



IBM Ring 29

Little Rock Ring 29 Newsletter  
Little Rock, Arkansas

July 2019



# The Performer

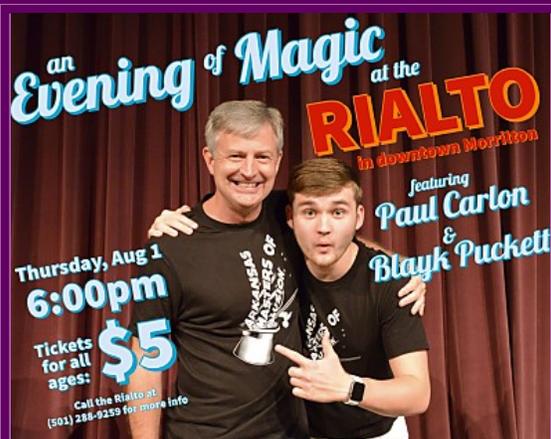
## Midwest Magic Jubilee 2019

by Marty Haughn

Don't miss out on the 2019 Midwest Magic Jubilee! This is going to be one of the best magic conventions of the year! You still have time to register at the Special Low price of \$150 for the entire convention. And, until August 2nd, Spouses are Free!

August 30—September 1, 2019 St. Louis, Missouri

For Special 2019 Midwest Magic Jubilee Rate call 314-429-1100 or go to their website at: [www.mmjubilee.com](http://www.mmjubilee.com) for registration information.



For more information call the RIALTO  
at:  
501-288-9259

Downtown: Morrilton, Arkansas

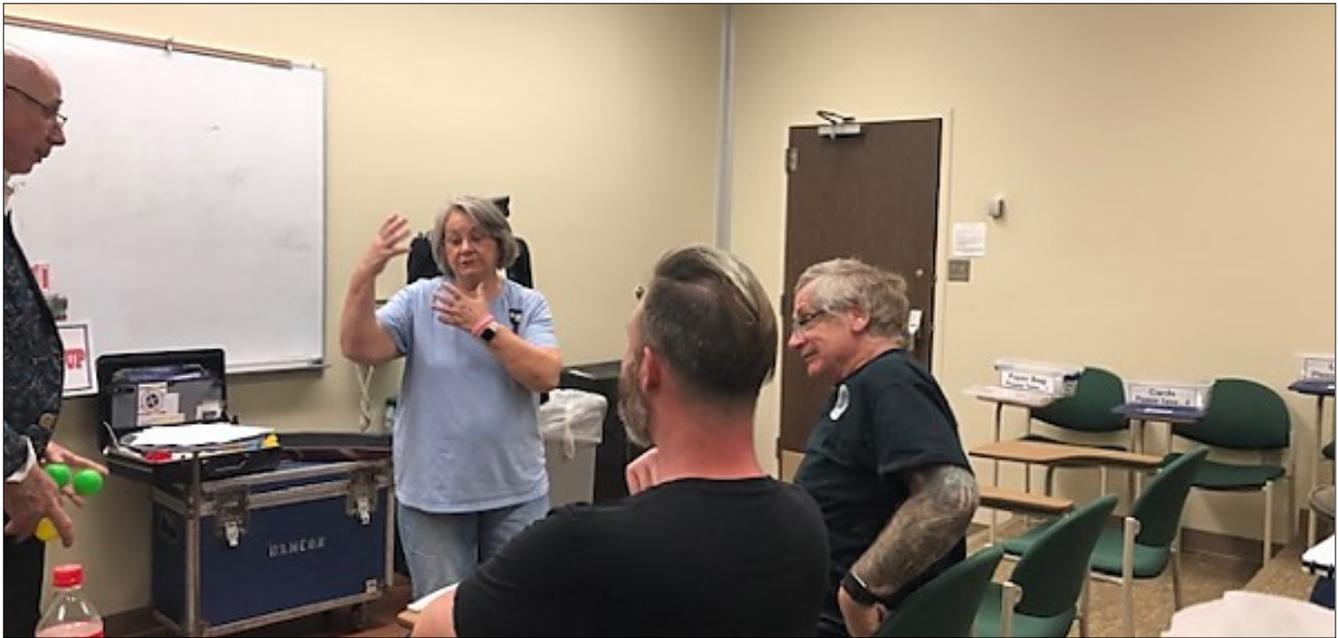
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MEETINGS & LECTURES

Meeting: August 1, 2019



Performers: Shoot Ogawa, Howard Hamburg, Cody Fisher, John Bannon, Samuel P. Smith, John Gardenier, Harrison Greenburg, Robert Baxt and Monty Witt.



