

The
PERFORMER



Little Rock Magic Ring 29
Newsletter

December 2023

Editor: Marty Haughn



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LITTLE ROCK MAGIC RING 29

It's all about the Magic...



As we close in on a new year I find that 2023 flew by and seeming like I missed some things. I am told that the older you get the more this feeling hangs about. No matter, Ring 29 presented itself in amazing fashion by beginning with a fantastic annual show. It is hoped that everyone looks forward to this gathering.

Through Spring and Summer Ring 29 bounced from location to location for meeting places. Thanks to Dr. Chris and Mary Ann we now have a pretty stable location at Terry Library in Little Rock. This is a very large and nice facility for us to use.

October was our shining moment for the year by hosting a benefit show supporting Feed the Vets of Central Arkansas. Committee Chairman Blayk Puckett led Marty Haughn, Mary Ann Campbell and Randall Eller in the development and planning of this event which raised \$2500. Well done Ring 29.

Closing out the year was our annual Christmas Party for Ring members, family and guests. Thanks to Bob White for once again arranging for the clubhouse. Everyone who performed came through with fantastic magic and comedy.

Thank you one and all for a great 2023! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Be safe and healthy. Marty

Meeting Information

Annual Ring 29 Show
 January 13, 2024
 7:00 p.m.
 Jacksonville Community Center

Upcoming Events

Meeting February 1, 2023
 Meeting March 7, 2023
 Meeting April 4, 2023

*"Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it white."
 - Bing Crosby -*



President's Report

Dane Dover

A PLACE CALLED HOME

I watch a TV show called "Building off the grid" the premise of the show is that people are ditching going to remote areas and building totally self-sufficient homes. Most are small cabin type of structures but there is a huge variety of homes built everything from hay bale homes, to homes built from mud, to homes built from shipping crates. But the one thing that is consistent is that when they are done it is home.

We as Ring 29 finally have a new home. We will begin meeting at Terry Library on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30. While we can't reserve the room too far into the future, we should be able to get the room most of the time. This is a nice meeting facility which allows us to finally have a new home. (Thanks to Dr. Chris for the suggestion and Mary Ann for doing the leg work of getting this started).

Speaking of homes we as a Ring have helped to make some Veterans homes have a little more food. As most of you are aware we did a fund-raising show in October to help "Feed the Vets" an organization that provides a free grocery store for Veterans that need food. We were able to present them a check for \$2,500. Not a bad start for an initial fund-raising effort. I would like to see this continue as an annual event. If you have ideas or want to volunteer to be on the committee, please let me know. We will begin working on this real soon.

Where do you feel most at home in Magic? Is it close-up, Stage, Mentalism? Please be prepared to perform at our annual Christmas get together Saturday December 9th 2:00 PM at the club house at Stagecoach Village.

Secretary Report

Marty Haughn

Little Rock Magic Ring 29 gathered for their annual Christmas part on December 9, 2023. We all met at the Stagecoach Club House in Little Rock, thanks to Bob White for making the arrangements. President Dane Dover presiding. Before everyone jumped at the chance for the food, Al Henager led us in prayer giving thanks for the day, season, our organization and food. Shortly thereafter, the line began and looking at the amount of great food on the tables, there was enough to feed a small Army. Many thanks to everyone who prepared and brought some really good food and desserts.

When things began to settle down, Dane got the attention of everyone to begin the magic performances and first up was Vice President Joel Nicholson. Joel brought us into a pretty extensive and seasonal appropriate Gospel trick. Although the name escapes me four participants were given block which resembled a Rubik's Cube but with only four squares and latent with images on all sides. Each image represented all the parts of Joel's story he presented. As the story progressed the cubes were opened to reveal additional images. In addition to the cubes, six other participants had a tri-fold card with the same images as the cubes. With each reveal of a new image their cards were folded accordingly to reveal the same images.

