

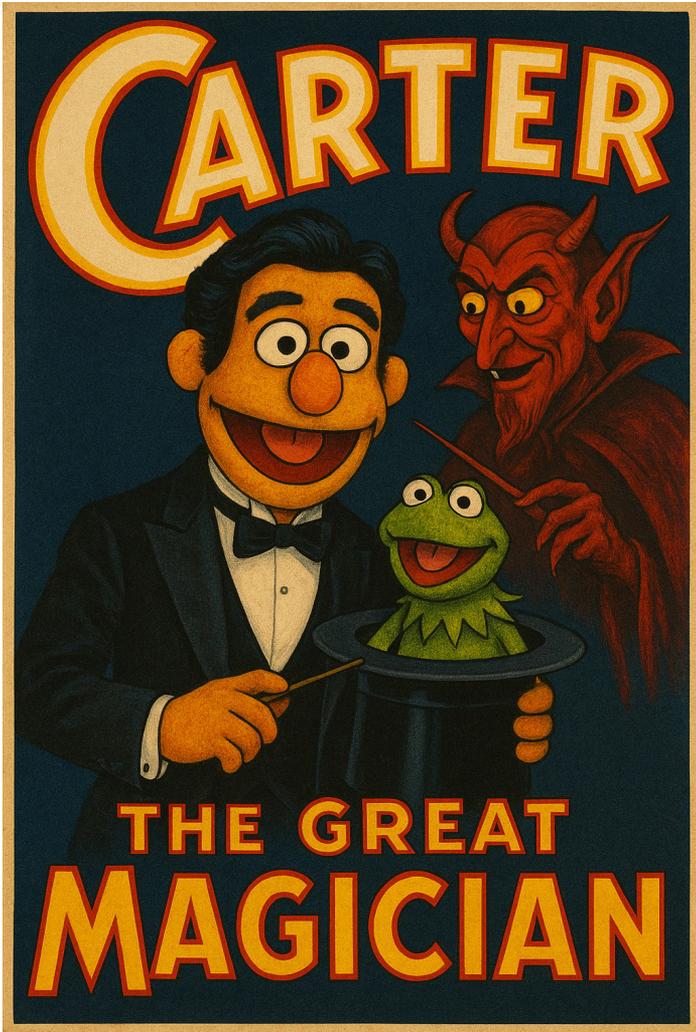
THE SALT CITY MAGIC CLUB

Wandogram



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

March 2026



Cover art by Chris Meece



*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**

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

Public Show

On Saturday, May 30th, We will be presenting a public show at the American Legion. (our new home.)

David MacBlane will be producing the show - in charge of all of the arrangements. Soon there will be on-line ticketing in place, and publicity will start to roll out.

We are looking for as much club member involvement as possible. We will need:

- Stage performers (Again, David will be making the final decisions)
- Close-up performers to mingle before the show
- Someone to sell tickets at the door, and to check in advance ticket holders
- People to distribute flyers
- Once we have social media marketing in place, please share posts on your own page.
- and much more.

If David contacts you please agree to pitch in. If you have any ideas, or want to volunteer, please contact David.

Lets all have fun, and produce a wonderful show!

Carter

by Bruce Purdy

Charles Joseph Carter was born June 14, 1874, in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

At ten years old, he appeared as "Master Charles Carter the Original Boy Magician." Within just a few more years, he was touring all over the US, as a professional magician.

This was the era of "The Golden Age of Magic," and Carter found there was too much competition of magic acts on American stages, so he went to Europe, where he gained fame. This gave him a certain international mystique by the time he returned to America.

Some of the highlights of Carter's stage performances during his career were the classic "sawing a woman in half" illusion (an elaborate surgical-themed version with "nurses" in attendance), and "Cheating the gallows," where a shrouded Carter would vanish, just as he dropped at the end of a hangman's noose.

Another was a simple chair attached to ropes. His wife Corinne would sit in the chair and be

hoisted several feet in the air. Upon his command, she would vanish into thin air and the chair would fall to the ground! He originally called this illusion "The Magical Divorce." However, his wife didn't find that quite as funny as he did, and he changed the name of the illusion to "The Phantom Bride."

