

The **PERFORMER**



Little Rock Magic Ring 29 *Newsletter*

January 2025

Editor: Marty Haughn



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LITTLE ROCK MAGIC RING 29

It's all about the Magic...



Meeting Information

Annual Show
POSTPONED
Doors Open: 6:30
Show Begins: 7:00

Upcoming Events

February 6, 2025
Meeting

March 6, 2025
Meeting

"Magic teaches us to live without guilt"
- Eugene Burger -



President's Report

Marty Haughn

I don't have much to comment on for the month. December/January has been rough for magicians who knew our friend Jon Bucher. It saddens me that he has left the stage for bigger and better things.

The passing of Jon has left a major hole in the hearts of all magicians who have performed along side of him as well as having been taught magic, emcee tips, stage work both theater and magic.

I hear by turn the month of January's newsletter to the memory of Jon Bucher.



JON ARTHUR BUCHER

1941 - 2024

Secretary's Report

Joel Nicholson

I took a few notes from Jon Bucher's widow Susan and mixed a few notes of my own that I don't think many of you have ever known about Jon. He was a source of strength and strong and able (he held a black belt in karate). He was a Teddy Bear (he won the "Hairy Chest Contest" while on a cruise). He was "Multi-talented: he sang, was a radio celebrity, calligrapher, artist, actor, and magician. He had a beautiful leadership voice. Susan said "On our honeymoon we spent more time laughing than anything else." Jon never met a stranger. He had a sincere voice. You'd feel better after you've been around him.

Jon loved people. He was quick-witted and never at a loss for words. His wife Susan said "He was my best friend." He was the "Love of Susan's Life." Wherever he was he caused contagious laughter. He joked that he was a Good Candidate for "Average Joe" or "Extreme Makeover." Susan said "We've had some good times. Jon brought joy to many." The sweetest thing in Jon's magic was when Jon and Susan in full old days costume performed a park scene where two strangers meet and the gentleman wins the lady's heart by his gestures, magical gifts, and gentle personality, and no words are spoken at all.

He yearly attended the Beast Feast event in Conway with about 2,800 Christian men and boys. The Wednesday before Jon's passing he read the Christmas story from The Bible in Luke, while sitting in a chair, in the front of the church. At Jon's funeral reception several magicians performed only walk-around magic tricks that Jon had taught them to do. One of the Ring 29 magicians has an act where he is "Jon Bucher." Jon said he thinks he is a "Witt." His wife said he is only "half right."

He's inventive. He created "Spot the Wonder Dog" a face licker and a leg wetter. He was a "Good Grand Pa" to Nathan, Brooke, Hope, Isaac, Isabel, Jesse, Deanna, Bridget, Natalie, and Phoebe. He was a "Great Grandpa to Emma, Ivy, and Jace. He was also mysterious and tricky.

At The Center on the Square in Searcy as the meal was being served Jon did his "Spoon Bending Routine" but his hand slipped and even though he had successfully bent forks and spoons and re-stored" them all over the state, he really did bend this spoon to his surprise. Ever since that night the kitchen manager would always bring his silverware out and the spoon would be bent!

In Jon's middle years he performed with his fast hands and fast mind the Bra Snatch trick and pulled out the scarf attached to a red bra. The lady he tricked was wearing a red bra and she was convinced for a short time and shouted "How did he do that?"

Jon was a man full of faith. As a young man he led his whole family to church. (He started by playing basketball for the church team.) He was a witness to others and the proof was in the "standing room only" number of people that attended his funeral. Scott Davis said "It's just like Jon to have standing room only."

Secretary's Report

Joel Nicholson

They have what they call "an adopted kid." Susan invited this young college graduate lady to sing in church and then go home with Susan and Jon afterwards. Before long Jon became the "Father of Choice" and Susan became the "Mother of Choice" because they were so "easy to be around" and such good friends. When someone says "Jon you're funny" he is likely to reply "Well, looks aren't everything." Jon was full of jokes all the time (knock-knock, riddles, corny, Dad jokes, and other). If he loved you he was devoted to your needs with his whole heart. He has adopted a couple from our magic club too. Susan has their photo on her refrigerator."

Jon was a deep thinker; he was a MENSA member (Hi-IQ society). SIRI is not a member! Jon was a constant reader, always practicing, getting opinions, and brainstorming. He was always wanting to have a debonair mustache that would curl up but it always separated and made cat whiskers. About Jon's beautiful wife...he said "He married above his station".