Our resident pastor Al Henager stepped up To his performance table and informed everyone his tricks were nothing special, meaning they would not fool magicians. His performance was pure entertainment and I didn't care if I was fooled or not. Al always comes through with interesting magic. He began with a change bag accompanied by the music of Louis Armstrong "Wish upon a Star". A star covered cloth was removed the gently shaken from the corner. As the cloth moved stars began to fall off the cloth! Suddenly, with another shake, the stars reappeared! This was followed by a nice routine involving his version of the Joker Tube where the balls were able to magically change positions. Thinking what to do next, Al took the red ball, inserted it into his folded star cloth, then the ball disappeared only to be revealed back into the tube. Al's next trick involved a nice looking Square Circle. This trick was accompanied by music from Judy Garland, "Somewhere over the Rainbow". Al produced a chain of silks attached to a 25' streamer. Quite nice to see magic that is often named "outdated" come to life by a professional entertainer. Al has a smooth and suave approach to his magic and was enjoyed by everyone he performs for.

Treasurer James Kinsey was next dressed in his finest Santa shirt ready to dazzle his participant, Stacy. James had Stacy sign a business card to form a personal connection with the "Swami". Laying the card aside Stacy is asked to freely choose a card and replace it back into the deck. James places the business card on top of the deck and through their connection, the Swami is able to predict the card she chose in his crystal ball which was empty when she signed it.

President Dane Dover shocked everyone by showing up in his Sunday's best, black suit, white shirt and topped off with a bow tie! Dane presented us with two large looking chimneys. Using a version of Hippity Hop Rabbits out of the chimney came a blue Santa on the left and a yellow Santa on the right. With the expected "turn" of events, the Santas switched places. The audience were good sports and played along with Dane's antics by stating he needed to turn the chimneys around again. As Dane continued with his lines and moving the chimneys about the crowd was keeping up and making sure he was showing us everything, which was not the case. Finally, his ending came with two red Santas and all

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Marty Haughn

was good. Dane followed this with a large glass of "milk" and in his story the amount was too much so he poured the contents into a smaller glass leaving nothing in the larger one yet filling the small glass. He said in the story that even this was too much so Dane poured the contents of the medium glass into a smaller one yet! However! In doing so he poured too fast and spilled some milk onto Al's working pad! Boy, did the crowd give Dane a lashing and suddenly Al's pad was now worth \$200 for replacement! Anyway, the contents still fit into the smaller glass, even with the spill, seemed impossible.

Following Dane was our Hot Springs busker, Melvin Brown. Melvin is a well-polished magician with both his magic and quick wit. He was a non-stop run of quick one-liners and jokes all the while performing some good magic. Melvin started with a deck of cards, had a card selected, memorized by Stacy and Derrick, shuffled into the deck and revealed. Pretty slick with his method. Next, Melvin brought out a Ring and String. Just when you thought you have seen all that could be done with the Ring and String, Melvin left several of us speechless with a couple of the ways the string became attached and removed. Never discount an older trick in the hands of experience. Finally, having the audience with sore stomachs and cheeks from laughing, out comes Professor's Nightmare only one of the ropes was blue. He led us down the golden path of humor once again while mesmerizing everyone with a wonderful routine. If you are ever in Hot Springs, Arkansas on a weekend, go find Melvin and pay attention. Oh, and be sure to tip big, it will be worth it!

Juggler Blayk Puckett jumped up to perform something a little dangerous for everyone. A knife and lemon were his only tools, other than his skill. Blayk goes into the explanation of what is about to happen and stated that being in the front row may not of been a good decision! He explains further where his knife will be tossed into the air via his forearm at the same time his lemon will be tossed into the air. If successful, he will catch the knife by the handle, he hopes, then as the lemon descends, attempt a knife-point landing for the lemon. Ok, so the knife is on his forearm ready for launch. With great focus his first attempt wasn't quite right. Second attempt, off goes the knife and up goes the lemon and with the tension high in the room, no one breathing, down comes the lemon. You know, stuff like this seems to happen in slow motion. As the lemon descends once again you can see in Blayk's eyes this might be the one! Finally, the lemon lands perfectly on the knife point and everyone is breathing again with a loud applause. Whew! Oh, by the way, did I mention this was all done with ONE HAND?!

