



THE PERFORMER



IBM Little Rock Ring 29

December 2018

In the News

Ring 29 Annual Christmas Magic Show

The Ring 29 Christmas show is going to be January 12, 2019 at the Jacksonville Community Center. Doors will open around 5:00 p.m. We will be serving BBQ shortly thereafter. If you can please bring a dessert to share with everyone. The show begins at 7:00 p.m.

Cost for the BBQ will be \$10 for adults and \$7 for kids under 12.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Cavalcade of Magic 2019

It's time to start preparing to go to the Cavalcade of Magic, March 28-30, 2019. We have some great talent coming this year and plans are shaping up nicely. *David Sandy, Randall Eller, and Duane Laflin* are among our lecturers for this year. We will have our annual auction on Thursday night and will include some items from Marvin Long's collection.

In keeping with the last couple of years, any and all who pre-register will be placed in a drawing for a Free Registration for the next Cavalcade. You can register and pay on PayPal to ibmring75@att.net. Please leave your name and send as a friend. The price is still a low \$75 for the entire family.

You can reserve your rooms at the Best Western, Inn of the Ozarks online or at **800-552-3785**. There are special room rates until the end of February, so reserve your room before then if you can. Be sure and mention IBM Ring 75 Magicians to get the rates.

Sneak Peek

"...I signed up and one thing lead to another and after a month I was hooked. I started taking lessons from him for about two years and even through high school I was there a lot..."

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Scheduled Lecturers for 2019:

Bernardo Sedlacek

March 2019

Scott Alexander

April 2019

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Merry Christmas

This is the most ideal time of the year to
look back
And realize everything that we did that has
become
A big part of who we've become now.
I have nothing to regret.
Looking back just reminded me nothing
but all the happy moments we shared
together.
I wish to have more moments with you!



Mike is at it again!

President's Corner

by Jo Jones, Ring 29 President

Merry Christmas Magician Friends!

The December meeting was great! We had a lot of magical fun! There were about 23 present and most of the magicians performed. Great job to all who came and participated!

I served as emcee, Dane Dover presented a good mini-lecture on Impromptu Magic, and the "Great" Jim Henson was back with his bag of goodies for all magicians in attendance! Thanks so much to Dane and Jim for sharing their talents, skills, and resources to their fellow magician friends.

There will not be a January meeting due to the Annual January Christmas Show. Please put this special event on your calendar! It will be held January 12, 2019, at the Jacksonville Community Center. We will start serving BBQ about 5:00pm. If possible, bring a dessert. Show starts at 7:00pm.

Regular meetings will begin again in February at Baptist!

So far, lecturers for 2019 are Bernardo Sedlacek in March and Scott Alexander in April. It's going to be a great year! I hope you will add Ring 29 to your monthly calendars.....First Thursday of each month!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Magically yours,
Jo

Believe
in the magic of Christmas



Jo Jones





Cedric and Jo working out a coin favorite

Ring 29 Report

by Gary Fambrough, Ring 29 Secretary

Ring 29 met Thursday, December 6th at 6:45 pm in Classroom #1 at Baptist Hospital in Little Rock, AR. With 22 attending as members and guests, we had a great end of year meeting. As is the norm, club President, Jo Jones, presided over the meeting and started off with announcements.

We started off announcing two lectures for the club. Tuesday, March 19th will be Bernardo Sedlacek and Friday, April 26th will be a lecture by none other than Scott Alexander. Please come support your club by attending one or both of the lectures.

January 12th will be our annual Holiday/Christmas show. This will be a great show with lots of fantastic food and wondrous magic. The location will be at the Jacksonville Community Center with doors opening for dinner around 5:00. Marty is creating a poster for this event so if you are performing, make sure he has your photograph.

Speaking of Christmas parties, the Ring 75 Christmas party will be Sunday, December 9th, in Ft Smith at 401 North 11th St.

The Cavalcade is gearing up for March 28th, 29th, and 30th. It will feature David Sandy, Duane Laffin, and Randall Eller. You won't want to miss this convention. If you are looking to see and learn some great magic, mark your calendars and plan on being in Eureka Springs for this weekend.

Moving on to the performances of the night, we started off with mini lecture by Dane Dover. Dane enlightened all of us on some Impromptu Magic tips and tricks. Specifically, with Jo Jones assisting, he taught us a great card trick that could be performed with tarot, seasonal, or playing cards. He also showed us a sure fire method of creating a magic square. I've already stunned some people at work with this one!



Gary Fambrough



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As an intermission of sorts, Jim Henson taught everyone present how to tie a knot in a rope with one hand. Following that up, he went on to demonstrate how to tie a bow in one smooth movement with the same length of rope.

Continuing on with the impromptu theme, James Kinsey was next with linking and unlinking rubber bands. Ralph Felder followed with a juggling performance of 3 and then 4 balls. Dane Dover went next with a trick that makes use of the PATEO (Pick any two, eliminate one) method. Using 6 everyday objects, Dane predicted which one the spectator would end up with after their random selections. One of our youngest members, Adrian Steelman, performed his eloquent version of Zombie Ball. All of these guys did a great job and surprised everyone with their talent.

