



The Performer

*Little Rock Ring 29 Newsletter
Little Rock, Arkansas*

December 2020





President's Corner
For the Record
Blast from the Past
Magical History
Event Calendar



It's all about the Magic...



We find ourselves at the final days of 2020 and if you are like me, I'll be happy when it is over. This being said, I am hopeful that the new year will bring us to a conclusion of our seclusion.

December has always been a holiday month where, in Arkansas, you could see snow, rain, Florida sunshine and heat and the least favorite, tornadoes. Up until today (12/15/2020) the weather has been just that, like a superball on steroids! Now, we find ourselves in an ice box for a day or so.

Regardless of your feelings for the weather, it is time to be with family and enjoy the lives we have. Families far from Arkansas can be found using Facetime, Zoom or just a simple phone call to stay in contact for the season. It is my hope that you and yours have a fantastic Christmas and a better New Year.

If you would please, go to the Officer Reports and read our Christmas messages to each of you.

The puzzles will be back next month!



Meetings

December: Meeting at COOL
CAPS, 5624 Commerce Court,
Sherwood, Arkansas: 6:30

Upcoming Events

"Mathematical magic combines the
beauty of mathematical structure with
the entertainment value of a trick."

— Martin Gardner —





President's Corner

Marty Haughn



Fellow Magicians,

Merry Christmas to one and all!

We had a good meeting this month with one visitor who we hope will become a new member. Discussion about the meeting can be found in the Secretaries Report on the website.

James Kinsey and I are looking into solutions to our email issues. For the time being, James has created a Facebook Group and has invited everyone he can contact to join. If you are not a fan (I am not a huge fan of them either) or user of Facebook, this will only be a temporary fix until a more permanent solution can be established. Please be patient as we search for the right answer. Until then, if you have questions or requests, please email one of the officers and we will do all we can to assist or answer your question.

There has been some on-going conversation about a magic flea market over an auction. Let me put this to rest. There will be an attempt at a magic flea market based on state declarations for 2021. A date has not been determined nor has there been a location decided on. Details will be forthcoming as we receive more information. As for an auction, we will still have one of those as well. The auction is one of the means for our Ring to make a little money for future lecturers and events. Neither are guaranteed unless restrictions are lifted or at least eased enough for people to feel comfortable in meeting again.

Finances which have been reported in the past on our website will be removed permanently until a more secure means can be developed within the website. It is thought there was an attempt via email of an online thief or hacker attempting to gain financial information about our Ring in hopes of gaining access to our accounts. Fortunately, James Kinsey contacted me, as the email appeared to originate from my email address, to verify if I was asking for the information. Passwords have been changed and the information is being removed from the site. We are good to go.

Finally, our calendar has been scrubbed until we can have safe meetings for all. Meetings will continue but there will be no theme, emcee or lecturers listed.

Until we meet again, please take good care of each other and stay safe.

V/r

Marty





For the Record

Shawn Miller



Ring 29 members and guests met on Thursday December 3, 2020, at Cool Caps in Sherwood, Arkansas. President Marty Haughn presided over the meeting.

Our topic of business was discussing ideas for a permanent meet place for 2021. Then with a re-announcement about the recent cancelation of our January show due to the current situation (COVID). Hopefully moving it later in the year, we can be hopeful. Hind sight is 2020 so lets put it behind us.

Shortly after concluding business, attending members began a round table discussion on false cuts, and cards controls which took us into the magicians we liked and studied, very informative talk ranging from Martin Gardner the mathematician magician to Yann Frisch crazy magician and finally to Tom Mullica. Marty informed us that he was an impersonator of Red Skelton. We all learned a lot that night and had a blast doing it. To cap the discussion of magicians, we had to watch a Tom mullica cigarettes video, so funny.

Now for the fun stuff. To start, Marty shared a couple of real gems, first some vintage 1940's tops and asking for suggestions to use them in some magical way. On "top" of the tops, Marty shared his most cherished magic item, a very cool Japanese magic trick he purchased from the late Jimmy Yoshita, in Hawaii. The trick is called "Tenchi's Flying Coins". Tenchi is a closed down company from Japan. What an amazing little trick, how do they travel across, we will never know, but a very impressive feat of magic. We really enjoyed this gimmick and the story of how it came into his possession. Thanks for sharing the story with us Marty.

