



# 94 Years Of Magic!

International Brotherhood of Magicians

"Spirit of St. Louis"



# RING ONE

The SPIRIT | Official Newsletter of I.B.M. Ring 1

August 2020 Edition

## August 5, 2020

6:30pm Ickle Pickle Magic with D.J. Edwards

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7606094150?pwd=ODR1RjQ3ZGZzZWVLRW5sOTcrZjM4dz09>

Meeting ID: 760 609 4150

Passcode: 1zLYrd

8:00pm Alex Ramon performance and teaching

Link will be sent separately via e-mail

Alex's event is open to family and friends



pageborders.org

## President's Message

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all have been doing well. Luckily, I have not heard of any of our friends and members falling victim to the virus. Some of us have had the chance to actually do some public shows live and in person. While it was great to actually perform again, it definitely showed me how out of shape I have become during this COVID-19 time. So, a word to the wise: exercise, exercise, exercise. Even if it is just walking. So here we are again, another month of COVID-19. The Recreation Center is still not open, so we will be having an online meeting on August 5th as well as September 2nd.

In honor of Major League Baseball starting up again, our August 5th meeting will be a double header. We are going to start off with a special treat. I will introduce you to the new owner of Ickle Pickle Magic, D.J. Edwards! D.J. is going to present a lecture to the Ring, showing off some of the new products that are out on the magic market as well as some great old standards that he has at the shop. Yes, I did say shop. D.J. has actually opened up a Brick and Mortar Ickle Pickle Magic Shop. After the lecture, D.J. will then give us a video tour of the shop. His lecture will be beginning at 6:30 PM. We will then take a short break before we begin the second half of the evening at 8:00pm.

Our second half of the meeting will be a performance by Alex Ramon with a Q&A and Teach-a-Trick session afterwards. The show is family-friendly so gather everyone around to watch. You are also welcome to share the link and invite anyone you would like. Alex has a goal with his shows: To bring families and people together to experience magic with one another, have fun, bring a little laughter into our lives.



Alex Ramon's sleight-of-hand skill and presentation of illusions are world-class and have earned him top honors from his peers. This remarkable young showman has perfected his craft, making him a modern master of magic. Alex Ramon has been at the center of multi-million dollar productions that have taken him across the globe where he has mystified people from all walks of life. Whether he performs live or on television, his charisma is engaging and captivating. Alex is recognized by his unparalleled energy, inspiring personality, and charming smile. When you see him perform, you realize Alex Ramon is the magic. If you want to learn more about Alex, go to

<https://www.alexramonmagic.com> .

Both parts of the meeting will be held via Zoom. If you have not already done so, download the Zoom application to your PC, phone, or whatever other device you will be using. You can download the app at <https://zoom.us/download> .

Each part of the meeting will have its own link to Zoom.

Here is the link to D.J. Edward's lecture and tour of Ickle Pickle Magic:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7606094150?pwd=ODR1RjQ3ZGZzZWVLRW5sOTcrZjM4dz09>  
Meeting ID: 760 609 4150  
Passcode: 1z1Yrd

When we take a break, everyone will need to log on to a different Zoom link to join Alex Ramon's Show. This link will be provided in a separate email. I will also include the link for D.J.'s Lecture plus some detailed instructions.

Aug 5 Meeting Schedule:

6:30 PM – Ickle Pickle Magic – D.J. Edwards Lecture & Tour

8:00PM – The Alex Ramon Show

We will be having another online lecture for the September 2nd meeting, and we are moving the I.B.M. Ring 1 Close-Up Contest to the October Meeting. Hopefully we will be able to meet by then.

I hope to see everyone online!



Terry Richison  
I.B.M. Ring 1 President

# Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis

Ring 1's Board continues to meet monthly. However, due to current circumstances, we are meeting virtually. Ring 1 members miss the meetings, lectures, and activities and are hoping these can resume in the near future. The Board plans activities and meetings; however, these are constantly being rescheduled. The Dielmann Recreation Center is still closed. Also, it is felt that members are taking this pandemic seriously and would not feel comfortable meeting even if it was possible.

