

I.B.M. Ring 29

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FEBRUARY 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



Feb. 7 meeting is annual Magic Auction at 6:30 pm

Starts at 6:30; must register!

The annual Ring 29 Magic Auction will be held at the regular February meeting this year. It will begin promptly at 6:30 so note the earlier time. It will be in Room 20 at Baptist Medical Center. But there also some other changes and rules, so pay attention and read carefully:

(1) Cost will be \$2 per member to receive a bid number; \$5 per non-member. Annual dues must be paid!

(2) All items to be auctioned must be in room 20 with a completed auction form by 6 pm. Doors will open at 6:15 for item inspection and to claim seats.

(3) Drinks only will be allowed in the room: no food.

NEXT MEETING:

- Thursday, January 19
Annual Christmas Party
Otter Creek Racquet Club

BITS & PIECES

● LAST MONTH the Annual Ring 29 Christmas Party probably was the best one ever. Over 100 people attended. Twelve club members performed and did an outstanding job. The food from the "White Pig" was great. Thanks to Bill Pitts for providing a surprise birthday cake for his wife, Ruth. If you missed this party, you missed a good one!

Melvin Brown was awarded the Ring 29 Rabbit, by giving it a name: Rabbit E. Lee.

(4) Auction forms (one per item) are enclosed with this newsletter (four on the page) and are available at Mr. Magic. Copy the page for additional forms. Cut them apart and fasten one to each item.

(5) Each item must have a separate form completely filled out, in advance.

(6) Call Mr. Magic (455-6242) to get your Seller Number. Then use it to begin the number for each item. For instance: your bid number is #20. Start your items at 20-1, then 20-2, 20-3 and so on.

(7) You'll receive a Bid Number when you sign in and pay your \$2.

Let's make this the best auction ever. We already have over 200 items registered so this will be a terrific auction and it should go smoothly with your cooperation. Ten percent of all sales goes to Ring 29. Money will not exchange hands until the auction is over.

We have a guest auctioneer -- Gerry Bailey. Please cooperate with him and his assistants to make this a fun affair. Be on time!

He took a pledge to ensure the safety of the Ring Mascot until next year.

● COLIN CHEESEMAN will perform "Crimes of the Heart" at the Little Rock Garden Center Theater over three week-ends: Feb. 15-16; Feb 22-23 and March 1-2. Cost is only \$10 per person. For more information call Colin at 847-5948.

● IF YOU haven't received club E-mails recently, you are not on the Ring list. Call Mr. Magic at 455-6242 and give your E-mail address(es). And a big thanks to Christy Henson for sending out club E-mails.

Don't forget Richardson lecture this Thursday, Jan. 31

Plan now to attend the lecture this coming Thursday, 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. 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.

Junior Magicians have largest attendance ever

Last Sunday afternoon, the Junior Magicians Club met for the first time in 2002. There were some 18 juniors present, ranging from ages 6 to 17. In addition, a dozen adults were there for the duration, a great turn-out.

Jim Henson showed two videos to start the meeting: the first was the performance by Don Baer at the Ring 29 Christmas Party, to show everyone an actual performance. The second was the "People's Choice" performance of Jimmy Rhodes, Jr., at the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas two weeks ago. He competed against junior magicians from throughout the world.

Don Baer was the guest lecturer. He used the video of his performance as a jumping off place in talking about performing magic. He demonstrated many props and tricks and told how he uses them. Among the points he emphasized were:

- Don't ever think you know everything. You can always improve and learn more.
- Study your audience in advance for potential helpers. Make them feel comfortable. Don't embarrass them. Select both sexes, different ages, different races.
- Practice, practice, practice.
- Study. Do research. Read to improve.
- Find your own style. Add your personality to basic tricks.
- Play off of the helpers and the audience.
- Ask for help and advice.

● AWARDS PRESENTED at the Christmas Party included:

- Board member of the year:
President Dan Hecke
- Close-up Magician of the year:
Chris Westfall
- Junior Magician of the Year:
Jeffrey O'Connell
- Comedy Magician of the Year:
Don Thompson
- Stage Magician of the Year:
Jon Bucher

- Team Act of the Year:
Richard & Tara Knoll
- Member of the Year:
Bob Owen
- Special Award for Service to the Club:
Frank Gaither
- Awarded Life Member Status:
Dr. Earl Hughes and Jim Henson
- Special recognitions to Rebecca Roberts, Gene Berry and Jeffery O'Donnell for their support of the Junior Magicians Program.

MORE BITS & PIECES

● **LANCEBURTON** will perform shows at the Grand Casino Auditorium in Tunica **February 21-24**. The Ring 29 Board will attempt to have a club outing to attend the show on the 24th (Sunday). If you are interested in going, contact Mr. Magic.

● **THE SPENCERS** are scheduled to perform at **ASU/Beebe** on **April 4**. They put on a great show so circle the date on your calendar. We'll have more information in the next newsletter.

● **PATCHES (DON BAER)** had major surgery January 10. He is doing fine, except that his wife, Lynn, says that the surgery didn't help his looks any.

● **THE PROCESS HAS BEGUN** on setting plans for a Ring 29 Magic Convention, sometime this Fall. If you have any ideas about such a convention, including a good location, please contact any Board member.