Marty Haughn asked for some ideas on a comedy routine that he's been working on. Chicken Monte is the best way to describe his trick and it guaranteed to get lots of laughs when he adds the finishing touches. Cedric Morley performed his take on coins across. If you've never seen him do this, be sure to ask him about it. It's one of his best tricks in my opinion.

Jon Bucher, with the assistance of Dan Hecke, performed a coin prediction. It's ultimately magician's choice but very cleverly disguised. Jo Jones wowed the crowd with a card trick after enlisting the assistance of Armilda Morley. Also in this group, Dan Hecke rounded things out with a 21 card trick. Thanks to Dan for also revealing the secret behind his trick as I'm sure we'll all get some good use out of this one!

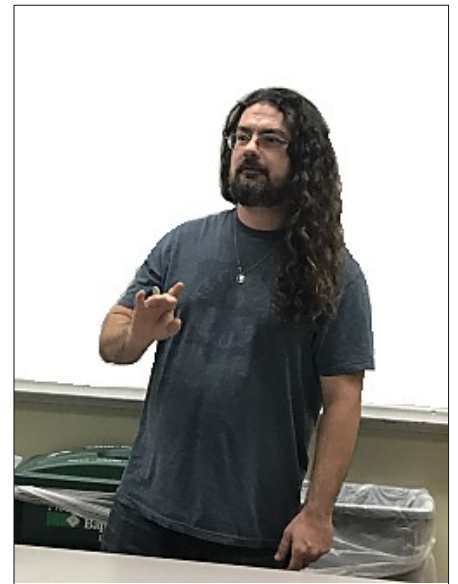
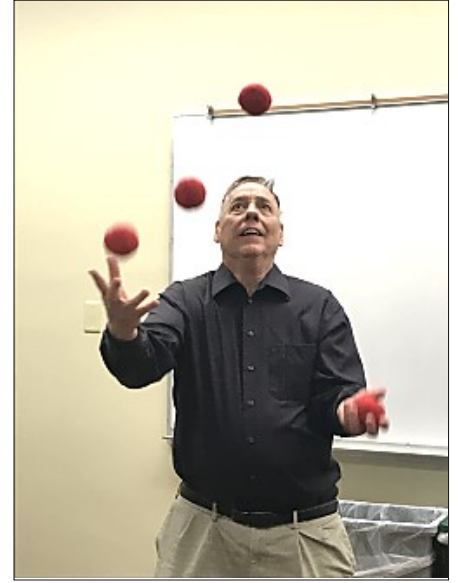
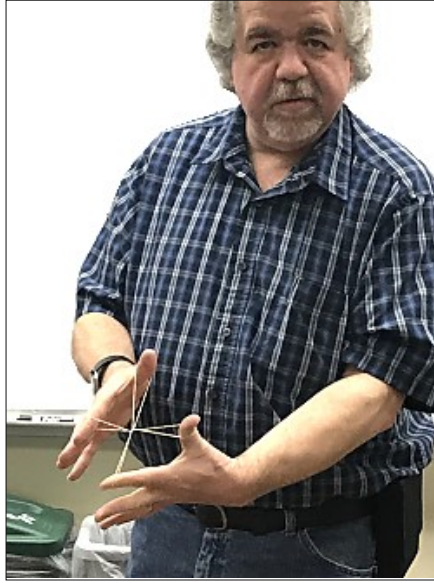
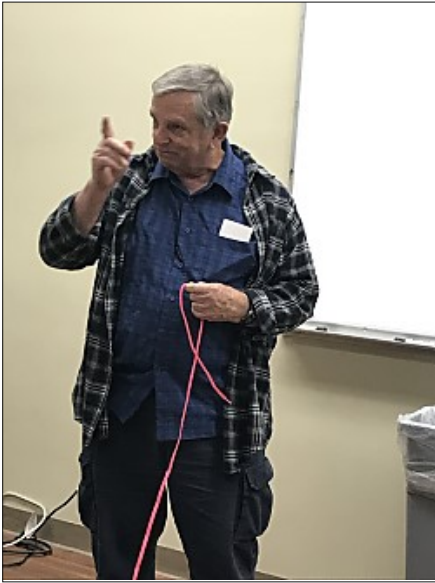
Mike Jones took us all to the movies and showed us how to refill our popcorn buckets by magic when empty. Bob White (welcome back Bob) performed a great trick called Magician's Poker by Martin Lewis where the magician ends up with a royal flush every hand. As our last performer, Derrick Rose had our heads spinning after a selected card was revealed by a fidget spinner.

As if all this wasn't enough to wrap up our meeting, Jim Henson and James Kinsey were back with some great give-a-ways. Tonight, Jon Bucher won a Razorback Trivia game offered up by Jim while Marty Haughn won a leather card case crafted by James.

