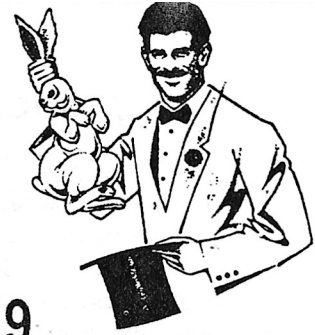


I.B.M. Ring 29
Visit our Web:
littlerockmagic.org

JANUARY 2002

MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29
8912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209 • (501) 455-6242
Meets 1st Thursday of every month, Baptist Medical Center



January meeting is Christmas party, Sat. Jan. 19

The annual Ring 29 Christmas party is not in December but is in January. This year it is at **6:30 pm, Saturday, January 19**. It will be in the same place it has been the past several years -- the Otter Creek Racquet Club. See the map on the back of this page.

Cost will be just \$7.50 per adult and

NEXT MEETING:

- **Saturday, January 19**
Annual Christmas Party
Otter Creek Racquet Club

BITS & PIECES

● **THE WORLD CLOWN** Association local meeting is tentatively set for Sunday afternoon, Jan. 20 at 2 pm at Mr. Magic. Call Mr. Magic on the Friday or Saturday before to see if it is still on.

● **THE NEXT JUNIOR** Magicians meeting is also tentatively set for Sunday afternoon, Jan. 27 at 2 pm at Mr. Magic. There has been a good turn-out at recent meetings. If you know of anyone 17 years or younger interested in magic, have them come to the meeting. Cost is only \$5 per year to belong. Call Jim at Mr. Magic for more information.

● **OUR SYMPATHIES** to Ring member **Theron Nunley**, whose mother died Dec. 21. She loved magic and magicians and always supported Theron's magic.

● **IFYOUPLAN** to attend the Calvacade of Magic in Eureka Springs March 21-23, call Bill Pitts at (501) 484-7512 to make reservations. The conference will be at the brand-new Inn of the Ozarks Convention Center. Remember that the convention center burned down last February, so it is all new. This is the only magic convention in Arkansas and we all should support it.

● **A NUMBER** of Ring 29 members will attend the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas Jan. 13-16. Those we know about include **Jimmy Rhodes, Jr., Tom Minnich, Richard Knoll & Frank, Sam Boyce, and Jim Henson**. Any others going?

Rhodes has been accepted as one of 30 juniors from around the world to compete.

\$6.50 per children 12 and under.

The party consists of a catered barbeque dinner and a magic show. You have to make reservations by purchasing a ticket at Mr. Magic by January 16. This will ensure that there is enough food for all who attend.

The program is set, with Jon Bucher as M.C. If you want to only attend the show, the cost will be \$3 per person to help pay for rental of the building.

Tickets will be available for an extra \$2 each to be included in drawings for some door prizes and gift certificates.

How often can you eat a great meal, visit with magic friends and see a good magic show for only \$7.50? Don't miss this one!

Barrie Richardson to lecture Thurs., January 31 at BMC

Plan now to attend the lecture **Thurs., Jan. 31** by **Barrie Richardson**. It will be at Baptist Medical Center at 7 pm. Cost is \$8 for paid-up Ring members and \$12 for non-members.

For 42 years, Barrie was a college professor. He recently retired and is spending most of his time writing and lecturing. He has given an after-dinner presentation -- "The Magic of Your Mind" -- hundreds of times. He uses metaphors and mental magic to illustrate his message. His book -- "Theater of the Mind" -- has been through several printings and is popular throughout the world. He and his wife, Janie, enjoy traveling.

Congratulations to Jimmy for this nice honor. We'll have a report of the convention in next month's newsletter.

● **BRENDA HENSON** has returned to work and has recovered nicely, but it's not been easy. Let's keep her in our prayers.

● **IF YOU** haven't received club E-mails you are not on the Ring list. Call Mr. Magic and give your E-mail addresses.

