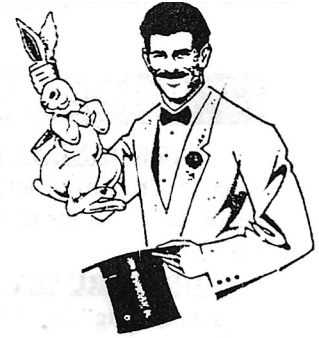


IBM
RING #29

MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29
5912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209 • (501) 455-6242
Meeting 1st Thursday of every month. Baptist Medical Center



NOVEMBER 2001

"Holiday Magic" is theme for Nov. 1 meeting.

Since November is the beginning of the holiday season, the theme for November's regular meeting will be "Holiday Magic." The meeting will be at the regular time (7 pm) at the regular place (Baptist Medical Center, Room 10). That's the group of rooms behind the cafeteria on the basement

NEXT MEETING:

- Thursday, November 1
2 pm, Pinnacle State Park
Annual Ring Picnic

BITS & PIECES

- LAST MONTH, the mysterious "EST" night finally arrived. Margaret worked hard to make the evening a success and we appreciate her dedication.

- WE'VE HAD TWO DEATHS in our magic family recently, and our prayers are with their families. We sent cards to both.

- Gene Walther's mother passed away Oct. 10 at the wonderful age of 102.

- Don (Patches) Baer's father died October 18.

- GRANT LUDDER is recuperating at home after having triple heart by-pass surgery Oct. 10. He is feeling good and may be able to attend the November meeting.

- BRENDA HENSON has had a tough time regaining her strength and recovering from a ruptured appendix September 15. She has been surrounded and supported by friends and loved ones. Please keep her and other members in need, in your prayers.

- GREG GILLIS is making the girls cry. He is leaving the bachelor ranks and will marry Tammy Robbins the end of next Spring. Tammy is from Sparkman and she and Greg have been dating a couple of years. Congratulations, you two.

- THE WORLD CLOWN Association will next meet Sunday afternoon, Nov. 18 at 2 pm at the Mr. Magic Store. Y'all come.

- LAST TUESDAY, Oct. 23, Rocky Clements & Lori of Jonesboro performed in North Little Rock. Dennis Schick and Pam Medrez ("Mommy Magic") attended. It was a terrific show. Wish you were there.

level. Many ring members go through the cafeteria line and bring the food to the meeting room 30 minutes before we start.

We want everyone to bring their favorite holiday theme tricks to perform and explain to the group. This should be a fun evening to (1) watch some fun magic, (2) learn how the magic is done, and (3) pick up some new ideas about performing with a holiday theme.

Even though we'd expect a lot of Thanksgiving, Christmas and even New Year's tricks, we'll accept magic aimed at any holiday. Come join the Brotherhood!

Magic in our area gives us a great chance to see it live.

The summer vacation season is over and lots of live magic is gone. Maxwell is closed for the Winter but will be back next Spring. The Pendragons closed at the Gold Strike Casino in Tunica after a six-week run. Bart Rocket is gone from Branson (at least for the moment) and Kirby Van Burch closed for the Winter.

(If you saw the Pendragons, please write a review for this newsletter.)

We understand Sean Paul and Julian are now at the Magical Palace. One of our members went up to see the show and received some poor treatment from the staff, so he decided to go somewhere else. If you go and see the show, please give us a review for the newsletter.

On October 23, Rocky Clements & Lori from Jonesboro performed for about 40 people at the North Little Rock Library. We'll have a review next month.

Two days later -- Oct. 25 -- magician Brian Brushwood from Dallas presented a program on the history of magic on the campus of ASU/Beebe. We sent an E-mail notice to members on Monday. If you didn't receive it, we don't have your E-mail address!

Reset magic workshop now will be Nov. 10

The Creative Kid Show Conference originally set for Sept. 15 had to be postponed because of the terrorist attacks four days earlier. So now the all-day magic workshop -- put on by David Ginn, Samuel Patrick Smith and Steve Taylor -- will go on Saturday, November 10.

It will be held from 9 am to 5 pm in Conference Room 20 at Baptist Medical Center. Ring 29 is hosting it! The cost is only \$35 per person in advance, and just \$50 if you bring a non-magician guest. The cost at the door will be \$45, so be sure to register in advance at Mr. Magic, and save \$10.

If you want to improve your magic skills and knowledge, if you want to move your magic to another level, if you want lots of new magic tricks and patter to add to your act -- don't miss this one!

Three for the price of one! All three magicians lecture and explain their tricks, and then they appear together to answer all your questions. Also, each brings sales tables of unique magic items. Such a deal! You WILL not get another chance like this one. Reserve a place right now! And be sure to bring someone interested in magic!

IBM president visits us

IBM International president Bob Escher was in Little Rock for three days in October and had a great time visiting with members at Mr. Magic. By now he should be in China visiting magic clubs there. We've invited him back to our regular meeting in June, which will be his last meeting before he goes out of office in July. If anyone has any ideas about what we might do special for him while he is here, please let us know.

COMING MAGIC SPECIAL DATES:

- Nov. 1 Regular Ring 29 monthly meeting, BMC: "Holiday Magic"
- Nov. 15 David Ginn/Samuel Patrick Smith/Steve Taylor Workshop in Little Rock
- Nov. 18 World Clown Association chapter meeting, 2 pm, Mr. Magic. All welcome.
- Jan. Ring 29 Annual Christmas Party, Otter Creek Raquet Club

MORE BITS & PIECES

• **MARK JANUARY 12** for the annual Rings 29 Christmas Picnic. We'll have more details later, but for now mark your calendars.

