

The
PERFORMER



Little Rock Magic Ring 29
Newsletter

May 2023

Editor: Marty Haughn



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LITTLE ROCK MAGIC RING 29

It's all about the Magic...

CHANGES

by Marty Haughn

We are currently undergoing some changes to the website and newsletter in hopes of improving based on member suggestions. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to Marty Haughn for review. Below you will see what current changes are being made:

1. Newsletter articles written by other members (see first sample below).
2. Newsletter to be removed from website but still available in archive.
3. Newsletter (coming soon) to be made available as a black and white printable version.
4. All photos from newsletter will be removed and placed in the Gallery.
5. In the coming weeks our website layout will be changing to reduce footprint on server... with more to follow.



IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

by Blayk Puckett

Hello sisters and brothers in magic! Like you, I have a deep and loving relationship with our art. I spend a great deal of my time working on magic, thinking about magic, and sharing magic with those around me. And over the next few months, in a series of articles, my hope is to inspire some of you to take a look at your favorite material and make it more thoughtful, magical, and meaningful. If you find yourself inspired or wanting to dive deeper on any of the topics at hand, I'll be including reading resources each month. If you happen to read the books I mention, you will have read my favorite trilogy of magic books—a set of books written by El Maestro, Juan Tamariz that completely changed how I think about our beloved craft. *(full article on page 7)*



Meeting Information

Officer Installation
June 1, 2023
Larry's Pizza on Bowman
6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

December Ring 29
Christmas Party TBD

"The mother of comedy is tragedy. However, the child of tragedy is despair or laughter, it's an individual choice."

- Barry Mitchell -



President's Corner

Dane Dover

It is hard to believe that it has been almost a year since the club elected me to be the President of Ring 29 of the IBM. What a pleasure it has been. So often we go through life and forget to say thanks. Here are the people I am thankful for.

I want to thank all those who are not on the Board but are always willing to help. Jim Henson is always willing to let us use his house as a meeting place, always ready to do a show and tell and give away Magic for those in attendance at the meetings (If you don't come you don't know what you are missing). Bob White is always willing to try and get the clubhouse for us to use on special occasions. Larry Bean always supporting us as the Territorial VP. All the performers at our various shows, teach-ins, etc. Kristy, Tammy, Brenda, Janie, Mary Ann and others who are always making sure anytime we have food or snacks that everything is set up and organized.

I want to thank the Board for their work.

Marty for being our secretary – and doing most of the work. He had to put up with me dragging my feet to get the report done. (Thanks, Marty, for your gentle reminders). In addition to maintaining the website and the newsletter Marty continues to pick up the slack on all fronts.

Joel for being our VP – Joel is always willing to work in the background and make sure everything is going to happen he is also willing to fill in when I'm swamped with Tax Returns (Hey some of us are still working).

James for being our Treasurer – James always must wrangle the dues from everyone and is the one who must account for all our income and expenses. While we don't have a million-dollar budget this is still more than you would think.

Mike for being our historian – Mike is just an overall nice guy and always has wise counsel based on his years of experience within our club.

Gerry Bailey for being our Sergeant at Arms – Gerry is always willing to help and is also our auctioneer whenever we need one. Gerry is a great addition to our board.

To all our new members thanks for showing an interest in our club. We hope to foster an environment where Magic is alive and Fun.

Secretary Report

Marty Haughn

This was a fun Thursday, May 4, 2023 for Ring 29. We had twenty-one members and guests join in on the fun at David's Burgers Restaurant in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Our meeting was led by our President, Dane Dover. After a few announcements of upcoming events, the magic began.

Wells Autrey (Dr. Wu) was a welcomed sight after a long absence due to relocation. Wells had an audience member lend him a regular deck of cards, a second person filled his request for some paper, and still another person loaned Wells a knife. Another request Wells made was for someone to lend him a Sharpie. Wells then had someone to select at random a card, write his their name on it then hide it back into the deck. Wells rolled the borrowed deck up in the borrowed paper and plunged the borrowed knife horizontally through the borrowed cards dividing them into a cut deck. With the knife retained mid-deck, Wells sliced the paper enough to reveal the deck and he removed the card under the flat of the knife blade. It proved to us all that Wells was still a Magic Master as he showed us all the randomly chosen-signed card!