He looked at the bright side with his excellent sense of humor and he took his Good Times Magic Show to the White County Fair Children's Show, The 4 County Fair, the 4-H, the Madrigal Feast at Southside High School in Batesville for 26 years, Good Hope for 36 years, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Church, Community Celebrations, reunions, and much more. Jon was president of Ring 29 several times. He also had membership in Kansas and Ring 1 in St. Louis when he lived there. For 22 years he did Trade shows for Jon Morrell his early employer.

Susan Bucher has always held 2 school plays yearly and Jon Bucher has always made the props for the stage. The clown car was the kid's favorite because 1/2 of the Kindergarten kids came out of the door!

Susan defined him as always there when I need him. The acronym JON stood for Jovial, Outstanding, & Nutty per Susan's definition.

Jon made "Creative Hands" items for church which was a series of labeled boxes the youngsters stacked to set in order things like the books of the Bible and the books of The Law. He and Susan Co-Ed taught Sunday school to 6th graders for many years.

Jon was agreeable and diplomatic. For example he was chairman of the church financial committee and recently he came up to give the Financial Report. He started this way: "I have 4 things to tell you" all the while holding up 5 fingers. He was a real charmer. Upon meeting a lady for the first time he would take her outstretched hand as if to shake it and rotate his hand over with his palm down and kiss the top of his own hand loudly and gently release the lady's hand and immediately there was laughter.

Susan and Jon hosted Ring 308 monthly meetings at their home often. One time a guest trying to be helpful started opening the 2-liter soda bottles when one of them blew up all over the kitchen when he opened it. Quick minimal wipe up was all done and Susan said "It's OK." The refreshments were served and all seemed OK. But Jon and Susan's feet stuck to the floor for two weeks as they walked through the kitchen.

Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis

This month we look back 10 years to the January, 2015 meeting of the Ring. The President at that time was Aaron Acosta and the Secretary was David Duggie. The Ring met monthly at Shuffield Auditorium, Little Rock.

Members and guests of Ring 29 met on January 17 for the annual Christmas dinner and show. Everyone enjoyed a BBQ buffet, while several magicians (Aaron Acosta, Cedric Morley, Blayk Puckett, and Rob Merryman) performed walk-around magic for the 160 present.

After the dinner, Jim Henson introduced the officers and board members. At this time, he presented a life-time membership plaque and pin to Jon Bucher.

TVP Larry Bean presented the Broken Wand Ceremony in honor of Stan Tarnowsky.

Jon Bucher, who emceed the magic show, used the dictionary to provide introductions for the performers in the magic show. First to perform was Scott Davis, who performed "Comedy Flourishes" and his popular "Signed Card to Mouth."

Jimmy Ross, dressed as a janitor, amused the audience by noticing a box on a center-staged table as he was sweeping the floors. He proceeded to follow the directions in the box to perform "Banana Bandana."

Mike Jones had the audience laughing with his version of the Arm Chopper and he also had his volunteer freaked out.

Larry Bean wowed his volunteer and the audience with "Color Match." The volunteer used colored markers to create a face. He then revealed a Styrofoam head that matched the volunteer's colored drawing. He also used another volunteer to help him perform a comedy Book Test.

Blayk Puckett ended the first half of the show by performing some awesome juggling with a Christmas theme: juggling Christmas ornaments to "Jingle Bell Rock" and juggling clubs, then ending with one ventriloquist club.

Along with Blayk, that club sang "Baby its Cold Outside."

Jo Jones began the second half of the show by enlisting an eight-year-old boy to assist her. She made the boy into a magician by putting a black hat on his head and then giving him a Broken Wand. It was then decided he needed a stronger wand. She used Multiple Wands to find the perfect wand. Together, the two performed "Multiple Colored Ropes."

President Aaron Acosta amazed his volunteer and the audience by using an iPhone to match a prediction he made moments before. He then used two volunteers to assist him in performing "Cue the Card." One volunteer chose a card from thought and the second volunteer read the cue cards that led to finding the selected card in a sealed envelope.

Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis

Jimmy Rhodes came to the stage through the audience by marching to “Hail to the Chief.” Using two volunteers and a Marlo Bag, he performed a hilarious egg to bag routine. Everyone was in stitches!