## Blast from the Past

by Mike Curtis, Ring 29 Historian

This month we will take a relatively short look back 20 years to the August, 1999 meeting of the Ring. The President at that time was Jim Henson and the Secretary was Bill Fulton. The Ring met monthly at the Baptist Medical Center, Room 20.

“Vice President Damon Reinbold was in charge of our August meeting. We discussed the I.B.M. Convention. We appreciate all the good comments we received from all our members from the U.S. And other countries. We were happy that you all could attend.

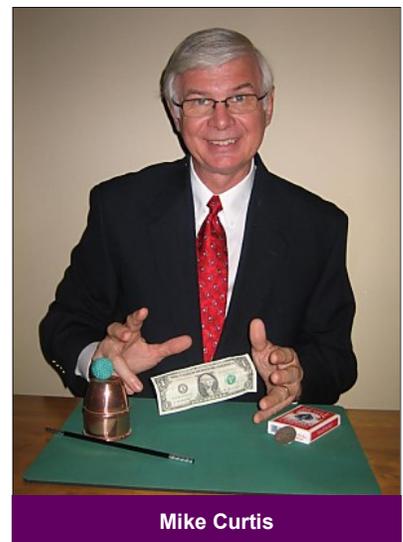
Our Ring has grown in size to well over 100 members and we have decided to create a phone calling tree to remind members of upcoming event. We will be visiting with the Memphis Ring during October for some of their special events, plus visiting the Brett Daniels Show.

Next month is our annual picnic and installation of our new Ring officers: President, Damon Reinbold; Vice President, Dan Hecke; Secretary, Bill Fulton; Treasurer, James Kinsey; Assistant Treasurer, Lisa Bolin; Historian, Mike Curtis, and Sergeant at Arms, Chris Westfall. Penny Springer was appointed chairperson for the annual picnic. Damon Reinbold will be performing on our local television station on a Friday, the 13th.

We had five performers for the evening. Eric Benton began with a three-way card prediction. Dan Hecke showed us a bill changing effect with a \$2 bill that changed to two \$1 bills and then into a \$5 bill. Dan also did an ESP and design cards routine. Kelly Presson showed us a Three Card Monte. Derrick Rose demonstrated that his eye was quicker than his hand as he “whooshed” through the deck with great humor to find any card. You had to be there. He was using a “Side Stebbing Step” deck setup. Ed Magic finished the evening with a very funny color changing card trick that kept us laughing.” Responses to the I.B.M. convention held in Little Rock were overall excellent.

Many commented that it was one of the best conventions they ever seen. Certainly the talent was tremendous and the acts were first class. More will be reviewed on the convention in upcoming newsletters.

Until next time, remember, the past is always only a thought away and those thoughts can take you to the “best of times and the worst of times”; you are in control.



Mike Curtis

# In the Spotlight

Although not an interview, I felt the information in this article was something to share. I wish to thank “Tom Indigo” for graciously allowing me to include it in our newsletter.

## LONG STORY ALERT

by Tom Indigo



Today I was walking around Boston and saw something very educational. I witnessed three different street performances.

The first was a street acrobat. She performed several lukewarm stunts, which would generally have transitions like “here is a thing I like to call The Advanced Mr. Rogers” or “for my next stunt, I will do \_\_\_\_”. Basically, it was an unengaging show. Then she had the AUDACITY to say “You guys (the whole audience) are what we in the business call a ‘low energy crowd’ “. I immediately walked away before hearing another word, as did about a third of her audience.

