

I.B.M.
RING #29

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

December 1999



No December meeting; party is Jan. 15

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Board meets Dec. 1
- January meeting is the Christmas party January 15

BITS & PIECES

● **HOLIDAY LIGHTS.** On November 27 the annual Holiday of Lights Show will be held in Searcy. Ring 303 will be performing at the famous Courthouse Lighting on Fri., Nov. 26. For more information, call Jim at Mr. Magic. That's this weekend!

● **MARTIN LEWIS** will be lecturing Monday, Dec. 6 at the Holiday Inn Express in Searcy. Take the Race Street exit. It's behind Shoney's. It all begins at 7 pm and the cost is \$10 per person.

This would be a great opportunity for Ring 29 members to attend as a group, especially since we won't have our own December meeting. Call Jim at Mr. Magic if you would like to car caravan up to Searcy.

● **JAMES KINSEY** is now the Territorial V.P. in Arkansas for the IBM. He is making plans to attend all the other ring meetings in the state during the next few months. Anyone interested in going with him should call him at home: 834-7456.

● **SAD NEWS:** Our condolences to Ring member **Lynn Austin**, whose father died Nov. 6. Our sympathy to him and his family for their loss.

● **LOOKING AHEAD:** Since many of you are marking your 2000 calendars, get it out right now and mark February 14 as the tentative lecture date for **Scott Hollingsworth** from Houston. The Memphis Club has recommended him highly. Let any Board member know if you have any input on the matter.

● **HAPPY NEWS:** **Don Baer** and **Lynn** have set their wedding date, March 17th, at Don's church, Salem United Methodist. We've had Christmas parties there in the past. The wedding will be at 7 pm and all Ring magicians and their families are

This is the busiest time of the year for most of our members, so we'll skip a December regular meeting and let everyone go to all the parties, perform lots on engagements and sell lots of magic.

But get out your new calendars and mark **January 15**. That's when the annual Ring 29 **Christmas Party** will be held.

It will be held the same place next year as the past two years: the **Otter Creek Racquet Club**. It will be at the same time (6 pm) and with the same menu (barbeque with all the fixings) and at the same cost (\$6 per person).

Included will be a genuine Magic Show, making the low cost a real bargain.

You must call for reservations so we can order enough food. Call Jim or Bob or J.C. or Christy at Mr. Magic (455-6242) ASAP.

We'll have more details in the January newsletter, which will be a week later than usual. Watch for details, but be sure to mark your calendars right now!

invited to attend. Jim says tickets are only \$10 each and are available at Mr. Magic., with all proceeds going to Christy's college fund (and Jim thanks you). All kidding aside, make plans to attend the happy occasion of one of our most active members.

● **DAMON** will be performing New Year's Eve (and day) with special shows at the Bridge Street Restaurant & Pub in Hot Springs. Reservations will be required.

● **SCOTT & DAMON** are still working in Hot Springs Friday and Saturday nights. Call them to find when and where so you can stop in and see them in action.

● **MIKE FUNTENATO** has not returned from performing in New Jersey yet, but he should be back for Christmas.

● **IF ANYONE** has heard from Ed in Utah, please let us know how he is doing.

● **CHRISTY** Henson returns home from Athens, Greece on Dec. 8th. Her parents are looking forward to having her home for Christmas. If you see her, ask her about the magic show she performed in Athens and about the man in Bethlehem who offered her 200 camels to marry him. (Jim wanted her to hold out for 300.)

This is the last newsletter of the entire 20th Century. Wow!
So here's to Happy Holidays and the chance to start with a clean slate in a New Year, a new Decade and a New Century.
May all your dreams & goals be magical!

Ring Board to meet Dec.1; everyone invited to Mr. Magic

The Ring 29 Board of Directors will meet Wed., Dec. 1 at 6:30 pm at Mr. Magic, to plan for next year. All members are invited.

Pick up something to eat and drinks will be furnished. Topics to be discussed will include: Annual awards, Christmas Party, lectures, the Junior Program, and Committee assignments, along with other topics. (And there may even be a little magic during the meeting.)

The Junior Program met Nov. 20 but only four people showed up.

The reorganization meeting for the Ring Junior Program was held Nov. 20th with just four people attending. But they did elect officers and plan to move ahead.

The officers are **Kyle Hamshier**, president; **Jeffery O'Connell**, V.P.; **Rebecca Roberts**, secretary. The group is developing a goal program to include performing for the Camp Aldersgate kinds next summer. These young people represent the future of Ring 29. It behooves all of us to work to make the Junior Program thrive and grow. If any of you know someone between the ages of 12 and 18, please let us know. The more people who participate the better. Let's help them grow.

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

A REVIEW:

Kirby Van Burch's Christmas Show

by Dennis Schick

Two weeks ago, I attended a two-day Board meeting at Big Cedar Lodge, just south of Branson. Jan and I stayed over an extra day and night to take in some of Branson's Christmas doings. I decided to go see Kirby Van Burch's Christmas show, and to see how much of his new theater was finished. I got there just as the show began.

