

# SPIRIT

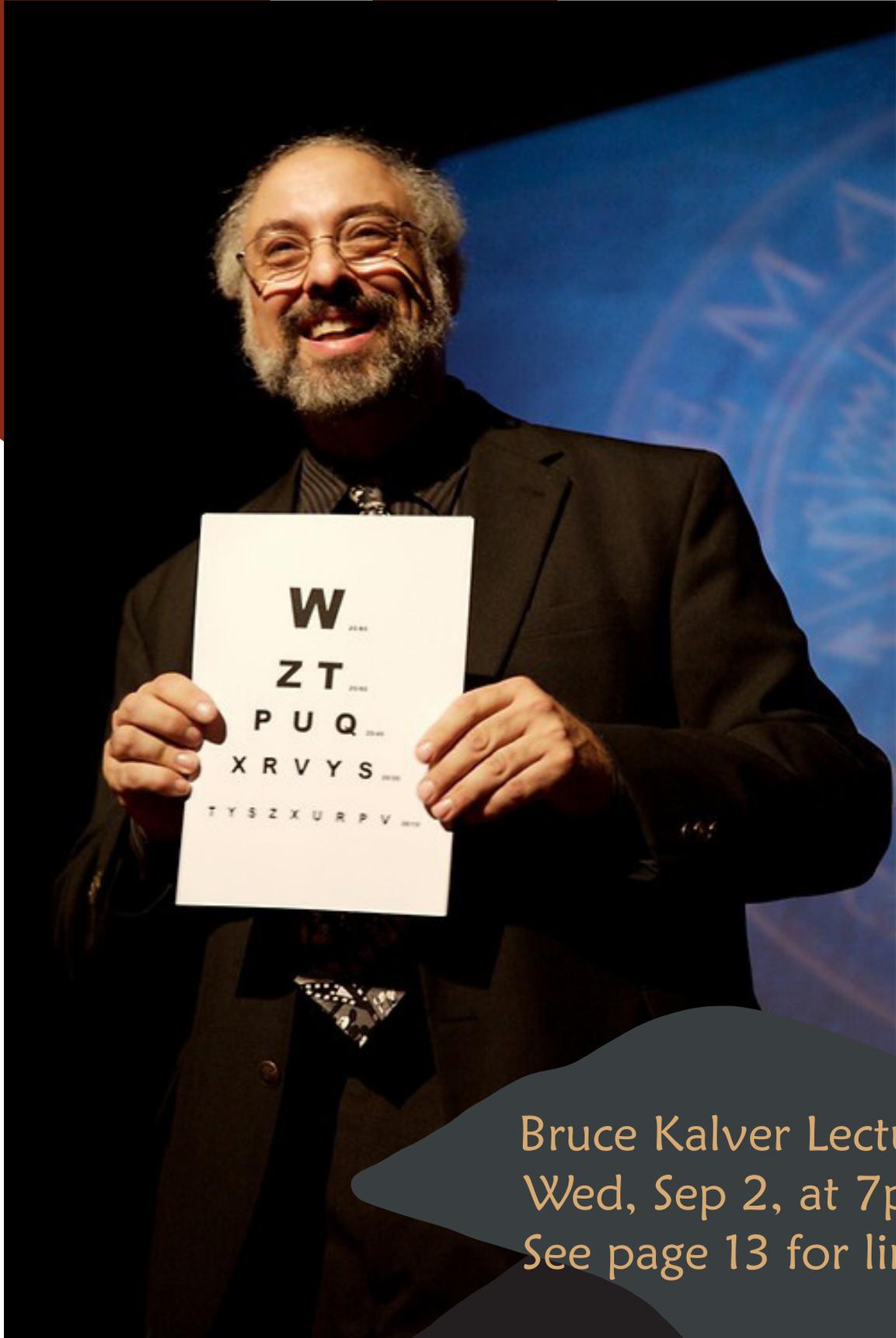
September 2020 Edition

94 Years Of Magic!

International Brotherhood of Magicians

"Spirit of St. Louis"

RING ONE



Bruce Kalver Lecture  
Wed, Sep 2, at 7pm  
See page 13 for link.

