



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



Ring 1 Meeting
June 2, 2021 7pm Central
Steve Finkelstein will lecture on
Bar Bets, Cons, Swindles & Scams



President's Message

by Terry Richison

The last couple of years have flown by, believe it or not. And so, I bring my term as president of Ring 1 to a close. It has had its challenges. Both personal health and magical challenges. Even with last year causing us to cancel all of our in-person meetings, we were still able to have an outstanding lecture each and every month. That would not have happened if we didn't have a great board of directors and members willing to help. Specifically, I want to thank Steve Finkelstein, Steve Zuehlke, Steve Buesking, Alan Zibits, Ted Schnarre, and Scott Smith. Of course, we all need to thank Sandy Weis for being so diligent with our Ring Reports, Gary Chan for putting our Spirit newsletter together, and Mike McClure for setting up and whipping the website back into shape.



When I took the office of the Ring 1 president, the Ring was in very good shape. My hope is that I leave it even a little better. What I am sure of is that I am leaving the Ring in capable hands. If we keep up the support from the board and members, the Ring will continue to grow and prosper. My favorite saying is "If everyone does a little, no one will have to do a lot." Be sure to continue to offer your help and talents to Scott as he takes over.

I am happy to say my health has remained good, and I look forward to spending some more time with my family and working on my shows to make 2021 the best year yet! So far, 2021 has been heading in a very positive direction. In fact, I just finished performing before 4 past US Presidents! As Mike McClure privately told me, the Presidents were speechless. (See picture.)



I hope we will be able to start having in person meeting soon, but until we can, see you at our June 2nd online meeting.

Terry Richison

President
I.B.M. Ring 1

Thank you, Terry!

Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis et al.

Several Ring 1 members have resumed in-person performances again, and the Ring has been invited to perform at a local middle school on June 7th for a pancake breakfast. Several members have volunteered for this event. Hopefully, Shriners Hospitals for Children, St. Louis, will allow the members to perform in-person soon. Members have volunteered in the past for the monthly visits and perform a short magic show for the patients and their families and also teach tricks to the children. It is a very rewarding experience for the members who have volunteered in the past. For now, Shriners has requested that members perform either by streaming with Zoom and/or creating a short video of them performing one or two simple effects. Thanks to Ring 1's member, D. Jay, for organizing this monthly event.

Steve Finkelstein shared the following: "Where to Find Great Magic! Looking for great, unique magic with the best customer service? Go no further – Meir Yedid Magic. As you know, I enjoy looking for the best magic on the Internet. Hocus Pocus, Penguin Magic, and Vanishing Inc. are excellent sites. But they typically carry mostly the same items. All have great service. When I am looking for something unique I go to Meir Yedid. Both new and old, he always seems to hit the mark. Plus, he responds to emails usually within 1 day and delivers usually in 3-4 days. Also, you can select items by magician, but unlike other sites, you actually see the magician's picture versus just their name. Plus, he has invented some of his own magic. He also carries some oldies, but goodies that are hard to find. Check out the website at: Meir Yedid Magic (mymagic.com)."

Jill "Silly Jilly the Clown" Schmidt, performed ten Zoom shows during the pandemic. She feels they served their purpose but does not expect to get any more Zoom show requests, except for one repeat birthday show from a clown fan in Louisiana. Jill is glad she did not purchase any equipment for Zoom. However, she enjoyed attending some "How to Perform Zoom Shows" lectures, especially one from Mario the Maker Magician.

Michael McClure shared, "I am busy expanding the historical contents of our website. The tribute to our past leadership is growing, with new information and images of the early Presidents of Ring 1 being added chronologically. St. Louis has produced such great magical talent; our history reads much like a who's-who of the International Brotherhood. Anyone with information or memorabilia regarding our club's activities should contact me at watson7654321@gmail.com so we can amass a better collection of our past. Since our 100th anniversary year is approaching, it would be wonderful to have an accurate, detailed record of Ring 1's activities from the beginning to the present time. The information and images collected will be scanned and preserved online (for everyone's instant access) and as a physical scrapbook for those bibliophiles among us. We recently received a large collection of newspaper articles regaling our Ring's earliest activities ... a donation from Rick Heath, the "magician with a paintbrush." These fragile articles reach back to the 1920's, when magic in St. Louis was in its natal stage. Many thanks to Rick for his generosity and great timing!"