Carter was often topical, devising acts that were inspired by recent events that captured the public's imagination, such as the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb in 1922 or John Dillinger's famous jailbreak in 1934.

His wife, Corinne, assisted him in the show, as did their son Lawrence, who would eventually take over his father's show after Carter's death.

When Carter was his 40s, he took a break from touring. He settled with his family in Chicago, where he undertook several business ventures. He also enrolled in law school, from which he graduated in 1905.

After returning to performing, and touring the world for seven tours, he again took a

break from performing. In 1917 he purchased the famous Martinka Magic Palace in New York City.

The Martinka brothers built sets and props for all the major touring illusionists in the back room of their store. They even provided illusions for the film "The Wizard of Oz." Carter had plans to open Martinka Magic Shops around the country, but he sold out two years later when he found he was losing money in the magic store business.

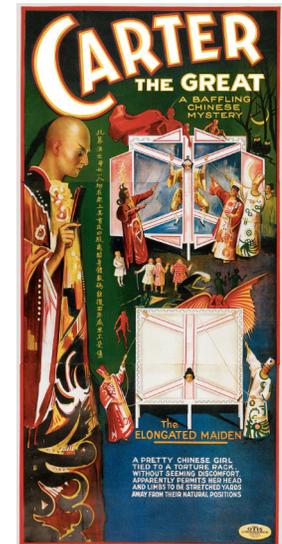
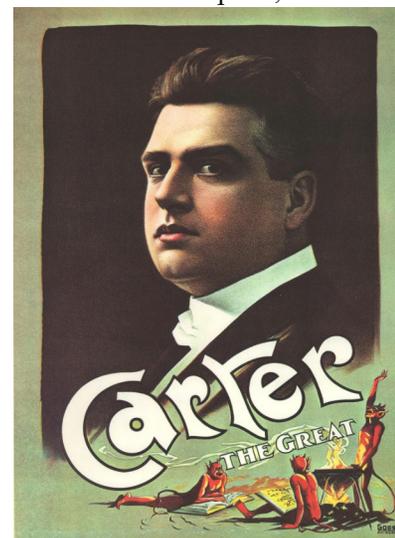
In the 20s and 30s, Carter and family were again touring the world, and playing to packed houses.

In 1936, Charles Joseph Carter suffered a heart attack on his way to Bombay, India. He was sent to a hospital, and his

son Larry took over the show. Carter died from a second heart attack on February 13, 1936 at aged 61

Carter's true home was always San Francisco, where he owned a sprawling house near the Pacific Ocean. He performed for small groups in the basement.

When I lived in California, I used to see shows and lectures at a club called "The Magic Cellar" in the basement of Mcgoon's jazz club. The Magic cellar displayed lots of Carter's original illusions, including a huge "Elongated Maiden" illusion shown in the poster below. The walls were lined with Carter's posters as well.



Up Your Game: ONE Big Effect

Bruce Purdy

As magicians, often we just don't know when to stop!

Whether on stage or close-up, we often "over prove" that there is no gimmick, that the hands are empty, or that this is an "ordinary" rope or deck of cards.

By simply handling props or making logical gestures with open hands, the spectators can see (or think they see) that our hands are empty. No need to say "See, my hands are empty," or otherwise pointing it out.

"An ordinary deck of cards," or "Please examine these cards and see that they are ordinary," are unnecessary, and in fact plant the idea in their mind that they might not be!

This may seem obvious, yet I frequently see these things done. Yes, there are times when doing so intentionally for the sake of comedy fits, when but when it's a true magical effect, avoid doing so.

Knowing when to stop is another common problem.

I recently saw a rehearsal video on Facebook, by "Ryland - The Kid Magician." Much of his work is actually pretty good, but the one I'm referring to involved the Dancing Cane. I could clearly see that—and a lot of the comments backed me up—the routine just lasted too long! He recorded it outdoors, but the "secret" was really not visible, and his handling was good, but what should have been a fairly short bit, went on and on. The cane flew all over, then made a number of circles around his body and then flew around some more! At one point, either it becomes boring, or at least no longer magical.