Second was a MAGICIAN! He performed a close up set of 3 tricks, which were all executed perfectly from a technical standpoint... yet he was so bored with his own magic that not a single person gave a reaction other than a smug “huh, this guy is quick”. When people walked away from his space mid-set, he said something like “It’s ok, you guys don’t know what you’re missing!”. He also carried worn down, dirty props (ropes, a box of cards, and rubber bands, all beaten to death without a replacement).

He didn’t get any applause apart from one started by me at the very end.

Then came the last performance... a group of street dancers. And they were different. They managed to build an audience that was roughly triple the size of the first two performers combined. And they did it before the show even started! What was different?

1. They didn’t talk down to their audience. Any jokes they told up front were NOT jabs at audience members.
2. They made a point of dynamically interacting with their audiences, not just talking at them like in the first two performances.
3. They anchored their audience and TOLD them how to react (If you see something you like, CLAP! If you see something you DO NOT like... CLAP ANYWAY!)

### We as entertainers need to remember:

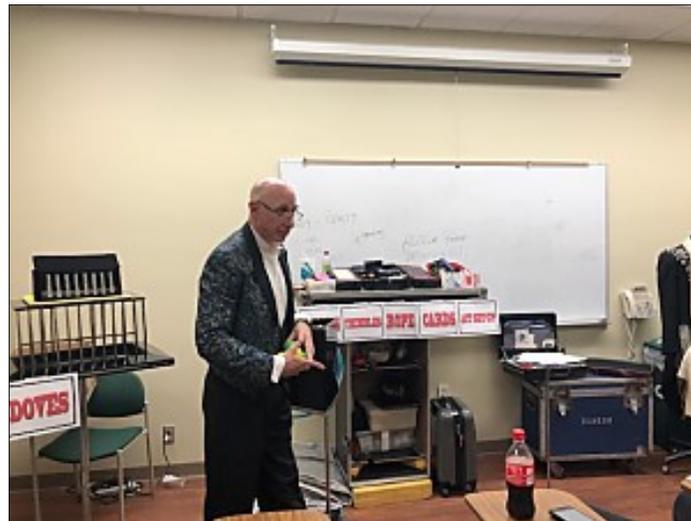
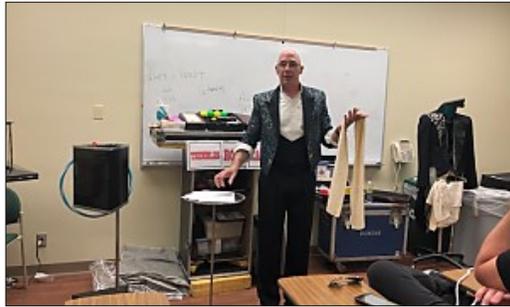
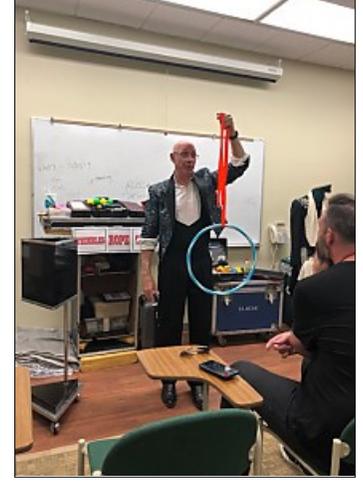
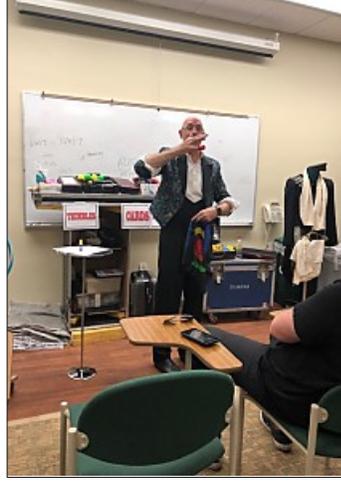
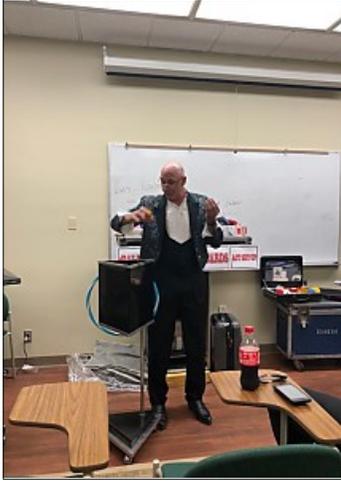
1. Love thy audience (We’re trying to bring them joy through magic!)
2. Engage thy audience (nobody cares about a magic trick. YOU MUST BE FUN)
3. Teach thy audience (they don’t know how to react. Tell them! That way, you ALWAYS get the reactions you want!)

