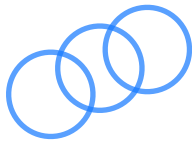




The Spirit Newsletter

February 2023

The Official Newsletter of I.B.M. Ring #1



Ring Report by Sandy Weis et al.

Earlier in 2022 Michael W. McClure came up with the idea to film several of our members performing magic that would be available for the entertainment of hospitalized children and visiting families. The restrictions created by the COVID-19 virus and its variants still prohibit our members from returning to in-person performances at most of these venues. The Ring 1 Board approved the project and filming was set for January 11, our adjusted meeting night. Michael enlisted the help of ten performers and coordinated what effects were to be presented. He asked each volunteer to perform their favorite effect, hoping that this would ensure both the performer's enjoyment and best possible production. Michael took on the role of writer, producer, director, cameraman and editor for the project, so his fellow members

could concentrate on their own performance and relax the rest of evening. We were delighted to have a studio audience of nearly twenty enthusiastic members and guests. This was perfect for the event since it was not intended to be a show but an organized recording of introductions, performances, retakes, and crowd interactions. Everyone enjoyed a night of laughter, fellowship and good magic, and many requested that we repeat the event soon. Other magicians have stepped forward and asked to be included in the next filming, much to Michael's delight. He feels that he already has enough material to produce two 45 minutes shows titled Magic Moments: Favorites Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. He plans on filming the next set of performances based on a universally popular children's theme and possibly using fairy tales as his subject. Michael said he wishes to wholeheartedly thank everyone who helped with the project, both performers and audience members, and especially my

wife, Susan. His message to everyone is, "This project will allow the medical centers to offer some needed distractions from the daily woes hospitalized children and their families deal with. It should help alleviate the boredom and disquietude a child experiences when their life takes such an unexpected turn.

I look forward to editing the two video volumes quickly, with the help of my son, Michael II, and getting them into the hands of the hospitals for the benefit and entertainment of the children."

• **Steve Zuehlke shared the following:**

We did something new. We filmed a promotional video to promote IBM Ring 1 which will be distributed to our participants in Project Magic. Currently the Ring is involved with Rankin Jordan. Each month, members perform in person for the children at this facility. However, this video(s) will be distributed to other hospitals who do not allow live performances. Under the guise of director, producer, videographer, set design, scripting and list goes on, Mr. Mike W. McClure and his assistant, Susan McClure, did an outstanding job producing this wonderful piece. Mike provided a full set, with curtains, backdrops, banners, lighting, etc. A true professional job! We are all very excited to see the finished product. Rumor is, Mike will be up for several awards at the upcoming film festival! Serving as MC was Vice President Terry Richison, who kept the ball rolling with introductions and performing himself. A full review of the performances can be found elsewhere in the Ring report. Sandy Weis was amazed when she arrived at the Dielmann Center. Mike had constructed a whole stage (tent) with curtains and props. There were even two artificial trees on each side of the tent. He had two cameras and microphones set

up, lighting assembled, etc. He is truly a professional! The audience was given directions as to what their part would be. The audience members were recorded clapping, laughing, gasping, etc. since Mike will edit and insert the sound effects at appropriate times. He had scripts written out for the MC to introduce each performer. There was even a handout for the audience members which detailed the order of the performers and what effect they would be doing. First, Ted Schnarre performed Torn & Restored Newspaper. This is one of Ted's favorite effects and he has performed it for 'many' years. He has perfected this effect so audience members have no idea how he can tear the newspaper and magically put it back together. D. Jay Lenz then did his version of the Professor's Nightmare. It was very creative and he needed an assistant. Sandy Weis was picked as his assistant (it is difficult to pretend not to know how the trick is done when one knows how it is done). However, Sandy examined the ropes and verified that all three were different lengths. Then when they were the same length. D. Jay had Sandy hold the ropes. Then D. Jay did the effect again with three other ropes. Sandy then showed her ropes and they magically changed to three different sizes. D. Jay's ropes were all the same length. Magically, the ropes changed places! Steve Zuehlke then did one of his favorite effects. The Chinese Sticks. He explained that the sticks were really old; however, they were magical. He pulled the string on one stick and the string on the other stick would move. He did this several times and then showed that the sticks weren't connected; however, magically when he pulled one string the other would move. What an amazing effect that children will like! John Davit is a real expert at card effects. However, since this video will be primarily