Now for the performances, the moment we have all been waiting for...First up President Marty Haughn had a great card trick by John Carey called "One Hand, One Card". With the help of our guest Mitchell Clements, Mitchell cut a mixed up deck until there were four stacks. Then restacked the cards and looked at a random card. When finished, Marty started dealing cards face up only to find that Mitchells card was gone...it apparently traveled up Marty's arm to reappear in his pocket. What! Nice trick, thanks for the description as well Marty.

Next up Shawn Miller gave a behind the scenes look at the "Little Door Trick" by Roddy McGhee (I believe). What a cool little trick. Where does the little door go! We will never know. Then he performed his rendition of the "Thunder from Down Under" card trick using a story he heard online that takes place in a wine glass. The story talks about a story of the King on the bicycle joker. I think he was making the story up, when all the cards turned blank at the end of the story. Nice!





For the Record

Shawn Miller



Adrian Steelman gave us a nice demonstration of his Rubik's cube magic. Wow, his speed and cube magic was impressive! Adrian even solved a Rubik's cube in mid air, over his shoulder and finally from behind his back. Adrian is amazing with the cube! It was like a crazy dream watching it transform before our eyes.

One of our newest members Adam Hogg was next with a great demonstration of cigar box juggling that he has been recently learning, very impressive. The boxes seemed to float in mid air. It is harder than he makes it look, great job Adam.

Concluding the magical session, our guest Mitchell Clements wowed us with a card trick that was hard to explain and fun to watch. He produced two decks of cards, one red and one blue. As one deck was cut Mitchell, would cut the other deck to the same card and he did this repeatedly, which was hard to comprehend. I am still trying to figure out how he did it. Thanks Mitchell for showing off your talents. We look forward to you becoming a member.

Merry Christmas to all. Stay safe and stay magical

Shawn Miller





Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis



This month's report is taken from 26 years ago. It was the December, 1994 meeting of the Ring. The President at that time was Danny McDorman and the Secretary was Dennis Schick. The Ring met monthly at C.A.R.T.I.

□ The December meeting was called to order by Vice President, James Kinsey. Our President Danny McDorman, was not able to be at the meeting because he was spreading Christmas cheer by playing Santa Claus at the University Mall.

During the business meeting, James informed us that the Med Camp needed magicians for their Christmas party. I have had the pleasure of performing for the kids at Med Camp and nothing could warm your heart more than to see the joy and laughter in those children's faces when they see all the magic. I urge all our members to give yourselves a gift and experience the joy of the kids at Med Camp.

We also discussed our annual Christmas party which will be in January. Yes, I said January. We have not yet set a location yet but James Kinsey was railroaded into finding a place. I know he will do a good job. We also needed to find out who will be performing at the Christmas party and who will M.C. We are hoping to get Jon Bucher.

Jim Henson told us that we could get some more video tapes for the club's video library so we are going to vote on getting them next meeting.

After the meeting we had two members do their acceptance performances. The first to perform was Stella Stout. She did a coin vanish with the Raven (one of my personal favorites) and a routine with the Paradox.

After Stella, Chase Goforth amazed us with the mental book test and an amazing card trick. Both of our new members did an excellent job and were voted in by all the other members. Great job, Stella and Chase.

Jim Henson showed us some new tricks he has at his new shop. Everyone who has not seen Jim's shop should go by and see it. It is really nice.

