

# MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29

November 2000

8912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, ARkansas 72209 • (501) 455-6242 Meeting 1st Thursday of every month, Baptist Medical Center



# Next meeting Nov. 2. Theme is "Magic in Clowning."

## No meeting for December

Next Thursday, November 2, IBM Ring #29 will hold its regular monthly meeting at its regular time (7 pm) at its regular place (basement meeting room of Baptist Medical Center).

The theme for the meeting will be "Magic in Clowning." Clown veteran Don Baer will lecture on the principles used with magic props in clowning.

Even though the emphasis will be on clowning, the magic used and demonstrated is applicable to non-clowning situations, so come even if you aren't into clowning. Much clown magic is in the comedy area, so it should be of special interest to you who do comedy magic.

There will be some time for questions, so bring yours. Also, there should be some time for you who also use magic in clowning to share some of your tips.

This would be a good opportunity to bring one or more guests, who are interested in magic, clowning, gospel magic, the

magic of healing, magic in teaching and education, etc. There are dozens (maybe even hundreds) of tips and ideas which nicely transfer from one format to another. Let's have one of the biggest turn-outs of the year.

There will be no Ring meeting in December because everyone is so busy. Many members are booked solid for the holidays.

## Still time to go to Oklahoma City magic conference Nov. 17-19.

Ring 46 in Oklahoma City will host a "Cavalcade of Magic" featuring Eugene Burger, Kendrick "Ice" McDonald, underground card legend Roger Klause, and Howard Hale. Dealers include H&R Books and Joe Stevens Magic Emporium.

It will be held November 17-19, in Oklahoma City (only five hours from Little Rock). Who is going? Anyone need a ride?

Brochures are available with more information. If you have any questions, you can find out about the convention by going to their Web site:

http://cavalcade.okcmagic.org

- LAST MONTH we had the theme "My Favorite Magic Trick." It sounds a bit general, but it worked out great. Over two dozen people came and many did just what the theme suggested. It was such a big hit that we'll probably do it again.
- BILL PITTS will marry Ruth Fonda of Scotia, NY, in Troy, NY, at The Magic Club, on December 18. They have been friends for many years. Both have long magic backgrounds. They will reside in Fort Smith. (Maybe we can get Ruth to perform for us, or even perform with Bill. Now that would be a real treat!)
- MARGARET LECLAIR attended the big magic shindig in Missouri recently. and reports on it on the back of this page.

Incidentally, she recently appeared on Magic 105 and "performed" a series of escapes. A radio person talked through what she was doing and it worked quite well. It was good publicity for the magic community. She raised over \$500 during her two-hour on-air appearance.

- MARGARET THOMPSON is attending The Magic Cruise even as you read this. It is produced by Dan Stapleton, out of New Orleans. How about a written report for the Ring members, Margaret?
- PAM MEDREZ is now performing at area churches, and at World Fest, as Mommy Magic. Watch for her appearances and go when you can.
- MAGIC DAY at the Gold Strike Casino was a success. The best part was the auction, where fantastic bargains were had. Perhaps president Damon got the best bargain of all, but you need to ask him about it. He paid only \$30 for an item which is a true collectable and worth 20 times that!
- VERNON HALLUM and JIM HENSON both recently retired, Jim from a position as an ATM machine specialist; and Jim from over 30 years with the fire department. Congratulations to both.
- MIKE CURTIS, Ring historian, performed before the Wynne Rotary Club Oct. 18th. There were 60 people there.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday, November 2nd 7 pm, Baptist Medical Center "Magic in Clowning."

## Ring 29 public show put off until next spring; too many problems.

The public show of Ring 29 has been postponed until the Spring. There were many circumstances out of the control of the club and it was felt by the ring board that it would be better to hold off and do a quality show, than to rush ahead and fall short. The delay will give planners and performers more time to do a better job, to practice and rehearse. to sell more tickets, etc.

Watch for new dates and information in coming newsletters. Thanks to everyone who has worked on the show so far. If you have questions, contact Damon or Dan Hecke.

Mike's son, Cris, is studying in Australia this semester. Mike and wife Dee Dee are going to see him in December.

- ON NOVEMBER 25, at ALLTEL Arena, Margaret LeClair will perform as LeClair, Little Rock's only female escape artist, at half-time of the UALR Trogans basketball game.
- CHRISTY HENSON, daughter of Jim & Brenda, graduates from Harding University Dec. 16th. She's student teaching at North Little Rock High.
- REMEMBER, the annual Ring Christmas party will be held in January (as usual). Watch for the specific date.

Penny Springer is developing a cookbook, and \$2 of the \$12 cost will go • to our Ring. Penny is looking for recipes to include. They need to be typed or • printed. Any questions, call Penny at 834-9099. Vernon Hallum has already given her three recipes for her to consider. •••••••••••••

# October Ring Report

by Bill Fulton

The Ring voted to match Jim Henson's contribution of \$250 to our Junior Magicians Fund at our October meeting. This fund will be used to help our juniors (attend conventions and in general support the activities of the program).

Penni Springer would like to develop a Ring 29 cookbook as a ring activity. Member will supply Penni with ideas and she will produce the books. Please send your food ideas NOW to: Penni Springer

2011 Astec Dr - #1502 North Little Rock, AR 72116, (501) 834-9099

Scott Davis' new video is out and should be reviewed soon in the magic magazines. The Ring will be presenting a magical evening to our state teachers' conference in November.