for children, he did several effects using a rope. Somehow he can just move that rope with one hand and a knot appears. John has practiced his rope effects for years and is a pro! Jill 'Silly Jilly' Schmidt used her new Axtell Mic Mouth, announcing, "Time for some silly magic," then two quick tricks: appearing wands and wand to flower. For the wand to flower trick, instead of using the wand it came with, Silly Jilly made it look like she's using one of the wands she magically made appear. Actually, she secretly switched one of her appearing wands with a duplicate wand preloaded with a flower. Silly Jilly closed her segment with a mis-made dinosaur trick where the dinosaur's head keeps mistakenly appearing on the bottom of the dinosaur, then finally, the feet are on the bottom of the dinosaur, but it has a unicorn head. The audience laughed at the surprising unicorn head. With a wave of her three wands, the dinosaur gets his head back and it is on top. Jill appreciated Christian the Magician making a last-minute change to his set and skipping his appearing cane effect since it is similar to Jill's appearing wands. Christian the Magician first did a juggling act. He used clubs and it was amazing how he was able to juggle in such a small space. There was even a covering on top of the tent Mike built. It takes a true juggler to be able to juggle anywhere. Next he performed the Magic Coloring Book routine. He magically threw imaginary crayons to the audience and then they had to color the pictures. Since there were only adults in the audience, the adults needed to pretend they were children. The children who view the video will really like this effect. Finally, Terry Richison performed two effects. First, he performed the Cut and Restored Rope routine. He had an assistant who helped him. She was not a magician so she did a really great job

assisting him since she had no idea how it was done. Next he had another assistant help him with the Floating Rose effect. This assistant happened to be one of the employees at the facility. She was amazed when Terry made the wad of Kleenex magically move around by itself. At the end, she was truly amazed when the Kleenex turned into a real rose when Terry lit the Kleenex. There were several members who couldn't attend (Steve Finkelstein, Gary Chan and Paul Gregor) but are submitting their recordings to Mike. All of the performers volunteered to be in the video. Other members have decided they would like to take part in this project. Therefore, Mike is planning on organizing another event like this in the future. Everyone is excited to see what the finished video will look like. We are confident that Mike is going to produce an exceptionally well-made video. The members really appreciate everything Mike has contributed to Ring 1.

- **Jeff Lefton shared the following:**

Recently, I was fortunate to see Los Angeles magician, Kyle Marlett, perform his one-man show, Forget Me Not at the Gaslight Theater in the Central West End located in St. Louis. His three week run was the national premier of his 75 minute show. Kyle is very creative and has done an At the Table and a Penguin Lecture. I found this show to be an interesting use of magic. Throughout the show, Kyle talked about various challenges he has had in his life and he mixed in magic to highlight his story. I have seen magic used to highlight key messages for corporations in trade shows and sales meetings. And I've seen magic used in school assemblies and library shows to convey educational or character messages. But this was the first time I've seen magic used to highlight elements of someone's life story. He talked,

for instance, living with Crohn's disease, dealing with an alcoholic father, and having a brother who was hooked on drugs. Kyle's set consisted of packing boxes stacked floor to ceiling on 3 sides of the stage. Periodically he would open up various boxes to pull out props. One stack of boxes was even a door through which a stagehand would sometimes enter to take or deliver props. There was a small table and two chairs in the middle of the stage. Kyle would periodically invite spectators up to sit at the table with him and assist with his tricks. Among the tricks he performed were milk in the lightbulb, an interesting version of confabulation, and the gypsy thread using the string of a helium balloon. When the string was restored at the end it let the helium balloon release up into the rafters. This was really a nice touch. Keep your eyes out for Kyle Marlett. He is taking magic in innovative directions.

One of our past Ring 1 presidents, Harry Monti, was recognized in the November 2022 issue of M-U-M (The Society of American Magicians magazine) for his military service. Harry served in the U.S. Air Force from 1955 to 1966 as a Staff Sergeant. He was activated for the Berlin Crisis. He is also a member of IBM Order of Merlin.

•**Dan(the Great)Todd shared the following:**

Recently Dan performed the Vanishing Elephant effect, the Indian Rope effect, Spirit Cabinet, and more on Children's Hospital CCTV. Dan regularly performs on their network for the patients at St. Louis Children's Hospital. One of his chess playing patients told him later that he had missed the performance but he had seen him perform at Rankin Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital last year when

he was a patient there. Each month members volunteer to perform at Rankin Jordan PBH. This month John Davit and Dan entertained the patients with a tag team of magic effects that filled the hour with fun, humor, and magic. John made and taught how to make a "Dime in Ring" and performed several rope and card effects. Dan caught soap bubbles, played invisible darts, vanished Kleenex balls, and performed his stage version of Socks! The audience spontaneously gasped when he paused and grabbed his pant legs. The audience applauded when he showed his matching socks that went with the effect. Great fun can be had when performing for these patients. Dan highly recommends volunteering at this facility. The children, their families and even the staff look forward to these monthly visits from our members.

**The Ring always
welcomes visitors to its
meetings and activities.**

Sandy Weis

From Christian Misner:

‘Magical Night of Filming Leads to Children’s Smiles’

Thanks to the ‘magical’ film skills of I.B.M. Ring One’s very own Mike McClure. Our ring shot a complex video full of magic, juggling, laughter and silliness. The video’s target audience are the kiddos in local hospitals who would otherwise enjoy live magic, but for current COVID restrictions.

McClure not only shot all the video, he produced it, designed and constructed the set, provided and operated the cameras and sound, and directed the audience and performers.