Mr. Gerry Bailey (Mr. Always Fun) took a large empty ice bucket up to the performance table and out of nowhere grabbed half dollars and noisily plopped thirteen of them into the bucket. That wasn't the end of his performance though. As he walked away he had gestured as if commanding an invisible coin to materialize and slowly travel through the air and drop with a CLINK into the bucket.

Sid Salmans entered the stage and spread four cards (all Kings) and with a fun-filled bit of patter reversed them and let us re- view their faces but they had all turned to Jokers!

Al Henager (Mr. Young at Heart) put in a good word for "Oz Magic Manufacturing" as he set up his purchase from that business consisting of a compact, fold-out, stable and portable tabletop easel to hold his beautiful Jumbo-Jumbo 3 Card Monte. He gave us a "true" story of his trip to a country fair where he had to keep his eye on the Queen even when the game was played with two cards and then only one card.

Joel Nicholson is still trying to get his card mentalism trick to work but his best tonight was an improvement as he got two out of three.

Joey Williams (The Ageless Master of Illusion) picked up a napkin off the table and with a sharpie wrote a prediction and hid it from us. He then borrowed an iPhone from Dr. Wu and had him type in and set of numbers on the calculator keyboard, then type in 5248 and pick any symbol to add, subtract, divide or multiply by and repeat this process with 333 and 8687. The result shown on the calculator was a match for the prediction Joey had made. Amazing!

Mary Ann Campbell (mac@moneymagic) took the 3 Card Monte to a new level when she told us the story of how she applied it at a convention meeting performance. She used the Queen card to produce a broach (theme of the lecture) with the company sponsor name and logo imprinted also on the card.

5 and 2 Pictures by Rich and Christiano produced a Christian movie that played in Jonesboro, Arkansas in February and three nights in Las Vegas, Nevada. The movie trailer can be seen at MindReaderMovie.com. It is about a mentalist magician that won't tell how he does his act to a Magic Society. Our own Ring 29 member Jon Bucher has a bit part in the movie and he was introduced to attendees of the movie after it played in Jonesboro.

Secretary Report

Marty Haughn

He gave a short message and performed an impactful magic trick with the question “Do You Know How to get to Heaven?” Jon is helping to find sponsorship for the movie to come play in Searcy, Arkansas. At our meeting Jon pulled out two cards and proceeded to fold one “widthitudianally” (is this even a word!) and the other “longitudinally” and when placed together, after being folded, one card changed suite when pushed inside the other.

Blake Puckett gave some patter while producing an ethereal bag containing a fried chicken leg with two eyeballs on it, we call it the “MCL for Magic Chicken Leg”. Blayk had a Wells Autry choose a card and place it back in the deck. The deck was then cut by a Patrick Taft six times. Blayk did not see the card selected as it was cut two more times. Blayk said, “Now there is no way the magic chicken leg can know about your card”. Then Blayk had his volunteer cut and multi-deal into two stacks, the cards making the conditions impossible for the MCL to know what card had been selected. He cut it two more times and had the volunteer shuffle it under impossible conditions. Blayk picked up the two stacks and asked the Magic Chicken Leg which card was picked and the magic chicken leg correctly divined the card.

Paul Carlon was not to be outdone by Blayk Puckett’s “Mentalis Two-Eyed Fried Chicken Leg”. Paul pulled out his version of a “Mentalist French Fry” and with a borrowed deck of cards and Sid Salmans to taking the cards behind his back, cut them twice then select a card from the top or bottom to show Paul. The Magic French Fry had predicted the same card and Paul showed it was the Queen of Hearts.

Penn & Teller, Martin Gardner, Bob Hummer & Monte were words in the patter while Dane Dover moved a red sponge ball under three silver-rimmed tea cups trying to fool Mary Ann Campbell. That Darned red sponge ball kept everyone confused as the where it was hiding.

Susan Bucher was given a card and Sharpie to write any number up to 52 on the card given by performer Colonel James Kinsey. James had Susan count down in the deck to her selected number of 48. When Susan flipped her card over she found that it exactly matched the earlier prediction James had made.

