

THE SALT CITY MAGIC CLUB

Wandogram



"Harris A. Solomon Ring" IBM #74 Syracuse N.Y.

There's Magic in the air! **February 2024**





Harris Solomon

**A monthly newsletter of the
Harris A. Solomon Ring #74
International Brotherhood of Magicians
(the Salt City Magic Club)**

President: Ken Frehm
Vice President: David Kilpatrick
Secretary: Joey Hoffman
Treasurer: Bruce Purdy
Sgt. At Arms: Dave Hanselman

**IBM Ring #74 meets at 7:30pm
the Third Thursday of every month (Virtualy for now)**

Please submit material for publication in the Wandogram to:

wandogram@cnymagic.com

or by Snail Mail:

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Questions? Call (315) 256-9095

Submission deadline:

First Thursday of the month

Inclusivity

By Bruce Purdy

The Magic community, like the world, is a diverse space. Magicians are male and female, Abled and with a wide range of disabilities. Any type of race, religion, nationality and world view are united by a common love of Magic.

Some love card magic or other close-up, others specialise in children's Birthday parties, Grand Illusion, corporate events, Bar Magic or any of dozens of specialisations.

As Eugene Burger said: "The house of magic has many rooms."

Some believe in performing Magic for strangers, unasked, wherever they go. This is not right for everyone.

I heard a comment at one meeting "If you don't have a deck of cards in your pocket, then you aren't really a Magician!" This shows a extremely narrow view of the art of Magic.

Whilst I may be wrong, I doubt that David Coperfield goes around with a deck of cards in

his pocket, or that he performs for people in line at the grocery store!

If we are serious about attracting new members, we need to maintain an attitude of inclusivity.

On-line presence and other communications should feature reports representing the diversity of Magic. In addition to information about our local club, there should be information about the women in Magic, as well as "differently abled", and other races and Magic specialties.

Only by showing EVERYONE that they can be welcomed into our Magical society - and truly welcoming them aboard when they show up - we can truly grow.




(Post) Holiday Banquet



20th January, 2024





**Sparkles from the Wand
of the Silver Wizard**

Kenneth Frehm

Order of Merlin, Shield
Life Member of Ring #74

I blinked my eyes and January disappeared! 2023 was a growth year for our Ring.

I still can't get over the tremendous success of our holiday party. Without doubt, it was the worst weather night of the winter. Yet, twenty-seven out of twenty-nine expected guests showed up to party and socialize. This included four of our close friends from sister cities who traveled on extremely snowy-windy roads.

We had a terrific show featuring our talented M.C. and six Ring performers. A "Secret Santa" gift swap was held. A new feature this year, gifts for all attending magicians were handed out. These gifts were generously donated by Dave Hanselman, Bruce Purdy, David Kilpatrick, David MacBlane, and yours truly.

A serious ceremony was held, and David MacBlane was officially initiated into our I.B.M. Ring. Of greater import, attending were three possible new

members; Michael Melice, Casey Schoenfelder and Drew Yeldon. All three of these men indicated that they are excited about becoming members. A good time was had by all.

2024 is quickly shaping up to be better in many ways. Joey Hoffman, our scribe is sending out Get Well cards to all I.B.M. members whose names appear in The Linking Ring's Sick and Convalescent column.

As we all know, today's communication revolves around computer networking and electronic interaction. One of our main goals has been to grow Ring #74. Having prospective members find us easily is critical to this challenge. It is being addressed now. Steve Tichy and David MacBlane are actively working on this Social Media initiative. We can expect significant changes to our "E" presence very shortly.

Of course, Web Presence is an ongoing, ever-needy tool

that will require timely updating. I know that we can and will achieve this. Surely, we will need a lot of help.

What about you? Continuing improvements and success depend on more than a few members being involved. If you have been on the sidelines, why not decide to take on an idea which will improve our club? Head up a program. Develop an initiative. Write a column for our Wandogram. Teach something.

Do a workshop. Need help? Need resources? Let me know and your officers and I will support you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who contributed and participated in our Ring's activities in 2023. However, may I especially thank you in advance for your involvement ahead. 2024, here we come!

Abracadabra
Kenneth Frehm



From the Treasurer

Bruce Purdy

Dues reminder

Dues cover the fiscal year of July through June. All members - to remain in good standing - need to keep current.

Dues are currently \$25 / year, (Senior Citizens are \$10)

Please mail your check, made out to "IBM Ring 74, Inc", to

Bruce Purdy
P.O.Box 213
Cayuga NY 13034

Loud and Dark Impromptu Venues by David MacBlane

What do you do when you want to perform magic in a loud and/or dark venue? The ability to make an impression with your presentation becomes very limited when you have to speak directly in your spectators' ears. The flow of the routine and your script loses the impact of the trick when you have to practically scream to set up the effect.

The Silver Wizard - club president Ken Frehm and I recently visited a local watering hole to grab a bite to eat, have a beverage, and of course perform some magic for the patrons. We found a number of people who were very open to see our tricks while we were successfully table hopping.

After we had performed for several patrons, the live music performer started his first set. It was a small bar and became very loud. It was almost impossible to hear - limiting the impact of our effects. Shortly thereafter, they turned down the lights to highlight the musician, making it very difficult to even SEE the phases of our routines.

I performed a coin routine leaving a quarter in my hand to reveal the missing part of a coin. It was so dark, that the spectators couldn't see the coin in my palm, so

the trick fell flat.