I've seen people fly a floating table all over the stage. "It was expensive, so I want to get my money's worth!" "The more it flies around, first by myself, then again with a volunteer, the more amazing it is!" Both excuses are entirely wrong. The amount of time

you use a prop has no relation to the price.

When a table slowly floats up off the floor, it looks like a miracle. When it flies all over the stage for several minutes, it stops being a miracle, and becomes just a magic trick! The audience stops grasping, and starts wondering "How does it work, and How is he doing it?" It becomes merely a puzzle, rather than magic.

This point was made at the last Poe's Magical Conference, regarding a Spirit Bell. During a seance or serious magic performance, if the bell rings all my itself, it's a miracle. It's a response from 'the other side.' If it happens twice during the act, it still is

mysterious. If it rings four or five times, it becomes a mere magic trick, and no longer amazing.

Yet there are Magicians, who call out to the spirits, asking them to ring the bell to indicate the chosen card! Seven bell rings means it was the value of seven. "Ring once if it was Red, or twice if it was black," and so on. A good spirit bell is expensive, but if you over use it, you are wasting money and not achieving true magic!

If you truly want to be a Magician, and create a memorable event for your audience, remember that less is more!





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

Kenneth Frehm

Order of Merlin, Shield
Life Member of Ring #74

Many good things happened in February for our Ring. The most important being that we secured The American Legion Hall for our regular meetings.

TJ Yeldon spearheaded this endeavor. With the input from a few members, I met with their representative and hammered out an "Agreement."

We will have our "In-Person" meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month for the next year. This venue is perfect for our get-togethers.

It meets all our requirements and has an actual stage (and kitchen) for our use. The Legion will also be open for us to hold our own public shows.

As you know, our expenses have increased and our treasury surely needs funding. At a recent meeting, the execs put their heads together and we

planned our first money-maker. We will be holding our first public show in quite a while. Mark your calendars as this event will take place on May 30th.

Our Vice President, David MacBlane will take the lead for this important event. We're coming up with some of the parameters now. We'll be deciding on timing, ticket prices, and other necessary criteria. Yes, we'll need everyone's participation!

This will be a group effort. Leading up to the event, we will ask you to get the word out. Having a great turnout will be the key requirement.

Who can you approach to come to our magic show? We'll be putting up flyers, announcements on our website and encouraging as many as possible to join us. The show will be open to all, and the program will be enjoyed by adults

and kids of all ages. Stay tuned and we will update you often.

Once again, this will be a group effort. Thanks go out to Tom Bresadola and to those of you who answered his survey. Many of you asked for more learning opportunities.

We will be continuing our "D, T, and S" (Demonstrate, Teach and Share) program. Each of our meeting regulars will be asked to do a program. So, think about what you may have done in the past and come up with something new to do this year.

I spoke with Master Magician JimmyC recently and he promised to do a free lecture for our group as well as participating in another possible public show. If you attended his last lecture, you came away with a lot of doable magic and proven winners. He has lectured around the world and does hundreds of shows each year. Jimmy was not there to sell us stuff. His goal always is to help us become better performers and improved magicians.

This month, yours truly will be visiting his son on the Baja Peninsula in Mexico. We'll be doing some SCUBA diving and of course, holding some magic shows for his friends and community.

In April, I'm involved with helping at the 4F Convention as well as looking forward to the MAWNY one-day event.

MAWNY is a local (Buffalo) gala and enjoys some of the 4F performers. You will have an opportunity to experience some of the best in the world.

I will be hosting our Zoom meeting, as usual on the 10th of March. VP David MacBlane will heading up the In-Person one on the 17th.

I'm really looking forward to some warmer Spring weather. Getting outside and performing magic is beckoning. My advice is to always carry a couple of tricks in your pocket or in your wallet. Last week, I had two individuals exclaim, "Wow, thanks, you made my day!"

Abracadabra

Ken Frehm



But **Still doing Card Tricks?**

By David MacBlane

I think we all know that when someone announces that they are doing some “close-up” magic, there is an undoubtedly a deck of cards involved. There are standard cards, special decks and all kinds of combinations that make it difficult without the full use as the method.

We recently found some newspaper articles of me doing magic for a younger crowd. I was twelve when I did that show. Back then I had a cheap magic set so my aunt bought me a full magic kit replete with all of the great parlour/stage illusions, like cups and balls. Everything was made of cheap cardboard and plastic yet I still got good feedback regardless of my age.

