

November

International Brotherhood of Magicians



THE Home of MAGIC in St. Louis

The SPIRIT | Official Newsletter of I.B.M. Ring 1
November 2021 Edition

Close-Up Competition

November 3, 2021 at 7pm

In-person option:
Dielmann Recreation Center
11400 Olde Cabin Rd
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Virtual option:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82206225329?pwd=d1kybXAvZlFQQ3pQWC83RjY5eGU5dz09>

(Zoom Meeting ID: 822 0622 5329; Passcode: 483454)

Open to Family and Friends

Sign up to compete or be a judge!

Contact Steve Finkelstein

(314) 409-6869

sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net

Happy Thanksgiving

President's Message

by Scott Smith

Can you believe that it's time for our amazing Close-Up Contest on November 3rd? This will be a lot of fun. I was out sick last month, and I am trying to get healthy enough to participate in the contest. It was one of my highlights of the year to perform in front of the club. It would be great to see a lot of our members there performing and to support our members. Contact Steve Finkelstein at sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net to participate in the contest.



I was told there was a lot of participation in last month's Flea Market. I had a lot of items I wanted to bring, and I was disappointed that I missed out.

If anyone is hesitant to come to meetings because of COVID, please let me know. I would love to hear from anyone that has concerns. I just want to get back to having fun meetings again. I would also love to have a few lectures, but I need to know if everyone is interested in showing up. Please let me know. You can call, email, or stop by. I love hearing from everyone. My email is scott@plato.com and phone is 618-610-5947. Please don't be offended if I don't know who you are without telling me. Please contact me. I want to hear from everyone and what they would like to see over the next 6 months, including whether you want to participate or work at a Spring Show?

Don't forget that we will have our White Elephant meeting in December. You need to let me know as soon as you can if you are planning to attend or not. I would love to hear both ways. We are going to have to buy food individually wrapped for the safety of COVID, and we don't want to waste our members' money. Let's have a fun and exciting December meeting. Maybe we can have a Show and Tell, too. That would be fun right before Christmas to know what we might want for Christmas.

Don't be hesitant to perform in front of the club. I did not participate for over 20 years because I was worried that I was not good enough. I'm still not worthy, but I have confidence now and love to perform magic. Everyone in the club is great, and we will all encourage you and help if you ask for it. I love to get help from our great members in the club. Don't miss out like I did for all those years. Jump in and have fun! The more that participate, the more fun it is. I don't plan on winning; this will be my first contest ever. Contact me if you have any questions. Remember that we have a beginner's category.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our November and December meetings!

Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis et al.

Ring 1 members were thrilled because the Ring met in person again on October 6th. Scott Smith, the President was ill, so D. J. Lenz, the Vice-President led the meeting. Announcements were made and then several members performed packet tricks. The members really enjoyed the tricks performed by Terry Richison, D. J. Lenz, Steve Finkelstein, and John Davit.

After the conclusion of the packet tricks, the flea market began. Members could reserve a table at no cost to sell their magic; however, non-members were allowed to attend and also purchase items. The following members set up tables: Terry Richison (who brought LOTS of playing cards that belonged to Tom Westerheide), Steve Finkelstein, Trudy and Harry Monteith (Monti), Steve Buesking, Steve Zuehlke, Steve Dick, Tom Reilly, Steve Epner, and Brian Styles. Steve Finkelstein donated 5 boxes of magic for a silent auction. Most of the magic was new and consisted of really popular items. Mike McClure, a Board member who lives in Chester, Illinois, attended and won 4 of the 5 boxes at the silent auction. He was thrilled! These treasures will certainly keep him busy for a long time.

Jerome (Jerry) Novack was a longtime member of Ring 1. He passed away in March of 2020. His obituary noted that he was a business owner, magician, comedian, actor, and impersonator. When Sandy Weis joined Ring 1, Jerry was one of the talented magicians who was always sharing magic with her. She was recently given hundreds of magic VHS tapes that he had collected. Many of the tapes featured famous magicians of the past. However, most people do not have VHS machines anymore so they were not interested in them. Also, she was given many of his old issues of The Linking Ring and other magazines. She set up a table at the auction with the tapes and magazines with a note stating that all proceeds would be donated to Shriners Hospital St. Louis (one of his favorite charities). By the end of the evening, all of the tapes and magazines were gone and over \$100 will be donated to Shriners Hospital.

