



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

Meeting Update: Wednesday October 3rd, 2013 It's a Surprise!!!

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Our next meeting will be on Wednesday October 2, 2013 at the Maryland Heights Community Center. Magic 101 will start at 6:30 p.m., and the regular meeting will start at 7:15 p.m. After a very short business meeting Steve Levit has a surprise for the club. For many years the October meeting has had a Halloween theme. This year we want to try something different. Steve Levit has worked very hard to present this very special event for the club. Make sure you are on time, this is one meeting you will not want to miss.

NEW MEETING AGENDA

6:30 Magic 101
Quiet Please if you are not involved with Magic 101.
7:15 Meeting
Following the meeting- Workshop and Fellowship till 10PM

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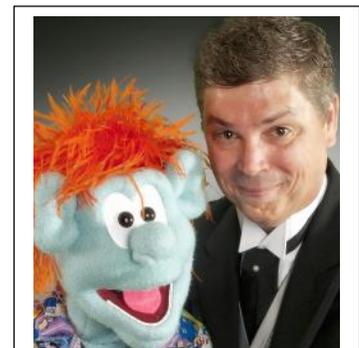
President's Message

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

Membership Has It's Privileges

Friday nights President's Banquet was definitely a night to experience the privileges of membership in Ring 1. I want to thank everyone who attended the President's Banquet. It was an excellent evening of good friends, great food, and exceptional entertainment. What a privilege it was to be entertained by IBM President Elect, IBM Stage and Closeup Winner, SAM Stage and Closeup Winner, and FISM Winner Shawn Farquah. To say Shawn is a talented magician and entertainer is an understatement. Shawn's love and enthusiasm for magic truly inspires magicians to become a better entertainer. If you were not inspired, then you need to put your magic wand down, and seriously examine your ego and attitude.

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One of these guys is the President of Ring 1

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October is a very busy month for Ring 1. Wednesday night at the meeting Steve Levit has a very special presentation that you don't want to miss. Steve Finkelstein is still looking for magicians at the JDRF Walk on Sunday October 6, 2013 at the Muny in Forest Park. This is an excellent opportunity to practice some of the new effects you purchased at the convention, flea market, or recent lecture. Please give Steve a call if you are able to help.

The Haunted Hayloft at Purina Farms is sneaking up on us very fast. Larry Skorepa is organizing the magicians for this event. The dates are October 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27 so please call Larry if you are able to help. If you are not able to perform, just go to Purina Farms and help encourage those that are performing.

Our next big lecture is on Wednesday November 6, 2013, at the Maryland Heights Community Center. This is a meeting night, and Roy Zaltsman will be lecturing. Magic 101 will occur at 6:30 p.m. and the lecture will start at 7:30 p.m.

Ring 1 is starting to plan for the Spring Parade of Magic. Currently, we can accept a date in February for the Kirkwood Theatre, and May for the Florissant Theatre. Please start thinking about these two events, and let me know what ideas you have.

See you out and about

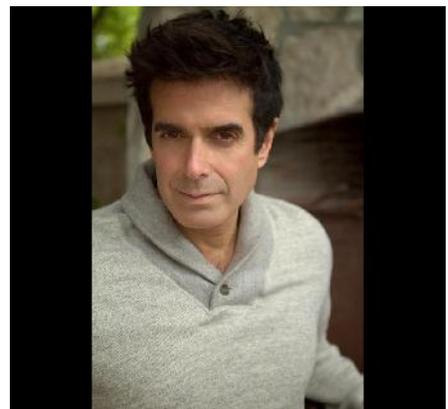
Magician David Copperfield's \$800 Million Fortune Could Make Him A Future Billionaire

By Morgan Brennan, Forbes Magazine

David Copperfield might be most famous for extravagant illusions that include making the Statue of Liberty disappear and walking through the Great Wall of China. But perhaps his biggest feat yet is the enormous nine-figure fortune that the raven-haired 57-year old has quietly amassed over his three-decade career.