● **IF YOU ARE PLANNING** on attending or have any interest in knowing more about the **Magic Collectors Convention** in Fort Worth May 16-18, contact Jim Henson at Mr. Magic. He has registration forms.

● **THE WORLD CLOWN** Association local meeting met Jan. 20 and 11 members attended. Rope magic was demonstrated and taught. The group continues to grow. If you know of anyone looking for a clown for a party or other gathering, call Mr. Magic or Don Baer. Also consider joining the club.

● **WHY NOT PLAN** to attend the "**Calvacade of Magic**" in Eureka Springs March 21-23? Call **Bill Pitts** at (501) 484-7512 to make reservations. It will be at the brand-new Inn of the Ozarks Convention Center. This is the only magic convention in Arkansas and we all should support it.

● **FIVE RING 29** members attended the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas Jan. 13-16: **Jimmy Rhodes, Jr., Tom Minnich, Richard Knoll & Frank, Sam Boyce, and Jim Henson**. They rubbed shoulders with the likes of Lance Burton, Siegfried & Roy, Rick Thomas, Paul Harris, Rick Block, Joe Stevens, Mac King and many more.

Jimmy competed in the Junior Division and won the "People's Choice Award", voted on by the audience, for close-up. Congrats, Jimmy, on this honor for you and our club.

● **DAVID COPPERFIELD** is back after two months in Germany and is on tour. The closest he gets to Arkansas the first half of the year is Springfield, MO, **March 22**.

● **A HOUDINI STAMP** will be issued by the U.S. Postal Service later this year.

Possible lectures this Spring:

- **BILL PALMER** wants to come lecture in March or April. From Houston, he specializes in close-up and stage magic.
- **MONTE**, from Honolulu, will be coming our way in March. He specializes in rose magic and ring & string routines.
- **AMMAR** may be able to come lecture to us sometime this Spring.

Paul Carlon takes his magic show on the road

Paul Carlon is presenting his "Road to Success" program for seventh grade classes throughout the state, using magic. He started with Harmony Grove and will continue throughout the Spring semester. He'll go to Sheridan, Benton, Bauxite and beyond.

This program is a part of the statewide **abstinence program**. Paul also is helping develop the full program.

He is scheduled to perform a magic show Valentine's Day at Bauxite Elementary, and March 31st at Parkway Place Baptist, doing an Easter show for children using his new Time Travelers routine, assisted by Colin.

In other Carlon news, Paul's wife, **Lisa**, is expecting a baby February 11. Good luck to the Carlons on this happy occasion.

Tentative Schedule IBM RING 29 • 2002

The following is the proposed schedule of meetings for IBM Ring 29 during 2002. Of course they are subject to change.

- **January 19: Annual Christmas Party and Awards Meeting**
- **February 7: Annual Auction**
- **March 7: My Favorite Trick.** Bring, perform and explain your favorite trick.
- **April 4: Business of restaurant magic.** A panel will discuss and demonstrate
- **May 2: Effects to use in restaurant magic.** Discussion and demonstrations.
- **June 6: Teach-in on children's magic.** Rotating table teaching on several topics.
- **July 11: Close-up magic.** Presentations by Ring members.
- **August 1: Ring ethics.** A panel discussion on the ethics of magic.
- **September 14: Annual Summer Picnic** Family picnic & magic show by members.
- **October 3: Comedy magic.** An evening of humorous magic by members.
- **November 7: School magic.** How to work with schools, by those who do it. A panel discussion and demonstrations.
- **December:** No scheduled meeting. We don't usually have a December meeting because so many members are so busy with holiday engagements.

"10 Great places to buy a magic wand"

In the November 16 issue of *USA Today*, there was an article with the above headline on it. It was tied into the appearance of the Harry Potter movie. The selection of the stores made was by *Genii, The Conjurors' Magazine* editor Richard Kaufman.

Now he can have his own opinion, of course, but **WE** think the best place is **Mr. Magic**, the **best magic store in the country**. You may not know it but many magic stores are **less than half** the size of Mr. Magic, and many do more costume and novelty business than magic.

Please help us keep this great magic store by buying all your magic from it, rather than from the Internet or mail or any other magic store. Jim Henson deserves our full support.

Here are those 10 places to buy a wand:

- Denny & Lee's Magic Studio, Essex, MD
- Magic Inc., Chicago
- Hollywood Magic Inc., Hollywood, Ca.
- Academie de Magic, Paris
- Magic Land, Tokyo
- Davenport's Magic Shop, London
- Al's Magic Shop, Washington, DC
- Magic Masters, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
- Eagle Magic Store, Minneapolis
- The Magic Art Studio, Watertown, Mass.

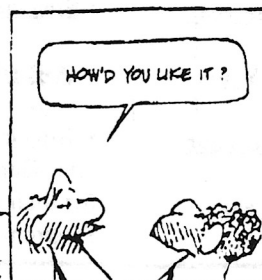
Interestingly, we had an earlier report that Al's was going out of business. And then I read more recently that they are trying to **sell** the shop. It has been run by several generations of the same family and the current son is tired.

B.C.

I JUST READ YOUR LATEST BOOK, "THE ART OF LEVITATION."



HOW'D YOU LIKE IT?



Johnny Hart

KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT.