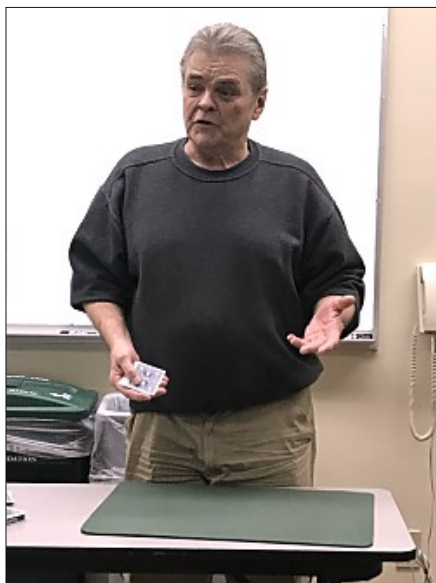
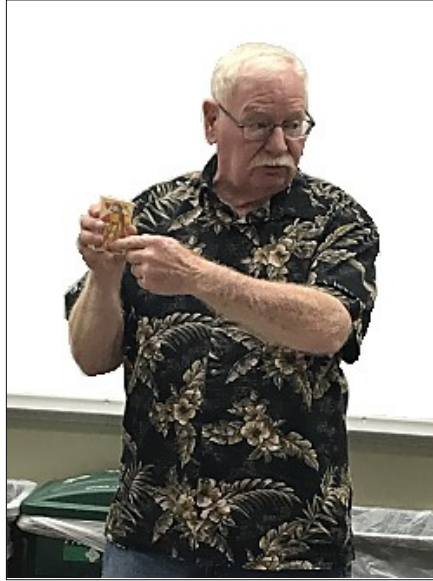
That pretty much does it for December and for the year 2018. We hope everyone has a safe holiday season! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Show on January 12th. Mark your calendars!

Gary Fambrough

December Performers



December Performers





DANE DOVER



In the Spotlight

by Marty Haughn, Ring 29 Newsletter Editor

Oh yeah! We have a good one this month. This magician is the "King Pin" of lectures, always ready to talk magic...He has the skinny on the penny...can pickle a nickel...finds time for the dime...a sorter of the quarter...and a scholar of the dollar...ladies and gentlemen please welcome Arkansas' favorite CPA, Dane Dover!

MH: Thank you Dane for taking time out of your busy day for this interview. Don't hate me for the introduction! Had to have a little fun with the money guy.

Let's start off easy. Tell us a little about Dane Dover the magician.

DD: Well, I have been doing magic since I was about thirteen years old. My parents knew that I was interested in magic and they were going to hire a magician for my birthday party, Colonel Seymour in Little Rock. Colonel Seymour told my parents that he was also doing magic lessons and that they could get a month of magic lessons for basically the cost of what it would be for the party. Of course looking back now, he didn't want to come and do the party he wanted to do the magic classes.

Anyway, I signed up and one thing lead to another and after a month I was hooked. I started taking lessons from him for about two years and even through high school I was there a lot. He kind of had his lesson plan and after two years started repeating stuff. I would help with the younger magicians through high school. So, that is kind of how I got into magic.

MH: What got you interested in Magic? You mentioned you initially had an interest beforehand.

DD: I always thought it was interesting when I saw a magician perform and I would try to figure out what he was doing and uh...I just thought it was a cool thing. I wasn't a musician so I just thought it would be a cool thing to learn.



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Right into college I was thinking about a fulltime career in magic but the more I thought about it and the more I talked to people, some of them family, it became pretty evident it was going to be like being a musician...unless you really hit it big you were not going to make very much money and I decided that was not the path for me.

MH: So was money the show-stopper then?

DD: Yeah, pretty much. It wasn't the only show-stopper but I didn't want to be a starving artist so it was one of those things that...could I have scraped out a living...probably. Then there are some guys that do very well but if you look around, most guys and girls who are doing magic, most of them support themselves with another job or they have a spouse who is helping support them, or they are scraping by.

MH: Who is your favorite magician?

DD: Probably Mac King. He is a comedian and I really like his style. My favorite magicians are those who can take a little and make a lot out of it and that is kind of what he does. He takes a simple "*Card to Pocket*" and makes a fifteen minute routine out of it. It is just amazing to watch him work.

MH: Have you been able to see him live?

DD: I have. It is a really good show. I always tell my family and friends that are visiting Vegas to go see Mac King, you've never heard of him I know, but go see him.

I've got a whole list. Eugene Burger who recently passed. I liked him for the same reasons. He was very much into the theater magic and making sure your effects have impact. I have read a lot of his work. Jeff McBride as well, who was a student of Eugene Burger. Those guys are all cut from the same piece of cloth. Who I don't like is Chris Angel. Just because I think he believes he is better than everyone else seemingly walking above the rest of the magic community. I don't want to take away from what he does because he does some good stuff. I think he is a bit more hype than he is substance.

MH: So it's not the magic he performs but more the personality side you dislike?

DD: Yes, but that is just a personal thing.

MH: What is your favorite style of magic and why?

DD: Well, my styles have changed over the years. As a child I really liked manipulation magic a lot, mainly because I couldn't do it but really enjoyed watching people that could. It is still kind of my favorite style...guys doing card production...billiard ball work...that kind of thing. People don't really care for cigarette acts anymore but I always liked those.

