

**I.B.M.**

RING #29

January 1999

# MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29  
 8912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209 • (501) 455-6242  
 Meeting 1st Thursday of every month, Baptist Medical Center



## Annual Christmas Party is Saturday, Jan. 9th, 6:30 pm

### NEXT MEETING:

- **Saturday, January 9**  
**Annual Christmas Party**  
 Otter Creek Racquet Club  
 Otter Creek Parkway

### **Bits & Pieces**

✓ **LAST MONTH:** The Ring Board met on Dec. 3rd at **Derrick Rose's** home. There were 23 members present, a great turnout. Thanks, Derrick, for your hospitality and to all who attended, for making this a very productive meeting.

Topics discussed at the meeting included Magician of the Year, IBM Convention update, Ring Quality report, future lectures, a club picture for the convention program, biographies of club members, selling ads for the convention program, membership application forms, and details about the Christmas Party. If you have specific questions about any of these or other questions, please contact any board member.

✓ **Bill Fulton**, club secretary, has registered to attend the Desert Seminar in Las Vegas in February. We expect a first-hand report from you after you get back, Bill.

✓ **NEXT MONTH:** The February Ring meeting is scheduled to be our Annual Magic Auction. Look through your closets, attics and garages and dig out all the stuff you don't use anymore. Plan to bring it **February 4th** to earn some money for yourself and for the club.

✓ Tickets for the "Wizard Mickey" are still for sale at Mr. Magic for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets will be sold up until and at the Christmas Party. Then we'll have the drawing that evening. As you recall, all proceeds go to help pay for our Hospitality Room at the IBM convention in Little Rock.

✓ **Greg Gillis** is back at the River Rock Brewery on Friday and Saturday nights, from 6-9 pm. Go have a beer and support him.

The annual Ring 29 Christmas Party will be **Saturday, January 9th**.

It will be at the same place as last year -- the Otter Creek Raquet Club. There's a map on how to get there on the back of this page.

We'll start at 6:30 pm, eat and then have some great magic. It's for the entire family. If you would like to perform, please contact Jim Henson at Mr. Magic immediately so we can include your name in the program.

### **Ring 29 is asked to put on a "Night before" show next July**

Mindy Burden, Chairman of the IBM convention to be held in Little Rock next July, has made an official request of our Ring. She would like our members to put on a "night before convention" show on Tuesday night. This is a change in previous policy of not allowing local members to perform. Pressure had been applied to allow us to help and the International Board agreed.

Details concerning who will be asked to perform will be presented to our members at the Christmas party. We will need stage and close-up performers.

This is a great honor for us to be asked to do this for the convention, so those interested need to contact Jim by January 9th (the Christmas Party). A definite deadline will be made later.

### **Magic on television**

If you had looked through your TV guide last Sunday, you would have noticed that magic has been on television every night this week. Look next time.

- **Siegfried & Roy** are producing a new Imax film on magic entitled "The Magic Box." It will be shown in Imax theaters sometime next year.

- **Penn & Teller** were at the Aspen Comedy Festival recently, and their show will be shown Dec. 30 and Dec. 31 at 2 am on the Comedy Central channel.

- **David Blaine, Street Magician**, has a new special to be aired on ABC, tentatively in February. Watch here for the exact time and date.

Food will be catered by **White Pig Barbeque** and will include pork or beef, beans, cole slaw, potatoe salad, iced tea or lemonade and cookies.

Tickets will only be sold in advance, so you must make reservations. Tickets must be purchased by January 5th at 6 pm. Adults are \$6.50 and Under-12, \$4.50. Buy tickets at Mr. Magic or call your reservation to (501) 455-6242. If you reserve tickets you will be expected to pay for them since we have to make guarantees to the caterer.

A great evening of magic begins at 7:30.

### **Dennis reviews Melinda's show**

Newsletter editor Dennis Schick had a business trip to Springfield recently, and planned an overnight stay in Branson to see "Melinda, the First Lady of Magic."

"Melinda puts on a first-class show. It was very professional and entertaining. She is in Kirby Van Burch's old theater, which is huge. Only the front, center section was full. Of course Melinda is easy on the eyes, almost a twin of "Jennifer in the Morning."

"Melinda made her appearance in a pyramid, and then performed a levitation, a man on swords and the disappearance of her signature winged horse. (I was surprised she used that illusion so early in the show.)

Following was a disappearance from a motorcycle (and a reappearance in the audience); a cute kid bit using random socks on a clothesline that end matching the two she has on; a cut-in-half illusion and a nice backstage set with a couple of disappearances and reappearances.

A western set featured a reappearance; a neat stepladder/sections illusion; a silver ball balance; a Phantom of the Opera bit; a great juggler interlude; and a good car disappearance. After intermission she made a yellow airplane disappear; a comedy/honeymoon prediction; a small boxes illusion; a bedroom levitation with a little girl; her famous "Nightmare" illusion (impaled on a huge industrial drill bit; and ended with her famous fireflies illusion.

It was a very pleasant evening. Plan to see her show next April. She closed for the winter on December 31.

**GOT MAGIC NEWS? CALL JIM HENSON  
 OR DENNIS SCHICK (374-1500).**

## Mike Curtis: Member profile

**Mike Curtis** became a member of IBM and Ring 29 in 1977. He serves as Ring Historian. He was born and raised in Paron, where he currently resides with his wife, Dee Dee. They have been married 27 years and have a 19-year-old son, Chris, a sophomore at Hendrix; and a 14-year old son, Clay, a freshman at Paron High.

Mike has been a Dealer Relations Manager for Chrysler Financial Corp., for 25 years. He is a school board member and a deacon at North Fork Missionary Baptist Church, where he also teaches the young people's class.

Mike became interested in magic as a child when he received the ball-and-vase, and the penny-to-dime tricks as presents from his parents. He had a casual interest in magic and card tricks.

However, the real catalyst for his hobby came when he saw a pitchman demonstrating the miracles of a Svengali deck at the Arkansas State Fair. Unfortunately, his father had already given him all the money he was allowed to spend, and it was all gone. But he convinced his father to come watch the demonstration and Mike went home with a Svengali deck.

In 1977 Randy Erwin, who performed and sold magic tricks at The Little Barn, again energized Mike in magic. He invited Mike to attend a Ring meeting and once there, he was hooked.

Mike particularly enjoys close-up magic, and collecting magic books and Okito coin boxes. He considers himself more of a collector and student of magic rather than a performer -- although he often does close-up tricks for car salesmen and dealership personnel that he visits in his work.

Mike's interests include scuba diving, archery, hunting and fishing, painting small Medieval figures and collecting old toy soldiers. He also has an extensive video library that he never seems to have time to enjoy.

Nice to know you, Mike!

## DIRECTIONS TO THE IBM CHRISTMAS PARTY, SATURDAY, JANUARY 9:

1. Go one mile South of Mr. Magic on Stagecoach Road.
2. Turn right (or left if you're coming from the South) onto Otter Creek Parkway. Turn between the Stax and Harvest Food.
3. Go 1/2-mile to Otter Creek Racquet Club, on the right.