Thanks for reading. Hope this helps.

*Tom Indigo is an Audience Engagement Specialist, Corporate Speaker, Mentalist, and Hypnotist.*



# LECTURE PHOTOS



# MAGICIANS OF THE PAST



**Suzy Wandas (1896 – July 12, 1986)** was born Jean Van Dyk in Belgium to magicians Charles and Elizabeth Van Dyk. She became part of the act as a child, walking the slack rope and playing the violin while dancing as Miss White Flower.

She was inspired after seeing Talma doing manipulation magic to take up magic and was doing a cards and coins manipulation act by the age of 14. She became one of the best at manipulation magic.

After her father passed away, her brother Louis was added to the act and they started performing as The Three Wandas. She chose a stage name “Suzy” from the popular song of the day “If You Knew Suzy”.

After her brother Louis was injured in World War I, Susy and her mom kept performing as the Wanda Sisters. When her mom retired in 1936, Suzy continued to perform throughout Europe and later the United States. Suzy was able to speak five languages. Her cabaret show included ropes, thimbles, cigarettes, canes, silks, coins, the Miser’s Dream, card fans, and a routine with eight linking rings. She was billed as “Suzy Wandas, the Lady with the Fairy Fingers”.

*source: Magicpedia*



# A LITTLE ON MENTALISM

Mentalism is a performing art in which its practitioners, known as mentalists, appear to demonstrate highly developed mental or intuitive abilities. Performances may appear to include hypnosis, telepathy, clairvoyance, divination, precognition, mediumship, mind control, memory feats, deduction, and rapid mathematics. Mentalists are sometimes categorized as psychic entertainers although that category also contains non-mentalist performers such as psychic readers and bizzarrists.

Enjoying magic and mentalism takes a certain amount of blind faith — or at the very least, indulgence. Still, magic is something that unites people of all ages and backgrounds. After all, most of us get bitten by the magic bug in our early childhoods.

Usually, our superficial interest in card tricks quickly develops into replicating feats that approach what we now refer to as mentalism.

What is a mentalist, anyway? You're about to find out. Today, we're going to tackle the meaning of mentalism as a branch of magic and its peculiar history.

As a brief disclaimer, we should mention that most mentalists don't really define themselves as magicians. They usually don't practice the same prop-based tricks magicians perform, though some stage magicians do use "mind tricks." Furthermore, both kinds of performers use the same principles to perform miraculous feats, namely misdirection.

In fact, the definition of mentalism positions the discipline closer to psychic entertainment than magic. Basically, its practitioners appear to be able to read minds, hypnotize or mind-control members of their audiences, and even communicate with spirits.

Yet, that definition of mentalism only gives us a superficial knowledge of the discipline. In order to figure out how the practice got to where it is today, we must first consider its history. We've discussed the basic meaning of mentalism — it's time to take this conversation a step further.

As we have mentioned, the definition of mentalism would have us believe that magic and mentalism are two very different disciplines. Still, the fact remains that their histories are a bit similar.

We might even say that both disciplines are continuing the legacy of Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin, a 19th-century French stage magician. Like many magicians who came after him, Robert-Houdin mostly relied on his inventions to perform his tricks. He was the one to inspire magicians and mediums alike to move their performances from country fairs to the salons of aristocratic houses.