The theme for the evening was "Your Favorite Effects." Richard Knoll started the performance that evening by showing us a newspaper fold and cut that produced a peace sign. Pam Medrez introduced us to "Handcock" the magical bird puppet she uses in her children's shows. Jon Wofford presented his version of "Color Monte."

Rebecca Roberts demonstrated her version of "Acrobatic Cards." Tony Eady did a beautiful UFO card routine. Damon Reinbold used the "Around the World Coloring Book" as a mind trip through the audience. Theron Nunley worked a color-changing paddle to change coloring according to what it was near.

Scott Davis did a very slick hip pocket style Mullica wallet effect with a signed card. Robert Bedford presented a Max Maven effect using mixed cards in envelopes that matched another set of cards and envelopes. Greg Gillis had us laughing on the floor with his "Silly Stick of Death in Your Sock Drawer." It was great performance.

Michael Rice for the Memphis Ring ended the evening with an invite to the Memphis Magic Auction Conference and several of his favorite effects (thumb cuffs escape, No Tear Newspaper, and Harry Anderson's Mismash Cards.

Our Ring caravaned to Memphis that weekend to attend to Memphis Mini Convention. We heard Jon Bucher and Damon Reinbold lecture on magic, and attended a very nice auction, and the Brett

The Workshop 2000

by Margaret LeClair

The Workshop 2000 in Missouri was an experience of a lifetime! To sum it up in one word, it was AWESOME! The talent included Shimada, Steve Bedwell. David Acer, Max Maven, Michael Finney. David Kaye, Simon Lovell, Tina Lennert and Mike Caveney. Surprise guests included Eugene Burger, Jay Marshall, John Carney and Tom Mullica. The opening night banquet was great. Again, I met up with some of my Internet chat buddies and enjoyed hanging around with them.

After the banquet there was a show, which included Acer doing his cups and balls routine using trash cans and basketballs, and the surprise load at the end was none other than Simon Lovell. Simon performed his straitjacket routine again and it was was as funny as before.

David Kay, also known as Silly Billy, debuted a new act he is working on: OG, the prehistoric magician. Even as a work in progress, it was good. After the show everyone had to leave the banquet hall so they could prepare for the first lecture by Steve Bedwell. He went into the explanation of his cut and restored rope routine, after he performed it on an unsuspecting audience member. It was funny!

After the lecture, Eugene Burger was scheduled to lecture. One of my friends, Sydney Storm, had saved me a seat close to the front. So when Eugene started walking in our direction. I thought he was going to say Hi to his friend, Sydney. But he looked at me and asked if I would come help him on stage. Working with him made the entire trip worth going. That was an experience I will always treasure, even though his lecture didn't start until midnight.

The next morning, the close-up shows started at 8:30 am. Most magicians around me agreed that magic should be illegal until noon. But the show went on.

On Friday, Silly Billy did one of his full-blown kid's shows. They bussed in about 100 children from area schools. Be sure to see this man perform if you can. His energy on stage is one I can only wish to have some day. I think the most important thing I got from his lecture was that it is not quite so important to actually do magic for children; it is to connect and interact with them. He stated that in a comedy club situation success is judged by laughs per minute. But in kid's show performing, it is judged by inter-

actions per minute.

In his break-out session, he talked about some of the major problems that occur in kids show performing. One thing he said is that one mistake that is often made is that the adults are left out of the show. If there is nothing there that can entertain the adults, chances are you will not receive any referrals from them -- the main way most magicians receive most of their bookings. He said that the magic climax is for the adults; getting TO that climax is for the children.

Now for Max Maven's lecture. I never laughed so hard during a lecture as I did during his. Max was in the middle of his lecture and he needed a couple of volunteers from the audience. Michael Finney was one of those chosen. So what does he do but take the mic from Max and say: "The first time I saw this man was in (wherever), and he scared the Sh\*\* out of me." It went downhill from there. Max attempted to regain control of the lecture, but it never happened.

Another incident I have to tell you about. During Burger's lecture, Max was at a table selling items for Eugene. Many people asked Max for autographs and pictures, and he politely turned them down with the explanation that at that moment he was just one friend helping another friend, and that when it was all over he would sign autographs and have pictures taken.

David Acer's lecture was another funny moment. Does it sound like I had a lot of fun? David's lecture was one of the 8:30 am functions. There was less than a full room at the beginning of the lecture. So what did he do? He got on a cell phone and started calling the rooms of people who were not there. At one point Steve Bedwell and another person left the room, and came back with one man who was not fully dressed.

Simon's lecture followed David's. Most of it was a repeat of what he did at TAOM. However, one thing he did was teach everyone how to make his paper rose. If you don't know, I have a list of supplies. Ask me.

The breakout and learning sessions were very informative. Michael Finney taught everyone how to make the gimmicked card for his six-card repeat. His comment on this trick, however, was that it was one of the stupidist tricks around. He performs it in a top hat and cane, and that is the highlight of when he performs that routine. He performed it at the Saturday night show and, in spite of what he said, I enjoyed it.

NOTE: Part 2 of this report will appear in the December newsletter. Watch for it.

GOT NEWS? Call 374-1500 or 455-6242