Mike secured a fascinating lecturer for our May 5th online presentation ... the prolific

creator, Jim Krenz. Jim shared hours of information and taught effects non-stop as a rapt Zoom and Facebook audience became the beneficiaries of his knowledge and experience. There was something for everyone in Jim's presentation. Mike attended Shawn Farquhar's virtual Hidden Wonders show on April 17th and was treated to a peek at the inspiring theater Shawn has built. Later the same day, Mike attended the Magic Castle's Saturday showcase, which featured Dennis Watkins of Chicago and Suzanne. There is so much to learn while supporting our comrades ... they labor as true pioneers in this virtual world. Mike says his father always told him, "A wise man learns from others' mistakes," and this is also applicable to others' successes. On April 18th, Mike "hopped the pond" and virtually attended Blackpool, the UK magic convention. Many performers shared not only their acts, but also behind-the-scenes looks at their varied careers. Much information was shared and all who attended were certainly the wiser for it.

Steve Zuehlke shared the following: Our May Zoom meeting featured a lecture by Jim Krenz. Originally from Chicago and now living in Los Angeles, Jim cut his chops as a demonstrator behind the counter at Magic Inc. as well as working at several restaurants around the Chicago area. Jim shared a variety of card effects as well as a great coin routine. Jim's Zoom presentation utilized three mirrors placed in front and on both sides to give a 360-degree view of all angles. A wonderful idea! Jim's take on the Chicago Opener is going into my working routine immediately. Jim also presented a great take on an Aldo Colombini routine using parlor-sized cards cut in half using the Svengali principle. This fooled everybody. Jim's knowledge of the classics is invaluable. Jim mentioned to advance the art, always question the masters. I love something he said, "Don't think Jennings and Cervon weren't questioning Vernon." Jim also is a big Marlo fan and it shows in his handling of the cards. If your group has a chance to see Jim lecture, I highly recommend it. A must see for the serious student of close-up magic. A special thanks to member, Mike McClure, for setting this up and boosting this event out of his own pocket. Thanks, Mike!

Larry Skorepa shared that he was quite busy during the winter. He played Grinch at some businesses since the theme wasn't so cheerful in 2020. Larry actually looked like the "real" Grinch. He also went to some Day Cares and Doggie Daycares for photoshoots. Larry was a very active member before the pandemic, and we can't wait to see him when we are able to meet in person again.

Terry Richison shared that shows for everyone are starting to pick back up. He has performed at several After-Prom Parties, Birthday Parties, and even at a Life Memorial celebration for a local celebrity. However, Ring 1's meeting place is still not open so the Ring will continue with online meetings for the next couple of months. He thanked everyone who attended the Zoom Meeting with Craig Petty. Craig was not selling anything, only giving of his knowledge and talent. There were over 75 people who attended this lecture online (Zoom and Facebook). He reminded members to check out the I.B.M. Ring 1 website (www.ibmring1.com). Mike McClure is doing a great job keeping the website up-to-date. He also wants to thank Rich Heath, a great columnist for The Linking Ring, for his donation of a massive amount of old newspaper articles and history about Ring 1. These go back to the 1920's and feature magicians of the day, including Andrew Buel, I.B.M. President and the man who came up with the idea of calling the I.B.M. Clubs, Rings. Terry highly recommends that members read Rick's column in *The Linking Ring*. He also thanks Mike McClure for all the time he has and will be putting in, painstakingly, trying to preserve these

newspaper articles.

On April 22nd, local S.A.M., Assembly 8, invited Ring 1 members to attend a Zoom lecture featuring Buster Balloon Caldwell. He presented ESCAPE THE SCREEN, a 35-minute virtual lecture on how to connect with and engage kids and family audiences during virtual shows. He gave some solid strategies and advice as well as shared actual magic effects and gags from his own Zoom show. There was time for questions and answers after the lecture. Sandy Weis greatly enjoyed his lecture, especially when he spoke about his performance on *America's Got Talent*. After his lecture, she watched this on YouTube. She remembers watching this when it first was aired but didn't realize that Buster Balloon Caldwell is also really a great magician. Check out this video! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-AhcckX4R4>

Thanks to Alan Fisher from IBM Ring 252 for inviting Ring 1 members to its *The Middle Tennessee Magic Club's May* digital gathering which was held on May 13th. Several Ring 1 members took advantage of this gathering.

