

THE SALT CITY MAGIC CLUB

Wandogram



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

January
2026



Cover art by Chris Meece

Mac King
(See page 4)



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

ALWAYS REMEMBER



"There is MAGIC in a Smile"

George Becker

Ken Frehm 12/2026

Mac King

by Bruce Purdy

On the NBC The World's Greatest Magic specials, Mac King taught the audience a minor effect before and after each commercial in segments referred to as the Mac King School of Magic. He is the only magician to be in all five of the network's specials.

This is where I first became familiar with Mac King. But who is he, and how did he get to where he is today?

Mac King was born December 2, 1959 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. As a teenager, Mac started performing, together with his friend Lance Burton, at "Toomstone Junction," a Kentucky amusement park. Together, they played seven days a week, three shows a day, (sometimes five on the weekend!) They did this together for three years, then when Lance got more successful, Mac continued alone for a few more.

As the comedy club boom started, Mac jumped on the bandwagon. Over the next nineteen years his career took off, to such an extent that for years he did over 200 shows a year.

In the nineties he began to do television specials, and to appear at Las Vegas casinos.

In January 2000, King became a permanent act at Harrah's, performing 10 shows a week, for twenty years.

In 2021 Mac King moved to the Excalibur, where he is currently the longest running one-man show in the history of Las Vegas.

Amongst Mac's signature pieces, is his "Cloak of Invisibility." (Look it up on YouTube if you aren't familiar with it.) In this routine, he dons a yellow raincoat, which he claims to make him invisible. In this hilarious routine, he claims that this is how he invisibly transfers cards from one volunteer to the other.

This "Cards Across," is but one example of how he turns essentially a close-up effect, into a stage act in front of thousands of people - WITHOUT resorting to video projection.

Most of King's act uses volunteers on stage. Each piece requires a specific type of person -

they all must be expressive and outgoing, not reserved, but one may need a certain type of man, another a couple and still another a young woman.

(Do YOU think it through like that?)

As he explained on a recent interview, he knows exactly who he is going to use well in advance.


During his FIRST (solo) routine - his rope routine - he is watching reactions, and mentally selecting WHO he will call on for

each of the following parts of the show!

As the interviewer said, "It's like a master's class in how to manage your show!"

SO much better than "Would someone like to volunteer?"





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

Kenneth Frehm

Order of Merlin, Shield
Life Member of Ring #74

As this is being written in December, we are now planning and making arrangements for our holiday banquet. It will be held on January 10, 2026. As you know, we will be celebrating at a new venue; The American Legion Hall on James St. in Syracuse. Many of us are working hard to make this a successful event. TJ is heading up the effort and is doing a great job. We are expecting a large turnout of magicians, friends, and families. A full recap will be forthcoming.

A look at our past year reveals that our magic club held many activities. The I.B.M. Ring, The Salt City Magic Club is alive, well and becoming better each month. Our club holds two meetings every month. A Zoom meeting occurs on the second Tuesday of the month. Approximately 6-10 magicians get together virtually and share new effects, talk magic and perform. This modern E-miracle has allowed us to see

and socialize with our friends from Rochester, Ithaca, Pennsylvania, Texas and sometimes overseas! On the third Tuesday of each month our In-Person meeting is held at a local restaurant. A short business session is held, and those attending have a chance to chat over a hot dinner or coffee and dessert. We lost our regular meeting place as the restaurant closed its doors after many decades of operations.

GREAT NEWS! Through the generous donation of one of our members, we have secured The American Legion Hall for the next twelve months! This is great news as the location is ideal for our needs. There are some responsibilities that we will need to uphold as we enjoy the benefits of this venue.

Our Ring has a very beautiful website. Ring Vice President David MacBlane is our web master who works on this project almost every

day! David also wrote us a new theme song. It's a real work of musical art that shares some of the wonder of magic with anyone who listens. The lyrics are all about magic! Be sure to check out our fantastic website; saltcitymagic.com

Bruce Purdy, our Treasurer, puts out a fantastic e-magazine "The Wandogram." This is distributed to over two hundred of our Ring's associates and friends as well as published on the web.

Joey Hoffman, our Ring's Scribe submits a monthly write-up to I.B.M.'s international audience in The Linking Ring, as well as sends "Get Well" cards to those listed on the "Sick & Convalescent" page of The Linking Ring. David Hanselman serves as Sgt. @ Arms and provides sage advice as well as others such as David Kilpatrick, TJ and Tom Bresadola.

It's always rewarding to look back and see what was accomplished. This gives us an opportunity to say "Thanks" for those who contributed as well as those of you who shared your time and talents. While it is true not every decision we made was a perfect one, but hopefully we will learn from any mistakes and take steps to be better.