# President's Message

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone has remained safe and healthy.

Good news is that the Dielmann Recreation Center will be opening up soon. But we have decided not to have our September meeting in person just for everyone's safety. Instead we will be having a lecture by Bruce Kalver. Bruce has been working professionally for over 40 years. He started his career when he was only 6 years old. His magic education started at the age of four when his grandfather, Samuel Woolf, who was himself a magician and an assistant to Houdini, began to teach him the art.

The Ring 1 meeting will begin at 7:00pm on September 2nd. See page 13 for details.

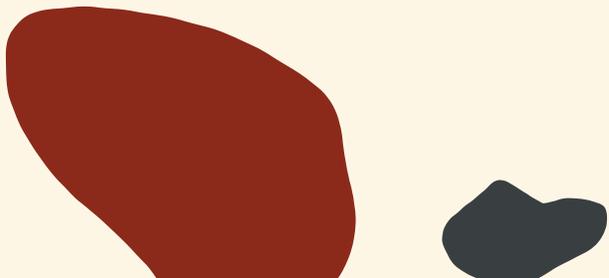
We decided to hold the I.B.M. Ring 1 Annual Close-up Contest as our October meeting. We have made the following changes to insure everyone's safety. The performances will be held at the Dielmann Recreation Center. In the performance room will be the judges and one contestant at a time. The audience will be attending via Zoom. We are having to use Zoom since Webex and Go To Meeting limit each meeting to 40 min. We still need a couple of judges for the Annual Close-up contest. We also need some people to help with the technical side of the meeting to help it run smoothly. Please contact me if you would like to help. There is more information about the contest in an article later in this month's Spirit.

While things are slowly opening up somewhat, I know we all wish that they were moving faster. But we all must be patient as this virus is hanging around longer than anyone wanted. There are plenty of online shows and lectures, if you want to look for them. I will keep you posted about lectures and shows that I come across.

I hope you see you all at the September meeting!



G. Richardson





# **FREE ENTERTAINERS' BUSINESS & MARKETING (ONLINE) CONFERENCE**

September 12-13, 2020

<https://kennedysoffice.convertri.com/conference>

We're going to spend 2 full days to get you:

- Your 'come back' plan so you can get back out there performing (and earning) fast.
- Your perfect audience, the people
- Deciding how much you want to charge.
- Planning how often you want to perform.
- Leveraging social media to build a following of people who book and recommend you.
- Build a 'Referral Booking Machine' that turns each gig into 2-3 more, filling your calendar up exponentially.

# RING 1 REPORT

*By Sandy Weis*

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Ring 1 is still meeting virtually on a regular basis. The Board met virtually and planned a Zoom meeting for its members in August. D. J. Edwards, the new owner of Ickle Pickle Magic Products, invited Ring 1 members to virtually visit Ickle Pickle's new facility. D. J.'s business is located in Park Hills, MO, which is about sixty miles from St. Louis. Ickle Pickle's previous owner/founder, Steve Bender, decided it was time to retire. D. J. was managing Ickle Pickle's website so Steve felt D. J. would be the "perfect" new owner. The store has a showroom where customers can see some of the products he sells and/or makes. He also took the members on a tour of the entire facility. The store is amazing! He is still organizing and cataloguing all the "magic" he transported from Steve's house. D. J. demonstrated some of the latest magic that has hit the market as well as some of the good old favorites and supplies all magicians need. I, along with the other members, can't wait to visit. After we took a short break, we watched a special performance by Alex Ramon. Alex has been the "Magical Zingmaster" for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus, star of Disney Live! "Mickey's Magic Show", performed on four continents in fourteen countries, and was the star of 'Illusion Fusion,' at the Horizon Resort Casino in South Lake Tahoe. At age 18, Ramon received the coveted Lance Burton Award. He's even been seen on Penn & Teller's "Fool Us." Alex Ramon is recognized for his contagious energy and innovative approach, which have reinvented the art of magic, bringing magic to devoted fans the world over, as well as new audiences such as I.B.M. Ring 1! After Alex's show, he stuck around for some Q & A. Alex is offering these performances free of charge. The members thoroughly enjoyed his performance. It is highly recommended that other Rings contact him to schedule a Zoom performance for its members.