Stage Magic

by Steve Zuehlke

I have written about this subject before but thought I would revisit it again. We need more stage magicians. Close-up magic is great for intimate settings, but what about when you are asked to perform for a group? Or a banquet? A coin trick doesn't play well on stage. I recently listened to a podcast by Craig Petty, who said that by being able to perform on stage, you can add an extra zero to your paycheck. For those who make their living performing, this can add up to some serious money. Growing up as a kid, box (stage) magic was the way to go. Some oldies that come to mind are Squared Circle, Crystal Silk Cylinder, Hippity Hop Rabbits, Candle Thru Arm, Dove Pan, Ghost Tube, Phantom Tube, Linking Rings, Rice Bowls, and a host of others. All these effects are classics for a reason. They have withstood the test of time. And all the mentioned effects are still readily available from your favorite dealer. Most of us know that D.J. Edwards has purchased Ickle Pickle. D.J. is the last of the local magic dealers. Do yourself a favor and support him with your magical purchases. I am always asked why St. Louis doesn't have more magic shops. The answer is a simple one. Nobody supports them.

Once upon a time, this city had SIX shops in operation at ANY ONE GIVEN TIME.

When performing on stage, you don't necessarily need the big box magic to present an effective show. Professor's Nightmare, Cut and Restored Rope, a thumb tip, some ribbons, Knife thru Coat, Torn and Restored Paper, Cards Across, Cards to Envelope, almost any mental type of effect are just a few things that some mind. In fact, there are several books / lecture notes based on "Dollar Store" magic. These are the type of stores where everything is one dollar. With that being said, there is almost no excuse for not having a stage/stand-up show at your disposal. There is also a book entitled "The Table Book" by Gene Gloye. This is spiral-bound book that you can find for ten dollars or less that has all types of practical, impromptu table effects that can be made for pennies on the dollar. And given all the "downtime" we have had lately, you have plenty of

time to practice and show off your new act at the next meeting or contest!

Once we get back to our regularly scheduled meetings, feel free to debut your act or routine for the club for hints, ideas, etc. Just because its “pick a card night”, doesn’t mean you can’t show off something other than the meeting’s theme.

Magic Phone Apps

by Gary S. Chan

Steve Finkelstein told us about a phone app that Penn & Teller released. It’s a mentalism effect whereby Penn & Teller “talk” with your audience and then correctly guess their card. Based on the reviews, apparently the iPhone version works well but the Android version does not.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/penn-teller-magic-chat/id1509545165>

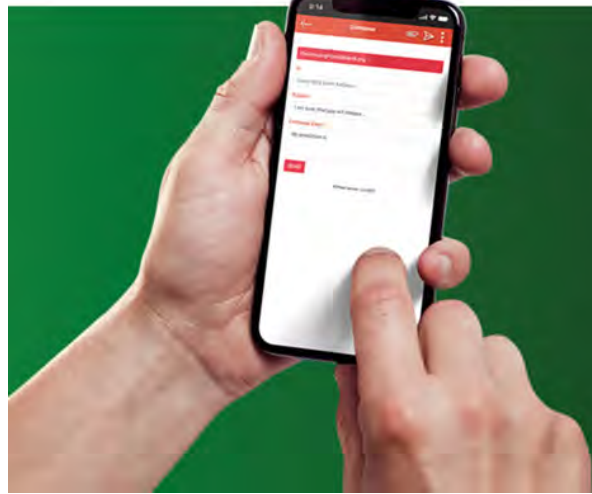
Steve Buesking told us about the Peekypad app which allows the mentalist to peek what the audience member draws. <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id1519464999>

I am particularly fond of P.E.P., created by magic inventor Thom Parkin. Reveal anything in an email message with a timestamp proving it arrived before the selection was made. I’ve “destroyed” people with this routine; they have no idea how you “force” them to think of a card or accurately predict what they’re going to do. Since this is done online, I don’t need to carry anything other than my phone, which I already carry everywhere. And as long as your audience member has email on his/her phone, you can perform the effect!

<http://pepmagicapp.herokuapp.com/index.html>

What IS P.E.P Exactly?

With P.E.P. you have the ability to make Accurate Predictions with Email.
Using any device!



AMAZING EFFECT!

- Make a prediction by email.
- The spectator witnesses you composing the email message.
- You can tailor the message to the situation.
- First the message is CONFIRMED as received.
- Next the spectator makes a truly FREE choice.
- Remarkably, once opened the message is 100% correct.
- Reveal Photos or Text

GET IT NOW!

Scrapbooks Lost

The club has misplaced its Scrapbooks, and we are desperately searching. Please check your closets, basements, garages, etc., to see if we can get these back into circulation so the members can enjoy them.

If you have any leads or tips, contact Mike McClure at watson7654321@gmail.com or Steve Zuehlke at stlsteve2009@yahoo.com. A FREE SURPRISE for their safe return.