In fact, during the 19th century, there was a widespread fascination with mediums and psychics. Some of them, like Henry and Annie Fay, might even be seen as the founders of mentalism — but we'll get to them later.

Assuming that all mediums and seers throughout history were practitioners of some form of mentalism, it's very likely that the history of the discipline is much richer than we know. Sadly, much of it remained a mystery until the 20th century.

Most recently, there's been an increase in the representation of mentalists in not only talent competitions but also TV shows such as the *Mentalist*, *Psych*, and films like *Now You See Me*. However, magic enthusiasts have an entirely different pool of famous performers to draw from.

As we have discovered, the meaning of mentalism mostly boils down to its performative aspects rather than anything supernatural. Therefore, the question: "how do mentalists work?" is fairly easy to answer.

Practitioners simply know how to read body language and are highly trained in the art of suggestion. Some even rely heavily on their memory and ability to perform rapid mathematics.

Still, even though the meaning of mentalism is easy to discern, its practice is another matter altogether. It takes years of work for a mentalist to become proficient at reading, influencing, and predicting human behavior. But then again, that's exactly what makes it so impressive!

# Treasurer's Report

## July 2019

Beginning Balance	Checking	2596.76	Expenses	
	Dues Collected	50.00	Daemon Lecture	250.00
	Lecture Fees Collected	180.00	Hotel for Lecturer	72.44
	Total Balance Checking	2826.76	Ending Balance Checking	2504.32
	Total Balance Savings	970.33	Ending Balance Savings	970.33

Loss from Lecture: **142.44**

37 members have paid dues.

**10 members from last year are past due.**

If you are not sure about your membership status email me at:

[jamesk39@gmail.com](mailto:jamesk39@gmail.com)



### Ring 29 Meetings 2019-2020

Date	Meeting	Location	Theme	Lecturer	Emcee
August 1, 2019	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Children's Magic	TBA	TBA
September 5, 2019	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Basic Magic	TBA	TBA
October 3, 2019	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Halloween Magic	TBA	TBA
November 7, 2019	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Dollar Store Grab Bag	TBA	TBA
December 5, 2019	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Christmas Magic	TBA	TBA
January—TBA	Christmas Show	TBA	Walk-Around and Stage Magic	TBA	TBA
February 6, 2020	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Mentalism	TBA	TBA
March 5, 2020	Auction	TBA	Auction	TBA	TBA
April 2, 2020	Regular	TBA	Teach-In	TBA	TBA
May 7, 2020	Regular	TBA	Coins and Cards	TBA	TBA
June 4, 2020	Stage Competition	TBA	Stage Competition	TBA	TBA
July 2020 Date TBA	Installation	TBA	Officers Performing	TBA	TBA

**\*\* To enter Ring 29 competitions you must be a paid up member of the IBM.**

**\*\*Lecture dates not included as James Kinsey is currently working on scheduling.**

**\*\*Watch for emails for those dates, times and locations.**

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### Using Ring 29 Email Group

Post message: [ring29report@yahogroups.com](mailto:ring29report@yahogroups.com)

Subscribe: [ring29report-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:ring29report-subscribe@yahogroups.com)

### **Membership**

All members of Ring 29 must first be a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. I.B.M. Applications can be obtained from [http://www.magician.org/membership\\_application.pdf](http://www.magician.org/membership_application.pdf).

*Contact Mr. Magic or any Ring 29 Officer for information on joining the IBM or Ring 29.*

### **Mailing Lists**

In addition to this newsletter Members can receive last minute email information on meetings, events, and lectures. If you wish to be added to our email list, please contact *Treasurer Col. James Kinsey*.

### **LittleRockMagic.net**

Our website has been filled with a wealth of information to assist our members and potential members. New features are being added daily. Check out the Ring 29 Highlights video, the Magicians for Hire page, or the Ring 29 Event Calendar.

Ring 29 is proud to endorse and support Little Rock's world class ONLINE Magic Store, "Mr. Magic" Mr. Magic is owned and operated by retired Fire Chief Jim Henson and is a primary contact for Ring 29.

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**Mr. Magic (Jim Henson)**

**501-580-2860**