Steve Zuehlke shared the following: Another month goes by without our normal Ring meeting due to the virus. Hopefully, the end is near. In the meantime, there is so much magic available on the internet; therefore, this is a great time to learn something new. So many professionals are stepping forward with lectures, videos, teach-ins, etc. on Facebook, YouTube, etc. These magicians need to be commended. When this virus is over and you run into one of these stars at a convention, make sure to thank them. Paul Gordon from England has been posting a lot lately on the Magicians Only group on Facebook. Paul is a master of packet trick magic. Most are easily within the reach of the average magician. If you are into children's magic, check out Mario Marchese's page. He is simply one of the best I have ever seen! Trinidad Montes recently hosted a virtual convention featuring Steve Reynolds, Jason Dean, John Bannon, and George McBride. What a line-up of talent! Sad news for the magic world: We recently lost two "greats" with the passing of our own John Mendoza and world class manipulator, Ger Copper. Both were friends of mine and will be greatly missed. John was scheduled to perform at the Senior Tour Convention that was cancelled due to the virus. I had the pleasure of visiting Amsterdam two years ago and had the chance to hang out with Ger. What a great person!

Jill "Silly Jilly" Schmidt shared the following: I am taking a four-week physical comedy course via Zoom. I am hoping it will help/teach me to add more laughs to my children's magic shows. I am also attending the KIDabra virtual conference for children's magicians. Ring 1 member, Chad "Chef Bananas" Jacobs, is one of the lecturers. I have been watching virtual magic shows and paying attention to the parts young audiences like best. I have noticed that one of the favorite tricks children like is often any trick that makes a furry animal appear. The pizza oven also gets top reactions. I have also been performing physically distanced magic shows at daycares and at birthday parties. I

# RING 1 REPORT

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have a silly mask with a painted-on smile, which I wear at all indoor shows. I am surprised that kids seem to love my show just as much with the mask on as without the mask on. At the end of last year, I purchased a custom made five-foot diameter whoopee cushion from Inflate Online in Georgia. I am happy to have a bit that I can step away from the stage for, and when up to nine volunteers come on stage, they don't touch anything they shouldn't. A hair-drier blows up the whoopee cushion. When I don't have access to electricity, I have a one-foot whoopee cushion for one child to sit on.

Steve Buesking shared the following: This past weekend I was able to watch The Magician's Forum, four 90-minute live lectures for \$10 via Zoom. The lecturers were: George McBride from the UK, John Bannon from Chicago, Steve Reynolds in New Orleans, and Jason Dean in Kansas City. Additionally, there were jam sessions between lecturers with magicians from all over the world performing and teaching their material. What was a tremendous value-added bonus is that all the lectures and jam sessions were recorded and sent to the registrants to rewatch again. After a certain number of hours, overload kicks in; therefore, I can continue to enjoy the material at a later day/time. Jason Dean also spoke about his fight with Multiple Sclerosis and how it has affected his hands. Jason had one stem cell treatment last year, not covered by insurance, and is in need of a second treatment. Jason mentioned his GoFundMe and I think it would be worthwhile for IBM members to be aware of. What a very talented man! I believe the Magicians Forum is planning on doing this again soon. They can be found online at Facebook or at [www.basicsofmagic.com](http://www.basicsofmagic.com). (Full Disclosure: I did not know any of the organizers of this event.) They ran a great operation, were welcoming to each participant and definitely a class group of people. I attended Rudy Tinoco's sessions last weekend - 4 lectures, multiple jam sessions with magicians from the U.S., Europe, and Asia. I also received a video download for each session so I can go back and view them again. I plan on signing up for John Carey's 90-minute lecture, "Carey Super Sessions" on August 29th. The three topics covered are Carey on the Pass!, False Shuffles!, and Coins R Us! This event costs only \$10 and it comes with a downloadable video recording of the session. What a bargain!

