



The SPIRIT | Official Newsletter of I.B.M. Ring 1

Meeting Update: Wednesday September 4th, 2013 Magic Flea Market

September 2013
Volume 13, Issue 9

Our September meeting will be a "Magic Flea Market" at the Maryland Heights Community Center. Everyone is welcome to attend, but only Ring 1 Members are allowed to sell items. Magic 101 starts at 6:30 p.m. and the regular meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. All Ring 1 members in good standing are eligible to have table space to sell items. Please observe the following rules:

- 1) No items can be sold until the Flea Market officially starts after the meeting.
- 2) No selling of items in the hall. Items can only be sold in the meeting room.
- 3) The club will not be collecting a commission from the members on sold items.
- 4) When setting up your items please be respectful of Magic 101.

NEW MEETING AGENDA

6:30 Magic 101
Quiet Please if you are not involved with Magic 101.

7:00 Meeting

Following the meeting- Workshop and Fellowship till 10PM

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President's Message

By Mike Niehaus, President and Exalted Grand Poobah mrnichaus@sbcglobal.net

We have an exciting month of September planned for Ring 1. Our flea market is Wednesday night, and then we get ready for the Presidents Banquet. This year is going to be extra special. On Friday night September 27, 2013 at Orlando Garden's (Maryland Heights) at 6:30 p.m. The cost is only \$25 per person (half price for children), and that includes some very special entertainment. IBM President Elect Shawn Farquah, IBM Gold Cup, IBM Gold Metal, SAM Stage Winner, and Close Up FISM Winner, will be performing. This week Shawn is on the Disney Cruise Ship Fantasy entertaining the passengers. For \$25 you get a great dinner, great company of fellow magicians, and entertained by one of Disney's top cruise entertainers. Please feel free to bring guest, but tickets for this event can only be purchased by Ring 1 members.

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One of these guys is the President of Ring 1

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On Saturday September 28, 2013 Shawn Farquah will be lecturing at the Airport Hilton, at 2:30 p.m. This event is free for all Ring 1 members. Everyone is invited, but there will be a \$15 charge for anyone who is not a Ring 1 member.

Remember the JDRF Walk is on Sunday October 6, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Steve Finkelstein is organizing the Kids Corner. If you are able to help please let Steve know as soon as possible. The dates for the "Haunted Hayloft at Purina Farms" are October 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27. If you are available to perform please let Larry Skorepa know.

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who helped with the 2013 Jubilee. We are very fortunate in St. Louis to have two great magic clubs. Within these two clubs we have a wide range of talent and expertise in magic. Not everyone has the opportunity to surround themselves with talented magicians, and be part of planning a convention. For many of us our family, employment, and financial commitments limit our ability to attend other conventions. I feel privileged to surround myself with hard working individuals who want to give others the opportunity to develop professionally.

Member Spotlight: The Magic Man, Bill Evans

By Savannah Waszczuk | Photos by Jamie Kalil, Kevin O'Riley

It's half past 10 p.m., and Bill Evans is belled up to a felt-lined table in his Southern Hills home. The room he's sitting in, nicknamed The Magic Room, is lined with bookcases, the shelves packed with books about magic. Evans picks up a box of navy and white Bicycle playing cards, his hands more than familiar with its slippery-smooth surface, and pours them into his palm. He tightens the deck with a few taps on the table, then gives the cards a couple of perfect shuffles.

"There are secrets in here, but it's not a secret place," Evans says of his magic room. "It's not like The Magic Castle, where you have to walk through a bookcase to get in." Rather, it's a place where Evans, an attorney of 36 years, hangs out every night from around 9 p.m. to midnight to practice and study his true passion in life: magic



The Magical Details

Other than his time in college and law school, 61-year-old Bill Evans has lived in Springfield nearly all of his life. A well-respected attorney at Carnahan, Evans, Cantwell & Brown, P.C., Evans graduated from Southern Methodist University with an undergraduate degree in Economics, then got his law degree at the University of Missouri. He returned to Southern Methodist to get his Master's, an L.L.M. in Taxation. But while he is an attorney by day, he is always sure to make time for his two true loves—music and magic. "I don't sleep much," he says.

