

THE SALT CITY MAGIC CLUB

Wandogram



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

September
2025





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 7:00pm
the second Tuesday of every month virtually via Zoom,
and
the third Tuesday of every month IN PERSON**

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Submission deadline:

First Thursday of the month

Mark Wilson

This month's cover illustration - used by permission - is another work of Magician and A.I. artist, Chris Meece

This month features Mark Wilson.

James Mark Wilson, known professionally as Mark Wilson,

began his interest in magic when he was eight years old and saw a magician named Tommy Martin perform at a hotel in Indianapolis, where the Wilson family were staying at the time.

Later, as a teenager, he became a clerk and demonstrator at Douglas Magicland in Dalas Texas, and started performing at small functions.

Studying Marketing in college was an important part of his later career.

As television started to grow, he created a local show entitled "Time for Magic" in 1955. Using his marketing training, he got Dr. Pepper to sponsor the show. He then expanded the show from Dallas, to include Houston and San Antonio.

In 1960, when videotape was developed, Wilson created

the first show to be videotaped and nationally syndicated. The original black and white "Magic Land of Allakazam." Every Saturday morning, Kids tuned in to see Magic, performed on television.

His wife, Nani Darnell, assisted him and they were joined by Bev Bergeron, who helped write the shows and played the character Rebo the Clown. At this time, Kellogs sponsored the show.

The three toured State fairs during the summer, and made appearances on other network TV shows.

For the first year of 39 shows, Carl Owen building the illusions, then a young John Gaughan took over the illusion building on the second year. This group was the nucleus that brought a new look to magic illusions that are still being used today.

The show followed a formula which Wilson devised and which he believed was essential for the success of magic on television—there should be a live audience, there should not be a cut from one view to another during a trick, and viewers should know that they were seeing exactly what the studio audience saw.

Mark Wilson is widely credited as the first major television magician, and in the process established the viability of illusion shows as a television format.

Penn & Teller said: “Prior to Wilson, magic on TV was limited to short spots on shows like Ed Sullivan’s. Wilson pioneered the idea that there was a wide audience for a television series based on magic.”

Countless Magicians have been inspired to take up Magic, by watching Mark Wilson on TV.

Later in his career, Mark Wilson performed all over the world with his wife and their sons, Greg and Mike. Wilson also taught celebrities like Cary Grant, Bill Bixby and Johnny Carson how to employ magic in their work, and produced Magic effects for films, TV productions,

commercials, amusement parks and live attractions.

In 1975, he published his *Mark Wilson's Complete Course In Magic*, which is still in production in various forms around the world.

A founding member of the Magic Castle in Hollywood, Mark Wilson has twice won Magician of the Year and the Masters Fellowship from The Academy of Magical Arts Magic Castle; the prestigious David Devant Award from England’s Magic Circle; named Superstar of Magic by the International Brotherhood of Magicians; elected to The Society of American Magicians Hall of Fame; and received countless additional honors.

In a twelve-month survey readers of *MAGIC Magazine* named Mark Wilson one of the ten most influential American magicians of the 20th century, along with Houdini, Thurston, Copperfield, Blackstone, Henning, Siegfried and Roy, Tarbell, Cardini and Dai Vernon.

Mark Wilson died at age 91, in 2021. In his lifetime he had an enormous impact on the world of Magic!

MARK WILSON





Sparkles from the Wand of the Silver Wizard

Kenneth Frehm

Order of Merlin, Shield
Life Member of Ring #74

Mother Nature must have her running shoes on as this Summer has flown by at astonishing speeds. Our city has been treated to the most ninety-plus degree days on record. Fall is fast approaching and performing outdoors will once again be a pleasure.

By the time you read this, our Ring would have celebrated its' Summer BBQ. This is always a fun social time. Of course, we will have performed a free magic show for the public as well as entertained our friends and family who joined us. Details will be recapped in The Linking Ring as well as our Wandogram.

Magicians David MacBlane and Ken Frehm had the pleasure of entertaining at an adult birthday party. We received the lead from the flyer which highlighted our club. Brian Sikora was responsible for includ-

ing our advertisement at zero cost to our treasury. The venue was at a private home that had a raised deck which we used as the stage. All chairs were moved onto the lawn. There were about thirty adults and a few youngsters in attendance. David and I did about thirty minutes each for a very appreciative audience. After the stage show, we were invited inside to perform 'close-up' magic behind a well-appointed bar. We came away from the event glowing from the responses and the "thanks" we received. Once again, I realized that doing magic provides so much joy to both the audience as well we, the entertainers! The monies earned from the show were generously contributed by David and Ken back to our treasury.

Our monthly Zoom meeting was held on the second Tuesday of the month. As I was visiting family, Robina Pierce,

the wonderful wizard from Texas took the reins. Howard Hamburg, the card-master extraordinaire joined the session and wowed those on the call. HH, (as I call him) recently won prestigious awards for his lecturing and skill. These awards were from the Magic Castle as well as other world-wide magic fraternities.

As our treasury was at a low point, a request for donations went out to help cover the yearly Zoom fee. Almost everyone who joins these sessions responded and kicked in some money. Our Zoom program was funded for another year. Thank-you!

On the third Tuesday of every month, our Ring meets at The Spaghetti Warehouse. We have a great room that serves

us well. It is private and perfectly suited for doing magic. Tom Bresadola and Bruce Purdy have been bringing backdrops and a perfectly suited table for performing close-up.