Creativity and Exposure

by Steve Zuehlke

Recently, the club has had Dan Harlan, Jason Dean, Erik Tait, David Jonathan, Craig Petty, and Louie Foxx as lecturers. All of these lectures were loaded with creativity, new ideas, and new plots on old principles. All of them are great performers in their own right, and the one common trait they all have is creativity. The reason they are all so creative is the fact that are exposed to so much magic. The more methods you are exposed to, the more the creative juices start to flow. Take Dan Harlan, for example, who filmed the entire Tarbell series. What an amazing task! And to do this, Dan had to learn every effect in all EIGHT books. Imagine how many methods he was exposed to. Some of the best effects employ the simplest of methods. The reason we get fooled so easily is because we overlook the simplest of answers. I am sure you have heard that kids are hard to fool. The reason being is they only know the simplest of answers due to the fact they have not been exposed to more complicated questions.

Point being, read as much as possible. Watch as much as possible. If you're into buying magic, buy as much as possible. Attend as many conventions, lectures, teach-ins, etc. as possible. Ask as many questions as possible. Always keep an open mind and be open to suggestions. Remember, nothing is ever perfect. Go back to the basics and re-read those old classics that you used to get so excited about when you first started with this crazy hobby.

Permutations

Courtesy of Yannay Khaikin

Pick a card, any card. Actually, just pick up all of them and take a look. This standard 52-card deck has been used for centuries. Every day, thousands just like it are shuffled in casinos all over the world, the order rearranged each time. And yet, every time you pick up a well-shuffled deck like this one, you are almost certainly holding an arrangement of cards that has never before existed in all of history. How can this be? The answer lies in how many different arrangements of 52 cards, or any objects, are possible. Now, 52 may not seem like such a high number, but let's start with an even smaller one. Say we have four people trying to sit in four numbered chairs. How many ways can they be seated? To start off, any of the four people can sit in the first chair. Once this choice is made, only three people remain standing. After the second person sits down, only two people are left as candidates for the third chair. And after the third person has sat down, the last person standing has no choice but to sit in the fourth chair. If we manually write out all the possible arrangements, or permutations, it turns out that there are 24 ways that four people can be seated into four chairs. Going from the beginning again, you can see that each of the four initial choices for the first chair leads to three more possible

choices for the second chair, and each of those choices leads to two more for the third chair. So instead of counting each final scenario individually, we can multiply the number of choices for each chair: $4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$. For the math literate amongst us, another way to write “ $4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$ ” is “ $4!$ ”. In other words, $4! = 24$.

Just as there were $4!$ ways of arranging four people, there are $52!$ ways of arranging 52 cards. Fortunately, we don't have to calculate this by hand. Just enter the function into a calculator, and it will show you that the number of possible arrangements is 8.07×10^{67} , or roughly eight followed by 67 zeros. Just how big is this number? Well, if a new permutation of 52 cards were written out every second starting 13.8 billion years ago, the writing would still be continuing today and for millions of years to come. In fact, there are more possible ways to arrange this simple deck of cards than there are atoms on Earth. So the next time it's your turn to shuffle, take a moment to remember that you're holding something that may have never before existed and may never exist again.

Thank you, Ring 1 Board

by Gary S. Chan

Thank you to our outgoing leadership team for taking care of all the behind-the-scenes work to keep our organization running. That includes everything from creating a vision to coordinating work to documenting everything to collecting dues to finding good lecturers to filling out tax forms -- i.e. all work that few people see yet we all benefit from. If you haven't already, send an e-mail or text to the people on the last page of this newsletter to say, “Thank you!”

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

2021 Magic Conventions: <https://www.themagicwordpodcast.com/magic-convention-guide>

2021 Mid-West Magic Jubilee cancelled.

IBM and Ring 1 Events (US Central time)

Date	Event
June 2, 7pm	Steve Finkelstein lecture
July 8-10	IBM Convention https://www.magician.org/convention/upcoming-convention