However, the youngsters were very impressed, but I have never performed close-up for them. The stage show slowly died out as I was studying to learn new, cool card tricks.

The point is it doesn't matter whether you're leaving your home with a professional set of parlor tricks or a deck of cards.

I went on to practice with cards. And, I think if you look back on your history you'll find

that cards came into your skill set somewhere. If you've been into magic a few years, you might want to show it to your closest friends or a new group of people who are ready to see some magic.

It has been a long journey going from stage to parlor and close up, but here is my take on the whole idea of not just close up but also specifically card tricks.

There is always someplace to practice your routine at any level.

Why Do Card Tricks

I was on my way to perform for a private house party and it was set up with a pad on a coffee table, but it was a close-up situation.

As I was getting ready to set up, I asked myself a simple question:

“Why do I perform card tricks?”

It came to me as opposed to me searching it out. I'm about to go and pretend to a bunch of strangers that I have magical

abilities. the way I'm going to prove that to them...isthetators with

card tricks.

At some point, I was asked why I do card magic. The spectators seem to love it, but I come around to the same question.

Why should they care? If I were really magic, wouldn't I be spending my time using it for something a bit more meaningful?” This isn't a very profound question. Not really. The truth is, it's a question we've probably all asked ourselves—before quickly dismissing it.

“Oh, mellow out” we say. “Don't be a party pooper. People like card tricks. It's a great time for a bit of fun.”

nd that's usually enough to let us quit worrying about that and instead go back to worrying about whether we should end our Ambitious Card with the Omni Deck which if you've seen my earlier articles about my non-love of the Omni and the other choice like card to mouth but for some reason, on this particular occasion, that wasn't good enough for me.

“No, but seriously. Why card tricks? Magic is supposed to be art, so what makes card tricks meaningful?”

I couldn't stop thinking about it. I eventually found my answer in a very old book.

We're here to offer anyone and everyone the basics to do a magic trick with cards. That old book is known by some as The Bible but it could be the Quran or Torah because those are also books that enlighten you and help you with your decisions, Whether you're personally a fan of it or not, there are books that offer the best insight into what humans, over the last few thousand years, have decided is meaningful.

So, how does this relate to you? You have a limited time and need to crush expectations with your favorite card tricks.

That's all any of us want to do with the time we have on earth: Take the raw ingredients of whatever we've been served by life—often chaotic—and turn it into something we can be proud of. To find and create order in the chaos of life. That is exactly what magic does.

After ruminating over this idea for quite a while, I have

realized that Card Tricks are alive and booming if you're in the close-up genre.

The reason card tricks are meaningful is because they represent the deepest and most spiritual of human desires: to create order out of chaos.

That's the allure of the magician. The magician represents someone who has figured out how to create order out of chaos—and therefore embodies the highest ideal of life. (It sounds crazy but magicians already have pretty big egos...so I apologize for feeding the fire.)

Playing cards contain 52 unique values. When shuffled, there are nearly infinite ways to combine those values. In other words, a deck of cards is as good a symbol of randomness, of chaos, as you can find. In fact there are practically infinite results after a deck is shuffled. Just as an example A standard 52-card deck can be arranged in 52 factorial unique ways, which equals approximately 8 followed by 67 zeros or unvigintillion. This number is so large it is highly probable every properly shuffled deck in history has been unique.

So anytime a magician takes a pack of cards, shuffles it, and then does something magical with it, they're find-

ing order within that chaos. That's literally the script of the Triumph routine.

Just the other week, we were on a call with Spanish magician Joel Pablos, watching him perform some of his amazing Triumph-inspired routines. Each time he pushed face-up cards into face-down cards, he literally said "Let's create a really big chaos here."

Then, he did what we all know comes next—he took that 'big chaos' and magically turned it into order. Every card in the deck turned face up, aside from the chosen card.

Sure, on one level, he just did a card trick. But on another level, he demonstrated that he apparently has complete mastery of the one thing we spend our entire lives chasing just a fraction of: the ability to turn order into chaos.

Not so silly when you think about it like that.