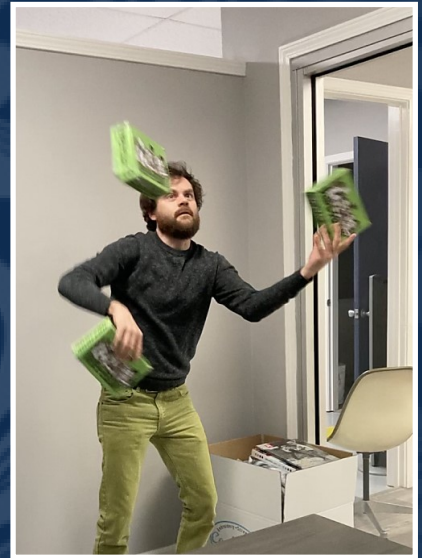
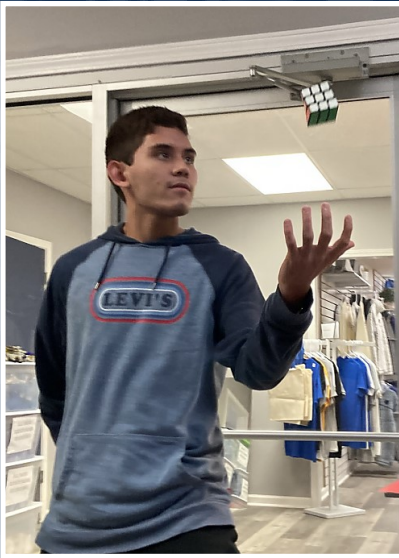
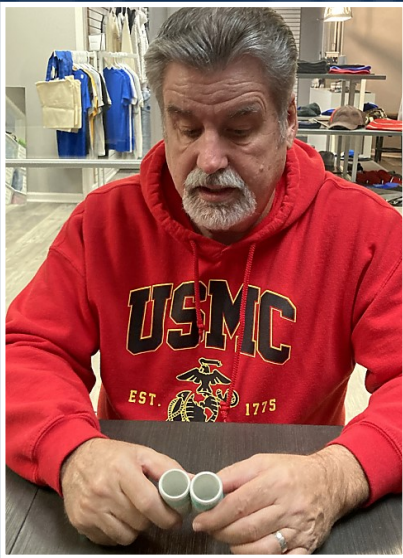
After the performances we all dashed over to the University Mall to pay a visit to our President Danny "Claus". Jim Henson even got to sit on his lap. It was a fun evening for all.

It appears that the Christmas spirit was alive and well at that December's meeting, with thoughts of performing for the kids at Med camp and plans being made for the annual Christmas party. To top it off, the Ring even received the great gift of two new members for the Ring.





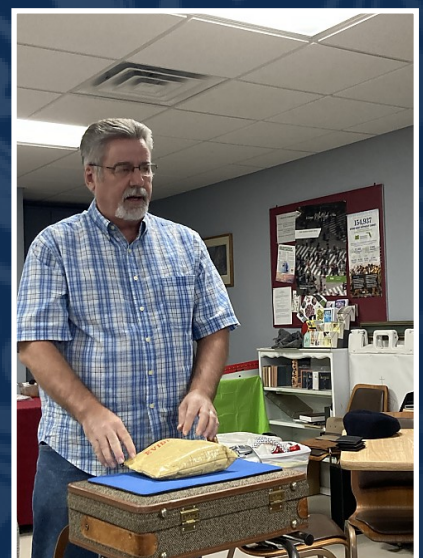
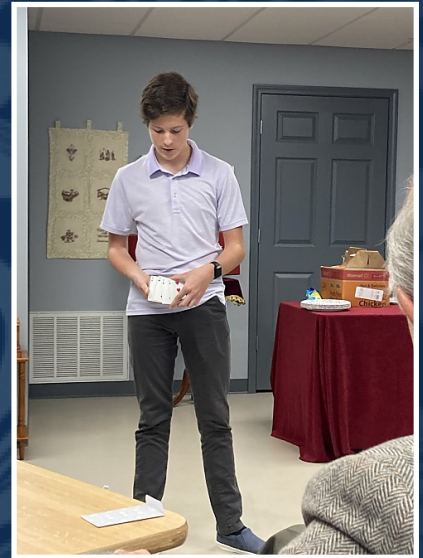
December Performers



