

THE SALT CITY MAGIC CLUB

Wandogram



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

May 2025

The Finger Lakes Magic Club
International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 140

Proudly Present

AN EVENING OF MAGIC AND MUSIC

Saturday June 7, 2025. 7:00 p.m.
Lansing Performance Hall
1004 Auburn Rd. North Lansing, NY (Rt.34) 14882.

Starring

Finger Lakes Magician Bruce Purdy
and Las Vegas Elvis Tribute Darrin Race



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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 MacBlane
Secretary:	Joey Hoffman
Treasurer:	Bruce Purdy
Sgt. At Arms:	Dave Hanselman

**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**

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

Nominations sought

By Bruce Purdy

We are now looking for candidates to help lead our club into the future. Please consider stepping forward and run for office.

David Kilpatrick is leading the nominations, so If you think you might be interested, please contact him at: david.kilpatrick@cortland.edu

Here are the positions to fill:

President

The top leader. Presides over both executive committee and club activities

Vice President

Assists the President, and takes his place if the President is absent

Secretary / Scribe

Takes notes at our meetings, and writes a monthly article for the Linking Ring and the Wandogram, as well as other necessary correspondence.

Treasurer

Handles all banking and financial records for the club.

Sargent at Arms

Is responsible for maintaining order at meetings and events.

The above officers serve as the “Executive committee” and together tear the club in the right direction. Join the committee and be sure which direction is right!

Nominations will be presented at the May meeting, and will be printed in the June Wandogram. The voting will take place at the June meeting.

Officers serve from July through June.

Ring #74 Scribe's Report

By
Joey Hoffman

We had 10 people for April's in-person meeting, including a new prospective member, Gareth Campbell. Welcome Gareth! We love having new members and we hope you continue your magical journey with us. We've been making an effort to make our meetings more attractive and have implemented Ken's fantastic idea of a DTS program (Demonstrate, Teach, Share). I personally think it has been a success. Each meeting all our members will learn something, hopefully new, and will be given the materials to accomplish the effect. If you have any suggestions on improving our monthly meetings, please reach out to any of your officers!

We've also been kicking around the idea of changing our meeting spot from Denny's in Liverpool to the Spaghetti Warehouse in Syracuse. Your officers want what's best for everyone, so if you have an opinion on this issue, again, please reach out!

Brian Sikora kicked off the evening by doing his 10-minute performance for the club. He displayed a broad interest in many different types of magic. Mentalism, cards,

cups and balls as well as sleight of hand. He started with writing down a prediction and showing TJ 10 different numbers 0-9. He went through them one by one until TJ said stop. He stopped on the number 5, and Brian turned his prediction over showing that they matched. Along with an ambitious card routine, Brian also performed an excellent version of cups and balls. Very well done, Brian. Welcome again, and we're excited to have you!

Dave Sorenson showed us a new routine with tarot cards he had been working on. He pulled out a knife, a candle, a bottle of poison and a voodoo doll along with some tarot cards, and had me choose a card. I then got to choose my method of death, (I chose poison). After connecting with the beyond, my original card had a big poison mark on it.

Thomas Yeldon had a white board and a deck of cards spread out. A few of us called out a number 0-9 until we had a 3 digit number. We all were allowed to change the order of the numbers and multiply it by any 4 digit number of our choice. Each member had vastly different large numbers. We chose Brian's number and it was written

on the white board. We took a digit in the number and dealt out that many cards, and repeated this until all numbers were used. We landed on the 10 of hearts. He then shook the deck box so we could hear that there was only one card in it. He dumped the card out of the box and it matched our card.

I was up this month for our DTS program (demonstrate, teach, share) where I went over the 3 card monte. A little history on the effect was given as well as some of the many moves to accomplish the effect. Using the classic sucker's move with bent cards, as well as straight cards. Using double lifts and reverse double lifts to do an entire routine. I also showed an alternate version utilizing a double sided card that is really, really strong. Everyone got to take home a few bent cards along with a set of double sided cards to practice.

Casey Schoenfelder had a deck of cards with holes in them, turned his back and had me select a card. He then handed me a large lock and had me put them through the cards securing them. He then explained that he would try and not only find the card, but get it out of the lock. He immediately turned around and the card was in his mouth!