Michael McClure, from Chester, Illinois, shared the following: I have been keeping busy watching all of the great content provided by IBM and our Ring 1 leadership. While attending a private performance, I met Alex Ramon and invited him to entertain my family (and my Ring 1 extended family) with one of his Virtual Magic shows. He did a marvelous job, and for the benefit of those Ring 1 members who could not attend, our Board scheduled Alex for a repeat performance only weeks later. He has a wide range of experiences and shared some of the background details regarding his performances all across the globe. I am continuing with plans to build a Victorian Magic Parlor in my hometown, but the COVID virus will need to run its course before folks are comfortable gathering together again. Miracles are real!

Dan Todd shared the following: I've been contemplating what magic shows will look like, once we start up again safely. Online offers benefits and drawbacks. Those of us that had been moving away from presenting to audience participation have had to adjust yet again. I was performing regularly on Children's Hospital's live TV, usually with just one person in the room with me. We usually did have phone participation as well. I have had to adjust to less, if any, participation since the pandemic. No one was recording these and I was comfortable with

# RING 1 REPORT

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the live TV feed. Now anyone can record any event, no matter how hard we try to prevent it. Disclaimers and warnings do not work. Further, my booth, which I built, allows me to perform closeup without a mask. Audience participation involves pointing at objects rather than touching objects. Actually, this challenge has given magicians an opportunity to tweak how we interact with our audiences. Being creative gives us more flexibility and options in the future. Personally, I love a challenge! I was lucky to have built the booth before it was required and modified it before I needed, too (I made it wheelchair height). I might not be so lucky to be able to adapt the next time a change is needed quickly. So be prepared, just as my Scouts are always prepared. Yes, I still teach and council BSA Chess Merit Badges for Scouts in many states online.

Steve Finkelstein shared that he is planning on teaching one or two tricks to Ring 1 members via a future Zoom meeting. Members always look forward to his lectures. Marty Kopp has been adding to his family: he is now a grandfather to a granddaughter named Charlie and also the proud owner of Barley, an Australian Cattle Dog/Hound mix. Further, he is also doing a Live Stream of a wren's nest. Wrens built a nest in a hanging planter on his front porch. They were kind enough to make the opening accessible to his security camera. Soon Marty will have baby wrens to share. How cool!

It is really difficult to write the Ring Report monthly since we don't have meetings or activities. I know it must be hard for other scribes as well. I really appreciate the Ring 1 members that send me input. If not, I would not be able to submit this report. Thank you, everyone!



John Mendoza was one of the best teachers in magic.  
– Gene DeVoe

John Frederick Mendoza, of Saint Louis, MO, passed away Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at the age of 72. Beloved son of the late Frank and Carolina Mendoza; devoted father of Julie (Shawn) Merideth; cherished grandfather of Chloe Merideth, Lily Merideth, and Emery Merideth; loving companion of Marilyn Bass; dear brother of Frank (Michelle) Mendoza and Diana (Wendell Carver) Cook; brother-in-law of Terri Mendoza. John is preceded in death by his brother, Richard Mendoza.