If Evans looks familiar, chances are, he is—he is a founding member of the M-Dock Band, which has played together for 21 years, and plays the guitar, mandolin and harmonica for the group. On top of it all, he's a magician. But he's not running around town with a magical wand, and he doesn't pull rabbits out of top hats. Far from the magical world of Harry Potter, Evans performs stand-up and close-up magic, specializing in card magic. You know those magical acts where you "Pick a card, any card"? Evans does that, only much more advanced.

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Ring Report: July 2013

By Sandy Weis sweis@psdr3.org

The August meeting was held at the new location of Jeff Lefton's "Abra-kid-Dabra" which is located in Webster Groves, Missouri. Mike Hindrichs shared three "easy" but baffling card tricks with the members who attended Magic 101. The first trick Mike named "No Stack Pack." Members present could not figure out how he was able to name the selected card. The net trick, "Stop Sign" was also one, which Mike was able to name a selected card. The third trick he named "Card of Choice" in which he also was able to name a selected card. When Mike shared the "secret" of all three tricks, the members couldn't believe how easy they were to perform. All the members present were memorized with these tricks. Even though they looked difficult to perform, the children in attendance were even able to perform them.

After Magic 101, the children (and adults) enjoyed playing in the "bouncy houses" before the regular meeting began.

Mike Niehaus, the President, made a few announcements including the Ring events, which are forthcoming. Members were reminded to register for the Midwest Magic Jubilee, which is hosted, by IBM Ring 1 and SAM Assembly 8. Well known magicians have been booked and it appears that this convention will be very worthwhile to attend. At the September meeting, members are encouraged to "buy" and "sell" magic at the "Magic Flea Market." Shawn Farquah will be performing at the annual President's Banquet, which will take place on September 27th. Tentative plans include a lecture by Shawn on September 28th. He has appeared at the Midwest Magic Jubilee in the past and the members are excited that he is returning. Steve Finkelstein is recruiting magicians for the annual JDRF Walk on October 6th. Larry Skorepa is organizing magicians for the Haunted Hayloft at Purina Farm during the last two weekends of October.

After the meeting, members enjoyed Ted Drewes frozen custard. The ice cream social has been an annual event for many years. Members were encouraged to bring their friends and relatives.

Three Board members performed after everyone finished eating their frozen custard. Larry Minth performed first and always keeps the members laughing with his humor. He was able to have a member select a number and then he wrote "random" numbers on a board. Amazingly, when Larry added the numbers in each row, they all added up to the same number as the member selected. Terry Richison performed next. Terry performed several card tricks. He always was able to reveal the name of a spectator's chosen card. He also used a spectator and performed cross interpolation. A spectator ended up with 3 more cards in his hand. Each time Terry used a different magical way to move the cards into the spectator's hand. Members always look forward to Terry's magic. Lastly, Mike Niehaus performed a trick in which he had a child watch his "box" so no one would look in it. When he eventually opened the box, there was a pile of coal in it. Then, he used his "magical powers" and the coal changed to diamonds. Mike sure knows how to captivate his audiences with his storytelling ability. However, if one asked Mike if his stories were true or make-believe, he would tell you they are factual.

After the meeting, one of the members Jill "Silly Jilly" Schmidt invited everyone to her house to watch the movie, "Magic Camp."

Visitors are also welcome to attend Ring 1's meeting and events.