Tom Bresadola had a card selected and grabbed a dollar bill. Both were passed out to be examined, and when we were happy, he

took them back. He folded the card hot dog style, covering the face of the card. The bill was folded in half and he began to put the card into the folded bill. We could see half of the back of the card sticking out and as Tom pushed it to the other side, somehow, the front of the card was showing. Like the card was magically twisted in half.

Ken Frehm ended the evening with 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. The box was made by our own wonderful master woodworker, David Hanselman.

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 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

I'm home and completely magic saturated. My mind cannot hold another trick, mystery or routine. I'm fried!

Six full days of amazing professional-level performances, shows, workshops, and lectures. The invitation-only 4F convention draws top level magicians from around the world. A couple hundred superstars were eager to perform for each other, to teach and especially share copious amounts of brotherhood and friendship.

To experience the talent presented is both inspirational and beyond challenging. Almost 100% of the performers are full-time pros or retired pros. All these men and women are "Close-Up" entertainers and quite adept on stage as well. Seeing their skill level and learning from them is priceless. On Sunday, the one-day MAWNY convention was held and capitalized on the international talent present. Many of our upstate friends were there.

Both conventions had terrific offerings at the Dealers Room.

Coming away with new magical goodies to learn is a special benefit. The prices ranged from somewhat affordable to eye-watering heights. Workshops and lectures held by famous professionals provided great insights and wonderful opportunities to broaden attendees magic wisdom.

Numerous small groups of wizards met in the lobby every day to showcase their latest wonders and entertain each other. Cards, coins, and amazing paraphernalia were always being displayed. MAWNY featured a great auction with fantastically priced new and slightly used treasures. Delicious banquets were enjoyed by all attendees at both events.

Conventions are special. Getting together with friends who share our love of the magic art provides us with wonderful memories, increased knowledge and defines the special brotherhood we have for each other.

Travel the world and mention you're a magician. Other prestidigitators will appear. Warm relationships will follow, and you will be

presented with the distinct possibility of making a life-long friend.

Ring 74 executive team is now discussing the possibility of changing our In-Person meeting venue. This is not an easy decision as it will impact our club for many months and possibly years ahead. Many factors must be considered. We need a private cost-free room, a centralized location, handicapped enabled, adequate room size, a TV screen for presentations, food availability with reasonable prices, ambiance, and reliability are among the topics to be analyzed. One of the very few possible contenders is The Spaghetti Warehouse. It was suggested that we try it for one month and then consider its pros and cons.

We will not make this decision precipitously. Your thoughts and feelings are crucial, and you will be solicited for your opinions. Think about it! We need to decide on what's best for the majority of our members, as it will impact us now and, in the years, ahead. Let us know what you think.

The flier with our club's show availability is going out to twelve thousand households in the North Syracuse market. Hopefully we will get a chance to perform some money-making shows. Providing an opportunity for our members to perform for a live, non-magician audience. Thanks go to Brian Sikora who made all of this happen. Brian

is also offering free yoga classes for members of our group on the nights he is the Yogi. Another big wave of the magic wand goes to Brian's initiative. Because of Brian, a new prospective member found our club. Mr. Gareth Campbell attended his first meeting in April. Gareth is not new to magic and has performed extensively in the past. We all look forward to his involvement and participation ahead.

May is an important month for your ring. Officers will be nominated and then voted upon in June. This is your opportunity to step forward and get involved with guiding your magic club. We need your talent and participation. You will have the satisfaction of helping our club and you will reap the many rewards of leadership. Please let David Kilpatrick know if you are interested and what position you would like to be considered for. Perhaps you just want to head up a committee for a pet project for Ring improvement? Let David know, his email: david.kilpatrick@cortland.edu

Your yearly dues need to be paid in June. Please make arrangements with our Treasurer Bruce Purdy. He has streamlined the process. It's easy to pay and so well worth the abundance of magic and the fun activities you will receive in the year ahead.

Abacadabra

Ken Frehm

Top 10 Magic Performance Tips For Beginners

By

David MacBlane

We spend a lot of time around beginners who may be performing magic for the very first time. Through our Ambassador program we've helped many get connected with good resources that teach them how to perform tricks with impact. But what advice and guidance should we be giving them more generally?