Dan Todd shared the following: My first live magic show in almost two years was at the Chess Club performing chess-themed magic. Last Saturday was my second live show which was at St. Lucis UCC, where Reverend Carol is now at. SAM Assembly 8 used to hold their meetings at Mount Tabor UCC on Arsenal when Reverend Carol was there. I used to perform my "Cash or Cans" magic show for them, as well as at the St. Louis Community Center on Arsenal. People could see a magic show by donating canned goods which were given to Food Pantries or give cash which was donated to the host church or Community Center. Since Reverend Carol knew me from her previous church, she invited me to perform at St. Lucis. The strolling style show was met with enthusiasm by young and old alike. People had phone cameras out, and I could hear one pulling out a phone saying, "I've got to get this!" Lots of new faces, but many remember me coming to their chapel to invite them to various magic shows over the years. I was happily performing Hernando the world's strongest flea, making an elephant vanish with Back Stage, Berry Mitchell's light heavy box, and so much more. Performing online was nice, but nothing beats a live show!

Jill Schmidt (Silly Jilly) shared the following: She recently performed a magic show at

the Batchtown Fall Festival which is located in Calhoun County, Illinois. This was her first visit to Calhoun County and she loved it. Originally, the organization requested that she make balloon animals only. However, she suggested that she can also perform a magic show. She was well-received. Some of the comments on Facebook are as follows: “My kids are still quoting Silly Jilly Lines!! They loved it!” and “It was such a joy to hear the kids squealing with delight. They were having such a great time!!” She is hoping the festival invites her back next year.



Michael W. McClure shared the following: September in St. Louis continued to offer magical opportunities following our Ring 1 tribute to the careers of Harry Monti and John Apperson at our regular monthly meeting. It was a rewarding experience to be able to attend (with the proper precautions, of course) a LIVE magic event. On Saturday, Sept. 18th, J. Scheidegger Center of Lindenwood University played host to America's largest touring magic show, “Masters Of Illusion!” The popular CW network production featured the talents of three skilled magicians.



Rob Lake is a celebrated illusionist that has appeared worldwide to sold-out audiences. He became the youngest in history to receive the coveted Merlin Award and augments his entertainment career as a consultant for TV series, films, and some of today's most famous magicians. He was followed by the unique performances of Dan Sperry, “the Anti-Conjurer”. He is the only illusionist to ever be awarded the title of “most original magician” on FOX's “World Magic Awards.” Our state of Missouri was represented well, as the final performer was Kansas City's Tom Burgoon. His unique blend of comedy and magic has been showcased from coast to coast, and has brought about his selection in 2008 by “Magic Magazine” as one of the top comic magicians in the world. I am indeed honored to be the proud owner of his “Timmy the Toilet Paper” co-star that was introduced during that night's production. If you have not seen Tom (and Timmy) in action, be certain to not miss your next opportunity (or at least Google search this talented comic). Several members of our Ring 1 attended the event, as did a considerably large audience. It is heart-warming to see how magic is still very much alive in the minds of our neighbors.



Michael W. McClure (continued): Our October Ring 1 meeting did not disappoint, as 27 brothers and sisters of the art assembled for a “Packet Trick” themed night, which was followed by an enormous flea market and silent auction. Thanks to the generosity of Sandy Weis, Terry Richison, Steve Finkelstein, and other vendors, I witnessed an incredibly stunning trick my money disappeared!!! Thank goodness I still had room in my van to accommodate both my wife

AND myself (and I'll leave it to the reader's imagination who/what might have been left behind).