Schedule of Events 2013 - 2014

August 7

Ice Cream Social at
Abra-Kid-Dabra

August 15 thru 17

Midwest Magic Jubilee at the
Airport Hylton

September 4

Magic Flea Market

September 27

Presidents Banquet at Orlando
Gardens (Maryland Heights)

October 2

Surprise Meeting by Steve Levit

October 6

JDRF in Forest Park

October 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

Purina Farms Haunted Hayloft

November 6

Roy Zaltsman Lecture Maryland
Heights Community Center

December 4

Holiday Party

January 8, 2014

TBA

February 5, 2014

Ray Beltz Chemical Magic
Lecture

March 5, 2014

TBA

April 2, 2014

TBA

May 7, 2014

TBA

Member Spotlight: The Magic Man, Bill Evans

The Magical Details

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Evans’ relationship with magic began when his father showed him his very first magic trick at 5 years old. “After I studied magic, I learned that it was a very basic trick, but I was fooled by it then,” Evans says. His interest was sparked. Five years later on a family vacation in California, Evans stopped at Hollywood Magic Shop on Hollywood Boulevard. Instead of getting a box with Chinese dragons on it, he followed the suggestion of the man behind the counter and bought two books about magic. “It was the most important advice I have ever received,” Evans says.

Throughout high school and college, Evans’ magic fell by the wayside, as he spent his free time learning to play musical instruments. Then in law school, things changed. “I was walking through the bookstore and I saw a book on sleight of hand and I thought, ‘Man, I haven’t done that in a long time,’” Evans says. “I bought the book.” For the rest of his years in law school, Evans used magic as a release. “I’d study for a couple of hours, then take a 15 to 20 minute break and try to learn a card trick,” he says. “I’ve been practicing every day since.”

Making it Big Time

After law school, Evans met professional magician Gene Devoe at a magic shop in St. Louis. “Gene said I really needed to join the I.B.M., the International Brotherhood of Magicians,” Evans says. He joined, and now 36 years later in July 2013, he is being inducted as the International President of the organization.

The I.B.M. is the world’s largest organization dedicated to the art of magic. It has more than 11,000 professional and amateur magician members in 85 countries. Local chapters, called rings, meet monthly. The current International President is from England. The one before that was from Malta. Now, after this month, the International President will be Springfield’s very own Bill Evans.

As International President, Evans will help the I.B.M. in its mission—promoting fellowship and the advancement of magic as an entertainment art. His duties include full and complete administrative power in conducting the affairs of the I.B.M., subject to the direction of the Board of Trustees.

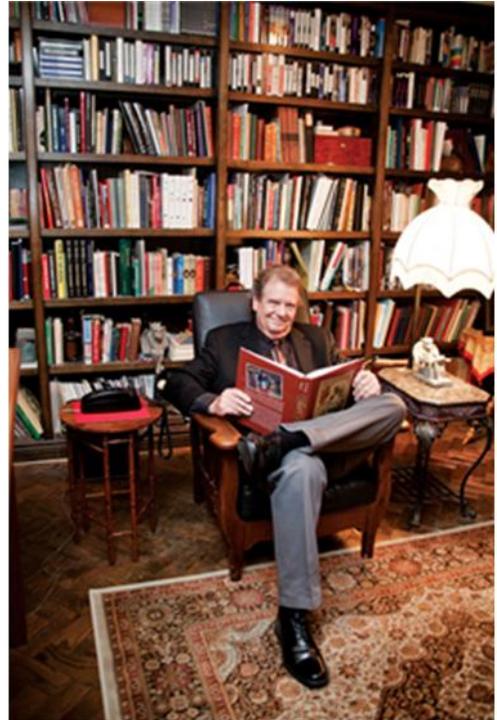
So, how did this local law advocate achieve such an important role in such a big organization? “One thing led to another, and I was often in the right place at the right time,” Evans says. “When I moved back to Springfield, I invited Eugene Burger, a famous magician in Chicago, to come to Springfield for a lecture, and we became friends,” Evans says. Later, when professional magician Mac King was coming through town, he called Evans upon the advice of Eugene, and the two also became friends. From there, Evans was introduced to fellow magician David Sandy who eventually became the International President of the I.B.M. “When he did, he asked me to be his legal advisor, because every president needs a legal advisor,” Evans says. Evans was legal advisor for two presidents after David, then was appointed to the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. Then he became Vice President then President Elect.