Stay Magical!

Joel Nicholson

Ring 29 Vice President

“Once again, I thank Joel for stepping in for me this month. I hated to miss the meeting but a family event took precedence.”

Marty

Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis

This month we will check back in on the Ring from 17 years ago at the May, 2006 meeting. The President at that time was Don Baer and the Secretary was Chris Westfall. The Ring met monthly at Baptist Medical Center, Room 20 in Little Rock.

May found over 30 members practicing and performing rope magic. President Don Baer conducted the business meeting, highlighting upcoming regional and national meetings as well as local performances. Our new officers are: Christy Henson, President; Chris Westfall, Vice President; Mike Curtis, Historian; James Kinsey, Treasurer; Tyler Vodehnal and Gerry Bailey, Secretaries.

Derrick Rose performed and lectured on The Professor's Nightmare (TPN), patterned on Trevor Lewis' routine. Derrick also did his version of David Williamson's Ring and Rope. Derrick pointed out the importance to the working performer of an immediate reset.

Mike Curtis showed his version of TPN, with a few added handling touches. James Kinsey's Comedy Cut and Restored Rope performance in which the knot popped off the rope was well done and well received. Alex Lyon offered a few variations on TPN as well as the Cut and Restored Rope. The ends disappeared into a Thumb Tip.

Although many of the tricks performed were the same, each performer provided some variation. Alex, for example, taught us a display of the three ropes which was entirely different from other performers.

Pam Medrez' Pet Rope was well performed in Pam's usual endearing style. Jon Bucher's introduced us to his trained rope. As always, Jon was most entertaining. Chris Westfall presented Daryl Martinez'/Pavel's Acrobatic knot. Jim Henson, Mr. Magic himself, performed a medley of magic including the Stiff Rope, Fishing for Cards and a Jumping/Color Changing Rope routine. Jim also brought a large selection of rope magic for the benefit of those who can't make it to The Shop as often as we would like. Thanks, Jim!

Jesse McKinney, magician and student of magic par excellence, launched from David Williamson's Ring and Rope routine into a wonderful sequence of magical rope wonders. President Don Baer's version of TPN illustrated how a difference in patter can make a trick the performer's own. Gerry Bailey performed a trick dating to his beginnings in magic, a comedy Cut and Restored Rope, and then demonstrated his initial foray into Tabary's most formidable routine.

Melvin Brown, unable to find his voice, performed a card trick with slates culminating in the word "rope" transforming into the real article. Many thanks to Erin Lyon for her gracious assistance! President-elect and magicienne extraordinaire, Christy Henson, entertained us with her version of Tying a Knot without Letting Go (sic) of the Ends. Her explanation was superbly done as one might expect from a professional teacher! Thanks to Bill Fulton's family members, Noah and Steve, for their gracious assistance.

Closing a most entertaining evening with his version of the Rope Through the Neck was our newest member, Michael Williamson. Thanks, Mike! Ring 29 learned many handlings for the Professor's Nightmare—although if we saw one more performance of this venerable trick, we might have all hung ourselves."

Ropes, ropes and more ropes! That was one meeting in which everyone stayed with the night's theme. It was surprising how many clever variations of "The Professor's Nightmare" were presented on top of the excellent lecture given by Derrick Rose. It was an entertaining evening as homage was given to one of Magic's true classics.

Until next time, remember, the past may only remain a distant memory until you decide to revive it once again.

Message from the Board

Yes, it is that time of year again. Our officer Installation is coming for the June meeting. The Ring 29 board met recently and have made some recommendations. Please, keep in mind, these are ONLY recommendations for officer positions for the next year.

President: Dane Dover

Vice President: Joel Nicholson

Secretary: Marty Haughn

Treasurer: James Kinsey
Alternate: Christy Kinsey

Sgt. at Arms: Gerry Bailey

Historian: Mike Curtis
Assistant: (pending decision)

Again, the above list is only a recommendation from the board.

Here is your opportunity to recommend anyone in Ring 29 to hold one of these positions. Your recommendation will be added to the voting list. Voting will happen at the June meeting.