Michael W. McClure (continued): As our evolving magic-themed table top game begins to take shape, I am seeking the advice of all aficionados of the art. Our goal is to pay homage to the great legends of magic ... the masters of illusionary feats that have shaped and influenced the captivating craft we all relish. I have attached a list of the magicians already being considered, but desperately need wiser eyes to look over the listing and add those "late greats" I might be missing. Due to the nature of the project, any magician must have passed away prior to 2000 in order to be considered. Any input would be greatly appreciated and your thoughts may be emailed to watson7654321@gmail.com .

Master Magicians who died before 2000

Who is missing?

Adelaide Herrmann, Alexander Herrmann, Angelo Lewis "Prof. Hoffman," Anna Eva Fay, Benjamin Rucker "Black Herman," Cardini, Charles Joseph Carter, Chee Ling Qua "Ching Ling Foo," Claude Alexander Conlin "Alexander," Dai Vernon, Ed Marlo, Ellen Armstrong, Georges Melies, Harry August Jansen "Dante," Harry Kellar, Harry Blackstone Jr., Harry Blackstone Sr., Harry Houdini, Howard Thurston, Jasper Maskelyne, Jean-Eugene Robert-Houdin, Jean Hugard, Johann Hofzinsler, John Randall Brown, John Watkins Holden, Joseph Dunninger, Max Malini, P. C. Sorcar, Richard Potter, Theodore Annemann, Theodore Hardeen, Thomas Nelson Downs, Tobias Bamberg "Okito," and Tony Slydini

The Close-up Magic Contest will be held during the November meeting. Steve Finkelstein is in charge since he won the contest previously. Steve has been anxious for the contest to actually be scheduled. At every board meeting since the pandemic began, Steve has tried various ways to still have the contest. The Board even considered having it on Zoom with no audience members. However, the meeting location only recently opened back up. Rules and guidelines have been distributed to members and all he needs now is for contestants to sign up. Members thoroughly enjoy this yearly contest and are thrilled that it is actually happening in November.

Trudy and Harry Monteith shared the following: they are looking forward to the Ken Klosterman Collection Auction. A catalog is available online and it is the first auction of his magic collection. It states that more options will follow. Also, they shared that Neil Patrick Harris is producing a newsletter entitled Wondercade. It will include some magic along with other subjects. It sounds interesting, and I (Sandy Weis) just signed up to receive it.

At the end of the evening, Steve Zuelke and Steve Buesking surprised me. They gave me a "magic" carrying case filled with magic books and magic tricks. I can't thank them enough for all the books and magic they have given to me.

Nail Writers

by Steve Zuehlke

This month, we are going to talk about nail writers. Also referred to as thumb writers, Swami gimmicks, Boon writers, and a variety of other names, they all accomplish the same purpose: to secretly write on something in full view of the audience under the cover of a card, business card, or envelope using your thumb.

Swami Writer: a tiny piece of lead clipped under, or onto, the nail.

Band Writer: a pliable metal clip that fits on the ball of the thumb, with a piece of lead for writing.

Boon/Bug Writer: a circular disc that has the lead mounted in the middle. The disc sticks to the pad on your thumb.

Thumbtip Writer: a piece of lead protruding from a thumbtip.

You will need to experiment with each of these to find the what works best for you. The real key is to keep the movement of your thumb to a minimum so as not to give any indication that you are doing anything. The numbers 1-9 are the easiest to write without drawing too much attention. Also, writing a number takes less than a second when you get good at it. A quick, easy effect is to take a business card and “pretend” to write a number on the back of the card and place it face down on the table. Ask the spectator go give you a number between one and ten (so the only numbers that can be selected are 2-9). All of these numbers can be written with one stroke so that your thumb never has to leave the writing surface. Once the number has been named, in the act of turning the card over, write their number with one quick motion as the card is being turned over. My friend, Bob Brown, fooled me over and over with this. He was very good at this and had the move down to one fluid motion and, believe me, it goes undetected.

In a stage or parlor setting, you could use a window envelope. This is an 8 1/2 x 11 envelope with a square cut out of the backside just large enough for the selected number to be written in. Inside the envelope is a prediction that would read, “You will pick No. [blank]”. (Leave space where the “[blank]” is.) You will need to experiment as to where to cut the window. Obviously the prediction is written with the same material you have in the nail writer.