Bob White presented next with a comical trick. His participant, of course, was Stacy. I say this as this was Stacy's first visit with the Ring. This is how you become the likely participant in every trick! Anyway, Bob as a coffee cup up ended on the table. Underneath is a cork laying on its side. As Bob makes several attempts at casting shadows and magical incantation nothing was happening. The cork was supposed to stand up while under the cup then revealed. Hmmm, what could the problem be? Ah! Bob needed a magic word from Stacy. He whispered the magic word into Stacy's ear only to have her bust out laughing. With each attempt of saying the magic word it just would not come out. Bob tried many attempts to get her to say it with little success. Stacy could not even look at Bob as she continued to laugh. Finally, she was able to work up the courage to say ABRAVIAGRA! There was an eruption of laughter from everyone. When the cup was lifted the cork was standing on end.

David Duggie came up and presented a little different version of Voodoo than what had been previously seen in the past. His version involved drawing a hand and a crystal ball. Blayk was asked to stick a pin into any location of the drawn hand. A playing card was selected then David took a pencil and began

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drawing what the selected card was all the while the pin was following the movement of the pencil. This is a very eerie Trick to watch if you have any superstition inside you.

Derrick Rose, dressed in his jacket and jeans, was sporting a necklace he got during Mardi Gras. It was important as it had a Merry Christmas pendant hanging from the necklace. He said he has been waiting all year to wear it! Derrick explained that he likes his Christmas lights to be somewhat organized, meaning one green, one red, one green, one red, and so on. He hung up all the lights then realized there was a small section of one red, two green, displaying this on a strip of paper. Toying with the audience he says he was able to switch the lights. Well, in order for him to do that he had to tear the paper, as he did and said it was now fixed. Audience not being satisfied, Derrick began to fold up the torn paper with the lights and with a moment of magic, he unfolded the paper, dropping a piece, and the lights were restored and in order. The paper, well, trying to play it off, Derrick picked it up, unfolded it and presented it saying Merry Christmas.

Sid Salmans was next holding some large cards. The routine began as an observation test using four Five of Diamonds. After turning over one of the fives Sid asked how many are face down? Of course the answer was one, he made a magical gesture and now shows them all face down. After turning one face up Sid asked again, only this time they are all face up. This is where the surprises began. His next question was, do you remember what color the backs were? The audience responded with blue. They were, but is this the blue you remember? Sid turned the card to show a completely different blue back with spirals! The remaining were then shown as cards with red backs, green backs, and yellow backs.

Will Ketcher came up with a quick coin bit he said his Grandfather has taught him. He started with a coin and began rubbing it on his sleeve. No luck. He tried again and the coin was gone. Then, from out of nowhere, the coin was back and Will was successful with Grandpa's trick.

Mary Ann Campbell joined in on the fun with a cards to hat only the cards were \$100 dollar bills. Mary Ann had a story about an Uncle who was very good with money and had several bits of information he shared with the family. Beginning with five dollars in her hand, after each a dollar was dropped into the hat then counted out five ones in her hand. How could that be? Again, another explanation, another dollar, and still, five dollars were counted from her hand. This continued until all explanations were stated and still, five dollars in her hand.

Secretary Marty Haughn, known for his magical failures, decided to do just that. He started with a deck of cards and without looking attempted to riffle the cards to his other hand, horizontally. Of course, gravity took over and the cards were everywhere. Next came a string with a bead on each end. Christy Kinsey was asked to come up and participate. The string was placed around her finger and both ends held by Marty. Christy pinched her fingertip so as to keep the string from coming off. With some subtle movement, the string seemed to go through Christy's finger. Marty then went to explaining how it was done but not before giving one to everyone there. Next he asked if anyone knew of Bazooka Joe. Of course, most everyone knew. Further explaining that he no longer chewed the gum but found some in Korea, in a tube, appearing like it was made for people his age (old). Marty removed the cap and began pulling out a massive length of gum and got tangled up in it. Suddenly a bubble appeared and he was blowing it up. Moments later, POP! The noise got everyone but the killer was there were now fifty sponge balls flying everywhere!