MH: You must have liked Tom Mullica then.

DD: Yes, I did. His YouTube act of eating the cigarettes is probably one of the best pieces of magic out there. It's really not magic it's just him being a goofball. Of course, John Calvert did a cigarette act and I liked it. But, manipulation magic when I was younger was it and as I got older I ventured into mentalism magic and this is where I kind of lean toward today. Even when I do card magic I lean toward something that is sort of mental predictions.

MH: What led you into that direction?

DD: I did some analysis on that and I enjoy close-up magic. I'm not a slight of hand guy really but I enjoy doing close-up magic. I think that close-up and mentalism share a common thread of the intimacy with your audience...I really enjoy that. Mentalism can get really bizarre and it is not who I am. I guess you could say I like "*light mentalism*". That is the style that appeals to me the most.

MH: In regard to mentalism, who would you consider your favorite magician?

DD: Max Maven has got to be up there. I don't like his persona necessarily but he is definitely a thinker in this field. Banachek, I actually like his style...of course I am naming guys that are not as popular today. Barry Richardson has a lot of mentalism in his books, *Theater of the Mind* and *Act Two...Curtain Call*. There is a lot of mentalism in those books and that is the

style I really enjoy. I like Barry Richardson's writing. As a performer, he came to the club one time, but as a performer he is not the greatest but he is really a thinker and has some great ideas.

MH: Of all the magicians in the world who influences your style of magic?

DD: Well, again, probably Jeff McBride just because I have several of his books and DVDs. He does a lot more manipulation than I do but his approach to it is basically making sure that the audience is first and they are who you are performing for. You aren't performing for yourself. His approach is more about the audience having fun. He doesn't really care what props he uses to accomplish that and he is very showy. I've gone to the Hot Springs, Arkansas Magic Festival that Maxwell Blade puts on several times and Jeff McBride has been there a few times as well. I've really learned a lot from him.

MH: Tell me a little about your favorite magic trick and why it is your favorite.

DD: My favorite magic trick is *Linking Rings*. It is probably my favorite because of two things: I usually get a great reaction from the audience when I do the Linking Rings, it is a classic of magic and for good reason; and it is probably the first routine I put time in on learning. Like everything else previous to that it was just a trick. I have two or three different books on Linking Rings, dating myself a little bit, but I have *Jack Miller's Linking Rings* routine book and of course I had *Tarbell* as well. So I developed a routine myself getting advice from other magicians and of course it changed over the years but for the most part, now, my routine has remain unchanged.

MH: Have there been any crazy moments during your magic show that just blows your mind as to how it happened? We are talking about mistakes or even faulty props.

DD: I try to be pretty controlled in my show. I try to even pre-think what could go wrong. The only thing that I can really remember going wrong and there is no way to recover from it was that I was doing *Silk Serenade* where the black records change colors and without giving too much away...you load and when you are done there are no records left. Well, I had missed loading one of the records and didn't realize it. So I got done with my routine and I pull out the last record and it is blue then I open up the record jacket to show...and there is the black record still left. There is nothing you can say at that point except "*Where did that come from!?*"

Now, I have had my share of oddities that happened during kids shows. One time right after my show this kid walks up to me and spits on me! Just out of the blue! And I'm like, what did you do that for? He says, "I don't know I just felt like it." Then turned and walked off. It was just one of those weird odd moments...what the heck? I don't know if he got mad because he couldn't figure out the trick...I don't know what he was doing.

Right before one of my shows one time a kid came up and knocked over my table so I am trying to recover. I only had a few props out at the time because I don't normally load my table up. But, those things happen. I really haven't had a major prop failure of any kind.

MH: Describe your BEST performance, why it was your best and what did it feel like to get the reaction you received from the audience.

DD: I can't really pick out a particular one but I can tell you about my favorite audience. It was at a boy's birthday party between about seven and ten. This is where you get the best reactions, they are having fun. Every now and then you get a...I don't know the right word to use..."sophisticated group" who are not real lively. People will attract people like them so sometimes you will have a quiet boy who is kind of studious so, most of his friends will be the same way. They are hard to get moving. I really don't have a performance that I would say that is my favorite.

MH: So when you get those really good reactions what does it feel like in your head?

DD: It feels fine. I just have fun. That is one thing that I told my wife. I got out of magic for a bit then got back into it and said I am only going to do what I want to do and I am only performing for me and charge a fee. I am going to charge enough that I am not going to be running all over Little Rock doing shows. When I do it, I do it because I enjoy performing. I enjoy the reaction and the interaction with the audience.

MH: Let's go back to the studious kids. What do you do to get them to be reactive to your performance?

DD: Well first they have to have permission. A lot of times what has happened is they have spent their whole life not being able to do things so you have to kind of give them permission to be boys. So, generally before I even start the show I start interacting with one of the boys on the side and they see that I am just having fun and it sort of becomes allowed. Some of them you have to pull in the direction of having fun. By the end of the show they are all about the same.