When doing this effect on stage, you need the writing to be bold so the audience will be able to see it. You may want to use a grease pencil or the tip of a Sharpie. Simply take a thumbtip and drill a hole in the tip and insert a piece of marker through the hole. You can also write a word instead of a number. Remember that words take longer to write so you will need a distraction or know how to stall really well. A way around this is to use an assistant. She can be holding the envelope and doing the writing while you are doing the talking. All of the attention is on you and the spectator so her motions will go unnoticed. If you are doing the writing, please remember to look at the audience and not at what you are writing.

There many more effects on this covered in Corinda’s *Thirteen Steps to Mentalism*, a great book for any working mentalist.

Subtle Card Magic

by Steve Zuehlke

Subtle card magic relies more on subtleties rather than sleight-of-hand. The definition of subtleties are nuances, fine point details, or small but distinguishing features. The small, but unique, details about Mona Lisa's smile that make the Mona Lisa such a captivating painting are an example of subtleties.

Nick Trost has recently released, over the past few years, an eight-volume work entitled, *Super Subtle Card Magic*. Most of this material was drawn from his 33 years of contributions to *The New Tops* magazine from 1961 to 1994. Nick also published numerous booklets and manuscripts. He was truly a prolific creator of subtle card magic. Can you imagine eight volumes of card magic using mostly subtleties rather than sleight-of-hand, let alone working under a deadline every month?

While Nick was an accomplished sleight-of-hand expert, he discovered that subtleties, rather than sleights, were more important to the overall effect. Nick was heavily influenced by Stewart Judah.

Stewart Judah (February 16, 1893 – June 11, 1966) began a career in magic in 1920. By 1938, he was selected as one of the 10 best living card magicians. He was named one of the "Card Stars" in Hilliard's Greater Magic and featured in Pallbearer's Review.

Much of Stewart's material can be found in small pamphlet-type books. These are the types of older books that most of us pass over at first glance without even opening the cover.

Trost's Volumes 4-8 are readily available. Volumes 1-3 are out of print and will be a challenge to find as well as Stewart Judah's material. Check with your favorite used book dealer or your favorite auction site.

Paul Rygelski's Passing

A memorial mass for Paul Rygelski will be held on Fri., November 12, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 2934 Marshall Rd., Maplewood, MO 63143. Please note that a mask is required to attend the church service regardless of vaccination status as per guidelines of the Archdiocese.

A luncheon will follow in the parish gym. If you have any questions or would like to attend the luncheon, please let Karen Darby (Paul's sister) know by phone or text at 314-603-4847 by October 29, 2021, so that she can have enough food available for everyone.





IBM Ring 1 Close-up Contest – Nov 3rd

by Steve Finkelstein

As the winner of the 2019 close up contest, I have the honor of hosting the 2021 close-up contest. In spite of COVID-19, we have arranged to have a unique and exciting close-up contest. We have a chance to get a broader audience by hosting a close-up contest both in person and via Zoom. There will something for everyone.

Covid-19 Protocol: Our Board requests that all attendees in person either have had the COVID vaccine or wear a mask. Of course, anyone can wear a mask.

Because of time constraints, we are limited to 4 or 5 performers in each category. First come, first serve.

Who qualifies to compete? Must be an I.B.M. Ring One Member in good standing and International I.B.M. member in good standing.

Contact Steve Finkelstein as soon as possible at sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net or cell 314-409-6869 to sign up as a competitor or a judge.

What's the same?

Close-up magic only – Close-up magic is usually performed at a table or standing by a table. Also, if audience members are involved. They need to come up by the table. Most types of magic are included – coins, cards, ropes, dice, chains, mentalism, small linking rings, metal bending, silks, etc. Type of magic not included: illusions, large escapes, audience mentalism, or need to involve or go into the audience.

