

# Wandogram



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

April 2025

## 2025

Prepare to magically appear at the 77th

# MAWNY

... it's the most fun you can have in a day!

**MAWNY 2025**  
**Sunday, April 27th**  
 Buffalo M Hotel  
 2040 Walden Ave.  
 Buffalo, NY 14225  
[www.mawny.org](http://www.mawny.org)  
 Doors Open at 9:00 AM

**10:30 Dan's Famous Magic Auction!**  
 Buyers, pick up your bidding number at registration.  
 Sellers: AUCTION ITEMS MUST BE IN BY 10:15! 10% auction fee on all sales.

**MAWNY'S Delicious Buffet World Famous in WNY**

**2:00 or so ...**

**... More to come!**

**Bill Buckle**  
Niagara Falls

**Paul Gertner**  
Boston via Pittsburgh

**ERIC DeCAMPS**  
Buffalo, NY

**Jay Scott Berry**  
Australia

**Steve Beam**  
North Carolina

**3:30ish LECTURE STEVE BEAM**

... started performing magic when he was 11 years old. His first professional show wasn't until age 11.25. He continued to study magic because poverty and celibacy came naturally. Steve likes all kinds of magic so long as they begin with a deck of cards. As the author of the Semi-Automatic Card Trick series, (including the latest Volume 12) he is almost single-handedly responsible for yanking the Y-chromosome out of magic. Steve spent 15 years adding that chromosome as editor of *The Trapdoor*. He has one of the world's largest private magic libraries and garnered several accolades including the Lifetime Lack of Achievement Award from the Magic Castle. Despite all this recognition, Steve still has someone put his pants on one leg at a time.

**7:00, Stage Show SPECTACULAR!**

**JAY SCOTT BERRY**  
MAWNY CONVENTION APRIL 25-31

**Paul Gertner**  
Master of Ceremonies  
**Robert Bengel**  
Phoenix

**Shun Suzuki JAPAN**

**Chris Capehart**  
Delaware

**Mike Joseph**  
Williamsville, NY

**Michael Lair**  
S. Carolina via Canton, Ohio

**Dealer Chair Bill Gormont Presents the Market of Mystery with these great dealers...**

**Empire Magic** Michael Lair  
**Antony Gerard** Meir Yedid  
**Niagara's First Impressions**  
**Card Shark** Jay Scott Berry  
**Paul Richards** MORE TO COME!

**Advance registration:**  
 until April 9th: \$91 each,  
 after April 9th: \$99 each

To register, use mail-in form or go to:  
<http://mawny.org/registration.html>  
 Inquiries: [MAWNY21@gmail.com](mailto:MAWNY21@gmail.com)

Buffalo M Hotel:  
 (716) 681-2400  
[mhotelbuffalo.com/#/](http://mhotelbuffalo.com/#/)

**MAWNY BOARD:**  
 Keith Randolph  
 Bill Gormont  
 Mike Joseph  
 JP Lacey  
 Tony Weiland  
*... with gratitude to the selfless crew*



*Harris Solomon*

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

<b>President:</b>	<b>Ken Frehm</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>David MacBlane</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Joey Hoffman</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Bruce Purdy</b>
<b>Sgt. At Arms:</b>	<b>Dave Hanselman</b>

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**IBM Ring #74 meets at 7:30pm  
the second Thursday of every month virtually via Zoom,  
and  
the third Thursday of every month IN PERSON**

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Please submit material for publication in the Wandogram to:

**wandogram@cnymagic.com**

or by Snail Mail:

**Bruce Purdy**

**P.O.Box 213**

**Cayuga NY 13034-0213**

Questions? Call (315) 256-9095

**Submission deadline:**

First Thursday of the month

# MAWNY 2025

*By Bruce Purdy*

I attend three or four Magic conventions each year. One I've been attending for many years, is the Magicians' Alliance of Western New York - better known as M.A.W.N.Y.

MAWNY is held immediately following — and at the same place as the famous 4-F convention, the premier invitation only close-up convention. 4F draws the best talent from around the world, and since they are there already, some stay and present at MAWNY as well.

For a one-day, regional gathering, we are fortunate to have stellar talent to watch, and talk with.

If you haven't ever been to a Magic convention, I HIGHLY recommend that you attend MAWNY as your first experience.

If you have been, then you know that there is great talent performing in both the close-up shows and the evening stage show. There is a room full of magic dealers — an opportunity to shop

in person, rather than on-line, to actually see the the products and talk with the dealers.

There's also an auction of used Magic, where you can get real bargains.