Of course we have to manage the fine line between the ethical code of magicians and teaching how a trick works. But this ethical guideline is common knowledge, and is geared to protect the art of magic more generally, and to ensure that your own magic amazes. Besides this basic rule, what other tips and guidelines would you give a newcomer or a seasoned professional to help them improve? Here are 10 suggestions to get new magicians started. Hopefully, they'll also serve as a useful refresher for old-timers as a reminder of what is really important about magic!

1. Realize that your presentation is as important as your moves

In fact, good presentation is probably even more important than technique or method - important as that is! Magic isn't about creating a

sophisticated puzzle or challenging your spectator with a mere impossibility.

Learning the techniques and moves required to do a particular effect is just the first step to successfully performing it. In addition, you need to be able to present it in a way that is interesting and engaging to watch.

Never forget that magic is an art form that has the goal of entertaining, and that's why good showmanship is essential. You already have some magic experience under your belt, and know a good range of tricks? Then, do yourself a favor by reading some books on the subject of showmanship and magic design. My personal favorite is *Strong Magic* by Darwin Ortiz.

2. Tell a good story when you perform.

Some magicians can get away with silent acts or with accompanying music and some of our members make use of this method successfully. But for most of us our voice is another prop we should make use of in the course of a magic trick.

What you say is just as important as what you do. We often refer to this

is “patter”. But I think patter is too general and by definition does not require that you learn a consistent message each time you perform the trick. Y

our magic will be much more amazing if you learn a “script” or “story”. So it is important to practice your script just as much as you practice your moves and sleight of hand. Many magicians will even recommend writing down a script for everything they say, memorizing and rehearsing it.

Even if you don't go quite that far, it is important to realize how big a role the words or script that accompany a magic trick will provide you with a more successful trick. Give your script or story careful thought so that it will help disguise the method and enhance the effect. Well chosen words will greatly help your magic be more entertaining.

3. Focus on simple and self-working tricks

One of the best ways that newcomers to magic can work on their presentation is by starting with simple tricks, such as self-working card tricks. Don't make the mistake of thinking that self-working means weak or boring! Some of the most famous card tricks in the world are self-working, such as Paul Curry's outstanding "Out of This World".

Learn tricks that don't require complex manipulation. Then you

can really focus on the presentation and make them thoroughly entertaining. You can always work on building up your sleight of hand later.

4. Practice, practice, practice

A poorly practiced routine does the art of magic a disservice. More importantly, it's not very likely to amaze or astonish, because your performance will be lacking. A professional going through his routine might look casual and natural. But you can be sure that very little about what you're seeing is being spontaneously ad-libbed on the spur of the moment. A successful and polished performer is exactly that: well polished. You need to be able to do the moves and techniques required without thinking about them. Also, you need to know exactly what you are going to say. If you haven't practiced these things, your mind will be working over-time, trying to remember what to say and do.

Good magic has a high degree of interaction and engagement with your spectators. How do you do this while creating a convincing and entertaining illusion that hides the secret? Here's how: you need to have practiced a lot before performing. The more you practice, the better you'll get, and you'll only enjoy your magic all the more!

5. Do make it seem impossible

Ultimately good magic is about creating the illusion of something impossible. The more impossible it seems, the stronger it is. Of course it isn't actually impossible - after all, if it was then you wouldn't be able to do it!

Nevertheless, you want to perform a trick in a way so that any possible explanation is eliminated. So think carefully about what might be going on in the mind of your spectator. If they can think of a possible method of accomplishing what they've seen, even if it's not the method you used, they won't be amazed.

Do they think that you've stacked the deck? Then let them shuffle the deck first. Do they think the cards are marked? Then let them examine them. Do they think you have a card hidden in your hand? Then show your hand empty. Anticipate their thinking, and deliberately disprove those methods as you go along. That's how you'll create greater astonishment!

6. Don't learn too much

When learning magic, it's easy to make the mistake of taking on too much. In that sense magic is no different than many other passions in life. When you first discover a passion, the temptation is to buy everything you can, and do everything at once.

To become really good at magic,

you need to be disciplined and selective. It is vital to present your material well, so you want to give yourself the opportunity to become a true master of whatever it is that you are performing.