So Ken and I scoured the web to find tricks that could be performed in a loud and dark venue with limited patter or script required. We found a number of performers on the web who do tricks that were visually impactful and required little speaking to get great reactions.

Here is a practical set of tricks that can be performed in difficult venues. They are in alphabetical order so you can choose what might work for you. There are a number of tricks listed here that have been around for ages and are always crowd pleasers. I've added some comments and suggestions for each effect so you will have a nice group of tricks from which you can choose.

Card to Wallet/Impossible Location (Pick your favorite)

Chop by Craig Petty (This is a new take on the chop cup using a paper cup and a crumpled dollar bill as the ball)

Chop Cup (Pick from literally hundreds of routines)

Coin Sleights (The "Mirage" coins by Craig Petty is my absolute favorite coin set)

Coins Across

Egg Bag

Fiber Optics Rope by Richard Sanders (I perform this with a script but it can easily be done without any talking. It does require that you provide and prepare your own rope. Contact us and I'll email you what rope I use and how I prepared it)

Haunted Key

Hundy 500 (Very visual effect by Gregory Wilson but a bit dated and the tutorial video is awful)

Insurance Policy

Leviosa (Amazing effect - watch the trailer - but it's very pricey)

Miser's Dream

NFW (Great Ace Routine by Gary Freed but I prefer ACE by Richard Sanders)

Ninja Rings (4" diameter rings from Matthew Garrett are unparalleled. They are pricey but worth it if you want a great set of rings)

Quantum Deck by Craig Petty

Ring on Wand

Sponge Balls

Torn and Restored Cocktail Napkin to Rainbow Mouth Coil (you can use a 45' Rainbow Silk)

Three Fly

Unseen Force Pro (Dual Reel ITR. Nice levitation utility but there is a steep learning curve)

Write-Thru (Allows you to put a pen through an object - card, bill, credit card - and click the pen top which exposes the writing tip of the pen on the opposite side of the object)

There are others that can work with limited scripting. The Ambitious Card, Card Under Glass, Card In Mouth, Metal Bending and so much more.

Some performers will do a complete set of routines with a silent act done to music. This is not my style but it can be very effective in the right environment. I highly recommend that you create an organized list of tricks you can perform with limited patter/scripting. Plan ahead if things go wrong with the sound system, lighting, or other potential problems. It is also effective to replace simple verbal commands with hand gestures. Most magicians forget to choose their tricks with the environment in mind.

You can also Google for tricks for the deaf and hearing impaired to get additional ideas.

I look at it like this: If someone says behind this door is a group of people that I want you to impress. That's all that you should need to know. Your act should impress whoever or whatever situation you find behind that door including a less than perfect environment.

We hope this helps you in choosing your go-to tricks when presented with a difficult venue.

WandoWeb Project Update

by David MacBlane

As most of you know, we have started a formal project to update our website. The site is dated and requires an overhaul to add several new features. Our outdated site does not comport with the technology available to exponentially improve the Ring with all new capabilities and a better marketing tool to attract new members.

Many of you will be asking what is the WandoWeb Project? We have been talking about updating the website for years, but there was never a formal project initiated. Recently, we put a small team together to get input, ideas, direction and to formally define a new project. We truly have the opportunity to be a harbinger in state-of-the-art magic club websites and Facebook pages. I will be heading up the project with Steve T. acting as a technical advisor.

I'm well aware that the people on the team have other responsibilities (job, practicing magic, personal goals, job, etc.) that make it prohibitive to put their valuable time into the mix, but we will be updating all team members on the direction of the site and get feedback on all aspects of our effort.

A huge thanks to Bruce P. for handling the website on his own and all of the work he has contributed to keep our current site up and running. This project will not interfere with any of the current processes Bruce uses to create the Wandogram. It should be a seamless transition and we will be proactive in assuring that we don't move

backward or in the wrong direction.

We have the chance to be leaders in the magic industry with a new paradigm for local magic club websites. Our site needs some serious updating. We are not alone. I've scoured websites from about twenty-five local clubs and literally all of them are either informational portals or dated websites that are quite often broken and do not exude confidence in joining their clubs. A huge percentage of the sites I've tested are using 90's technology and it shows in their website design and content.

We were several versions behind on the development platform we use to build the site. The platform is now up to the current version and we are assessing all of the capabilities offered in the new version.

We have had input for several ideas and are now working on a mock up to which our members can react. All of us have agreed that we need a very visual site with rich graphical content. We will need the help of all of you to provide the "assets" to include on the site. If all of you can scour you photos, videos and topical content which are relevant, please speak up. Your assets are key to a successful launch when we have something new to publish.

If you have any questions, comments, ideas, or are interested in involving yourself into the project, please send me an email or call so we can discuss your ideas.

Next meetings:

Thursday, 8th February 2024
ON LINE Virtual meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7941606677>
(Please sign in at about 6:45pm)

Thursday, 15th February 2024
In Person meeting.

Denny's
106 Elwood Davis Road
Liverpool NY

Save the Date!

Thu.8th February

ZOOM meeting

Thu.15th February

In-Person meeting
Denny's

Thu.14th March

ZOOM meeting

Thu.21st March

In-Person meeting
Denny's

Thu.11th April

ZOOM meeting

Thu.18th April

In-Person meeting
Denny's

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