● **SCOTT DAVIS** and Shari have set June 1 as their wedding date. Scott's roommate **Derrick Rose** thinks they should just add Shari and split the rent three ways, but it's not likely Scott and Shari will agree to

Feb. 7 meeting to be auction

Mark your calendar now for Feb. 7, the regular meeting for next month. It will be the annual Magic Auction for the Ring. Here are some details to keep in mind:

- There will be a professional auctioneer, Gerry Bailey;
- There will be a small charge to get a bid number: \$2 per paid up member and \$5 for non-member;
- The auction will begin at 6:30. All items to be auctioned must have a bid slip (get in advance from Mr. Magic) and must be in the room by 6 pm. Admittance will begin at 6:15.
- Drinks will be allowed in the room but no food will be allowed.

See more details in the February newsletter.

Board develops critique system

At the Ring 29 December Board meeting a discussion was held concerning the development of a critique system specifically for Junior members doing restaurant work. It also could include any member interested in receiving a confidential critique about their performing.

Of course this would be voluntary and those to be critiqued would request it. If you have any comments or questions about this proposal, please contact any board member.

This is another example of how the club can help its members grow and be more successful in magic.

that arrangement. Wedding details to come.

● **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED** in collecting magic, there will be a "Magic Collectors Weekend" in Fort Worth May 16-18. Call Jim at Mr. Magic for more information.

● **THE BOARD IS LOOKING** for members to go to specific schools and put on a short magic show. The purpose is to find young people who are interested in magic and to advertise the Junior Magicians program. Schools would include those in Little Rock, North Little Rock and Pulaski County. If you will do this, tell any Board member.

Check out Ring 29's new Web
site. Log on to:
www.littlerockmagic.org

A proposal for 'Harry Potter'

by Paul Carlon, in the Benton Courier, 12/8/01

Last week, my wife and I went to see the movie "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." I thought it was a great 2 1/2-hour journey into an imaginary world of magic and make-believe. Some people find that strange because I'm a youth minister.

I was first introduced to Harry Potter last year when the fourth book, "Goblet of Fire," was released. I'm a part-time professional illusionist and the Saline County library invited me to perform a magic show for their "Harry Potter Day."

When I accepted, I was asked if my church would have any objections. Being confused, I asked why they would. They told me the story was about a boy wizard and some churches have a problem with it. So, I decided it would be a good idea to read the first book.

By the end of the fourth book, I'd forgotten that I was looking for problems with the story and found myself anxiously anticipating the movie.

Even with my fascination with magic tricks and illusions, nothing about the books or movie have drawn me to have any desire to become a "real wizard" or practice "real magic."

At least not any more so than C.S. Lewis' "Chronicles of Narnia," "The Wizard of Oz," or the "Star Wars" movies.

I've learned there's a bit of magic and fantasy in most of our favorite children's stories. But, it is not my purpose in writing this article to debate what is right or wrong with Harry Potter or any of the other stories I've mentioned.

Instead of expanding the problem, I'd like to present a possible solution.

As a magician and teacher, I've learned magic tricks and illusions can be very powerful and effective as tools to help teach children and adolescents.

I use a trick and wrap a story

and/or application around it. Magic works because it allows me to capture my students' attention and it also makes the lesson memorable.

Last summer I discovered that Harry Potter can offer a similar affect. I was spending the week rooming with a friend at Harding University where we were teaching a class together.

Through the week we had been discussing a decision he was facing and he persistently asked for my opinion. I knew he was a Harry Potter fan and thought of an illustration using the Mirror of Erised from "The Sorcerer's Stone." He loved it because it gave him a new perspective.

I have since learned we were not alone in this discovery. In the November 2001 issue of "Plugged-In," from Focus on the Family, Lindy Beam, youth culture analyst, writes about a recent interview with Connie Neal.

Connie, author of the book "What's a Christian to Do with

Harry Potter?", is quoted "You find something a person already understands, and then you connect the truth of the gospel to cross the cultural divide."

The column is titled, "Can Any Good Come from Harry Potter?," and it makes an excellent point about using the current pop culture as a platform for something good.

As a youth minister and parent, I realize that we must be very cautious about what our children read, listen to and watch. I also don't think I can be an effective youth minister without understanding and using what is

popular in the youth culture -- and Harry Potter has proven to be one such resource.

This has not been an attempt to make an endorsement of Harry Potter books or the movie; it's simply a proposal.

As a youth minister, my desire is to build up young people. So, if I have an audience that is familiar with and crazy about Harry Potter, then I'll be using it to my advantage when it comes to teaching the gospel.

Paul Carlon is youth minister for the Northside Church of Christ in Benton.