The venue also provides terrific, well-priced Italian food for those who show up around six P.M. Any business items are dealt with expeditiously and the magic portion starts promptly at 7:15. There is absolutely no pressure put on anyone to either eat there or perform. Everyone is encouraged to come, join us and enjoy each other's company as well as seeing and doing some great magic! Hope to see you there.

Abracadabra

Kenneth Frehm, President

Bizarro



Staying Humble

By David MacBlane

This week I want to explore what magicians can learn from some of history's most famous figures.

One of the early thought leaders in Quantum Physics was Albert Einstein.

Albert Einstein (1879–1955) was a German-born theoretical physicist renowned for revolutionizing science with his theory of relativity, encapsulated in the famous equation $E=mc^2$.

For those of you who don't have a physics degree, E is Energy, m is the mass of the energy and c is the speed of light. Given that the speed of light is 186,000 miles per second, when that number is squared it becomes a huge number of 34,596,000,000. This helped him win some coveted honors.

His work reshaped our understanding of space, time, and energy, earning him the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for his explanation of the photoelectric

effect.

A symbol of intellectual genius, Einstein was also a humanitarian and advocate for peace, often speaking out against war and racism.

Here are three lessons for magicians I took away from his life and legacy...

Embrace Curiosity:

Einstein's insatiable curiosity led him to question the universe's deepest mysteries.

We've always believed that curiosity is one of the greatest qualities any top magician can have.

In a more basic example, it's curiosity that most often leads us to purchase new magic (so we know all of you on this list have that quality).

Using that same energy we can continuously use our curiosity to explore new concepts, techniques, and ways to engage audiences.

Persistence Pays Off:

Einstein spent years refining his ideas despite setbacks.

We'll never forget when we asked Andi Gladwin what the most important thing any magician could do, and he basically just said practice.

It is shocking how many magicians don't practice, when that's literally the most important thing we can do to be able to perform.

Not just practice in terms of being alone in our rooms working on a double lift, but also getting out there and getting real life experience.

Your persistence will pay off!

Stay Humble and Playful:

Despite his genius, Einstein

remained humble and had a playful sense of humor.

Magicians need to maintain this same sense of humility so we too can experience on a regular basis a sense of wonder. When we do this our audiences will feel that, and it keeps our art fun and accessible.

Don't be afraid to get in touch with the side of you that started enjoying magic in the first place.

What lessons would you take away from Einstein? Feel free to email me at davidmacblane@gmail.com with your thoughts.

This will enable you to perform incredible magic that will gain more and more traction as you move forward.



NOTICE

As this Wandogram goes to press, the date of the October meeting is up in the air. Apparently, our room has been booked for a large event on our regular meeting night (as shown on page 11). We might meet somewhere else in the building, or on a different night. Please watch your eMails, or check our website, for updated information.

Ring #74 Scribe's Report

By
Joey Hoffman

We had seven members for the August in-person meeting. Changing meeting locations to the Spaghetti Warehouse has been a very welcome change. If you haven't been in a while, come check it out in October!

TJ had a deck filled with cards with different casinos on the back, along with a single poker chip left in the card box. The cards were shuffled and he began dealing cards face down until Tom told him when to stop. The card was moved aside and left face down. TJ explained that our casino had been chosen and now we must select a card. Again, cards were dealt until TJ was told to stop on the 3 of Hearts. TJ then emptied the card box revealing a poker chip from our chosen casino on one side, and the selected card on the other.

Mathew Dowd had two Jokers face up on the table, and instructed TJ to select a card. One Joker was placed at the top and the other on the bottom. The selected card was placed into the middle of the deck. Matt gave the deck a few cuts and spread them out. There was now a card sandwiched between the two Jokers, TJ's chosen card.

Bruce Pudry shared cups and balls routine using a single larger bowl. An empty bowl was placed

down and 3 balls magically appeared underneath. He then took each ball one by one and made them disappear!

I had Matt select a card and keep it face down. After doing a magical gesture over it, the angel on the back started to vanish. It then reappeared next to the other angel on the other side of the card.

Ken Frehm shared a routine with a story about the Queen of the Card Sharks. He shuffled the cards and explained that he could cut to a four of a kind. He cut the cards revealing an Ace, and placed it face down. He did this three more times each time cutting to an Ace. When the cards were turned over, they were Queens!

There is NO IN-PERSON meeting for September. Instead, we will be having our annual BBQ at Clay Central Park, Sunday, Sept. 7th. Our zoom meeting will still be on the second Tuesday as usual. The meeting starts at 7, so try to sign on or get there a little before. Interested? Email kfrehm@gmail.com and a link will be sent to. We welcome all!

Joey Hoffman

Secretary for Ring #74

Next meetings:

Tuesday, 9th September 2025

ON LINE Virtual meeting.

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

(Please sign in at about 6:45pm)

NO In Person meet-
ing this month.
Due to Picnic

Save the Date!

Tue. 9th September

ZOOM meeting

Tue. 16th September

NO Meeting this month!

Tue. 14th October

ZOOM meeting

Tue. 21st October

In Person meeting
Spaghetti Warehouse

Tue. 11th November

ZOOM meeting

Tue. 18th November

In Person meeting
Spaghetti Warehouse

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