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

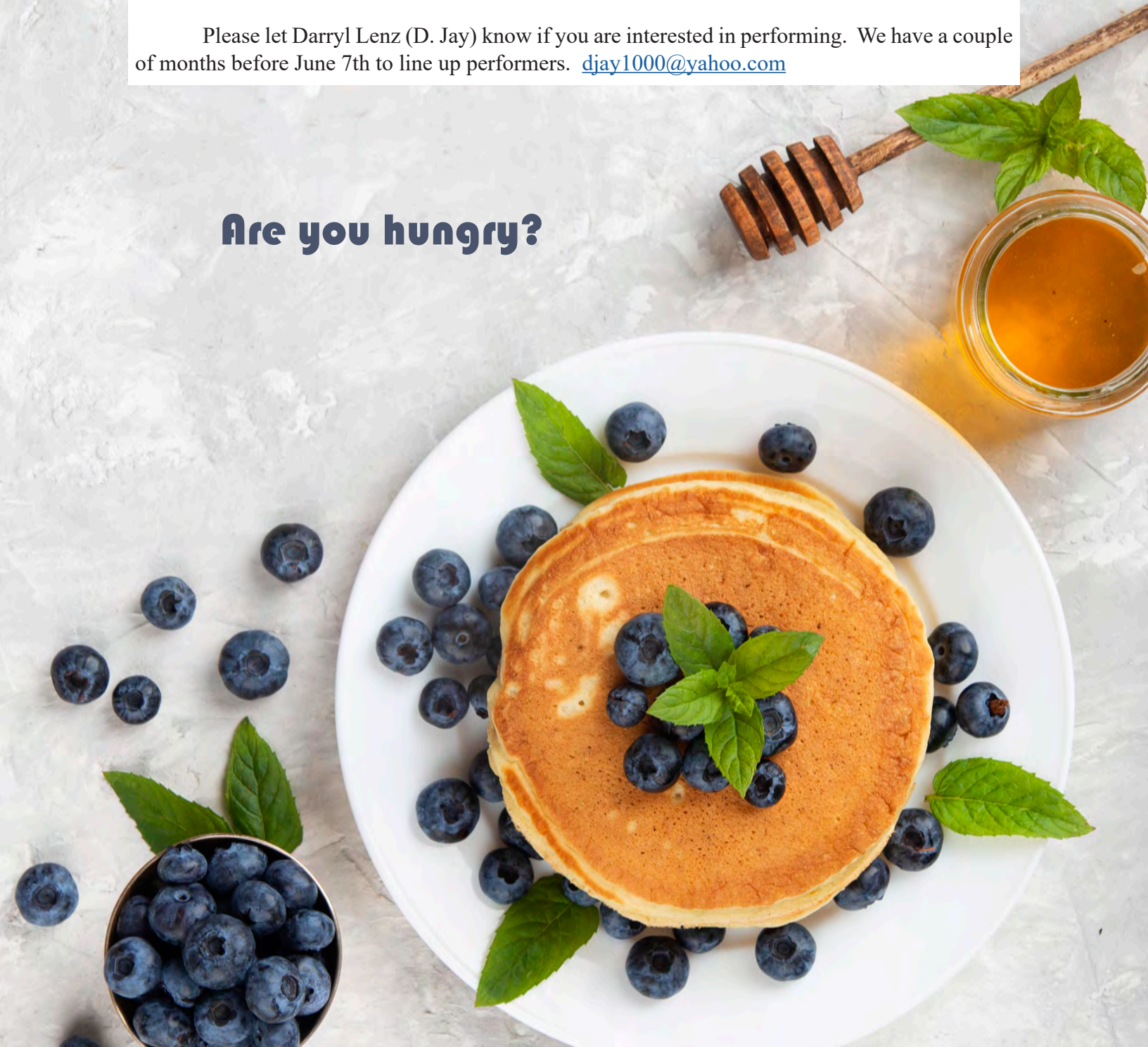
Pancake Breakfast

Francis Howell Middle School, 605 Independence Rd, St. Charles, MO 63304, is asking for performers for their annual 8th grade pancake breakfast on June 7th, 2021, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am. We have the option of using a portable stage or performing close-up. We will need 3 volunteers for the stand-up performance (20 minutes each) or 5 volunteers for close-up magic. For the close-up, social distancing will be observed. There will be 10 to 15 students per table and then they will move to another table.

We will be wearing masks and all performances will be done without volunteers handling any props.

Please let Darryl Lenz (D. Jay) know if you are interested in performing. We have a couple of months before June 7th to line up performers. djay1000@yahoo.com

Are you hungry?





Steve Finkelstein Lecture on June 2 at 7pm

Our next Ring 1 meeting will be on June 2, 2021, at 7pm. Our very own Steve Finkelstein will be lecturing! You can join via Zoom or Facebook Live. Links will be sent out via e-mail to Ring 1 members closer to the event.

Steve, a winner of numerous close-up magic awards, is extremely active in Ring 1, having served as Board member, event organizer, lecturer, and founder of Magic 101 ... a recurring 30-minute session specifically designed to help beginners and intermediates improve their practical skills and theory. He specializes in gambling magic, mentalism, math magic, dice stacking, and cards. Steve's lecture titled "Bar Bets, Cons, Swindles & Scams" will certainly have something for everyone to enjoy. For details regarding his International career, visit our [Calendar of Events](#) page and scroll to June 2021. Join us for Steve's entertaining lecture. As always, it is FREE ... sponsored by IBM Ring 1 and the Midwest Magic Jubilee!



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