Contestants: We will have two level of contestants. Beginner/Intermediate and Advanced:

- Beginner/Intermediate – nonprofessional magicians who have not won a 1st Place close-up contest.
- Advanced – Professional magicians or have won 1st place in a close-up contest. Also, someone can elect to compete in this category.
- We need 4 to 5 performers in each category.

Performance Length: 8 to 10 minutes of magic. One point will be deducted for every 30 seconds under 8 minutes or over 10 minutes. The MC will introduce the performer and ask whether he/she is ready. Once the performer acknowledges he/she is ready, the timer will begin. When it is clear that the performance has ended (such as if the performer says, “Thank you. I hope you enjoyed my



act.” or if the performer states that the act is over), the timer will end.

What’s new:

Hybrid Event (In person and via Zoom):

- Contestants will be performing in person at the Dielmann Recreation Complex, 11400 Olde Cabin Rd, Creve Coeur, MO 63141.
- We will practice COVID-19 guidelines – masks, social distancing. Seating will be limited to 20 guests and 6 judges. Performers can leave the room after they performed.
- 3-4 Magician Judges are to be in person
- 2-3 Lay judges are to be in person.

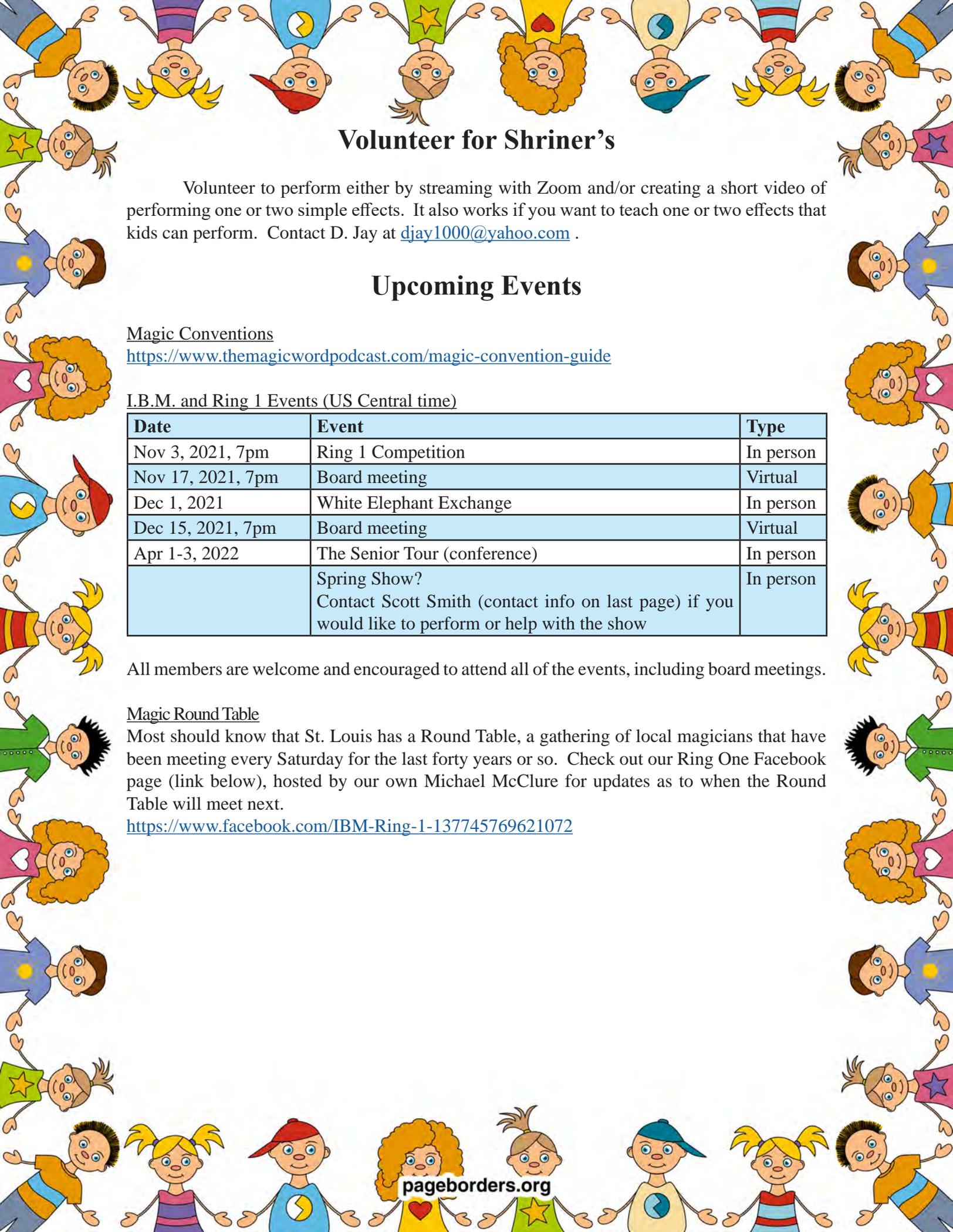
Scoring: Due to the logistics and limited time of scoring in 8 categories we have simplified the scoring.

