

*The*  
**PERFORMER**



*Little Rock Magic Ring 29*  
*Newsletter*

*June 2023*

Editor: Marty Haughn



- [In the News](#)
- [President's Corner](#)
- [For the Record](#)
- [Blast from the Past](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Event Calendar](#)



## LITTLE ROCK MAGIC RING 29

*It's all about the Magic...*

### CHANGES ARE COMING

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 second sample below).
2. Newsletter (coming soon) to be made available as a black and white printable version.
3. All photos from newsletter will be removed and placed in the Gallery.
4. In the coming months our website layout will be changing to reduce footprint on server... with more to follow.

### Future Articles

In the coming months I will be asking members to write an article describing a magical experience or just about magic.

Articles will be 3-4 Paragraphs so as to fit in allotted space.

I'll deal with grammar and spelling so no worries there

Thanks,  
Marty Haughn  
Ring 29 Secretary

### Methods Make Magic (and that's not a secret!)

by Blayk Puckett

Hello, and welcome back! You may remember that I'm writing a short series of articles with a goal of inspiring you to work on your existing magic in an effort to make it more thoughtful, magical, and meaningful. Last month, we discussed how a concentrated focus on details—gestures, words, actions—can completely change how your magic is interpreted and remembered. In this continuation, we'll turn to what can sometimes be a slightly controversial topic—method (and what your audience is thinking about the inner workings of your magic). Like before, I'll recommend reading materials on the topics of discussion, including the second book in my favorite magic trilogy, the sequel to last month's Five Points in Magic. For now, conjure up some of your favorite effects and their methods, and keep them in mind as you read—applying these concepts to your actual work will be the most effective way to understand them. *(full article on page 8)*



### Meeting Information

July 7, 2023  
TBA  
6:30 p.m.

### Upcoming Events

October Fundraiser Show  
  
December Ring 29  
Christmas Party TBD  
  
Annual January Show

*"The heart of magic is a manuscript, inscribed with the language of marvel.*

- Jon Finch -



# President's Corner

*Dane Dover*

## Patriotism and Magic

July 4th marks our Independence Day here in the USA. If you've been around Magic in the United States, you most likely have in your possession or have seen a Silk Flag (Various sizes up to 4 ft. by 6 ft. There are so many references to the red, white and blue in the older magic books. In my own show I take a red, white and blue silk and transform it into a flag. My patter goes something like this "and this (as I pull out the flag) ladies and gentlemen is worth clapping for".

Why is this such a prevalent theme in Magic? I think it is because no matter what our differences we all can agree that this is a great country and should be celebrated. Is our country perfect, not by a long shot but the country is not the politicians in Washington nor is it the military (which makes it quite different from some other countries). Our country was founded on the principle of "We the People". It was not founded on the principle of "We the people who agree with Dane" but simply "We the People".

What does this have to do with Magic? As we do shows, and present tricks shouldn't we be bringing people together? Can't we be the bearer of something Magical and bring joy? I enjoy the challenge of Mentalism. But I also enjoy the joy on a child's face as they watch a live magic show. Want instant appreciation in your shows? Be you no doubt but also include things that you know an audience can relate to (Such as a US flag) and which you have an appreciation for. I can still remember Red Skelton doing the Pledge of Allegiance. The following link will take it to you if you want to listen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HGHdFmu5GU>

Let us celebrate the freedom to do that which we love, with the people we love, in the land that we love. Happy Independence Day.

Dane

# Secretary Report

*Marty Haughn*

Ring 29 met Thursday, June 1, 2023, at Larry's Pizza at 801 South Bowman Rd., Little Rock, AR 72211. We arrived early before starting time for the meeting at 6:30, and ate and had terrific fellowship and excellent pizza and service. Twenty one of us then moved to Larry's Meeting Room, scheduled for our meeting, and our president, Dane Dover opened the meeting business session. Dane asked members to continue the search for a few places to contact and research for a "permanent regular meeting place", and begin performers search for a public magic show in October. He then introduced IBM Ring 29 Territorial Vice President Larry Bean to lead the two Broken Wand ceremonies tonight.

The first Broken Wand ceremony performed by Larry Bean was for Don Terry with his spouse and family present. This was followed by a Broken Wand ceremony for Ricky David Tripp with his wife Barbara present. These tributes were for very accomplished magicians who made an impact on a great deal of people for enjoyment, messages of hope, and fun entertainment. We will miss them greatly and long remember their accomplishments.

Gerry Bailey made a motion to keep the recommended slate of officers presently active and Jim Henson seconded the motion, and Larry Bean began the induction of the newly elected officers. It was a bit unusual induction since two officers Marty Haughn and Mike Curtis were unable to attend and respective "stand ins" for them were Jon Bucher and Blayk Puckett as selected by Larry Bean. After the lighting of candles in a formal ceremony and pledges of commitment to each officer's responsibilities a comical Larry Bean original skit aimed at each officer individually was enjoyed by all. Larry presented each officer with a gag message and a gag gift based upon fishing tackle. Things lightened up and Larry presented each officer with a new name badge custom made with the IBM logo, officer title, and year 2023-2024.