It's the Little Things

Blayk Puckett

Hello sisters and brothers in magic! Like you, I have a deep and loving relationship with our art. I spend a great deal of my time working on magic, thinking about magic, and sharing magic with those around me. And over the next few months, in a series of articles, my hope is to inspire some of you to take a look at your favorite material and make it more thoughtful, magical, and meaningful. If you find yourself inspired or wanting to dive deeper on any of the topics at hand, I'll be including reading resources each month. If you happen to read the books I mention, you will have read my favorite trilogy of magic books—a set of books written by El Maestro, Juan Tamariz that completely changed how I think about our beloved craft.

We'll begin with a discussion of details, appreciating that each of our gestures, words, and actions has the opportunity to aid our magical effect. Right now, think about some of your favorite pieces of magic—it could be something you've performed a thousand times, maybe it's given you the strongest and most genuine reactions, or perhaps it's a personal creation that you feel expresses your rich inner self. This may be something that you've worked on and performed for so long that you erroneously thought of it as "finished." And even if you can appreciate intellectually that no piece of magic can ever be "finished," you still may have stopped thinking a long time ago about how to improve some of your classics. However, it truly is the finest details—the ones no audience member will ever consciously notice—that will take your favorite magic to its next level.

Every piece of magic we perform can benefit from a deliberate and thorough analysis of our actions—from the noticeable ones, like what words we say and how we touch our props, to the more subtle ones, like where our eyes and feet are pointed. When we give our favorite magic the rigorous attention to detail it deserves, we can polish a good piece into a truly magical effect that will live in the memories of our audiences for years.

One of the best places to start is with the script. Whether you currently script every single word, write a basic guiding outline, or tend to improvise your patter on the fly, please consider that the details of what you say during your performances can completely change how your magic is interpreted and remembered. Carefully write the ideal script for your favorite piece of magic—include in your script all the words (and actions) that you want your audience to be aware of. In a real performance, you may forget something you planned to say, you might add an improvised line, or you may go fully off-script altogether. But if you think carefully about the precise words you plan to say, you will be more likely to hit the words that emphasize the moments you want them to remember, dramatize the impossible conditions of your effect, and conjure up the feelings you want your magic to evoke.

Turn also to your physical actions. Every movement you make, with every part of your body, will affect how your magic

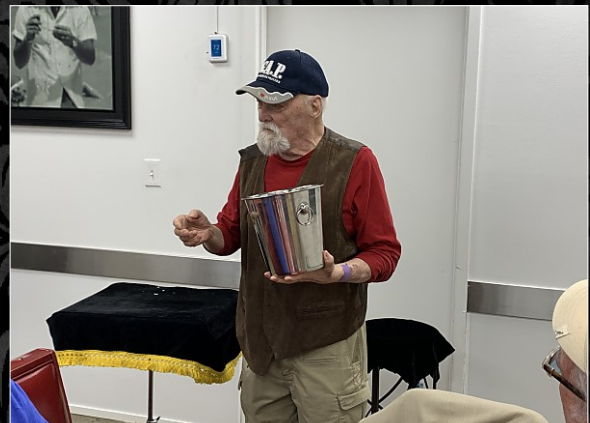
is perceived. When you practice your secret moves, don't only practice the moves in isolation. Practice them alongside what else you're saying and doing. Can you think of a natural reason to glance up, ask a question, make a quip, or otherwise occupy your audience's mind, while you execute a secret move? Secret moves should (almost always) happen during a moment of mental relaxation, when the audience lets their guard down because they aren't expecting anything of importance to happen in that moment. For every secret part of your favorite piece of magic, think about how you can reliably create these relaxed moments in a way that feels natural and not forced or obvious—in other words, no one will notice those moments of relaxation because they simply feel like a natural break from the attention. Your words, attitude, body language, gestures, and actions can be carefully and precisely planned to enhance your magic.

I recently thought through these types of details for a one-coin routine I do. Even though I've performed it for years with great success, I thought of many places where a perfectly timed glance up, a precisely placed couple of words, or a natural motivation for a movement could improve the effect and make the whole thing feel that much more magical. As just a quick example, the beginning of the routine relies on a false transfer that I've practiced thousands of times. But now, I'm adding a conditioning movement just before the false transfer, glancing up just before the move with a comment that forces them to think momentarily, shifting my body's weight and posture with the "coin," and even incorporating a small audio illusion, all in an effort to make sure that false transfer isn't noticed, remembered, or even considered. A lot of work for just the first vanish, in the first phase of a full routine—but I've seen firsthand that the extra effort makes a meaningful difference.