Sometimes you get there and they are a quiet group...and their parents are there telling them to be good and be quiet, sit down and listen...that is what they hear at school...that is what they are used to doing.

MH: Have you ever had one of those out of control crowds?

DD: Not really. I guess I would say early on I probably did have. Over time you learn how to control that. One of the things I do for most of my performances is I stretch a rope across where I want the kids to stay behind. I tell them that if they get past the rope we'll have to stop the show. That pretty much controls them. It also keeps them from creeping up on you, something that they will do. They may start out here but before you know it they are under your feet.

I forgot who I learned this from, a magician I think that does a series of DVDs on kids magic. I can't think of his name. He is not from the United States. He does something at the beginning of his show that I have started doing where he gets the kids to mind what he is telling them to do. He starts out with his wand and says, "Ok, we are going to warm up a little bit here, I want to see how well you can listen. When I point my wand to the left I want everybody to move one space to the left. When I point my wand to the right I want everybody to move to the right one space. When I point it forward I want you to move forward one space and when I point it back I want you to move back one space." This way he gets the kids used to minding him and doing what he tells them to do. Also, it gets some of that energy out at the beginning of the show. So I started doing that and it seems to almost establish control right away which is important in a magic show.

MH: There are thousands of books written about magic, some good and some bad. Tell us about your favorite magic book and why.

DD: If you are in magic at all you have to either read *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic* which is probably at the top of the list or you have to have the *Tarbell Course*, which to me is more exhaustive than Mark Wilson's. Dated certainly but I can't tell you how many times I go back to Tarbell even when I see somebody perform something that I know is in Tarbell. What a lot of magicians don't realize, or maybe they do because they haven't studied Tarbell like I have, a lot of the major performers will pull something out of Tarbell, completely change it, re-dress it and do it and everybody is amazed. All they have done is taken a concept from Tarbell and re-done it.

I never will forget the time that I saw Doug Henning come on stage, of course he was a different performer, he pulls out a little white silk handkerchief, stretches it out before him, twirls it up, cuts it in half with scissors and then restores it. That effect is in Tarbell almost verbatim the way he did it and he is doing it on national television. Of course, everybody is going crazy about it.

So those two are my most favorite resources. Probably outside of those two I would say a book called *Maximum Entertainment* by Ken Weber and it is not about magic but is about how to get entertainment out of your magic. He goes through a lot of things but one that sticks in my mind is he talks about when he is getting ready to perform he checks his sound, he checks the lighting. He says he is amazed on how many magicians depend on the sound guys and the lighting guys and don't do their own sound and lighting. He says it doesn't matter how big the venue is. He says that he always makes sure the person in back can hear and I have people who check that. He just has someone go back there while he talks into whatever mic is going to be used. Same thing with lighting, I am going to make sure I don't get washed out if it is a stage kind of thing. Lots of good stuff in that book, some of it I won't use. I don't really do stage magic so I won't be using those things.

MH: Let's say you are getting ready for a show. What preparations have you made to get ready and what process do you go through to determine what goes in your show?

DD: For the most part I have preset my show so I have already tested tricks and have put them together into a routine. So when I do my birthday show it doesn't change and is pretty much the same show that I have been doing for thirty years. Occasionally I'll slip something in to see how it plays but the birthday show is pretty standard magic stuff. I am currently doing a close-up show once a month for business clients, I'm a CPA so I am constantly marketing myself. These are friends

and people that I have met in business situations. I have a room that I use at Guillermo's Coffeehouse over on Rodney Parham. I've done three of those for business clients and do a twenty minute magic show. I talk about the similarity between doing magic and how it applies to doing business. For instance, one of the points I make is that "Things are not always as they seem". In business we need to be aware of that. We need to know things aren't as good as I think they are and they are not as bad as I think they are. In business you constantly have to be asking these questions, "What am I being fooled by today? What do I think is the same but is really not?" We have businesses lined up that did not do that. Blockbuster Video didn't do that. Radio Shack didn't do that. They were late to the party to be like a Best Buy. Toys R' Us didn't do that. So, things are not always as they seem.

I also talk a little about misdirection. And talk about the fact that magicians during their show direct the audience to what they want them to see. Well, in business that is all advertising is. We are directing people to what we want them to see. I do a bit of a presentation there. I call it *"Coffee Connections, Card Tricks and other Conundrums"*.

MH: Just before you are introduced and walk on stage what is going through your mind at this point? Are you nervous?

DD: Sure, a little nervous always. If you present magic like I do it is me I am putting out there. I don't really play a persona. A lot of guys do that. Its really me out there. When I perform if you don't like me that means you don't like me. I am a little nervous about that in some ways. At the end of the day when I perform I only have two goals in mind; I want people to have a good time; and for people to say that he was a really nice guy. Those are the only two things I want out of a performance. I don't necessarily need them to leave there saying, "Wow, that was fantastic but he's kind of a jerk." Or, "Wow, that was crazy", but they didn't really have a good time. So to me them having a good time is the most important thing. I'm not really a comedian by nature but I do have fun with my audience.

MH: What kind of techniques do you use to shake off the nerves?