This is also an appropriate time

to look ahead. What do we need to do to make our magic club even greater than it is? We certainly are a group of very different individuals. We are united with a common love of performing magic. Bringing joy and entertainment to those around us ties us together as a "Brotherhood." What would YOU like to do this new year? What skills and talents will you share? What project or undertaking would be good for you and others in our magic organization?

I know I speak for all your officers. We are looking forward to working and having fun with everyone of you. I would like to wish you, your families and loved ones, a very happy, joyous, and most of all a healthy new year. May everything that you wish for yourself come true!

Abracadabra

Kenneth Frehm

P.S. Included in this issue of Wandogram (on page 10) is the answer to 2nd (and last) Scramble puzzle. Alas, it will be discontinued as they were so many answers that took so long to review...;. The prize of a full set of Tarbell's Magic books and a genuine sterling silver Chop Cup was given to the first person who answered correctly.

Share Your Magic

By David MacBlane

Happy New Year!

As the holidays wind down, I thought it would be appropriate to share what I think will improve you as a magician and a humanitarian.

Although Christmas and all other winter celebrations are winding down this should definitely improve your skills and in that spirit I wanted to share one of the ideas that over the years has become one of my core beliefs about magic.

Be prepared. What that means is that you should always be willing to perform for your spectators. When I say “share the magic” it has nothing to do with exposing the method. It’s about being prepared to entertain when called upon.

To tell you the truth, I used to dislike telling people that I’ve worked in the magic industry because I was afraid of the inevitable follow up question, “Can I see a magic trick?”

If that question puts you on edge, then you should be prepared to perform at any time.

We used to complain that people wouldn’t ask most other people to spontaneously showcase their profession. For example, nobody meets a plumber and immediately asks them to “show me some plumbing!” or asks an

accountant to “take a quick look at my finances please?”

Here are three reasons why I’ve changed my mind:

1. One day I realized that most people have never actually seen a truly great magician in real life.

In fact, according to my research, some people don’t even believe that the magic they see on TV could be done in person because they’ve never seen anything better than the 21 card trick in front of them.

Which means that as a magician, you have the ability to give people a memory they’ll remember for the rest of their lives at almost zero cost to you and just a few minutes of your time.

It’s a hugely asymmetric trade—you take two minutes out of your day to do something you’re supposedly passionate about anyway - and get in some extra practice reps, and they get an experience they might have never had otherwise.

When you think of it that way, while you might not actually be able to make a card float, or a coin disappear—you really are carrying around a superpower.

2. If you’re not ready to perform impromptu for strangers, maybe it’s a skill issue.

The other awkward truth

we had to confront at some point was this:

Maybe the reason we disliked strangers asking us to show them some magic was simply because we weren’t good enough.

It’s a pretty good litmus test—you’ll know you’ve reached a certain level of skill when you can go around life with confidence that in any situation you’ll be ready to perform if needed.

3. The reason people don’t ask plumbers to “show them some plumbing!” is because plumbing is boring. Magic isn’t.

But truth is that of course people don’t ask plumbers and accountants to demonstrate their work—why would they?

If anything, it’s a compliment that what I do is

interesting enough that people actually want to see it.

So the comparison to do a crazy trick is moot when you think about what you may have in your magic case or closet.

With all those reasons in mind, my mindset now is simple:

I’ll very rarely perform magic unsolicited - although my colleagues and I love to go to a pub or restaurant and roam to find someone for whom we perform - but when solicited I almost always perform.

This is why magic is a “gift” and not just for the spectators, but for you too!

So, as we move into the new year, let’s get out there and share our art/craft to as many people as possible!

Have a GREAT YEAR!!

We should never allow presentation to become a casualty of method.

Tommy Wonder

Last month's Aswers



SILVER WIZARD'S MAGIC SCRAMBLE

K R D M A E MARKED

S H U C O U C O P S HOCUS POCOS

H N I E N G N HENNING

E L E N D E NEEDLE

N I G W WING

R A H I HAIR

L O F E D O FOOLED

The Audience Gaspd When The Magician:

S A W E D H E R I N H A L F

MAGICAL PRIZE AWARDED TO FIRST CORRECT ANSWER

Send to: kfrehm@gmail.com

12/1/2025 V.2

Next meetings:

Tuesday, 13th January 2026
ON LINE Virtual meeting.

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

(Please sign in at about 6:45pm)

There will be NO
In Person meeting in January
Due to the Banquet on the 10th.

Save the Date!

Sat. 10th January

Post-Holiday Banquet
American Legion (Eastwood)

Tue. 13th January

ZOOM Meeting

Tue. 10th February

ZOOM Meeting

Tue. 17th February

In-Person Meeting

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