John was a known legendary expert close-up magician for over 50 years. He performed and entertained throughout the world from local venues to countries such as Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Germany and others. Throughout his career, he performed for the United States military troops, held lectures, and wrote several books and manuscripts that can be found in just about every magician's library. John was also an avid reader and enjoyed watching movies. John's greatest love was spending time with his three grandchildren whom he adored. John was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

I had the pleasure of knowing John for over thirty-five years. John was one of the most knowledgeable people I have ever met. Not just cards and coins (which most people associate him with) but all facets of magic. Illusions, stage, history, etc. Most

people don't know that John had a stage act as well. I had John scheduled to perform at The Senior Tour before COVID-19 forced the event to be cancelled. When I was the outgoing President of Ring One, John performed at the President's Banquet – something I am grateful for and will ever forget..

Before moving to St. Louis, John lived in Rolla, Missouri. At the time, the club had a member from Rolla, Ken Kincaide. When Ken was not doing magic, he performed in a country western band. I made the trip to Rolla several times to hang with John and watch Ken play music. Afterwards we would sit around till the wee hours watching John do miracles and soaking up everything he had to show. I remember John teaching me a Color Change Deck which I still do today!

John was also a magic shop owner. John owned the Presto Place in the Quad Cities and later managed DeVoe's Magic Den here in St. Louis. After DeVoe's closed, Olde Towne Magic opened with all the fixtures and display cases from DeVoe's that I had purchased from John.

Gene DeVoe once said that "John Mendoza was one of the best teachers in magic", which is evident from the Mendoza Personal Series of Instructions that John put out years ago. John had no room for "subpar magic." If he showed you something, he expected perfection. If you showed John you were serious; he was an open book of knowledge.

As well as authoring his own material, John wrote for many others. Below are just a few of John's publications.

#### Manuscripts

- Mendoza Series of Personal Instruction (1980)
- No. 1: H.A.M. (Harris-Ackerman-Mendoza)
- No. 2: A Reading
- No. 3: A Minor Triumph
- No. 4: Multiple Spellbound
- No. 5: Miller (?) Wild Card
- No. 6: Nelson's Drunken Shuffle

#### Marketed Tricks

- The Mendoza Cups and Balls Routine (1971)
- Automatic Deck (1973)

#### Books

- The Book of John (1978)
- Close-Up Presentation (1979)
- John: Verse Two (1980)
- Don England's T.K.O.s (1981)
- The Mendoza Portfolio No. 1 (1983)
- The Excellence of Dan Fleshman (1983)
- The Right Stuff (The Magic of Chris Kenner) (1985)

RIP My Friend. You will be missed!

Steve Zuehlke



**“Mr. ELECTRIC”**

One of most unique acts in show business  
and a friend and inspiration to magicians  
around the world.

R.I.P. Marvyn Roy 1925 - 2020

# THE SUCCESSFUL MENTALIST

The Successful Mentalist is a podcast:

<https://thesuccessfulmentalist.captivate.fm/listen>

Notes from the author:

- These PDF's are free bonuses that come with our weekly podcast. Listen to each episode before you read the PDF so that the information makes sense!
- Each PDF includes a link to the relevant podcast episode.
- We usually produce these PDF's once a month, so keep an eye out for more!

## Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TheSuccessfulMentalist/>

## Instagram

<https://instagram.com/thesuccessfulmentalist>

## Why Mentalism

<https://thesuccessfulmentalist.com/2020/05/25/003/>

## Close-Up Residencies

<https://thesuccessfulmentalist.com/2020/07/12/10/>

## Finding Your Character

<https://thesuccessfulmentalist.com/2020/06/07/005/>

## Revealing Information

<https://thesuccessfulmentalist.com/2020/08/16/015/>

## 10 Tips To Improve Your Mentalism' & 'Covid 19

<https://thesuccessfulmentalist.com/free/>

# PROGRESSIVE MAGIC

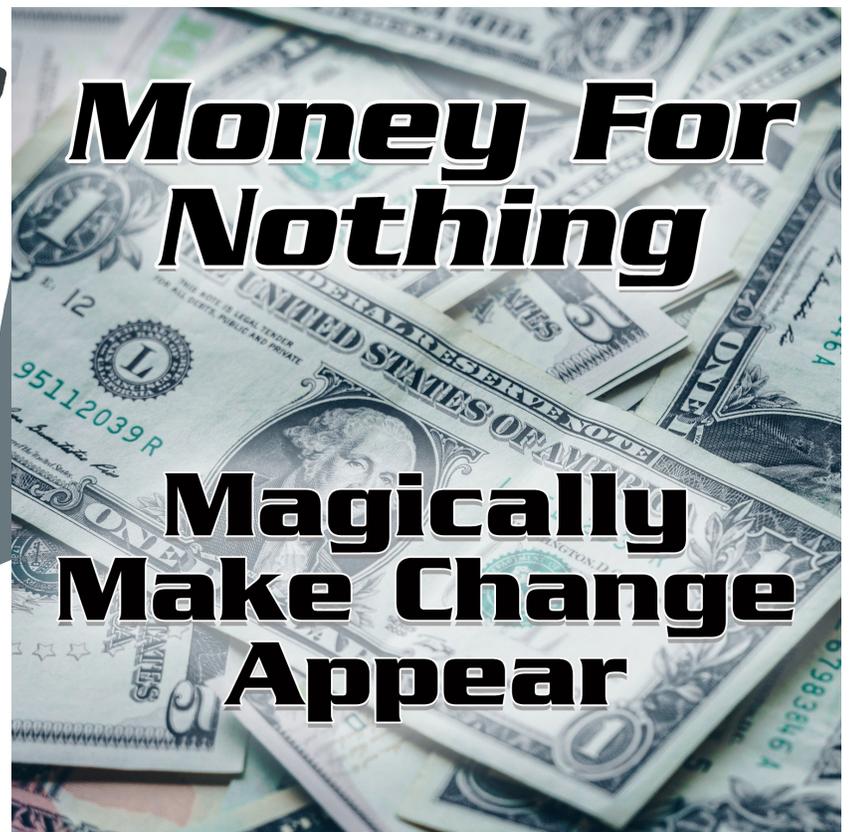
Fred Moore just launched a new magic site to market his original magic effects.

As a promotion, he is giving away a free video tutorial of an original effect called, "Money For Nothing".

Here the effect: You borrow a \$5 bill, fold it up, and produce four \$1 coins from it! When you unfold the \$5 bill, it's now a \$1 bill!

Check it out here:

<https://progressivemagic.com/product/money-for-nothing/>



This effect is topical given the current coin shortage, and it's perfect to perform in person or virtually.

# Upcoming Events

2020 Magic Conventions

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

Date	Event
Sep 2 Evening	Online Lecture
Oct 7, 7:00pm	IBM Ring 1 Close-Up Contest
Oct 23 Evening	President's Banquet

## Ring 1 Volunteer Activities

Volunteer your time so that we can grow and improve our Ring for everyone.

Task	Contact
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.
Volunteer to place a smile on a child's face at the Shriners Hospital for Children! Shows are currently on hold until year 2021, but please reach out to D. Jay to sign up for early next year. For additional general information on the program, see the Spirit's August 2020 issue.	Darryl "D. Jay" djay1000@yahoo.com
Attend the monthly Ring 1 board meeting. See next page for dates and times.	Terry Richison & Steve Queen See last page for contact info.
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.

## Board Meetings

The Ring 1 Board will meet at 7pm on Sep 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, and Dec 16. 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!

## 2020 I.B.M. Ring 1 Annual Close-up Contest

Steve Finkelstein is last year's 1<sup>st</sup> place winner and this year's Close-up Contest Chairman for the I.B.M. Ring 1 Close-up Annual Contest. We are going to have an exciting contest this year with a few new twists.

Our 2020 annual close-up contest is being held during our October 2020 Ring meeting in a COVID-19 responsible manner. This will be held as a Zoom meeting for everyone who is not a contestant. Steve is still looking for both magician and lay judges, plus performers.

