughout various publications from Genii magazine, The Linking Ring, Magic magazine, M.U.M., and others.

“Jason Dean’s magic is clever and offbeat enough to raise even the most jaded eyebrows.” - Max Maven

“When I think of Jason’s magic, it reminds me of a good tequila... smooth when it goes down but in the end you will get messed up!” - Nathan Kranzo

“I’ve travelled with Jason quite a bit, and have seen, close-up, what his magic can do to people. He gives the gift of love and magic to his audience - and that’s a very powerful thing. Don’t miss it - You’ll be glad you came.” - Aaron Fisher



## A Special Blend

by Trudy Monti

Harry Monti currently holds the record of having performed 53 consecutive years at the Magic Castle, a performance record that no one else has achieved to date. One of the Magic Castle members is owner of Judd's Hill winery in Napa Valley, and he previously created a special blend of wine to be sold at the Magic Castle. Below is a little history of that wine and, if you would like any more information on it, please contact me at (636) 394-4191.

### Magic Napa Valley Red Wine

#### Tasting Notes

The journey of our Magic red wine blend has taken many turns over the years. It was originally crafted as a reasonably priced house wine for Hollywood's fabled Magic Castle. As an amateur magician and enthusiast of the magical arts, Judd became a member of the Magic Castle in the early 2000s. The affordable Napa red wine blend that he created was an instant hit with his fellow members and their guests, and became a staple of the Castle's wine program for years to come. The story of this wine continues today, as a winery-only gem, primarily sold to our Wine Club members. Each Magic release is unique but the wine is consistently a food-friendly blend of Bordeaux and Rhone varietals sourced from the Napa Valley. Our ultimate goal is to create an affordable wine for every day drinking that pairs well with a wide range of culinary creations.





## **Zooming**

by Steve Zuehlke

Another month has passed us by, including the holidays. I hope everyone enjoyed them the best we could in these crazy times. With a vaccine on the way, hopefully we will all be meeting in person in the very near future. In the meantime, I have been keeping busy with my Facebook group that I had mentioned in my last column. This is a novel way to stay in touch. I don't think there is day that goes by that I don't learn something from my group.

To date myself, when I grew up, ZOOM was a children's show on PBS. Now, it's the way we meet and present magic. With that in mind, the market is now flooded with VIRTUAL magic effects. Who would have ever thought? Even so, there are still several performers that are actually working for live groups. That's good news.

As stated last month, don't forget to check out the IBM Jams, McBride's Mystery School, Penguin Magic, Murphy's Magic, IBM Who Books That, and a host of other FREE events that are happening EVERY week. And for those that prefer something more intimate, you can always curl up with a good book.

## **Learn Zoom**

With so many great lectures and other events going on the Zoom platform, it's useful to learn how to use it effectively. Check out Zoom's instructional videos:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-video-tutorials>

## **Tangential to Magic**

by Gary Chan

Although not quite magic themselves, these may offer some ideas for creating new magic. If nothing else, they're just fun.

World of Illusions: <https://laillusions.com/>

Magic Box: <https://www.instructables.com/Magic-Box/>

Optical Illusions: <https://eyesofrome.com/stories/choose-your-illusion>

Pop-Up Book: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1452136211>

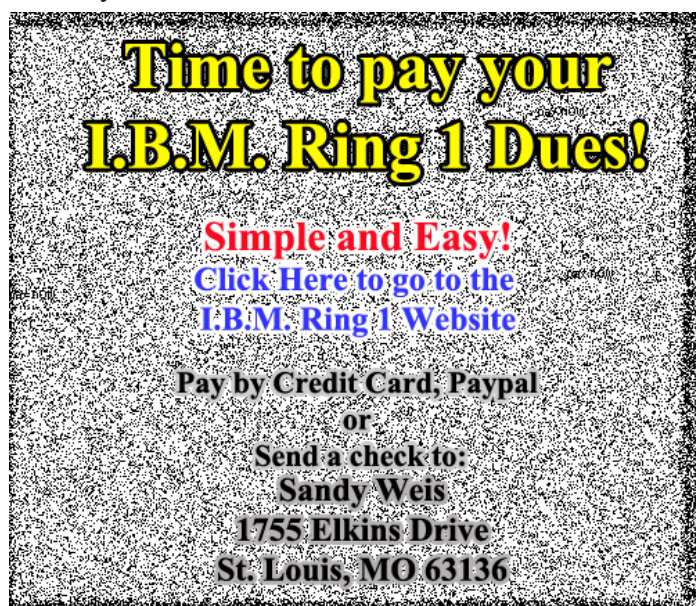


## Pay Ring 1 Dues

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 “2021 Dues” on the memo line. Mail the check to Sandy Weis, 1755 Elkins Drive, St. Louis, MO 63136.