So, I still do card tricks in my repertoire and there is at least one member of our Ring that is an absolute card master. The final point is this: If you do your Card Magic at an elevated level, there is still a huge audience out there and they all love card tricks if presented properly (meaning you don't approach

your potential spectators with "Wanna see a card trick?"). If presented properly, Card Tricks are alive and ready to go!

If you're a stage, parlour, or close up performer, I can almost guarantee that you did something with cards along the

way.

So keep improving your card techniques. Card Tricks are timeless.

Until next month, "Imagine The Impossible"



Magic Humour

I went to school for magicians but failed the final exam. They were all trick questions

**q: what do u call a magician thats lost his magic?
a: ian**

I went to medical school for one year. it all went South when I cut the appendix out of my anatomy book

My Spanish friend is a magician and said he'd disappear on the count of three. He said Uni, dos, then poof he was gone without a tres.

I failed my mind reading exam, as nobody told me when and where the exam was!

Ring #74 Scribe's Report

By
Joey Hoffman

February 2027

We had eight members join us for our in-person meeting this month. Our new meeting place, The Eastwood American Legion has been really great. We even have our own stage now! If you haven't been in a while, come check it out.

Ken Frehm started off the night by wheeling out a 4x4 grid with squares on a white board. He wrote a number near the middle and had us call out other numbers as he began writing them into the squares. What appeared to be a random chaotic sequence of numbers and placing, turned out to be anything but, as the top row had all the digits of my birthday. Not only that, but every line top to bottom, left to right, and diagonal all added up to the same number. Ken also provided us with printed out instructions on how to perform the effect.

Bruce Purdy took out four cards and had Thomas choose one of them. He chose the top card. It was a Queen, and all of the other ones were Aces. Bruce

then grabbed a packet of cards, and placed a jumbo card face down on the table. He began dealing cards off the top until Thomas said stop. When Bruce stopped dealing, he took the card out, and turned it over along with the jumbo card and they matched!

David Macblane performed a great routine starting with changing the colors on a hot rod to all red. The hot rod then changed into a ball. He grabbed a clear balloon and blew it up, then pushed the ball right inside of the balloon! David then popped the balloon, and many different balls shot out of it.

David Kilpatrick did a rising card routine, where a selected card is placed back into the deck, and magically rises up. He showed us a few different methods and gimmicks that could be used to accomplish this. David also performed a few different silk changes and showed us the jumbo sized CardToon deck.

Thomas Yeldon shuffled a

deck of cards and gave them a cut, and had me take any card. The card was placed back into the deck and Thomas shuffled them once more. He had Tom yell out any number 1-52. 28 was called, and Thomas spread the cards and counted to the 28th card. He turned it over, and it was my card!

Tom Bresadola showed us the four Queens, and placed them face down on the table. He allowed Thomas to name any one of them. Thomas named the Queen of Diamonds. Tom then flipped over one of the cards, and it was our Queen. He then began turning the other cards over, but now they were

blank.

As it stands, the date for our Zoom meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month, and our in-person meetings will be the third Tuesday of the month. The address for the Eastwood American Legion is 3701 James Street, Syracuse, 13206.

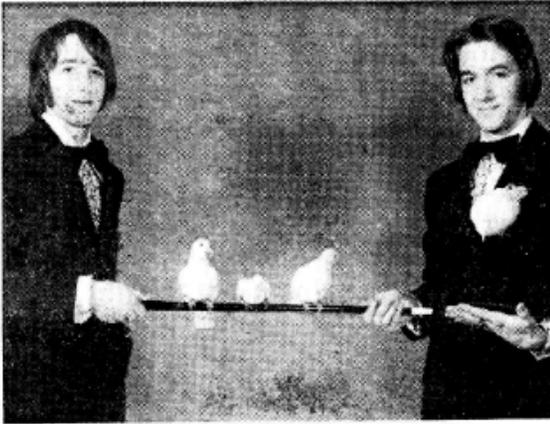
Both meetings start at 7, so try to sign on or get there a little before. Interested? Email kfrehm@gmail.com and a link will be sent.