- Each judge will rate the performers in each category in three areas: Entertainment Value, Presentation and Ability/Technique. Ranking will be based on points awarded. Winners for each category will be announced at the end of the evening.
- People Choice Award: At the end of both contest categories, there will be a poll (Zoom and paper in person) for the audience to select the People’s Choice Award – the performer who entertained, engaged, and brought smiles in their act.

Agenda:

- 6:55 to 7:00 – People let into the Zoom Room
- 7:00 to 7:10 – Contest overview. Introduce judges
- 7:10 to 8:00 – Beginner/Intermediate 4-5 close up acts and judges initial scoring
- 8:00 to 8:15 – Magic Performance while Judges score
- 8:15 to 9:05 – Advanced 4-5 close-up acts and judges scoring
- 9:05 to 9:15 – Magic Performance while Judges score
- 9:15 to 9:25 – Winners announced for both categories
- 9:25 to 9:30 – People’s Choice Award
- Wrap-up. Meeting Closed. Thank you.





Volunteer for Shriner's

Volunteer to perform either by streaming with Zoom and/or creating a short video of performing one or two simple effects. It also works if you want to teach one or two effects that kids can perform. Contact D. Jay at djay1000@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events

Magic Conventions

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

I.B.M. and Ring 1 Events (US Central time)

Date	Event	Type
Nov 3, 2021, 7pm	Ring 1 Competition	In person
Nov 17, 2021, 7pm	Board meeting	Virtual
Dec 1, 2021	White Elephant Exchange	In person
Dec 15, 2021, 7pm	Board meeting	Virtual
Apr 1-3, 2022	The Senior Tour (conference)	In person
	Spring Show? Contact Scott Smith (contact info on last page) if you would like to perform or help with the show	In person

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend all of the events, including board meetings.

Magic Round Table

Most should know that St. Louis has a Round Table, a gathering of local magicians that have been meeting every Saturday for the last forty years or so. Check out our Ring One Facebook page (link below), hosted by our own Michael McClure for updates as to when the Round Table will meet next.

<https://www.facebook.com/IBM-Ring-1-137745769621072>

APRIL 1 - 3, 2022

ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

THE SENIOR TOUR

A MINI CONVENTION SHOWCASING DECADES
OF CLOSE-UP MAGIC EXPERTISE

April 1 - 3, 2022

stlsteve2009@yahoo.com

\$150.00 PER PERSON
Limited TO 150 registrants

**LOCATION: THE DOUBLE
TREE by HILTON**

1000 Eastport Plaza Dr.
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-345-2800

*Mention "Senior Tour" for
special room rate; \$109
including breakfast for two*

FEATURING

ALLAN ACKERMAN
STEVE REYNOLDS
MIKE POWERS
JIMMY "CARDS"
MOLINARI
CHRIS KORN
DOUG CONN
GARY PLANTS
HOWARD HAMBURG

GUESTS OF HONOR

HARRY &
TRUDI MONTI

SHOWS
LECTURES
PANEL
DISCUSSION
INTERVIEWS

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