Secretary Report

Marty Haughn

Bob Bullock took over from the aftermath and began a very nice and smooth rope routine. If you hadn't read before, Bob is our resident rope expert. In his hands rope seems to turn into something with its own mind. Bob is also very good with sponge balls. He has much better control over them than Marty did! Stacy was once again the participant watching sponge balls move from one hand to another and back again. The Finale for Bob was multiple sponge balls ending in Stacy's hand. It is always a pleasure to watch Bob work as he is as smooth as silk with his sleights and movement. We always enjoy the variations of rope magic he does.

In addition to Bob's performance, he had a surprise for everyone and one individual in particular. Bob just got started with laser cutting and made several Ring 29 ornaments to give away. I believe there were eight. Afterwards, Bob White was called to the front where Bob Bullock presented him with laser engraved coasters, representing Ring 29 of course, for his continuous support in arranging accommodations for our party. Well done BOBS!

Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis

This month we look back just 10 years to the Ring meeting of December, 2013. The President at that time was Jon Bucher and the Secretary was Bob White. The Ring met monthly at Shuffeld Auditorium in Little Rock.

December 5 was our annual club Christmas party meeting and as in the past, our gathering was held at our favorite local magic shop, Mr. Magic & Novelties, hosted by owner and Ring member Jim Henson and his better half, Brenda Henson. As usual Brenda outdid herself with a tasty spread of hors d'oeuvres, snacks, and Christmas treats which all present enjoyed.

Due to the early December freezing rain in the area and impending reports of worsening conditions, attendance was light this year. Still seventeen brave souls, (less than half our usual numbers) made it through the wet and cold to congregate and enjoy the festivities. Vice President Aaron Acosta, Jim Henson, and yours truly took turns performing magic for the group since some of our intended performers were not able to make it due to the weather.

Jim concluded the evening with a unique effect he created that combined a card prediction printed on each of three cups, which he had previously filled with clear water and then covered with a colored silk. When the silks were lifted the water had apparently changed to the same color as the silk that had covered it. Jim then announced that each member present would receive a set of the special cups as his Christmas gift.

Despite the weather outside, it was a fine close to a great year for Little Rock Ring 29. Thanks to Jim and Brenda Henson for hosting a wonderful evening of fellowship and magic.

This Ring report was much shorter than usual for obvious reasons. Attendance was low and performers were limited because Mother Nature had wrecked havoc on Little Rock with freezing rain and deteriorating road conditions. The ominous weather forecast of icing roads struck fear in the hearts of reasonable thinking Ring members who valued their vehicles and dreaded the thought of being stranded (or worse). However, there was a small group of brave, determined individuals who decided to "throw caution" to the cold wind and make the hazardous journey with the attitude that "the show (and party) must go on". It was due to their unwavering loyalty and committed spirit that they made the Ring Christmas party a success. A great debt of gratitude was owed to all of them and the Ring appreciated their willingness "to go where others feared to tread."

Until next time, remember that someone said, "The past is history, the future is a mystery, the present is a gift." Merry Christmas!

December Performers



December Performers



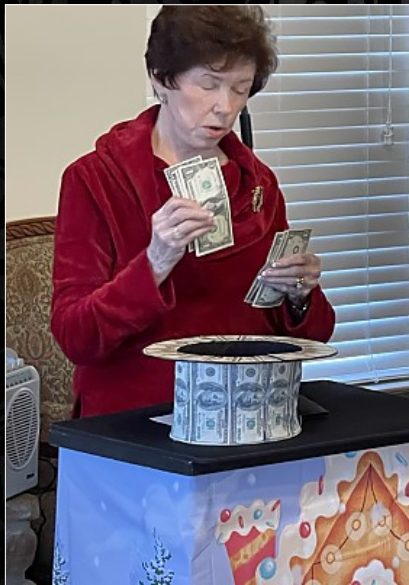
December Performers



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Schedule of Events

2024

Date	Meeting Location	Theme	Lecturer	Host/Emcee
January 13, 2024	7:00 p.m. Jacksonville Community Center	Annual Christmas Show	N/A	
February	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
March	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
April	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
May	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
June	Stagecoach Clubhouse	Officer Installation	N/A	Larry Bean
July	TBA		N/A	
August	TBA		N/A	
September	TBA		N/A	
October	TBA		N/A	
November	TBA		N/A	
December	TBA		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