### Logistics

**Date:** Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 7:00PM Sharp

**Place:**

- Guests – Via a Zoom meeting. IBM Members, non-members and general public are welcome. FREE to everyone. Meeting details to be sent as we are closer to the date.
- Judges and Performers - Dielmann Recreation Center, 11400 Olde Cabin Road, Creve Coeur, Missouri

**Process:**

There will be two contest groups:

- Beginner – Intermediate: A person who has not placed 1st in any close-up magic contest, does not earn a living or is not a full-time as a magician.
- Advanced: A person who has placed 1st in any close-up magic contest; or is a full-time professional magician, earning a living through magic; lectures on or teaches magic regularly; or placed 1st in the I.B.M. Ring 1 Beginners-Intermediate Group contest.

**Contest Rules:**

<http://www.ibmring1.com/2020%20IBM%20Contest%20Rules-stage%20&%20Close%20up.docx>

**Performance Competition:**

**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 is 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.

Performance Length: 8 to 10 minutes of magic. One point will be deducted for every 30 seconds over 10 minutes or under 8 minutes.

**Awards:**

This year, the winners will be announced that evening. Also new this year, in addition to the contest awards there will be a People's Choice Award for the most entertaining performer. All audience members will vote for their favorite performer. This will be handled via a Zoom poll.

**Judges:**

Will attend in person at Dielmann Recreation Center with social distancing – (if needed, Zoom judging can be arranged for Lay Judges.)

**Performers:**

Will attend in person at Dielmann Recreation Center with one performer at a time in the room. Each performer will need to bring their own close up mat, table, props, etc. A banquet table can be provided for those who may need one.

Contact Steve Finkelstein to register or with any questions: 314-409-6869 or [sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net)

## FREE – An I.B.M. Gold Mine

I.B.M. member Dan Stotland who now lives in South County. He is hoping to become an I.B.M. Ring 1 member. He would like to give away his collection of *Linking Rings* to a good home for FREE. All you have to do is go pick them up. They start in the 1980s and go into the 2000s.

Please contact Dan directly to arrange the pickup and welcome him into I.B.M. Ring 1. Here is his contact information:

Dan Stotland  
314-631-8315 10am - 10pm  
[dmstotland@yahoo.com](mailto:dmstotland@yahoo.com)

## Sep 2, 7pm, Ring 1 Meeting

We will have a lecture from Bruce Kalver. He has been working professionally for over 40 years. He started his career when he was only 6 years old. His magic education started at the age of four when his grandfather, Samuel Woolf, who was himself a magician and an assistant to Houdini, began to teach him the art.

Link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7606094150?pwd=ODR1RjQ3ZGZzZWVLRW5sOTcrZiM4dz09>

If you are requested for a meeting id or passcode, here they are:

Meeting ID: 760 609 4150

Passcode: 1zLYrd

To use your phone to join:

+1 312-626-6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 760 609 4150

Passcode: 654880

Please e-mail Terry ([terryrich@charter.net](mailto:terryrich@charter.net)) to let him know if you will be able to attend. See you there!

# International Brotherhood of Magicians St. Louis Ring 1

Role	Name	E-mail	Phone
President	Terry Richison	terryrich@charter.net	(314) 791-9108
Vice President & Sgt at Arms	Steve Queen	stevequeen85@gmail.com	(314) 651-9162
Secretary	Al Zibits	Alan.a.zibits@boeing.com	(636) 273-9974
Treasurer	Sandy Weis	sweis50@yahoo.com	(314) 378-4403
Board Member	Steve Finkelstein	sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net	(314) 409-6869
Board Member	Steve Buesking	svbuesking@gmail.com	(314) 732-5678
Past President	Johnny Harper	johnnyharpermagic@gmail.com	(505) 977-8768
Spirit Newsletter	Gary Chan	ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com	(857) 342-2349

Submission Deadline for Next Spirit:  
Sep 18, 2020  
E-mail your article to Gary Chan at  
[ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com](mailto:ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com)

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