Joel Nicholson, Ring 29 Vice President, related his unique experiences and memories of both Broken Wand honorees Don Terry and Ricky David Tripp before he began his required performance for newly-elected officers. Joel started with a small wooden box and asked the audience what they thought it contained. Three-and-a-half-year old Phoebe May Vodehnal correctly guessed and won the package of lighted balloons inside. But there was another prize inside and she also guessed that it was a 3'x5' American Flag which she also won. Wells Autry (the infamous Dr. Woo) placed 3-12" silks in the colors red, white and blue into a dove pan and Joel covered it with a shiny lid and with the words "I hope it works" removed the lid to reveal a black bag. Joel handed Larry Bean and Wells Autry the bag and they produced an American flag with one pull of the upper corners of the bag. The additional helper Jim Henson joined Wells and Larry and Joel produced a large, shiny, chain that he locked around the trio. It was explained how it took everyone, not just one, to accomplish the work of the Ring 29 club no matter what the person's position was in the club. They were released and Joel gave a few facts about Memorial Day's true origin and history.

James Kinsey, Treasurer of Ring 29, selected Christy Vodehnal to help with a card trick. James had made a prediction of the card Christy would choose. She freely selected a random number and wrote it on back of a card. Then James had her count down to the number she had written down on the card and then turn it over to see the card. It was exactly the same card that James revealed to be his predicted card.

# Secretary Report

*Marty Haughn*

Gerry Bailey asked Susan Bucher to come on stage with him and he showed her two keys that were made with matching cuts but different colors: one was red and one was silver. Carefully Gerry placed one key in Susan's hand and showed her the one left in his hand. They were different colors just as before. Gerry then asked Susan to close her hand around the key tightly and he did the same thing with the key in his hand. Gerry then opened his hand and revealed his key had changed color to the one placed in Susan's hand and Susan opened her hand and it had changed to the color of the key Gerry had placed in his hand!

Dane Dover, our Ring 29 President, had Blayk Puckett to assist him in fully obscuring Dane's view by placing opaque round soft flesh-colored rubber balls over his eyes and then tying a non-gimmicked blindfold over his already obscured eyes. Blake found his desired card and shuffled the card back into the deck thoroughly and placed the deck face down on the table. Now blindfolded Dane had to find Blayk's one randomly chosen card as Dane held the deck with the backs of the cards facing himself. After a tiny stumble Dane found the card that Blayk had chosen!

Jon Bucher (for Marty Haughn Ring 29 Secretary) performed the trick "How to get to Heaven" in a polished and effective style of presentation with paper folds and tears that resulted in a cross when unfolded. Very effective impromptu.

Blayk Puckett (for Mike Curtis, Ring 29 Historian) asked Larry Bean to think of a card and Blayk would do a unique trick. He said I'll place one card in a specific place and never touch the deck again. Blayk asked Jim Henson to call out any small number and Jim called out the number three. Blayk told Larry to take the deck and count down three cards and turn the third card over and it was the card that Larry had been thinking of! Powerful magic!

Jim Henson then presented Larry Bean with a custom hand engraved beautiful natural finished lightly stained Master's Wand, in appreciation for all the service and time, talent and resources he had contributed to Ring 29.

What a meeting! We had food, fellowship, Business Meeting, two Broken Wand ceremonies, Election, Induction, Badges, humorous gags and serious moments, magical presentations, and renewed commitments to the responsibilities that lie ahead.

Thanks everyone for coming and to our other members and friends we missed you. Bless you all.

Joel Nicholson

*"Once again, I thank Joel for stepping in for me this month. I hated to miss the meeting but a stomach bug took precedence."*

*Marty*

# Blast from the Past

*Mike Curtis*

This month we will take another look back on the Ring from 17 years ago at the June, 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.

We had a great turnout for our Gospel themed June meeting held at Little Rock's magic shop, Mr. Magic. There were 26 people present. President Don Baer served as MC.

Jon Bucher entertained us with his Gospel version of Tearing the Ticket where he made a cross out of paper. Following his performance Don performed a different version of Tearing the Ticket with the same result of a cross.

Pam Medrez did an outstanding performance involving four volunteers. She pulled multicolored silks representing different talents from a Change Bag, handing individual silks to the volunteers. When putting the individual silks back in the bag, they became a long multicolored silk. It was a wonderful object lesson.

Pam is multitalented. She also presented her new ventriloquist mouse with cheese. We look forward to seeing more of her ventriloquism.

