

I.B.M.

RING #29

August 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



WOW! We did it, gang! The best ever!

NEXT MEETING:

● **Thursday, August 5**
Regular time and place
7 pm, Baptist Medical Center

Let's all share Convention magic at August 5 meeting

The theme for the August 5 regular meeting of Ring 29 will be "What I learned, bought, liked and disliked about the IBM Convention." Bring any magic you bought and demonstrate it. Let's have a brief debriefing so we can pass on to national some of what we learned from the experience.

We'll meet at the regular time (7 pm) at the regular place (Baptist Medical Center).

Also at the meeting we will install several new members. If you think you are eligible, contact Jim Henson to make sure we have received your membership card, pin and certificate. We'll also hold our annual election of officers and directors.

We are pleased to have grown so much, and want to keep the momentum going.

BITS & PIECES

● **GO SEE MAX:** Maxwell Blade's Theater of Magic in Hot Springs is now open with shows on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm. Make some time and go over to see the show, to support him and other Ring magicians who perform with him.

● **MIKE FUNTENATO** of Hot Springs Village is now performing magic full time and is scheduled to perform at the Sullivan Street Theater in New York October 26th. Let's all encourage Mike in this bold move. In fact, let's all surprise him and just drop in for the show.

● **PATCHES (DON BAER)** is working at the Pizza Hut in Benton on Tuesday nights from 6-8 pm. Pizza anyone?

● **MARGARETTE LECLAIR** will perform at Zoo Days -- on stage and strolling -- on August 28th and 29th.

Praises still coming; we are proud!

What can we say? Several years in the planning, the total commitment by Ring 29, the dedication of two dozen or so members who went above and beyond, and it all adds up to what some say is the best convention ever put on by the International Brotherhood of Magicians. And it all happened right here in River City!

"A four-day high on magic," is how one magician described it. To simply be in the midst of 1200 magicians and feel all the creativity and skill and talent and love of magic was a thrill in itself, to:

- Watch professionals work at their craft.
- Meet some of the legends in our hobby.
- Get to talk shop with fellow hobbyists - from magic book collectors and scarfologists

New Board members proposed

The Ring 29 nominating committee has proposed the following people to serve as officers and directors during 1999-2000. Nominations also will be accepted from the floor. The election will be at the August 5 Ring meeting; installation will be at the September meeting.

President: Damon Reinbold
 V.P.: Dan Hecke
 Secretary: Bill Fulton
 Treasurer: James Kinsey
 Asst. treasurer: Lisa Bolin
 Historian: Mike Curtis
 Sgt. at Arms: Chris Westfall

Other appointed officers:
 Officer rep trustee: Mike Curtis
 Performer rep trustee: Randal Eller
 Membership rep trustee: Open
 Newsletter editor: Dennis Schick

● **RANDAL ELLER** is performing at Music Mountain Jamboree in Hot Springs: July 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31; August 4, 5, 11 and 12.

● Watch **Mary Ann Campbell's** "Money Magic" segment on Channel 7 each Saturday morning, shortly after 8 am.

GOT MAGIC NEWS? Call JIM at 455-6242 OR DENNIS at (374-1500).

to balloon sculptors and illusionists -- it was all great!

The Ring has received many letters from people who attended the convention, saying thanks for all the hard work and what a wonderful time they had in Little Rock. If you would like to read some or all of them, stop by Mr. Magic. He'll keep them there for a while and then turn them over to Ring historian Mike Curtis for our archives.

On the back of this page is a reproduction of a letter our Ring received from IBM International President-Elect Jack Greenberg, who was one of the main decision-makers regarding the decision to hold the convention in Little Rock. He eloquently sums up the feeling of many people.

Since most of our Ring members may not be able to attend any other IBM convention ever again, we are really happy to have had it in Little Rock and that so many of our members were able to attend many of the shows and sessions.

Convention Wrap-up

● **A BIG THANKS:** The Ring owes a deep debt of thanks to all members who stepped forward and volunteered and worked hard during the convention. We hesitate to list names for fear of slighting someone. But we all recognize the extra efforts. A special thanks to Jim Henson, Damon Reinbold, Dan Hecke, Penny Springer, Randal Eller, Bill Fulton, James Kinsey, and many, many others. We'll ask Jim to give us a more complete list and thank them in next month's newsletter.

● **THANKS, ALSO,** to Jan Hecke for her work and donation of the Wizard Mickey and Sorcerer's Hand that were given away at the convention. They were a big success.

● The July issue of *The Linking Ring* came out during the convention, so it was far behind on breaking news. The magazine goes to press very early.