The classic book *Expert Card Technique* offers this invaluable advice: "Those new to card conjuring would do well if, instead of attempting to learn a great number of tricks, they would instead concentrate upon a few good tricks and master them so that their technique and their presentation is so excellent that those who see them will want to see them again."

7. Don't buy tons of tricks

Whenever you're enthusiastic about something, it's easy to indulge your passion by spending money on it. And in magic, it's really not difficult to find things to on which to spend your money. Magic creators are only too happy to take your money.

Trust me, the latest and greatest tricks might all look good, but they don't always deliver on what they promise. Don't spend your money on one trick after another, but realize that most of these will eventually be collecting dust in a drawer somewhere.

In fact, it can be a good move instead to start by focusing on classics that have been tried and tested over

time. With a couple of decks of cards and a good teaching resource, you can get a lot of mileage, especially if you're just starting your adventure into magic.

In the end it's more fun to master and improve something you already know, and to learn something from what you already have. That's better than to be constantly spending money and trying new things.

Magic doesn't have to be expensive, and you may even improve more quickly if you aren't buying the latest and greatest on a regular basis! Of course, once you have a solid foundation in magic, you can explore the latest and greatest effects - but they are usually not the best place to start.

8. Get some good books or DVDs

As a student of magic, do yourself a big favor and learn from the best. Sure, you can head to social media and start watching video after video on card trick tutorials you find there. Unfortunately, a lot of magic on YouTube and other social media platforms is mediocre. It is often performed by untrained younger people who have learned what they know from other untrained youngsters.

You'll learn bad habits and bad technique. And perhaps most importantly, you won't learn the thing that arguably matters the most: good presentation. Even a basic trick in

the hands of a professional magician can look amazing if well presented.

A stunning trick taught badly won't impress anyone. So if you want to progress, learn from a real magician, and get some good books and DVDs that will teach you how to do things properly. Start with the classic books and then choose some books and DVDs from authors you find appealing to you.

It's a small investment, but one that you won't regret. Spending a little money on some good teaching materials is better than spending a fortune on more tricks.

9. Watch performances by professionals

One of the best way to learn how to present magic well is by watching experts doing their thing. This is something different than the previous tip, because I'm not talking here about teaching materials that explain how to do tricks.

By watching a pro perform, you'll learn a great deal about presenting magic and being entertaining. Only by knowing what good magic looks like will you be able to strive for this in your own performances. The more you watch, the more you will subconsciously absorb different techniques. And you will get ideas for script or story which will help you develop your own ability as a magician. Fortunately you can readily find this kind of material

online, and much can be learned from it.

Watch shows like Penn and Teller, or dig up clips by master magicians with great scripts like Tommy Wonder and Juan Tamariz. In the process you'll be growing as well as being entertained by the best!

10. Don't copy cat

As a beginner, it's easy to make the mistake of copying everything that you see on a magic video. When you're just starting out, this doesn't matter too much. It's a natural thing that happens, because you're learning everything from scratch.

However, it is important to realize that you need to develop your own persona and style. Not every magician's style will be right for you. Just because it works for them, doesn't mean it will be a good fit for you. So you'll have to adjust your script and presentation to fit your own personality and style. Rather than just parrot everything you see by becoming a clone and imitator, try to be comfortable with who you are and develop your own style.

Finally, remember to have fun! If you're no longer enjoying magic, take a break. Magic isn't for everyone, and that's okay! And if you are getting frustrated because something isn't working or going as well as you'd like, put it away and come back to it another day. In the end, it doesn't just have to be fun for your audience,

but also for you!

Magic can be incredibly rewarding. The more effort you put into honing your craft, the more satisfying it will become for you and for those who have the privilege of seeing you perform.

Let me quote again from the Expert Card Technique book, which cites David Devant. "One trick, well done, is of greater value than a dozen tricks performed in a slipshod manner." So go out there and master that trick and amaze!



Editor's note:

Thank you, David for your wonderful article. A lot of good advice here! I'd just like to add another excellent resource under #9 "Watch performances by professionals."

Be sure to check out Magicana.

Although it will soon become part of Genii, the Magicana **screening Room** is - at this point - available at <https://magicana.ca>

There you can watch performers like Dell O'Dell, Juan Tamariz & Ross Bertram. There is also a collection of versions and variations of the Cups & Balls from performers like René Lavand, David Williamson, Paul Gernter, Johnny Thompson and Ross Bertram.