• **THE FEBRUARY MEETING** will be the annual Ring Magic Auction. Find a box or big grocery sack and start putting aside all the magic you have which you never use. Why not let someone else enjoy it and you make some money to buy even more tricks?

• **IF YOU LIKE PARADES**, plan to attend the annual Magnet Cove Parade Sat., Nov. 24, just off I-30 at Malvern. Get there before 5:30 since the road closes at 6. The parade starts at 7. Bring your family!

• **DAMON's "Tales of the Wizard"** shows were so good that our Board has asked him to repeat the shows early next year, and he has agreed. A number of our members said they could not attend the first shows and wanted to see them. Watch for dates and plan to attend one or both repeats.

• **WE'RE WAITING** to hear from **Michael Ammar** to see if he will come lecture to our Ring. We'll keep you posted.

• **WE HAVE HEARD** from Monty, "The Rose Magician," about lecturing to our club in January or February. If you're interested tell any Board member. He's from Hawaii.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Now, more than ever, the world could use a little magic. We ail can't help but be affected by the events that are continuing to unfold around us, but we can help in our own little way.

Take every opportunity to bring a little "magic" into the lives of the people around you. Extend a little courtesy to everyone, whether it be in the supermarket checkout line or driving down the freeway. Show people kindness.

Given the occasion to perform magic for someone, cherish the smiles on their faces. As the holiday seasons approach, keep our armed forces people, our police, our firefighters and our politicians in your hearts and prayers.

The year 2002 promises to be a great year for us as a local organization and as a nation. Do whatever you can to expand the magic that is the true nature of the human spirit. I look forward to seeing you at the November meeting and at the Christmas party in January. Thanks for your support.

Dan Hecke

"Brotherhood" is not just our middle name!

From October 2001 Linking Ring

by *Phil Willmarth, Editor*

A member responding to the Volunteer Questionnaire on the IBM Website answered all the questions, but declined to volunteer because recent events had left him disadvantaged both financially and medically. The volunteer chairman immediately contacted Nick Orlando, president of the local Ring in Phoenix, who simply said: "We'll get in touch with him. I don't care if he's a member of Ring 55 or not, he's a magician." And, of course, the Ring backed him up. That's brotherhood in action.

Another member wrote that he'd have to drop out for financial reasons. We have a fund specifically set up to pay the dues of members who can't afford them. A committee, headed by PIP Bill Pitts (of Fort Smith), investigated and the individual's dues were paid. If you know someone who loves magic and can't afford to continue his IBM membership, get in touch with Bill through our St. Louis headquarters office.

IBM Endowment and Development Chair Joe Bertuzzi spend many hours working to get group liability and health insurance for IBM members, realizing that these were real and often serious needs. Both programs have been in place for several years and are helping our members. Joe exemplifies the spirit of IBM brotherhood.

The Spencers, Kevin and Cinda, picked up on David Copperfield's idea to use magic to help physical rehabilitation patients (with David's blessing), and created "The Healing of Magic" which IBM is proud to support and indeed, many Rings regularly send volunteers to local hospital and rehabilitation centers, to help patients exercise more pleasurable and profitably by learning how to bring the fun of magic to others. That's brotherhood in a broader and very important sense. The Spencers offer a complete program. Contact them at PO Box 10396, Lynchburgh, VA 24506 for more info, or at spencers@inmind.com

Each year in the Convention city, Ron London arranges magic shows at one or more local hospitals. All of those who perform donate their time, of course, and such performing can be physically and emotionally challenging. It's a fine example of brotherhood within and beyond the organization.

The October 1998 issue of *The Linking Ring* profiled Larry Becker and his program to get older males to get annual prostate

exams. Larry and his wife, April, offer help to anyone interested in contributing their time and magic to this cause. Reach them by phone or fax at (602) 488-0980 or mail at PO Box 6023, Carefree, AZ 85337.

Richard Westcott, past president of Ring 200, New Brunswick, NJ, uses magic to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity and is putting together fund-raising magic shows, visiting Rings and Assemblies for support, and seeking both IBM and SAM Endowment Foundations support. Here's a project to get involved with. Contact Westcott at: magicbywestcott@yahoo.com

What can you and your Ring do to spread the brotherhood of magic and the IBM? Build a Haunted House to raise funds for a local charity. Donate a show at your local retirement home. Get involved with one of the programs above. Etc. Etc.

Share your magic and spread brotherhood.

Look at your tricks and performances for "Clarity."

by *Jim Surprise, Memphis Ring*

I was thinking about our selection of effects for presentation to the public. There are numerous criteria...but the one I have been cogitating over is **CLARITY**.

A lot of magicians work really hard on their technique, but they forget that the audience won't be impressed by an effect if they don't realize what the effect was. They won't be amazed at turning an apple into an orange if they didn't know it was an apple in the first place.

So let's look at our material with any eye to its **clarity of effect**. Something is here, then it vanishes. The effect is clear. Three coins are in one hand, two in the other. Then the two are where the three were and the three are where the two were. But this may not be clear. Help to make it so.

Look hard at your magic from the viewpoint of the audience. Do they have to work hard to follow the magic? If so, maybe you should re-think the trick. Enjoying magic shouldn't be hard work. It isn't if the EFFECT is clear. You should keep the overall concept in mind when working on your material.

There's a lot to this subject, far too much to cover in these few words. I hope to encourage each of you to think about your magic. Think about the audience. Make your magic have impact. **CLARITY** of effect is a good place to start.