DD: Generally, once I begin the nerves start to leave but right before I go on I'm thinking stupid things like do I have enough moisture...am I going to choke up before I start...because it is important to be hydrated. I always cheat. I have a bottle of water in any bag I am performing with because the last thing I want to do is get choked up and not be able to recover. As I said before, I don't really do stage magic so I don't get introduced very often usually only at magic conventions. When I am doing magic it is in an intimate sort of setting.

MH: Here is a fun one. Is being a magician everything you thought it would be?

DD: Yes, and more.

MH: What is something you wished you knew when you first started?

DD: Probably to study more than just tricks. As you grow as a performer you figure out pretty quickly that the trick is only one little part of the performance. I would have liked to have spent a little more time or if someone had spent a little time talking about things that are not related to the trick you are doing performance wise. I think, again, that if the audience is having fun it is irrelevant what trick you are doing.

I've seen...and we are all guilty of this...I've seen magicians who are always pursuing the latest and greatest expensive trick, they buy it and it still doesn't do well because they haven't worked on their other side of their performance. For magic conventions and magic groups, sleight of hand is always going to be interesting to them but for a lay-audience, you can do a sponge ball routine or an Invisible Deck they are just as slayed by that as by someone who can do a *Tenkai Palm* or even *Back Palm* cards...they don't really care. I wished I could back palm cards...but I can't. I can ONE! (*laughter*) I just can't do six! With magic there is always room to try something new or something different.

I understand the appeal of cards to the young guys because you can never get perfect. It is kind of like playing golf, you are never going to reach perfection so there is always something to work on. My concern is that people think that's the art and that is not the art. The art is not learning to do the perfect pass. Its great if you learn how but that is not the art. The art is, "Are you going to be able to use that in a performance of some kind where people are having a good time?" You can but if you think the art is perfecting sleights or perfecting a trick that...is not the art of magic. Its much more.

MH: Speaking of which, what do you do to improve your presentation?

DD: I occasionally video myself and watch it. Of course I've got a family that has been around magic their whole lives. One of the things I'm doing, for instance, another business magic thing and both my wife and daughter are coming and their chief goal is to, and they know me, to watch the performance with critical eyes and give me some feedback. And...listen to what people are saying which is hard to do in small settings where in larger settings you could plant people in the audience to hear what they are saying. I am more into perfecting my connection with the audience because I really don't do the sleights and worry about angles and such.

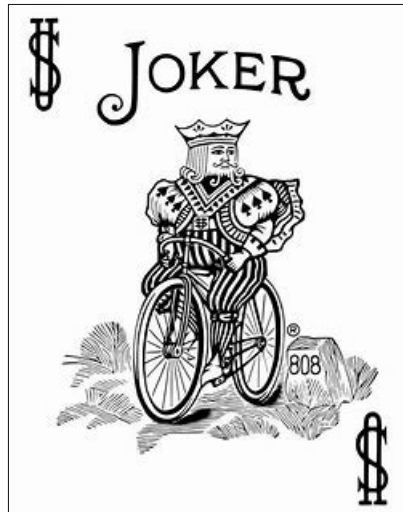
This gets to be more difficult with time as people get less attentive. We live in a Facebook/Texting world today. Here is what happens in a magic performance today that didn't happen twenty years ago. People miss things in a magic show, critical things because they are distracted somewhere else. It is hard to get audiences to follow you through the entire routine sometimes. Some will but most will miss that critical part like *I put all four aces in different parts of the deck* and they may not have seen that happen because they were distracted and when you bring the four aces to the top, they don't really know what the trick is. You see what I am saying? This is true with performances today. This is why I think that mentalism is dangerous ground because a lot of mentalism takes too long to get there. Even though it is my favorite style of magic I think it is one of the more dangerous styles to perform because it often takes too long to get to where you are going. You can see that in some of the old books like...*"Add up these four number and divide by three then multiply by two and put in your birthdate and then we are going to roll this die and we are going to take that number and add it to your birthday...and now I am going to reveal to you what your birthday is."* It just takes too long to get there.

I'm wanting to develop as a performer that makes a connection with the audience to the point they cannot help but watch what I am doing because they don't want to miss something. That's my goal as a performer.

MH: Do you spend any time scripting your magic?

DD: I do a little bit. Primarily what I do is a verbal scripting. In other words, I'll rehearse a script. I don't always write it down although I have written down a script before and I do that some but usually I am constantly developing the script as I speak it because I think that speaking the script helps you find those areas you may not find if you are scripting it on paper. I know it appears a little extemporaneous even though it is not because I definitely have a script I am going to follow. I know I am going against all the guys who I said were my mentors would say but I really don't write my script down. You've got to remember, I have been doing the same tricks for over twenty years and I have the script in my head. I sometimes think through the performance while I am driving deciding what I am going to say and how to say it...especially when I am working on something new.

I want to thank Dane for taking the time out of his busy schedule especially as we grow nearer the holidays. Once again, I have learned a little more about magic through the eyes of a working magician as well as learning more about Dane.