Chad Jacobs, "Chef Bananas," was recently featured on the Microsoft podcast, Luminaries in the Dark, hosted by Bruce Bracken. This podcast spotlights people around the country that have pivoted their business in times of COVID-19 and what they are doing to help make the world a better place. Chad is featured on Ep. 6, "Laughter is the Best Medicine," dated 6/12/2020. Chad is interviewed and shares how he evolved his business model in light of social distancing guidelines. Chad tackled the technological learning curve and transformed his in-person show into a virtual one and rewrote his performance to keep viewers engaged all while performing in his small basement. It is excellent, and I highly recommend listening to it. Recently, I watched one of his virtual shows sponsored by a library via Zoom and was amazed at his performance. Chef Bananas is becoming one of the top children's entertainers in our area and expanding into other areas of the United States! Check out his podcast and his website. He's constantly adding new elements to his website.

Podcast: <https://shows.acast.com/luminaries-in-the-dark/episodes/chef-bananas>

Website: <https://www.chefbananas.com/>

Jill "Silly Jilly the Clown" recently taught herself how to use iMovie, including adding a giggle track. Parents have hired her to make magic videos for a birthday gift, and Jill has created videos for her regular pre-schools and one library. Her new backdrop adds professionalism to the videos. She usually makes flowers magically appear in a pumpkin, gets surprised by snakes popping out of books, accidentally eats a spider which makes a spider web (white mouth coil) come out of her mouth, and waves a magic wand to turn a balloon into poop. The Brentwood library wrote, "You've never seen a magic show this silly!" She also felt she needed a "silly" facemask. She purchased a face mask with a painted-on smile and then she sewed in a twist tie so it fits snug to her nose. I can't wait to see it!

On June 17th the Kansas City Magic Showcase offered a free virtual performance that featured Randy Kalin, Ring 1 member, as the Emcee. Randy did an excellent job! He performed several of his favorite effects during the show. The following magicians performed on this show: Justin Scott, Larry Warshaw, Sal Piacente and Larry Brodahl. This performance can be viewed on Facebook.

Steve Zuehlke has been busy watching lectures via Zoom hosted by Michael Ammar, Gregory Wilson, and John Carey. He thoroughly enjoyed these lectures. He is continuing to read a lot and expanding his magical library. He shared that the more he reads, the more he learns. He is amazed to see new creations, effects, downloads, etc. advertised as “new” only to discover that they were written up years ago in some long forgotten, obscure magic book. He recently watched “Chef Bananas” perform a Virtual Zoom show for the Roxana Library. He watched this full sixty-minute show and all he can say is “WOW.” He feels Chef Bananas is becoming one of the top children’s entertainers in the Midwest! With the absence of Ring meetings, he has been meeting with a small group of magicians on occasion, doing informal “jam” sessions and coming away with some good ideas. Hopefully, he will have a chance to share these ideas with members the next time Ring 1 is able to meet again. He wants to remind members that Facebook has groups for magicians, mentalists, book collectors, magic historians, do-it-yourselfers, and so much more. These groups include buying and selling, trivia, help forums, video clips, reviews, etc. He recommends, if one has a chance, to join one or more of these groups. He is fascinated to see what others are doing in different parts of the world. All ages, all walks of life, with one common thread that bonds us all—MAGIC! He also reminded others to not forget those magicians we lost recently.

Steve Epner shared that he received a note from National stating that he would be inducted into the Order of Merlin this month. This special award recognizes members who have given twenty-five or more uninterrupted years of service to the organization. Congratulations!

Dan Todd recently began teaching chess and performing magic for a scholastic summer camp located in Jennings, MO, which is sponsored by the Saint Louis Chess Club. He has been teaching chess classes but never under these circumstances. He teaches inside his “Zoltar” booth most of the time, utilizing his laptop and the school’s projector. He has shortened his booth, added plexiglass on the sides, and installed a fan on top. Each day during the camp he teaches and entertains the students to ensure that they learn and enjoy the summer camp. The following are some of the activities he has planned: change chess piece colors, predict selections of chess openings, magically spell out chess terms, and teleport pieces from one place to another, even across the room! He even bought a children’s “Monkey Balance” and has modified some chess pawns to replace the little monkeys. He is planning to have the “King” float, which explains why it doesn’t have a point value. Dan is really creative and has done an excellent job incorporating magic in his chess lessons. He is continuing to teach chess classes virtually, and this camp is only the one he actually attends.