Dennis Schick showed his vest that he uses for doing walk arounds. He demonstrated Slush Powder with a Gospel routine and performed People We Meet with the picture of Jesus as the ending, teaching his audience about making right choices. Ending his performance, instead of a Card Castle he produced a Card Cross.

Kelly Presson performed his version of Professor's Nightmare, teaching that all sins are equal.

Christy Henson presented Choice Is Yours, telling the Bible story of the rich young ruler. She continued in Don's place as MC. The Resurrection of Christ story followed with James Kinsey's Disappearing Card Case. Tyler Vodehnal used a shuffled deck of cards and told stories about God's Creation using each card from the deck.

Gerry Bailey performed a great version of Cut and Restored Rope. With numerous knots in the rope appearing and disappearing, Gerry told of Christ's reappearing after His resurrection. Dane Dover demonstrated the Bottle Trick with his upside down filled Coke bottle.

Ending the evening of magic, Jim Henson performed the Multiplying Bunnies except using loaves and fishes which multiplied in the hand of a spectator. He then produced silks from a foot tall wooden church. He also did Cross Reference and Square to Cross. Telling the story of Noah and the Ark, he demonstrated the Gospel Gag Bag.

To conclude the meeting, Jim showed the Gospel Coloring Book and the Samson Pad. We had a great time filled with wonderful Gospel Magic."

The "spirit" of Gospel Magic took over the Ring for that night's entertainment as the performers demonstrated how magic with a Gospel theme can deliver a powerful and uplifting spiritual message. Everyone was amazed by Jim Henson's ability to multiply loaves and fishes, even though they didn't quite look ready to eat. All had a special time. Maybe it's about time we had another Gospel Magic night. It's always inspiring.

Until next time, keep those special moments from the past close, so you can quickly make your present brighter.

# Ring 29 Library

*Mike Curtis*

## Title

## Author

Greater Magic

J Northern Hilliard

My Best

J G Thompson

Tarbell Course in Magic Vol 2

Harlen Tarbell

Amateur Magician's Handbook

Henry Hay

Later Magic

Professor Hoffman

200 More Tricks You Can Do

Howard Thurston

Willard the Wizard

Bev Bergeron

The Best in Magic

Bruce Elliott

Pure Imagination by Scott Robinson

John Campbell (editor)

History of Magic

David Copperfield

The above books (excluding Greater Magic) are available to be checked out at no charge. Please make arrangements with Mike Curtis. He can be reached at 501-517-0926 or e-mail at [djcmgc@aol.com](mailto:djcmgc@aol.com).

# Methods Make Magic

(and that's not a secret!)

Blayk Puckett

To start, I have to wade into a bit of controversy. I've heard many magicians say something along the lines "I don't want my audience to even be thinking about the method." Before you plead with your audience to pretend it's real magic and ask them to try not to think about your secrets, you should consider that they cannot experience the impossible if they haven't considered all the ways it could've been done and convinced themselves that none of them were used.

If you want them to feel the magic, they have to know you didn't use any cheap trickery, and the only way for them to come to that conclusion is to think about various methods, and decide that it wasn't possible for you to use any of them. Otherwise, they may stumble upon a potential solution that—while it may be incorrect—will let all the air out of the magical balloon you've worked to fill; it won't feel like magic. Only after you've cut off every possible method will their disbelief go away and let them experience the wonder and awe we're all trying to share. To get there, we have to guide them carefully, eliminating every potential method from the realm of possibility (and carefully concealing the actual method so it's not even considered), until they're left with no choice but to believe they've witnessed a secular miracle.

To get practical, let's think of a specific example. Our effect will be vanishing a small handkerchief by use of a thumb tip. Even though you've already decided on a method, think through (and perhaps write down) every single way this feat could be accomplished. Don't think about what's practical or what you would do, because your audience won't understand those considerations. List them all. Here's a (non-exhaustive) list of examples for how we could conceivably vanish a handkerchief. I'll start with broad methods, with a few specific examples in each.

The handkerchief is still in the hands after the 'vanish' but concealed:

Thumb tip (actual method)

False transfer

Other type of palm

Other secret compartment in or behind hands

The handkerchief was secretly removed from the hands  
A pull, that transports the handkerchief to your sleeve or coat

The handkerchief was tossed out of the audience's vision (think Slydini's paper balls over the head)

The handkerchief was never in the hands  
Perhaps you pretended to pick it up from a pile of handkerchiefs but never actually did

A holographic handkerchief is shown via an illusion of light, but no physical object is really present (remember, we're thinking about any kind of method, disregarding practicality and realism)

This list could be made longer, but it illustrates the idea. We want to consider any kind of possibility the spectator may consider because, whether they're right or wrong, if they think of a method you haven't disproven, they can't be convinced they saw something magical and miraculous. So instead of only hiding our actual method, we want to let them consider all the methods we could be using, as we slowly disprove each one, until they're left with nowhere to turn—magic!