Joey Hoffman



Frank & Ernest





PAUL AND DAVID JACKMAN
... magic at festival

Camillus fest features music, magic, theatrics

The Camillus Fall Festival will be held Sept. 17 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the softball field in the village.

Presented by Town Shop Youth Center, the entertainment features Sandy Bigtree and her band, twin magicians Paul and David Jackman, Kriggs the Clown and musicians Mark Hoffman and Tom Canfield.

In addition, Auburn Theatrical Guild performs Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Directed by Tim Anderson, the cast is comprised of Thames Nolan as Peter

Quince and the first fairy; Steven Ridley as Snug and the second fairy; Harold Foggi as Snout and the third fairy; Philip Smith as Thisbe, a fairy and flute; Anderson as Bottom; Cindy Hackett as Puck; Melody Brooks as Titania, queen of the fairies; Greg Lumb as Oberon, king of the fairies and Tilly Murray and Liz Nolan as the other fairies.

Other acts include jugglers, unicyclists and tightrope walkers.

Also, tarot card readings and historical displays are planned.

The West Genesee Chapter of the Jaycees is cooperating in the arrangements.



DAVID JACKMAN



MARCH 3, 2026

2026 Prepare to magically appear at the 78th

MAWNY

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

MAWNY 2026
Sunday, April 26th
 M Hotel Buffalo
 2040 Walden Ave.
 Buffalo, NY 14225
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.

Buyers & sellers, see <https://mawny.org/auction> for auction procedures



closeup 1:45ish

Ryan Bliss
Utica, NY

Vincent Mendoza
New Jersey

John Bannon

Rob Thompson
Chicago

John Bannon

Bois Wild
Paris, France

Joe Rindfleisch
New Jersey



Lecture, 3:30 or so
Rubber Band Master

Joe Rindfleisch
 Joe Rindfleisch is a pioneer and the name in rubber band magic. His rubber band effects are visual foolers and have revitalized the genre. Joe has traveled the world teaching not only his incredible rubber band magic, but card and coin effects as well. Joe received a rare standing ovation at the invitation-only Fechter's convention – and after you see his performance and lecture, you will understand why.

This lecture will be presented more like a workshop with each attendee being given rubber bands to follow along. Several effects along with theory will be thoroughly explained. At the end Everyone will be able to walk away knowing how to do at least 3 effects!

7:00, Stage Show SPECTACULAR!

Juliana Chen
WORLD CHAMPION

Master of Ceremonies Trade Show Superstar
Robert Bengel

Tiffany Sauvage
 Las Vegas/The World

Rob Thompson
 Chicago



OPTIONAL Morning Workshop
 8:00 am

Gustavo Raley Argentina
 Spaces limited! In this intensive, hands-on workshop – deeper than a typical lecture – you'll learn to unleash your creative process from Gustavo, celebrated worldwide as one of the great thinkers in magic! 8:00 AM, \$30



50/50 \$\$\$ Raffle!

Tony Weiland
 Lockport, NY

Advance registration:
 until April 8th: \$95 each,
 after April 8th: \$105 each

To register, use mail-in form or go to:
<http://mawny.org/registration.html>
 Inquiries: MAWNY1@gmail.com

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

Dealer Chair Bill Gormont Presents the Bazaar of Bafflement with these great dealers...

Empire Magic Michael Lair
 Antony Gerard Joe Rindfleisch
 Niagara's First Impressions
 Card Shark Sly Designs
 Gustavo Raley Boris Wild
 Paul Richards ... and More!

Next meetings:

Tuesday, 10th March 2026
ON LINE Virtual meeting.

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

(Please sign in at about 6:45pm)

Tuesday, 17th March 2026
In Person meeting.
Eastwood American Legion
 3701 James St., Syracuse

Save the Date!

Tue. 10th March

ZOOM Meeting

Tue. 17th March

In-Person Meeting

Tue. 14th April

ZOOM Meeting

Tue. 21st April

In-Person Meeting

Sun. 26st April

MAWNY Convention

Tue. 14th May

ZOOM Meeting

Tue. 21st May

In-Person Meeting

Sat. 30th April

Our Public show

Harris Solomon Ring
IBM Ring #74
P.O.Box 213
Cayuga NY 13034 - 0213

www.saltcitymagicclub.com