The famed illusionist is worth an estimated \$800 million by FORBES' count, thanks to a 13-year stint in Las Vegas, world tours, 20 television specials, a massive irreplaceable

collection of magic memorabilia, and a real estate portfolio comprised of multimillion dollar trophy properties. That magical sum lands him on this year's FORBES 400 list of [Ones To Watch](#), a 15-person round-up of entrepreneurs, scions, and entertainers with nine-figure fortunes to their names.



At \$800 million, Copperfield's net worth places him in a rare and elite club of ultra-rich self-made celebrities poised to become billionaires in the near-future. Only one other entertainer has cracked the billion dollar club to join the FORBES 400 ranks: [Oprah Winfrey](#) (worth \$2.9 billion). And among those up-and-comers we highlighted this year, only three other people fall into this category: pop queen [Madonna](#) (\$500 million), pro golfer [Phil Mickelson](#) (\$325 million), and country crooner [Toby Keith](#) (\$320 million).

Over the course of his career, Copperfield has claimed 11 Guinness World Records, including one for the most tickets sold by a solo performer, trumping Madonna, Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley. Combined, his world tours and Vegas shows have grossed \$4 billion and counting. His television specials have earned 21 Emmy awards and reached a total worldwide audience of three billion. Dreams and Nightmares, his 1996 stage show, still holds the record for most Broadway tickets sold in a week, having grossed more than \$6 million in its five-week run.

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Ring Report: September 2013

By Sandy Weis sweis@psdr3.org

At the September meeting, Magic 101 was led by Mike Hindrichs. Approximately fifteen members participated. Mike shared a variety of ways to perform false cuts and shuffles. Members had time to practice these cuts and shuffles with help from Mike or from some of the other members. He shared that the next lesson will involve magic tricks using these cuts and shuffles. Mike is knowledgeable about so many topics.

After refreshments, Mike Niehaus, the President, made announcements. He thanked everyone for helping with Project Magic at Shriner's Hospital each month. The schedule is filled through December. He announced that Harry Machin (the former scribe) passed away recently, and Harry Monti will perform the Broken Wand Ceremony. Terry Richison reported that the Midwest Jubilee had more attendees this year than last year. Everyone who attended felt that Thursday's performance was one of the best the Jubilee has ever had. This year the Thursday performance was entitled, "Best of the Midwest", and the featured Midwest performers were selected based on their submission. Also, two future members were introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Members were reminded that the President's Banquet would be held on September 27th. Shawn Farquhar will perform at the banquet. On September 28th, Shawn will lecture at the Airport Hilton. The Ring 1 members are really excited that Shawn has returned to St. Louis to perform. Volunteers are still needed to perform at the Haunted Hayloft at Purina Farms in October. Those available to volunteer should contact Larry Skorepa. The JDRF Walk on October 6th needs volunteers, and members should contact Steve Finkelstein if they can assist.

After the business meeting, the flea market took place. Members were not allowed to purchase items (even though they saw items they wanted to purchase being placed on tables) until after the business meeting. First, the "dealers" each took turns showing their best and/or cheapest product. Andy Leonard had a mirror box he was selling for \$20. Ray Belz showed a Card sword, which wasn't cheap but was well made for \$100. Sister Michael Therese had several items that she hadn't even opened. Larry Lucy was selling DVD's for \$20. Dan Todd showed his Harry Potter book that had been modified for a magic trick. Gene Schaefer showed his finger flash pod. Steve Barcelona had several DVD's for sale. Larry Minth had several books, magazines, and DVD's for sale. Many items sold and members left with new magic items (even though most did not really need any new magic tricks). Next year the assembly members will probably see the same items being sold by their new owners who really didn't need and/or use them, either.

Visitors are always welcome to Ring 1's meetings. Meeting topics are different each month and are always interesting.