If all that wasn't enough, there is a tasty dinner included. The best part of attending any convention though, and especially MAWNY, is the chance to gather with like-minded people. Folks who love Magic as much as you. It's a chance to see your friends from afar, as well as to make new friends.

MAWNY has been described as "The most fun you can have in a day!"

For more information, visit <https://mawny.org/>

I'll see you there!

# Ring #74 Scribe's Report

*By*  
**Joey Hoffman**

We had another great turn out for this month's in-person meeting. 10 of us gathered to share and talk magic. Recently, we've been making a push to increase the attractiveness of attending meetings. We've been doing monthly lectures, demonstrating, teaching, and sharing an effect (DTS), as well as giving out all of the materials needed. It's been amazing being able to learn about different types of magic from our array of experts. Going home with tons of notes, a new effect (with everything to perform it), and even DVD's has been a huge plus!

David Kilpatrick gave a fantastic lecture on Coin Magic. He went through many different ways to palm coins, as well as false transfers. Dave was even kind enough to give each of us a Kennedy Half Dollar and even an Eisenhower Dollar to practice with different sized coins. He also went through some subtleties and ways you can show your hand empty or even point with a finger while hiding a coin. Great stuff Dave, thanks again!

I performed an effect called "Invisible Date". I placed a deck of cards down on the table and asked TJ to think of either an author or a musician. He then looked up their

birthday and told us all what it was. I then spread the cards out revealing two face down cards. They flipped over and were jokers, but one had the thought of month, and the other, the day.

TJ had different cue cards for audience members such as gasp, laugh, clap, etc. and had David Mcblaine act out each different one. He was then asked to choose his favorite one. Once he had his answer locked in, TJ turned over the cards and they all said "Not this", except for one, which said "This!". He turned it back around, and it matched David's choice.

David Mcblaine performed a coin matrix with a nice finisher. Four coins were placed on the table in a square, and a card was placed on each one. David removed two cards, revealing the coins once again, covered them quickly, and removed them again. One coin was gone, and had appeared next to the one. He did this two more times, until all four coins had teleported to the same spot. The cards were all placed down again, and with a magical gesture, they all returned to their original spots!

Bruce Purdy had me shuffle a

deck anyway I liked and had me remove one card face down, and place it safely inside of a small wooden box. He then took out four different colored envelopes and had me select one. The envelope was opened revealing the Seven of Diamonds. All of the other envelopes were also opened, showing that all four choices were different. The box with my card was opened and it just so happened to be the Seven of Diamonds.

Tom Bresadola shuffled a deck, spread the cards face up and had David Kilpatrick think of one of them. Tom then said he would be able to guess the name of the card. He said that he thought Dave was thinking of John. While we were all staring, confused, he explained that all of the cards had proper names, and asked Dave what the card was. It was the Two of Diamonds, and Tom removed it from the deck and turned it over revealing that the name "John" was written on the back. Not only that, but it was the only card with anything written on it.

Drew Yeldon took a deck of cards and removed the four Aces and placed them face up on the table red, black, red, black. He then shuffled the cards and asked if we thought the next card would be black or red. If black, the card was placed on the first black Ace, and same for the red Ace. Then he gave Dave the cards, and he did the same thing, but with Drew guessing the colors. In the end, the cards were all turned over. Not only

did all of us predict the right colors, but we also matched all of the suits.

Matthew Dowd performed an oil and water routine where four red cards and four black cards are turned over and mixed. When the cards are turned face up, they're separated. He even added an Out of This World kicker, where the deck was shuffled, but when spread out, separated into red and black.

Ken Frehm had a box with a stick of wood going through it. He removed the stick and explained that it was a ring storage box, but the ring was missing. He then told a story of an emperor missing his ring, and needing someone to use magic to bring it back. The stick was placed back in the box, and after saying the magic words, the box was opened revealing the ring securely in place on the stick. Ken also went over his Genie Out to Lunch effect and gave everyone a template to make copies so they could make their own and perform it.

As it stands, the date for our Zoom meetings will be the second Thursday of the month, and our in-person meetings will be the third Thursday of the month. Both meetings start at 7, so try to sign on or get there a little before. Interested? Email [kfrehm@gmail.com](mailto:kfrehm@gmail.com) and a link will be sent. We welcome all!

Joey Hoffman  
Secretary for Ring #74



# Sparkles from the Wand of the Silver Wizard

**Kenneth Frehm**

Order of Merlin, Shield  
Life Member of Ring #74

**S**pring and summer are coming! I promise you. I hope everyone is preparing for upcoming and warmer springtime magical adventures. Your Ring is alive and well. Our executive committee is very busy. We are planning for many activities in the months ahead. Stay tuned!