## Upcoming Events

2020 Magic Conventions

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

Ring 1 Events (US Central time)

| Date           | Event                       |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Jan 6, 7:00pm  | Jason Dean lecture          |
| Jan 20, 6:30pm | I.B.M. Ring 1 Board Meeting |
| Feb 3, 7:00pm  | Erik Tait lecture           |
| Feb 17, 6:30pm | I.B.M. Ring 1 Board Meeting |

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

## **A Short History of I.B.M. Ring 1**

*How it earned the right to be called Ring 1*

Sometime in the late 1920's, a few unhappy members of the local Assembly of the Society of American Magicians decided that they were not getting their money's worth from the 50 cent annual dues they were paying. These individuals, led by one Andy Buel, contacted the I.B.M. and asked if they could establish a local group in St. Louis. They were told "Yes" and formed themselves into a "Chapter." Other Chapters were soon formed by magicians in other communities. Representatives of these various Chapters met to determine a name for their groups, and our Andy Buel came up with the name "RING". This suggestion was quickly embraced by the conferees. It symbolized the idea that all the Chapters (or Rings) were linked together a la the classic "Chinese Linking Rings." The conference further decided to change the name of the "Bulletin" to the "Linking Ring." As a reward for its leadership at this conference, the congress elected to designate Saint Louis, RING NUMBER ONE.

### **Be an Officer**

How would you like to be an Officer or Board member of Ring 1? Maybe you have thought about it but didn't know what to do about it. Now is your time. We are looking for people who are interested in becoming active in the leadership of the club to help guide it into the future. Ring 1 is 90+ years old, and you can help shape the next 90 years. If you are interested, please contact Terry Richison at [Terry@magicofterryrich.com](mailto:Terry@magicofterryrich.com). You can help make the Ring continue to succeed by becoming an office or board member.

### **Buyer Beware**

by Steve Zuehlke

Downloads (online videos, etc.) seem to be the new way to market and sell magic. Many of these are a single trick or single sleight that can be found in most magic books. I recently saw a move that the creator said was inspired by our own Chris Kenner. As soon as I watched the trailer, I knew that Chris was inspired by his mentor, our own John Mendoza. And, of course, John published the move almost forty years ago in a book. You can still find the book for approximately \$25. The download was ten dollars for one "move." Another recent download that I saw is a trick I have been doing since high school. Also priced at \$10. Something to keep in mind with these trailers is that not all appear as they are. Some of these trailers just flat out lie. Once you get the download, you will find out that it doesn't work the way the trailer showed. The camera is a great tool. And so is the EDIT function. Buyer beware. Also, as side note, you usually see a few effects on these trailers that are NOT INCLUDED in the download. Very misleading indeed.



## Sale: A Collector's Dream!



For Sale: Over 260 Collectable Magic Magazines in Pristine Condition! They are now collectors' items. These perfect magazines range from 1993-2016. They are being sold in year lots. Local pick up only due to weight. If you buy the entire lot, we will deliver them within a 100-mile radius. An unbelievable bargain and ONE Dollar per magazine. What a steal! If you buy multiple years or the entire lot, an offer will be entertained. This picture is just a sample of all the magazines. Ring 1 members and friends are seeing this offer before anyone else and will be given preference. Please act quickly as these collectable magazines will go quickly.

Call Terry Richison at 314-791-9108 for more information and a complete list.

## New Year's Thoughts by Steve Zuehlke

With New Years behind us, I hope all had a great and safe holiday. Even with the virus, performers still found time to work which is pretty amazing considering all the talk about "social distancing." Lots of my friends did Holiday parties and New Year's Eve parties. I guess there is no excuse for common sense!

Justin Flom is in the news for exposing the "Crystal Casket" on social media. See link below. Be warned as Craig uses some offensive language, but it is very funny and worth a watch. Craig is from the UK, a working professional who also has his own You Tube channel where he reviews tricks, interviews performers, etc. He is a great guy, very knowledgeable and a great performer. Do yourself a favor, and subscribe to his channel. You'll thank me later.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T0VJyiIE0A>



## IBM Ring 1 Contact Info

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| Treasurer                       | Sandy Weis        | <a href="mailto:sweis50@yahoo.com">sweis50@yahoo.com</a>                                   | (314) 378-4403 |
| Board Member                    | Steve Finkelstein | <a href="mailto:sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net">sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net</a>               | (314) 409-6869 |
| Board Member                    | Steve Buesking    | <a href="mailto:svbuesking@gmail.com">svbuesking@gmail.com</a>                             | (314) 732-5678 |
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| Spirit Newsletter               | Gary S. Chan      | <a href="mailto:ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com">ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com</a> | (857) 342-2349 |