Jokers: Old and New

Blast from the Past

by Mike Curtis, Ring 29 Historian

This month we will only roll back 10 years to the January, 2009 meeting of the Ring. The President at that time was Chris Westfall and the Secretary was Jon Bucher. The Ring met monthly at UAMS Hospital. It was Christmas party time for the Ring and members treated everyone to quite a show.

“Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.” It’s January 2009; time for our Christmas party! Yes, we have our Christmas party in January because everyone is so busy in December and this year we almost out grew the facilities.

We started with excellent and varied close-up magic by the nimble fingers and clever patter of Don Baer, Jon Bucher, Bob Bullock, Scott Davis, David Duggie, Mark Lohman, Pam Medrez, Derrick Rose, and Michael Wilkinson. We followed the gathering with our Ring 29 tradition, great food! We thank Don Baer, Bill Shirron and his Culinary Wizards, and the Salem United Methodist Church for the use of the hall.

The Christmas party show was emceed by the inviolable Phineus T. Beauregard; a.k.a. Dr. Chris Westfall the Wonderful. After his performance he introduced performers Jon Bucher, the older; Dane Dover, the suave; Paul Carlon, the proud and son, the proud also; Scott Davis, the last to know when it rains; Christy Henson, the beauty and Tyler Vodehnal, the beast; Pam Medrez, the unmovable; Gene Berry, the younger; and Randall Eller, the creative. There was a variety of magic styles and effects that were entertaining and magical. A surprise appearance by Jim Henson, the heckler, resulted in his public spanking, pie in the face, and ripped off shirt and pants in a study on how to handle a heckler. It was hilarious!

In between acts there were drawings and prizes awarded to several children in the audience involving questions and answers that the adults could not answer. Also interspersed between acts were the Ring awards. Congratulations to David Duggie, Close-up Magician of the Year; Mike and Jo Jones, Members of the Year;

THE JOKER

Jokers first appeared in printed decks in the 1860s—only a few years before the first iteration of The United States Playing Card Company appeared in Cincinnati, Ohio. They fascinate us so much that we made a deck using tons of the Jokers we found in our archives. While some argue that the word Joker comes from Euchre, we’re positive it’s no more than a coincidence. After all, the word “joke” was already around, as was a joker, meaning one who jokes. But the concept of the Joker card itself—that definitely came from the game of Euchre.

In the 1860s, American Euchre players made up some new rules to their beloved game. These new rules required an extra trump card, which they referred to as the Best Bower, the highest trump card available.

American card printers jumped onto the trend fairly quickly, soon including these extra trump cards in their decks. British manufacturers did the same by the 1880s.

It wasn’t long before the Best Bower card was called the Joker, or the Jolly Joker. Like the Ace of Spades, Joker cards were often given a unique design that contained a company’s brand imagery. This could often be a logo, a floral or architectural motif, or something completely different. The jester we know and love only became more popular once the “Joker” title was universally adapted.

While the Joker has been compared to the Fool in Tarot cards, even down to a similar trump function, there isn’t a connection. Tarot cards have been around since the 15th century, after all, when a jester or fool was still a viable career option.

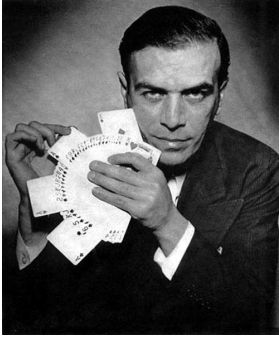
Source: www.bicyclecards.com

and Dan Hecke, Ring 29 Stage Magician of the Year. Congratulations also to Bill Pitts, Past International President of the I.B.M. and now the recipient of the Lifetime Member Award of Ring 29. This selection to the exclusive Lifetime Member organization is only by nomination of the Lifetime Members group and subsequent election by the Ring board of directors.

We had many guests in the crowd and we always welcome them to share in our festivities and we welcome you anytime you're in our area. Magic flourishes in Ring 29." The food and magic flowed generously at that year's Christmas party and, as always, everyone went away filled and entertained. This year's party also promises to be outstanding, so don't miss it!

Until next time, don't forget, the past may seem like old news but it can be made fresh again whenever you choose.

A Little Magic History



John Scarne March 4, 1903 – July 7, 1985 was an American magician and author who was particularly adept at playing card manipulation. He became known as an expert on cards and other games, and authored a number of popular books on cards, gambling, and related topics.

He was born Orlando Carmelo Scarnecchia in Steubenville, Ohio in the United States of America, and at some point anglicized his name to John Scarne. He grew up in the New Jersey communities of Fairview and Guttenberg. When he left school after the eighth grade, he learned from a local card sharp how to perform such swindles as The Three Card Monte, and how to cheat in gambling card games by manipulating the cards. Scarne began practicing sleight of hand with the goal of becoming a card sharp, but his Roman Catholic mother dissuaded her son from gambling in general, and cheating others in particular. She persuaded him to practice magic instead. Scarne soon extended his skill at handling cards to learning—and devising—magical effects with cards. He spent a few months learning about crooked gambling devices (including marked cards and loaded dice) at a nearby novelty store. Thanks to his endless practice, Scarne began making money as a magician.