Last month, we had two very successful meetings. Our Zoom meeting included some of our distant family magi's. We all presented effects. Our In-Person meeting featured David Kilpatrick. David presented his coin "DT&S" (Demo, Teach & Share) program. Dave covered all the bases. He even gave away actual \$\$\$ coins (\$1.50 each) to practice with! Yours truly also had some DT&S handouts.

Ring #74 is in the process of building our treasury to hopefully cover some of our upcoming expenses. We are exploring doing some shows and possibly funding

our depleted treasury. Our hope is to be able to continue with the hosting of our website as well as our monthly Zoom meetings. Without additional funds, these terrific programs will be unfortunately discontinued. Member Brian Sikora presented our club with a fantastic opportunity. Our Ring will be featured in a zip-code mailing. Thousands of folks will receive our Ring marketing. Brian donated this \$200+ value to our club! We will be looking for performers. Get Ready! As previously discussed, and agreed upon, our money-making efforts are strictly for the Ring. We will not be acting as a booking agent for individuals in our club. Our executive committee is dealing with the related issues such as percentage splits, insurance needs etc.

We handed out our new Ring 74 business cards at our last meeting and an additional supply is always available to you.



If you need more, please let me know. I will have a supply available at our In-Person meetings. If you need some immediately, just send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Try to hand out as many as you can. This is your Ring business card. It was designed to work for the Ring as well as your personal magic business card hand-out.

David MacBlane, our V.P. has been making and updating numerous changes to our website ([saltcitymagic.com](http://saltcitymagic.com)) ~ Please, keep visiting. Think about providing some “content.” Bruce is always open for articles and ideas for the Wandogram. We also will be needing videos for some of the social media initiatives. Tom Bresadola has been providing great Ring notices on Facebook. These are wonderful professional posts, using AI to advertise our Ring.

Upcoming at the end of April is the fantastic MAWNY convention. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see world-wide talent! Being at the same hotel and same time, MAWNY takes advantage of the 4F top professional performers who are in the area. These super stars are from around the world and will stay over to perform at MAWNY. Seriously, this is one convention you will not want to miss! We will try to develop some carpooling. If you are available to take a rider or two, please let me know.

I’m looking forward to seeing you at our Zoom meeting (5/8) and at our In-Person meeting (5/17). May the magic flow from you. Wave your wand and make people smile!

Abracadabra

Kenneth Frehm



“Mom told me to make my vegetables disappear.”

# Three Types of Magic

By  
David MacBlane

Through one of the myriad magic newsletters that I receive, I was introduced to Juan, a Spanish magician with a unique outlook on magic. Before you think “Tamariz”, it’s not that Juan. His name is Juan Colas and he has a unique view on magic and the way the “story” can be altered to give three distinct approaches to magic.

Before I begin on Juan, our Ring’s president prefers the term “script” to “patter”, but whatever your preference may be, in the end they are all “stories” to bring your spectators INTO the magic and your performance.

Juan Colas runs a YouTube channel diving deep into his personal school of magic theory. However, all of his videos are in Spanish, so I’m guessing 99% of Western magicians don’t know of his work or the three concepts he introduces in one of his videos. His three main approaches to magic in this video are extremely different, but they all have one thing in common - you can use any or each of them in your magic and each requires a different “story.”

My Spanish is okay, but not even close to fluent enough to translate his videos. I’ve used an AI auto-generated transcript so I can share

these insights with others.

First, the video mentioned was full of incredible magic theory from start to finish so I’ll waste no time in getting into it. It’s as close as I can get to Juan’s original thoughts - but may still contain some errors from the translation.

Juan says “Today I’m going to wade into deep waters—I’m going to try to explain, very briefly, the three main approaches to magic that we see in the 21st century.”

He won’t explain these philosophies exactly the way their originators laid them out—because even they haven’t defined them in absolute terms. What he’s going to give you is his interpretation of them.

Juan introduces three approaches to magic and how and when to use them. Let’s talk about these three approaches: Realist Magic, Fictional Magic, and Symbolic Magic.

All three of these perspectives deal with the impossible—that’s the shared core concept. But they each center that impossibility in a different way. Each one orients itself around a different seed that shapes everything else.

## 1. Realist Magic



Here, the seed is the effect—the isolated moment of impossibility.

Say we're doing an Ambitious Card routine. The question is: what method should I use? A double lift? A control? Should I show the card going in fairly and have it rise to the top?