Speaking of performers, Terry Richison, in addition to performing magic himself, Emceed the line up of various Ring 1 magicians. They included Ted Schnarre, with his intriguing Torn & Restored Newspaper; D. Jay Lenz, with his well-practiced Professor’s Nightmare; Steve Zuehlke, with his head-scratching Chinese Sticks; John Davit, with his skillful rope routine; Jill Schmidt (Silly Jilly), with her very silly and fun dinosaur Stratosphere; Christian the Magician, with his juggling and classic coloring book routine; Terry Richison with his Cut & Restored Rope and enchanting Floating Rose; and finally, Steve Finkelstein, Gary Chan, and Paul Gregor performed routines in advance to be edited into the final product.

I.B.M. Ring 1 appreciates all the hard work and talent that went into this video project.

From Steve Zuehlke:

December 17 was the date of our annual Veterans Day/First Responder/Holiday Tribute Show at Kirkwood Theater. Hard to believe this was our first public show since COVID-19. We had almost two hundred in attendance due to the excellent promotional efforts by Terry Richison. Terry even did a spot on the morning news before the day of the show! Hats off to members Laurence “Nothing Up My Sleeves” Levy, John Davit, Steve Finkelstein and President D Jay Lenz for providing close-up magic in the lobby before the show. While I was backstage, everyone I spoke to after the show loved it. Way to go guys.

The show started promptly at 7:00 pm with emcee Steve Zuehlke introducing the first act, Ted Schnarre who presented his classic act, “Believe it or Not.” Dressed in classic tails, Ted presented a variety of classic effects that he has been doing for over forty years and it shows. A true professional. Next on the bill was Jeff Lefton. Jeff uses comedy and presented a unique wrist tie/escape/with a spectator and his jacket, vanishing a glass of soda off of a spectators head and his classic Misers Dream. Jeff is a master of this, having been doing this effect since he was a teenager. A true crowd pleaser. Up next was our past president, Terry Richison. Terry presented some of his signature routines including his Bill in Lemon, The Floating Rose, a very funny book test and the effect and Stranger; a very unique prediction done on a cell phone with a random phone number selected by the audience. Steve Zuehlke took a break from his emceeing duties and did a quick trick producing a Teddy Bear for a little girl from the audience. The look on her face was priceless! Closing out the show was Christian the Magician. To sum up Christian. . . HIGH ENERGY! A true crowd pleaser, doing a variety of effects including a chair suspension with a volunteer from the audience, the best ring on wand routines I have ever seen and closing with the classic Snowstorm in China.

Extra special thanks to Sandy Weiss for taking care of the front of the house, Stage Manager Chuck Peterson who kept everything running backstage, Alan Zibets who made sure we could be heard (sound) and Terry Walthaw who kept us out of the dark (lights). Can’t wait to do it again next year.

Scheduled Events:

The St. Louis Magic Roundtable meets every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Dierbergs, 1080 Lindemann Rd, Des Peres, MO 63131. Check the following website for the latest information before attending each week: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/374210993307299>

Board meetings are generally held the third Wednesday of each month over Zoom (virtual meeting), and all members are welcome to attend. To attend, please contact the President and Secretary (contact info on last page).

All events are in-person unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Event
Feb. 1, 2023	Ring 1 meeting —Canceled
March 1, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: Dave Cox Lecture
April 5, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: April Fool Us Challenge
April 20-22, 2023	The Senior Tour at Double Tree in Collinsville, Il
May 3, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: ELECTIONS and Ring and String/Rope
May 23, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: Jay Sankey Lecture
June 7, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: TBD
July 5, 2023	Ring 1 meeting : No Meeting-summer break
August 2, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: TBD
September 6, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: Close-up Competition
October 21, 2023	Fall Ring 1 Magic Show - Florissant Civic Center
November 1, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: TBD
December 6, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Encore Performance

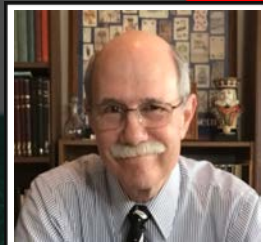
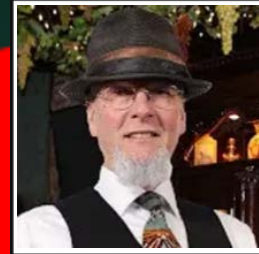
\$150 PER PERSON LIMITED REGISTRATION
THIS WILL SELL OUT!

The Senior Tour

APRIL
20-22
2023

A MINI CONVENTION
SHOWCASING DECADES
OF CLOSE-UP MAGIC
EXPERTISE

Guest of Honor:
HOWARD HAMBURG



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Collinsville, IL 62234
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BILL GOODWIN, KEVIN KELLY, JIMMY "CARDS"
MOLINARI, MIKE POWERS, STEVE REYNOLDS,
RANDY WAKEMAN

SHOWS, LECTURES, PANEL DISCUSSION, INTERVIEWS

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FOR MORE INFO:

<https://www.baskervilleproductions.com/seniortour>

*Steve Z just informed me that he received two registrations from some notable performers you won't want to miss. I tried to pry the names out of him, but he won't give them up. I guess we'll have to attend to find out!

Remember to mention the Ring 1 website to magic fans and enthusiasts.



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