Doug Henning learns about real Magic

By Danny Goldmith

I wanted to share a special story with you, one that's really impacted how I think about magic.

You've most likely heard of the iconic magician, Doug Henning. In 1971 he got the rare chance to perform magic for the Inuit people. Here's the story told from his own perspective:

...They sat on the floor in their parkas, and I did what I thought was some pretty good stuff. They just sat there, didn't smile, didn't say a word and, at the end, nobody applauded. But they were completely focused on me, like I was some sort of phenomenon. Only one of them spoke English, so I asked him, "Did you like the show?"

"Yes, we like the show," He said.

Then I asked, "Did everyone like the magic?"

He said, "The magic?"

I explained that I was trying to entertain people.

He said, "Entertainment is good, but why are you doing magic? The whole world is magical..." We sat down on the floor and he told me

"It's magic that the snow falls, all those little crystals are completely different... that's magic."

Now I was gasping, trying to explain magic to him. I thought of my "Zombie," which I thought was my best thing. I said, "I made that beautiful silver ball float in the air... That's magic."

Then the Inuit's started talking among themselves. The man came to me with a big smile on his face, and said, "Now, we know why you're doing that. It's because your people have forgotten the magic. You're doing it to remind them of magic. Well done!"

I cried right then... I said, "Thank you for teaching me about the magic. I didn't know." That was really the first time I knew what wonder was. It was the most memorable thing that has ever happened to me. I never forgot that, inside. That's why I became a magician.

The Inuit man in Henning's story said "the whole world is magical." But what does that really mean? I believe he was referring to the experience of appreciating the world as if seeing for the first time, free of

concept. Take the sun in the sky for example. We can explain scientifically and conceptually why there's a flaming floating ball in the sky. It's not magical in the sense of something supernatural, but it is magical in the sense that it is profound and beautiful and exists beyond our concepts of it. Yes, you can conceptualize it, but that doesn't touch the actual experience of it, you can't capture the essence of something so beautiful and profound by reducing it to just words and explanation. If we look closely, every aspect of existence can be appreciated in this way as deeply magical.

But most people have indeed forgotten this kind of ordinary magic, too distracted by their concepts of how things are to appreciate life with a sense of wonder.

As magicians, it's literally our job to evoke a sense of wonder in others, to give them a magical experience that goes beyond their conceptual understanding of how reality should work. We want them to feel so enchanted by the experience that they don't mind their conceptual lens being dissolved before them. We want to create a moment that they can just simply appreciate. In this way, we truly have the opportunity to remind our people of a deeper sense of magic, the kind that permeates all of life.

The psychology of wonder is something I've studied and contem-

plated for many years, learning how best to apply it to the art of magic. These years of exploration culminated in what I consider to be my magnum opus, my project *Mythos*. If you're curious to learn more about how to evoke a deep sense of wonder through your magic, and learn the most powerful sleight I've ever created, check out the trailer below.

I think what I appreciate most about Doug's story is that it reminds us, as magicians of the deeper potential and purpose within our craft. Yes, we're entertainers. But we also have the potential to deeply touch people's hearts and positively impact their lives.

Warm Wishes,

Danny Goldsmith



Danny Goldsmith is a phenomenal coin Magician, and his newsletter is full of great inspiration philosophy. This article first appeared in Danny's Newsletter, and he was kind enough to give me permission to re-print it here.

Be sure to check out his Website at: <https://www.dannygoldsmithmagic.com/>

Check out his tutorials and lectures, read his blog and be sure to sign up for his outstanding newsletter.

Next meetings:

Tuesday, 13th May 2025
ON LINE Virtual meeting.

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

(Please sign in at about 6:45pm)

Thursday, 15th May 2025
In Person meeting.

Denny's
106 Elwood Davis Road
Liverpool NY

(Please come at 6:00 if you plan to eat)

Save the Date!

Tue.13th May

ZOOM meeting

Thu.15th May

In Person meeting
Denny's

Tue.10th June

ZOOM meeting

Thu.19th June (Election of Officers)

In Person meeting
Denny's??

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