In realist magic, all these choices—method, structure, gesture, pacing—are made in service of the effect. The goal is that the audience experiences a clear, isolated moment where something impossible just happened. Clean, sharp. “That card was in the middle, and now it’s on top.”

If you’ve read Tamariz or Ascanio, you’re already familiar with this style. False cues, parenthetical moments, the structure of three phases plus one as an encore... all of it designed to enhance the effect.

So in Realist Magic: the effect is king. Everything else bends to support it.

## 2. Fictional Magic

Now we move to Fictional Magic, where the focus shifts from what happens to what story we’re telling. This approach starts by building a fictional world with its own rules and logic, and everything—the gestures, the props, the language—has to align with that fiction.

Back to the Ambitious Card. In a fictional version, maybe I say:

“This isn’t a deck of cards. It’s a river. And each card is a fish. And this one? This is a salmon—it swims upstream.”

Now the salmon (our chosen card) “swims” back to the top. But because we’re in a fictional world, I wouldn’t say “pick a card.” I’d say, “Cast your fishing line—let’s see what you catch.”

The way they choose the card might change. The way I reveal it might change. I could even use a rising card from a spread to simulate the salmon leaping. Maybe when the salmon reaches the top of the river, it spawns and the card turns blank, or splits into other cards.

In this model, the “fiction” is the driving force. I might even drop phases of the routine if they don’t serve the story. So, maybe it’s only one rise instead of three—but it’s richer, deeper, more visual and more metaphorical.

Also, that story might be explicit (“This is a river”) or implicit—where neither the magician nor the audience knows exactly what’s happening, but we’re discovering it together. Mario López is amazing at this.

And just to be clear: there’s a difference between a presentation with a fictional story and a fictional approach to magic. In this second case, fiction shapes everything—not just the surface.

## 3. Symbolic Magic

Now we get to the third approach: Symbolic Magic.

This one focuses on what magic means. What does the action symbolize? Not what it looks like—not the technique, method, or even the story—but the inner experience it evokes in the spectators.

Let's go back to the Ambitious Card. What's really happening? Something rises. Okay—could that represent the soul ascending? Striving to reach the top? Breaking through limits? Or even hitting a ceiling?

Now, instead of choosing methods to support an effect or a story, I try to choose methods that reinforce that symbol.

Maybe I use a blank card to represent the soul. The signature is like a piece of you. And after all the rises, maybe the card transforms—because the soul has been purified or transmuted. That's not just magic—it's alchemy.

It's hard to define Symbolic Magic or examples of it when using playing cards. They aren't always the best for symbolic work. They're fantastic for fictional magic—so many colors, images, metaphors—but they're not always great for spiritual or personal symbolism.

It's hard for someone to feel truly seen or transformed by the 6 of Spades.

If you want Symbolic Magic to work, you often need better objects. More meaningful ones. Perhaps I'll do an article specifically on symbolic magic in the future.

### Final Thoughts

Any effect can have elements of all three approaches: realist, fictional, and symbolic. They're not mutually exclusive.

Any of the three approaches can have pieces or characteristics of the other two.

They overlap. And when you layer them intentionally, that's where deep magic lives.

Not that I'm physicist or even close, but these three approaches actually align with the three levels of metaphysics:

Realist Magic connects to the physical world. It's grounded. Pragmatic. Based in what the audience sees and experiences. Fictional Magic lives in the mind. It works through metaphor, imagination and association. Symbolic Magic operates on a spiritual level. It's felt in the chest, not thought in the head.

Think about how you want to craft your next trick. I think most of us use all three of the approaches without even knowing it. Good luck!

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## **Next meetings:**

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**Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025**  
**ON LINE Virtual meeting.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7941606677>

**(Please sign in at about 6:45pm)**

**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025**  
**In Person meeting.**

**Denny's**  
*106 Elwood Davis Road*  
*Liverpool NY*

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## **Save the Date!**

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**Tue.8<sup>th</sup> April**

**ZOOM meeting**

**Thu.17<sup>th</sup> April**

**In Person meeting**

**Sun.27<sup>th</sup> April**

**M.A.W.N.Y.**  
*Buffalo NY*

**Tue.13<sup>th</sup> May**

**ZOOM meeting**

**Thu.15<sup>th</sup> May**

**In Person meeting**  
*Denny's*

**Harris Solomon Ring**  
**IBM Ring #74**  
**P.O.Box 213**  
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**[www.saltcitymagicclub.com](http://www.saltcitymagicclub.com)**