Gradually, Scarne became quite an expert at not only magical effects, but games of all kinds as well. Articles were written about him in various magazines, and he was hired as a consultant or adviser by various companies, as well as by the US Army, which sent him to bases around the world in order to educate soldiers about the dangers of card and dice cheats. He wrote fifteen books and co-wrote a few more for a total of twenty-eight books on games, such as *Scarne on Dice*, *Scarne's Guide to Modern Poker* and *Scarne's New Complete Guide to Gambling*.



Scarne's most famous card trick was appropriately titled "Scarne's Aces". The trick involved taking a spectator's shuffled deck of cards, performing a series of riffle shuffles himself and then cutting to all four aces. Another one of Scarne's most notable card effects was the triple coincidence, in which a spectator and a magician each pick three different playing cards out of two regular decks of opposite colors and it is shown that all of the selections match. Scarne also created a quadruple coincidence, wherein a spectator selects a card and four impossible predictions of their card are made.

Source: Wikipedia

Upcoming Lecturers

Bernardo Sedlacek *March 19, 2019*



Bernardo Sedlacek is known by his strong card magic, creativity, style, and extreme card skills. He began in magic at the age of nine. Considered one of the best card magicians in Brazil, he has performed in many countries including USA, Australia, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay and a few others, acting side by side and fooling the most known and brilliant minds in magic, such as Michael Vincent, Alex Pandrea, Woody Aragon, Bill Malone, Lennart Green and many others.

Twitter Post:

"I highly recommend this extremely skilled, talented and personable young man. Bernardo Sedlacek gave an outstanding lecture to IBM Ring 117 in West Palm Beach. He is a current and future superstar! Any club or venue would be wowed and proud to have him perform."

Dr. David Boltson
IBM Ring 117
West Palm Beach, FL



Scott Alexander *April 26, 2019*

Scott Alexander is funny, likeable, and his charm appeals to a wide range of people. His amazing magic reached millions on this season of NBC's America's Got Talent where he advanced all the way with his large stage illusions.

With articles in People Magazine and Nations Business Magazine, the Oprah Show took notice and Scott was invited by Oprah Winfrey to make guest appearance on her popular TV program.

Scott had the honor of headlining on the Las Vegas Strip at Caesars Palace for over seven years and four thousand performances of large grand illusions mixed with light-hearted stand-up comedy magic.

Alexander's groundbreaking creativity caught the eye of Norwegian Cruise Lines and they commissioned Scott to create, direct the magic, and star in "Elements," a million dollar stage spectacular. It is currently their most popular show and is in production on five ships.

Scott's magic has been featured on The SiFi Channel, Discovery Channel, NBC, Showtime, He has opened for comedians like Dennis Miller and as a creator and innovator of illusions, his ideas are utilized in performances by other magical luminaries, most notably Penn & Teller.



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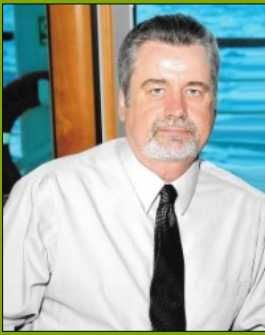
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Ring 29 Meetings 2018-2019

Date	Meeting	Location	Theme	Lecturer	Emcee
Aug 1, 2018	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Invisible Deck	Jim Henson	No Emcee Needed
Sep 6, 2018	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Jim-Card Cube Tear & Restore Napkin	Jim Henson	Jo Jones
Oct 4, 2018	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Book Tests Halloween Magic	Dan Hecke	Mike Jones
Nov 1, 2018	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Emceeing Effectively	Jon Bucher	Jim Henson
Dec 6, 2018	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Impromptu Magic	Dane Dover	Jon Bucher
Jan 12, 2019	Christmas Show	Jacksonville Community Center	Walk-Around Stage Magic	N/A	Derrick Rose
Feb 7, 2019	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Storytelling	Marty Haughn	Adrian Steelman Carlos Yang
Mar 7, 2019	Stage Competition	Baptist Sheffield Auditorium	Stage Magic **	Blayk Puckett	Blayk Puckett
Apr 4, 2019	Auction	Baptist Sheffield Auditorium	Auction	Dan Hecke Auctioneer	Dan Hecke
May 2, 2019	Close-Up Competition	Baptist Sheffield Auditorium	Close-Up Magic **	Cedric Morely	Cedric Morely
Jun or ? 2019	Installation	TBA	Officers will Perform	Larry Bean, TVP Installation Officer	Larry Bean

** To enter Ring 29 competitions you must be a paid up member of the IBM



Using Ring 29 Email Group

Post message: ring29report@yahooogroups.com

Subscribe: ring29report-subscribe@yahooogroups.com

Unsubscribe: ring29report-unsubscribe@yahooogroups.com

Membership

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*.

LittleRockMagic.net

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.



Ring 29 is proud to endorse and support Little Rock's world class ONLINE Magic Store, "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
<http://mrmagicstore.com/>