To learn more about how your voice, body, hands, eyes, and feet can work together, I can't recommend Juan Tamariz' *Five Points in Magic* enough (I got my copy from Jim Henson). This fairly small book is the beginning of his great trilogy of magic theory. In it, he gives clear, practical details for how to synchronize and utilize all these parts of your body to aid in the magical effect.

Whether you read that book or not, I'd like to encourage all of my magical friends and family to put down that shiny new trick. Instead, spend some time polishing the magic you already love and perform, by applying a rigorous analysis to all those little details. You'll feel a new life when you perform your old favorites, since you'll have new ideas and efforts to focus on. After enough work, you'll see the difference it makes for your audience. Most people only see live magic a few times in their entire life. Don't they deserve our best?

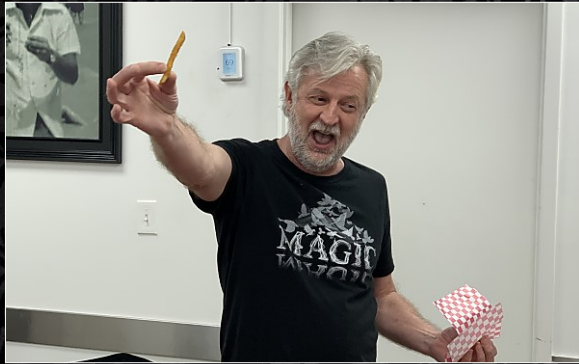
May Performers



May Performers



May Performers



Schedule of Events

2023

Date	Meeting Location	Theme	Lecturer	Host/Emcee
January 14, 2023	7:00 p.m. Jacksonville Community Center	Annual Christmas Show	N/A	Marty Haughn
February	Markham Executive Building 10201 W. Markham	Workshop	N/A	Dane Dover
March	Henson Home #2	Open	N/A	Joel Nicholson
April	Stagecoach Clubhouse	Lecture	Tom Burgoon	Jim Henson
May	David's Burgers 3510 Landers Road, NLR	Open	N/A	Dane Dover
June	Larry's Pizza 801 S. Bowman Road, LR	Officer Installation	N/A	Larry Bean
July	TBA	Photographic Magic	N/A	
August	TBA	Magic with Tarot Cards <i>No Readings Allowed</i>	N/A	
September	TBA	Paper, Rope or Rings	N/A	
October	TBA	Scariest Magic You Know!	N/A	
November	TBA	Perform, Teach then Share	N/A	
December	Ring 29 Christmas Party	Best of the Best	N/A	

* The clubhouse address: 100 Stagecoach Village, Little Rock, Arkansas.

These are our normal meeting gatherings. Any additional activity throughout the month will be listed on the website beginning in August.

*IBM Little Rock Magic Ring 29
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All members of Ring 29 must first be a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. I.B.M. Applications can be obtained from http://www.magician.org/membership_application.pdf.

Contact Mr. Magic or any Ring 29 Officer for information on joining the IBM or Ring 29.

Mailing Lists

In addition to this newsletter Members can receive last minute email information on meetings, events, and lectures. If you wish to be added to our email list, please contact *Treasurer Col. James Kinsey*.

www.littlerockmagic.net or www.littlerockmagic.org

Our website has been filled with a wealth of information to assist our members and potential members. New features are being added daily. Check out the Ring 29 Highlights video, the Magicians for Hire page, or the Ring 29 Event Calendar.

Using Ring 29 Email Group

To be added to our email group, contact James Kinsey or Marty Haughn

We now use GOOGLE GROUPS for our email service.

Ring 29 is proud to endorse and support Little Rock's world class Magic Vendor, "Mr. Magic"
Mr. Magic is owned and operated by retired Fire Chief Jim Henson and is a primary contact for Ring 29.

Mr. Magic (Jim Henson)

501-580-2860