Evans in Action

You won’t find Evans performing in Vegas, and you can’t hire him for kids’ birthday parties. “I have upmost respect for magicians who can do kids’ parties, but that’s just an area for which I am not qualified,” Evans says. “That area requires special study and training to pull it off successfully.” What he is qualified for is adult magic shows. “I guess adult contemporary would be my category,” he says. If the mood is right, he’ll start off a client meeting with a new trick, or he’ll make cards disappear while grabbing drinks with friends. Evans cares more about the fun than the funds. “I guess I’m a true amateur in the way that I love magic for what it is, and I don’t try to make a living at it,” he says. “I enjoy being with people and I enjoy bringing laughter and fun to the group that I’m with.”

In order to make those magical moments happen, Evans says you have to practice. “I know about 100 magic effects, but I keep a working repertoire of about 10 to 15, which I practice on a regular basis,” Evans says. “Any more than that at one time would require more hours in the day than I have. I rotate my performing effects in and out on a regular basis, dusting the older ones off like jewels and practicing them to get the necessary degree of perfection before inserting them in my current performing list.”

When he does perfect an effect and is ready to perform, his audience is in for a real treat. Evans can perform a perfect shuffle on a deck of cards, meaning each and every one of the 52 cards is perfectly alternated, at the blink of an eye. He can make cards move from one stack to another without even touching them. He can make cards appear in empty boxes, and he can move cards from boxes to piles halfway across the table. So, how in the world does he do it? You’ll see it happen, and you’ll ask him to explain the trick. He’ll say something witty, but he’ll never tell you his secrets. You’ll never know, and that’s the most beautiful thing about it. “Magic is creating a sense of wonder,” Evans says. “If you can suspend your disbelief for just a moment, magic has the ability to take you to a different place. If you can let it happen, and you can have that sense of mystery, it’s a wonderful thing.”



2013 – 2014 Officers

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Steve Levit	314-469-6339
Larry Minth	314-776-3836
Terry Richison	314-791-9108

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Bring A Friend To A Meeting

International Brotherhood of Magicians

St. Louis Ring 1

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. (Except July) at the *Maryland Heights Community Center 2344 McKelvey Rd in Maryland Heights, MO 63043*. Unless noted in the schedule.

Meeting Agenda

6:30	Magic 101
7pm	Announcements
7:15	Break
7:30	Meeting Theme
9pm	Workshop / Social Time

Board Meetings held the 3rd Monday of the month. If you have something for the good of the club please contact one of the officers. All are welcome at the board meetings.

Directions**From the St Louis Airport:**

Take I-70 West to I-270 South, Take the Dorsett Exit, Turn Right onto Dorsett, Turn Right onto McKelvey Hill Rd (McKelvey Hill turns into McKelvey Rd) Go ½ of a mile and the Maryland Heights Community Center is on the right.

From I-64(Hiway 40), I-44 or I-55:

Take I-64(Hiway 40), I-44 or I-55 West to I-270 and go north.
 Take the Dorsett Exit, Turn Left onto Dorsett
 Turn Right onto McKelvey Hill Rd (McKelvey Hill turns into McKelvey Rd)
 Go ½ of a mile and the Maryland Heights Community Center is on the right.

This Just In...

A Special Message From Don Rataj

From the south side.

It was great seeing a lot of Ring One & SAM magicians at this past Magic Jubilee. (it was another great Jubilee and congrats to all those who worked so hard to make it such a successful and good time) Thanks also to everyone for my past 23 years with Ring One, including the haunted haylofts, spring shows, stage contest, auctions and the rich magic history.

I only hope that the Sarasota Ring can match what the members of Ring One have provided, and I hope to be back for the Jubilee in 2015.

Don Rataj