The first half of the show featured his favorite illusions and tricks from his regular show. I had seen them all a couple of times, but most were still good. I still think Kirby is stiffer than many other magicians (such as Brett Daniels), but he still does a good job.

The second half of the show was more fun because most of it was new to me. It was a good-elf/bad-elf story, with Kirby as the good elf, "separated at birth."

It was clever the way they worked magic tricks into the story. It was a little rough the night I was there, with lots of flubbed lines and missed cues. But with practice and repetition, it should improve. The tricks included: a Raggedy Ann appearance and a separate Andy appearance from a box/swing; Barbie costume trunk dress switch; a double-fitting gift box; a neat triple-drawer split woman file cabinet; and Kevin James' Snow Animator, with the natural tie to snow.

Go see the show, and the magic theater as it is unveiled. Get a brochure at Mr. Magic.

Profile of the Month

Richard McGrew was born in Hot Springs September 12, 1957. He graduated from Hot Springs High School there and later took tech training with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

He is married to Debbie and they have three children: Christopher, an electrician; Stacy, a secretary; and Carrie, a student. They also have one grandchild.

The McGrews live in Hot Springs and he is the owner/manager of McGrew Electric.

His interests in magic include both being an amateur performer and a hobbyist and spectator.

When asked what specific magic skills he has, Richard checked close-up magic, stage magic and balloons.

Data forms needed for profiles and Ring Member Directory

We'll profile YOU in this newsletter if you'll fill out the Personal Data Form which Dennis included in this newsletter last month. He has already received the forms from five Ring members:

- Dan Hecke
- Tom Leggett
- Andy Stirman
- Kelly Presson
- Richard McGrew

Come on, the rest of you. Fill out and send in those data forms. We'll use them for our monthly profiles, as well as to create a Ring Directory which will include lots of information about our members. Help Dennis to produce a topnotch club directory. Call him or Jim to get another copy of the form.

Masked magician attack on street magic disappeared

Now you see it, now you don't!

The TV guide in last Sunday's newspaper showed another magic show expose' to run at 7 pm Wednesday on Fox. But then the Wednesday morning newspaper showed a "sexiest TV commercials" show in its place. This is TV sweeps time when the networks clamor for as big audiences as they can get, so sex and greed (the subject of the show at 8 pm) won out over magic. At least we were spared (for now) another masked magician exposure of secrets, this time on street magic.

-- Richard McGrew

His performing specialties include entertaining for kids at local churches and charities.

His three most favorite tricks are: (1) color-changing knives; (2) torn and restored newspaper; and (3) thumb tip magic.

Richard got interested in magic when he took classes from Col. Seymour in 1980. He was a member of S.A.M. for several years.

When asked who his magic mentor or hero was, he said that he saw Bobo when he was a child, and got to meet him as an adult. This led to admiring him and his work.

Concluding, Richard said he has always enjoyed magic and has met a lot of very nice and unique people.

Good to know you, Richard.

Bits & Pieces

✓ When Dennis Schick performed at a Little Rock church recently, he was going to do it for free. But then he started thinking of all the time he had put in (1) practicing, (2) getting to and from the church, (3) the time at the church itself (including the performance), and the time researching appropriate tricks and thinking up church-related themes and patter (about seven hours in all).

He bought several new tricks for the show and, of course, spent gas to get to the West Little Rock location to and from his North Little Rock home.

So he decided to keep the money offered, and to invest it in more magic, particularly those which can portray religious messages. His son, Gregory, is Youth Director at St. James United Methodist Church. Dennis has already taught him several tricks to use and will give him others.

✓ SCOTT DAVIS is performing Dec. 4th in Magnolia at SMI Steel; Dec. 11th in Fayetteville at the Hilton Inn; Dec. 7th in Pine Bluff at the Pine Bluff Country Club; Dec. 17 in Hot Springs for the Hot Springs Internal Medicine group; and Jan. 10th at Henderson State University. Can anyone else in our Ring match that schedule? (At least Scott lets us know so we can put it in this newsletter. Hint! Hint!)

✓ WELLS AUTREY is looking for performers at Shorty Small's, table hopping on Sunday afternoon and Monday evenings. Submit your name to Jim at Mr. Magic. Wells says he'll call you back as soon as he can.

✓ CORRECTION from the November newsletter: The contact information for former Little Rock resident Col. Seymour is: (703) 670-6062. His address is 3902 Fiendly Road, Woodbridge, VA 22193.

✓ SEEN in a magazine in Branson:

- The World Magic Summit in Las Vegas recently named Kirby Van Burch the International Magician of the Year. Former winners include Siegfried & Roy and David Copperfield. (What is this IMY?)

- Kirby's new building facade in Branson weighs about 5,600 pounds. The \$500,000 renovations include a new facade, new gift shop and a new display cage to showcase the big cats he uses in his show. (I only saw the facade. The other two were'n't evident.)

- Last year Melinda, the First Lady of Magic, appeared in Branson at the Magical Mansion. But she left after only one year (even with a terrific show), and apparently is now performing at the 1,250-seat Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ. (Good luck.)