## **Magic Competition Changes**

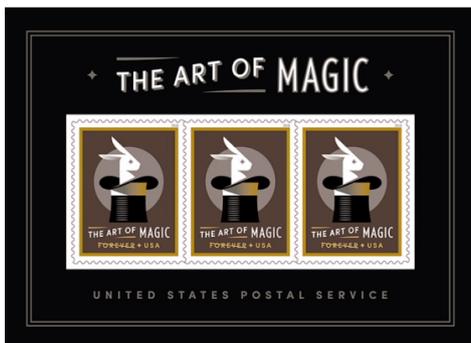
The magic competition has been moved to Oct 7. Due to social distancing

guidelines, only judges and performers will be in the room. Everyone else may watch online. Audience participants will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite performance, just like in America's Got Talent, so join us for a fantastic evening of fun and entertainment!

## USPS Magic by Gary Chan

USPS has two magic-themed products on sale. (1) One is a set of 3 stamps. By rotating each stamp, you can see a white rabbit pop out of a black hat, i.e. the image moves! Best of all, these are priced the same as regular first-class stamps. (2) USPS is also selling a magic kit, which is a playing card deck with a few gimmick cards.

[https://store.usps.com/store/product/stamp-collectors/the-art-of-magic-souvenir-sheet-S\\_565204](https://store.usps.com/store/product/stamp-collectors/the-art-of-magic-souvenir-sheet-S_565204)  
[https://store.usps.com/store/product/stamp-gifts/the-art-of-magic-kit-S\\_476829](https://store.usps.com/store/product/stamp-gifts/the-art-of-magic-kit-S_476829)



Stamps



Magic Kit

## The Map Deck by Steve Zuehlke

During World War II, the United States Playing Card Company joined forces with American and British intelligence agencies to create a very special deck of cards. This deck was specifically created to help allied prisoners of war escape from German POW camps.

This deck of cards became known as the "Map Deck." It was made by hiding maps of top-secret escape



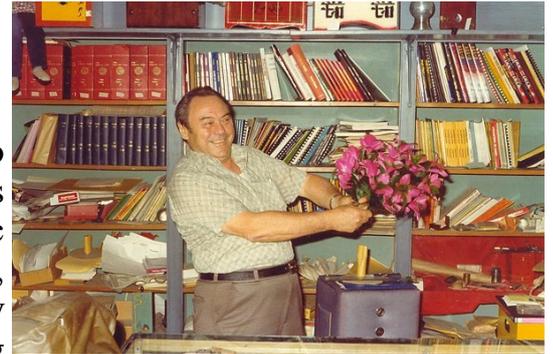
routes between the two paper layers that make up all modern playing cards. When soaked in water, these decks could be peeled apart to reveal hidden maps that allowed escaping prisoners to find their way to safety.

Due to the nature of the war and the prosecution of war crimes thereafter, the map decks remained a closely guarded secret for many years after the war ended. The secrecy surrounding them was so high that no one really knows how many were produced or how many have survived.

## Gene DeVoe

by Steve Zuehlke

Most of us remember Gene. For those who didn't know Gene, he was the owner of DeVoe's Magic Den here in St. Louis for many years. Magic Dealer, manufacturer, performer, lecturer, teacher, and mentor to many are just a few things I can say about this man. He was instrumental in introducing Bro. John Hamman to the St. Louis Magic scene. He was one of the founding fathers of the Mid-West Magic Jubilee, and Gene even performed for President Truman.



Besides working the store six days a week, Gene and his wife Trudy found time to raise their daughter. Gene was also a very active performer and could be found at a variety of venues around town. He performed for years at the Cheshire Inn in Clayton and was the magician for Famous-Barr, which is now known as Macy's. Back in the day, Famous-Barr had a series of commercials which featured a pair of hands doing magic. Everyone always wanted to know whose hands were in the commercials. You guessed it; they were Gene's. Gene was an expert at sleight of hand. He actually taught me how to top palm a card.

Most of us own a set of Tarbell's Course in Magic. But very few of us read them. Gene lived these books. Gene would do what he called a lecturette every year for the club. He forewarned everyone to bring a notebook because he had no notes to sell. Everything he taught was good working practical material. All along the way, he was fooling everyone with his miracles. At the end of the evening, he would tell everyone that everything he had shown that night could be found in Tarbell. The group was dumbfounded, to say the least.

Hanging out at Gene's shop on a Saturday was the best. You just never knew who was going pop in. Aside from all the locals, lots of big names in magic were frequent visitors as well. Whether passing through town or performing, everyone made a stop by the Magic Den. The list of local magicians who were influenced by Gene is a long one. Too many to list but I can assure you, there are many.