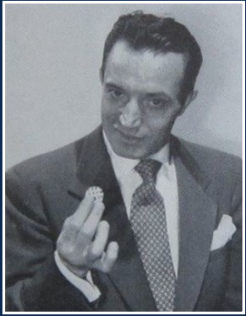


December Road Trip

Ring 75, Ft. Smith, Arkansas



Magical History



Tony Slydini (September 1, 1901, Foggia, Italy – January 15, 1991), simply known as Slydini, was a world-renowned magician. His mastery, expertise, originality and innovative approach to close-up artistry magic, earned him a legendary reputation in the magic world. He traveled the world performing for the public as well as performing and lecturing fellow magicians. As a result, he served as an inspiration to generations of well-known magicians, celebrities and entertainers, including Doug Henning, Dick Cavett, Bill Bixby, Ricky Jay, David Copperfield and countless others. Although he was best known as a master of close-up artistry, he continually demonstrated an extraordinary performing ability and during his lifetime was responsible for a long series of books, films and publications highlighting his mastery of the magical crafts.

Tony Slydini was born as Quintino Marucci in Foggia, Italy. He was the son of an amateur magician, who encouraged him to pursue sleight of hand at an early age. While still young, Slydini and his uncle left Italy to live in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was there that he began to experiment more seriously with magic. He had no access to books on magic, nor personal instruction or magical performing apparatus of any kind. Yet, without any help or guidance, he focused on his craft and reinvented much of the popular magic of the time, along with developing many new effects and illusions.

Early on, Slydini was attracted to the psychological aspects of his art, which would continually show itself in his magic in the form of precise and expert use of timing and misdirection. He was inspired by the relationship between a magician and his audience, which fueled his desire to be a close-up artist who would work intimately with the spectators. He became so good at it that he continually fooled the magicians for whom he performed, so much so that the famous dean of magicians, Dai Vernon, once remarked, "Slydini is the only magician who could ever fool me."

In 1935, while Slydini was playing a museum in Paterson, N. J., the manager billed him as "Tony Foolem", in the absence of any better suggestion by Quintino Marucci, (Slydini's birth name). The other acts on the bill became friendly with the magician and told him that they thought the name Tony Foolem was a poor choice and between them, they worked out the "Tony Slydini" stage name – the "sly" for being slick, and the "Dini" to follow the vogue for having something akin to the well known name of the successful Houdini. Tony was a shortened name for his given name Quintino and so, thus was "Tony Slydini" born.

Tony Slydini died of heart failure on January 15, 1991, following a lengthy illness and several years of confinement in a New Jersey nursing home. Howard Bauman, the editor of the International Brotherhood of Magician's publication, The Linking Ring, wrote, "A magical light went out on January 15, when Slydini died. For more than 40 years he had brightened the horizons of magic with his special kind of prestidigitation. Slydini was a dedicated student of magic and developed his own style of misdirection and timing that was certainly regarded as truly artistic.

Source: Wikipedia





Event Calendar

Date	Meeting	Location	Theme	Lecturer	Host/Emcee
July	Zoom	Home	Free for All	N/A	Dane Dover
August	TBA - ZOOM	TBA - HOME	Free for All	N/A	Dane Dover
September	In Person	Henson Home	First Learned Trick	N/A	Jim Henson Marty Haughn
October	In Person	Dover Home	Halloween Magic	N/A	James Kinsey
November	TBA	TBD	Free for All	N/A	Adrian Steelman
December	In-Person/ Zoom	Cool Caps Facility	Free for All	N/A	Shawn Miller
January	TBA	TBD	TBA	N/A	
February	TBA	TBA	TBA	N/A	
March	TBA	TBD	TBA	N/A	
April	TBA	TBA	TBA	N/A	
May	TBA	TBA	TBA	N/A	
June	TBA	TBA	TBA	N/A	

There are a lot of TBAs here on this calendar. Once the State of Arkansas begins to loosen things up a bit changes to this calendar will begin to happen.

EVERYTHING on this calendar is tentative but we need to continue planning the future as if we will be back to some resemblance of normal soon.

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



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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**.

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

Post message: ring29report@yahoogroups.com

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Mr. Magic is owned and operated by retired Fire Chief Jim Henson and is a primary contact for Ring 29.

Mr. Magic (Jim Henson)

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