Randall Eller closed the show by performing an entertaining version of “Magic Squares.” The audience was quite impressed. He closed with his “Magic of Memories” routine using the Floating Table and a special ring from a volunteer.

Last but not least, Mike Jones returned Rabbit E. Lee after caring for him for one year. Mike’s addition to the Rabbit E. Lee was a miniature pair of handcuffs. This figurine was retired and a new Rabbit E. Lee was introduced to its new caretaker, Michael Wilkerson, who will return it to the next Christmas party with a magical item added.”

The Ring Christmas dinner show that year was a big hit with a large audience. Both excellent BBQ and Magic filled the appetites of all those present. The performers also exceeded expectations with great magical prestidigitations.

One highlight of the evening though was the presentation of a rarely given lifetime membership award plaque and pin to Jon Bucher. Jon richly deserved it due to his long time dedication and service to the Ring. Jon also entertained the audience that night with his unique style of humor and magic as he skillfully served as the master of ceremonies. He often served in that capacity because he was one of the best at it.

Jon’s recent passing has been a tremendous loss to those who knew and loved him so much. The Ring has lost a very special, multi-talented individual who was everybody’s friend and made everyone smile just to be around him. Jon’s quick wit and sparkling personality will be greatly missed, but the void he left may partially be filled with the many, many fond memories of the merry magician who truly understood how to entertain, amaze others and touch their lives in unforgettable ways.

Until next time, remember someone once said, “Life is not about looking back or forward. It’s about looking upward.”

Jon Bucher



Jon Bucher



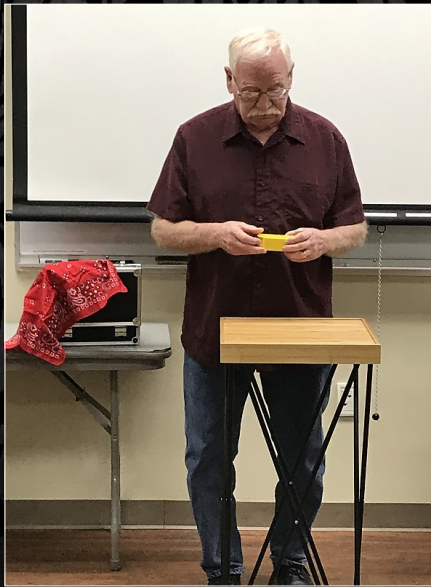
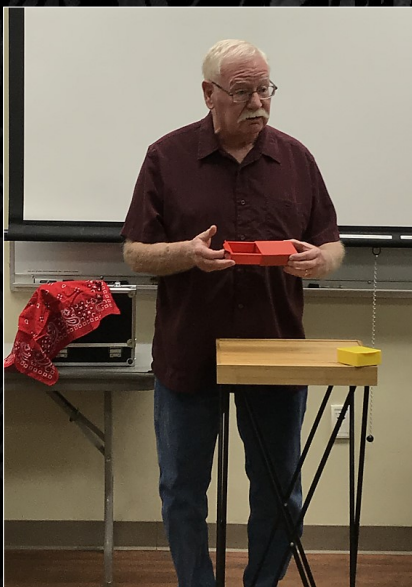
Jon Bucher



Jon Bucher



Jon Bucher



BE SURE TO CECK OUT THE PHOTO GALLERY ON THE WEBSITE FOR SOME MORE OF JON.

Schedule of Events

2025

Date	Meeting Location	Theme	Lecturer	Host/Emcee
TBD	Location to be announced	Arkansas Masters of Illusion	N/A	Marty Haughn
February	First Community Bank	Open Magic	N/A	
March	First Community Bank		N/A	
April	First Community Bank		N/A	
May	First Community Bank		N/A	
June	Stagecoach Clubhouse	Officer Installation	N/A	Larry Bean
July	First Community Bank		N/A	
August	First Community Bank		N/A	
September	First Community Bank		N/A	
October	First Community Bank		N/A	
November	First Community Bank		N/A	
December	TBD	Ring Christmas Party	N/A	

- The clubhouse address: 100 Stagecoach Village, Little Rock, Arkansas.
- First Community Bank Address: 17820 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock, Arkansas

These are our normal meeting gatherings. Any additional activity throughout the year will be listed.

IBM Little Rock Magic Ring 29 Contact Information 2025



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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