## Upcoming Events

### 2020 Magic Conventions

<https://www.themagicwordpodcast.com/magic-convention-guide>

Date	Event
Aug 5, 6:30pm	6:30pm Ickle Pickle Magic with D.J. Edwards 8:00pm Alex Ramon performance and teaching
Sep 2 evening	Online lecture
Oct 7, 7:00pm	IBM Ring 1 Close-up Contest.
Oct 23	President's Banquet

## Ring 1 Volunteer Activities

Volunteer your time so that we can grow and improve our Ring for everyone. Opportunities from most to least recent:

#	Task	Contact
1	Bring new magicians or send in ideas. We need to grow our membership, especially youth magic.	Terry Richison & Steve Queen See last page for contact info.
2	Project Magic (Shriners Hospital for Children). See next page for details.	Darryl "D. Jay" djay1000@yahoo.com
3	Attend the monthly Ring 1 board meeting. See next page for dates and times.	Terry Richison & Steve Queen See last page for contact info.
4	Write an article for the SPIRIT on any topic related to magic. Your fellow magicians will enjoy reading it!	Gary Chan See last page for contact info.

The girl's basketball event on November 21 has been cancelled. For more information, please contact Steve Finkelstein (contact info on last page).

## Volunteer for Project Magic

Volunteer to place a smile on a child's face at the Shriners Hospital for Children on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm and finish by 7:15pm. We are looking for two magicians for each month.

Date	Magician 1	Magician 2
Sep 15	Volunteer!	Bring a smile to a child! Volunteer!
Oct 20	Volunteer!	Bring a smile to a child! Volunteer!

The August event has been cancelled due to the pandemic. Shriners Hospital will confirm future events closer to the event dates.

Contact Darryl "D. Jay" at [djay1000@yahoo.com](mailto:djay1000@yahoo.com) to sign-up!

Directions to Shriners Hospital for Children ,4400 Clayton Avenue St. Louis, MO 63110: If coming from downtown or IL, take 64 and exit north on Boyle St. and turn left onto Clayton St. If coming from West County, head east on 64 and go North on Boyle and then left on Clayton St.

To check-in, go to the front desk and show a photo ID. The room we will be going to is on the 3rd floor. Take a left after getting off the elevator, and go towards the area where there is a sitting area with a large flat screen TV. It will be a small room (smaller than our Dielmann Recreation Complex meeting room).

Board Meeting Dates: Aug 19, Sep 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, and Dec 16

7:00pm IBM

Register with Terry Richison to receive the online meeting information. His contact info is on the last page.

Contribute and help shape the future of our organization. All members are welcome!

**October 7, 2020 @ 7:00PM**

**Open to the Public  
Admission is FREE!**

*Diekmann Recreation Center  
11400 Olde Cabin Road  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141*

**The Annual  
International Brotherhood of Magicians  
Close Up Magic Competition**

**Sign up for the I.B.M. Ring 1 Close Up Contest!**

Contact Steve Finkelstein to sign up!  
[sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net) or call 314-409-6869

Beginner/Intermediate and Advanced Groups

Now is your chance to show off your Close-Up talents. If you are an I.B.M. Ring 1 member in good standing, you could be the next I.B.M. Ring 1 Close Up contest winner! There are two categories in the competition: the Beginner/Intermediate category and the Advanced category. If you have never participated in the contest, now is your chance to shine! You'll never know if you can win if you don't participate. Each member must register with last year's Champion, Steve Finkelstein, prior to Sep 18, 2020. Sign up early so you don't miss the deadline.

Here is what you can tell your friends and neighbors: The International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 1, will be hosting its Annual Magic Close Up Contest on Oct 7, 2020. You'll have the opportunity to watch online and vote for your favorite contestant! The Contest will start at 7:00 PM sharp and is open to the public. Magicians from all over the Metro area will be competing for one of the highest awards given by the International Brotherhood of Magicians. It will be an evening of fun, laughter, and Magic! Best of all, it is FREE to the public!

Steve Finkelstein  
314-409-6869  
[sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net)

**See the April 2020 Spirit edition for the competition rules.**

# International Brotherhood of Magicians St. Louis Ring 1

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Submission Deadline for Next Spirit:  
Aug 21, 2020  
E-mail your article to Gary Chan at  
[ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com](mailto:ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com)

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