For our list above, we may let them examine our hands (no magnets, pulls, or secret compartments), roll up our sleeves or take off our jacket (no place to hide the handkerchief), let them hold the handkerchief (it's really there!), use minimal / slow movements (not just tossing it away), then make a point to show our hands empty (no palms or hidden compartments). We don't have to draw attention to those specific methods; we just have to show them that no matter where they turn to figure it out, that's not how it's done.

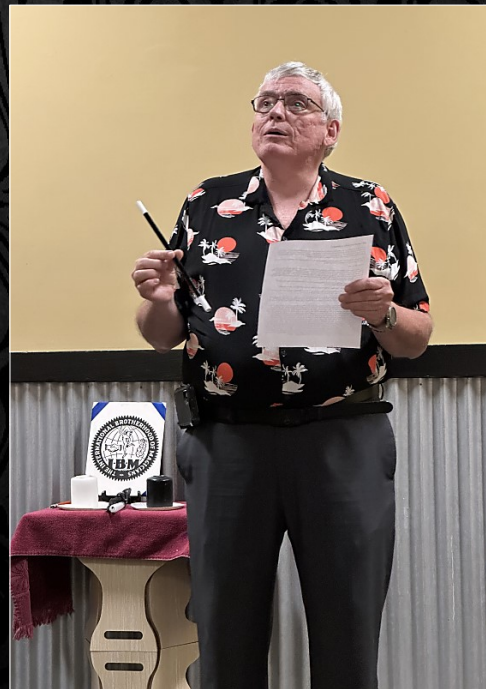
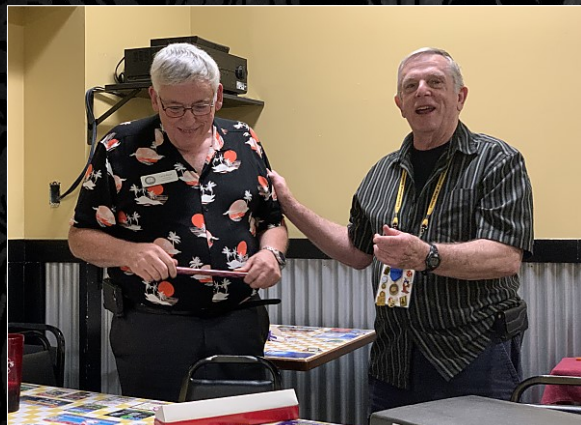
At the same time, we're using thoughtful and well-executed technique, psychology, and presentation to hide and cloud the actual method from their consideration.

Whether you like it or not, your audience (especially if they're over the age of 3) is not going to believe you're doing real magic, and they are going to be looking for and thinking about any way you might have accomplished your illusion. And thank goodness they will! Without thinking about what's possible, they can't experience what isn't! So get 10 steps ahead of them, so that each time they think of a possible method, you've already cut them off and shown them just how silly that method would be! Only after you've disproven enough of these false solutions and left them with nowhere else to turn, will they give up and surrender to the magic.

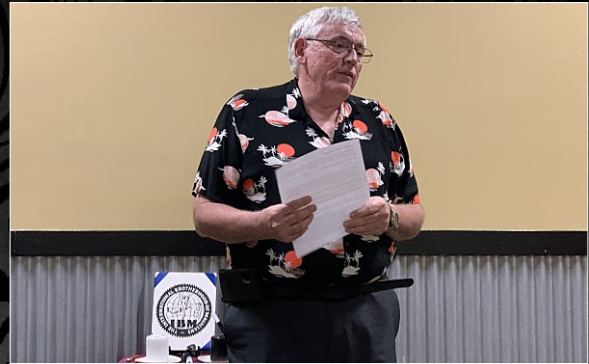
So much of my thinking about this topic comes from Juan Tamariz and his theory of False Solutions and The Magic Way. In his wonderful book, *The Magic Way*, he explains in great detail how we cloud the method while canceling these 'false solutions,' all with the goal of leaving them with no choice but to surrender to the magical impossibility. After explaining the theories, he applies them practically to a number of routines—with coins, slates, and cards—so you can see specifically how he leads his audience along the Magic Way and guides them toward the magical effect. The end result is that his audience has convinced themselves that Juan just couldn't be using some secret method—he leaves them no choice but to believe they've just seen a miracle. Darwin Ortiz gives his thoughts on this topic in his book, *Designing Miracles*—it's also a great book to study for making your magic more impossible and impactful. Between the two of them, you can arm yourself to turn your magic into miracles.



# June Performers



# June Performers



# June 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  
Contact Information 2022-2023*



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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](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](http://www.littlerockmagic.net) or [www.littlerockmagic.org](http://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.

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**Mr. Magic (Jim Henson)**

**501-580-2860**