But watch for the August and September issues for lots of photos and coverage of the convention. We even hope to see some Ring 29 members in it.

A letter to Ring 29 members from President Jim Henson

Dear Ring 29 Members:

This is a note just to thank each and every one of you for making the 1999 IBM Convention a tremendous success. History was made in the international magic community while they were here in Little Rock.

When I first discussed the idea of trying to bring this major event to our city and state back in 1990, Lisa, Mike, Stan, Randal and others were very receptive. In 1994 when we first realized that there was a real possibility of this happening, I talked with you members about the commitment we would have to make. As usually is the case, I expected that everyone would say to go for it, but that only a few would

actually participate in the work.

I'm proud to say that the volunteering and assisting by members and their families far exceeded my wildest expectations. Ring 29 has the best membership of any Ring in the world, and I challenge anyone to prove otherwise.

Where many past IBM conventions got little or no support from local rings, the IBM people raved about how our club made this convention one of the easiest they have ever held. You are to be congratulated on a job well done. They'll be talking about Little Rock, our Ring and this convention for years to come.

Jim Henson, President

International Brotherhood of Magicians



Jack K. Greenberg
International president-elect
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July 13, 1999

IBM Ring # 29, Little Rock
c/o Jim Henson
8912 Stagecoach Road #7
Little Rock, AR 72209

It has been four years since Carole and I first visited your wonderful area to learn what you had to offer to the IBM's Conventioneers. At that time, officials of your State and City, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Past International President Bill Pitts, and Jim and Brenda Henson all assured us that there could be no wiser site-selection decision than that of Little Rock for 1999. And now we all know that they could not have been more correct.

My brothers and sisters in magic, you have made me look very good as a decision maker. I have been flooded with compliments from every quarter. Of course, the site and facilities and the general venue offered many advantages to us, economically as well as aesthetically. But the key to this year's Convention clearly was the Magical Family of Little Rock. And that is YOU!

Please give yourself a standing ovation from me personally, and know that you have showcased a new standard of hospitality to the world of magic. I shall wear your gift "Host Ring" shirt with pride, and I look forward to many opportunities to meet with each of you again at IBM Conventions, and elsewhere. Please, let's stay in touch, and please offer a special vote of thanks to Jimmy, Damon, Dan, and to all of those who worked so tirelessly and effectively to "make it happen." You are all very special. You are the "B" in I.B.M.

Sincerely,

Jack K. Greenberg

Bits & Pieces

✓ **Scott Davis** and **Damon** performed at **Dennis Schick's** Arkansas Press Association Summer Convention in Hot Springs, Friday evening, July 16. Scott went from table to table, doing a variety of close-up tricks, including sponge balls (while stealing watches), card tricks and coin tricks. Damon sat at a table in a booth and read Tarot cards for people for over an hour.

Both then left to perform their regular Friday and Saturday night gigs across the street from the Hot Springs Hilton, at two separate restaurants in Spencer's Corner. Both represented the Ring and the magic profession well.

✓ **The Northeast Arkansas Magic Club** has changed its meeting days. They will now meet at 2 pm on the last Saturday of each month, in the office of Sam Boyce in Newport. Call Jim for more details. Make a special effort to go visit them sometime.

✓ If you missed the wonderful photo of **Ed Magic** in the July 9 issue of *Weekend* in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, ask Jim to see it. You probably missed seeing it since it was too good looking to really be him! (*Editor's note:* I don't write some of this stuff, so don't put a contract out on me, Ed.)

✓ **Don Thompson** has made a suggestion which might help improve faster communication among Ring members. Since our club has gotten so large, he suggests that we establish a telephone committee. Either this group could split up the members list, each calling a certain number; or we could use the telephone tree approach. Call Don if you would be willing to be on this committee.

✓ Because of all the work members did on the IBM Convention, planning did not start as early as usual on the annual **Fall Picnic in September**. Bring any and all ideas about it with you to the August meeting. Anyone volunteer to chair it?

✓ **Memphis Ring** president **Mike Rice** is planning a get-together on October 30 and 31, at the **Brett Daniels Show, at Gold Strike Casino** south of Memphis near Tunica. He plans lectures on Saturday and Sunday afternoon, finishing with a special Halloween Show from Brett at 5 pm. He is working up a special deal which will include the lectures, lodging, meals and show. Please let Jim know your thoughts about this, and especially if you would probably go.

So what's new with you?
How can we tell your magic friends
what you are doing if you don't tell us?
Call Jim or Dennis with your news.