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

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David Copperfield

A sizeable chunk of Copperfield's wealth comes from his Vegas show at the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino. It has run nonstop for 13 years, with the illusionist performing as many as three shows a day seven days a week for 42 weeks each year. Ticket sales gross as much as \$50 million annually, plus merchandising, which he owns. This summer the performer signed a three-year contract that will see the casino's Hollywood Theater renamed after him. Later this year, he will also unveil a new show packed with what he refers to as "Jurassic Park-sized" magic. Among the new features is a green alien automaton named Attila, for which new shirts, toys and a children's book series are in the works. And he does all of it without the help — or fees — of a manager or agent.

"David's definitely the hardest working guy in show business," says Scott Sibella, President and COO of the MGM Grand. "People would kill to have a show like David's in their property because of the success it has brought."

Copperfield also owns the world's largest collection of magic memorabilia. Comprised of more than 150,000 artifacts and books, his International Museum & Library of the Conjuring Arts includes prized items from Harry Houdini, Georges Melies, and Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin. Housed in a 40,000-square foot warehouse a few miles from the Las Vegas Strip, the collection is open only to fellow magicians, historians and academics, actors researching roles, friends and family, and sometimes, to the media. Occasionally, the illusionist trots items out of the building, which he owns, for lectures and exhibitions at venues like the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

"It's irreplaceable, it's priceless," says Copperfield of his ever-growing collection. "You can't replace it, which is part of the excitement."

Still, a number can be applied. The massive collection, plus restoration expenses and pricey safety precautions like FM-200 gas systems that protect against fire, has cost the magician upwards of \$200 million to assemble. Some appraisers have even supposedly pegged the massive collection — which also includes such items as the Best Director Oscar for 1943's *Casablanca* (purchased at auction for \$232,000 in 2003) — at a lofty half billion dollars.

Then there is the real estate. In Vegas, Copperfield and his family, 28-year old fiancée Chloe Gosselin (a French model turned shoe designer) and 3-year old daughter Sky, claim a Skyloft penthouse provided by the MGM Grand and a rented mansion away from the Strip. But he actually owns 11 private islands in the Bahamas and a four-story penthouse in New York City.

His archipelago, located in the coveted Exuma chain of the Bahamas, is now called the Islands of Copperfield Bay. He first started acquiring them in the early 2000s, after initially setting sights on Musha Cay, the largest, most developed of his islands. Copperfield maintains that he chose the island after drawing a line on a globe between Easter Island and England's Stonehenge, and another one from the Pyramid of the Sun in Mexico and the Pyramid of Giza in Egypt: at the lines' intersection you supposedly find Musha.

The 150-acre Musha Cay cost \$55 million in 2006 when the magician finally purchased it after four years of legal jousting with former owner John Melk, an early investor in Blockbuster Video. He also steadily acquired the neighboring 10 properties and poured close to \$40 million and five years into renovations.

The resulting private fantasy island retreat is stocked with a discreet staff of 30, macaw parrots trained to clean up beach debris, a vanishing drive-in movie theater on the beach, and furniture sourced from around the world including Harry Houdini's billiards table. Copperfield and his family spend about 10 weeks each year on Musha; when they aren't there, it's rented out to billionaires like Bill Gates and Sergey Brin at a starting price of \$37,500 per night.

"I took all my magic knowledge into the island," says Copperfield, whose Vegas-based illusions team has been crafting a James Bond-inspired spy hunt that will be added to the islands' laundry list of sensational activities. "The island experience is based on everything that I felt was great having been at the best places I've been in the world."

Between purchase price and renovations, the 700-acre archipelago runs close to \$95 million in value. By way of comparison, the most expensive sale in the Exumas was the Aga Khan's \$100 million purchase of the 349-acre Bell Island in 2009.

"The two key islands are Musha and Rudder Cut Cay," estimates George Damianos, president of Bahamas brokerage Damianos Sotheby's International Realty. "My educated guess is Rudder Cut would sell very quickly for between \$20 and \$30 million. Musha could get \$50, maybe up to \$70 million."

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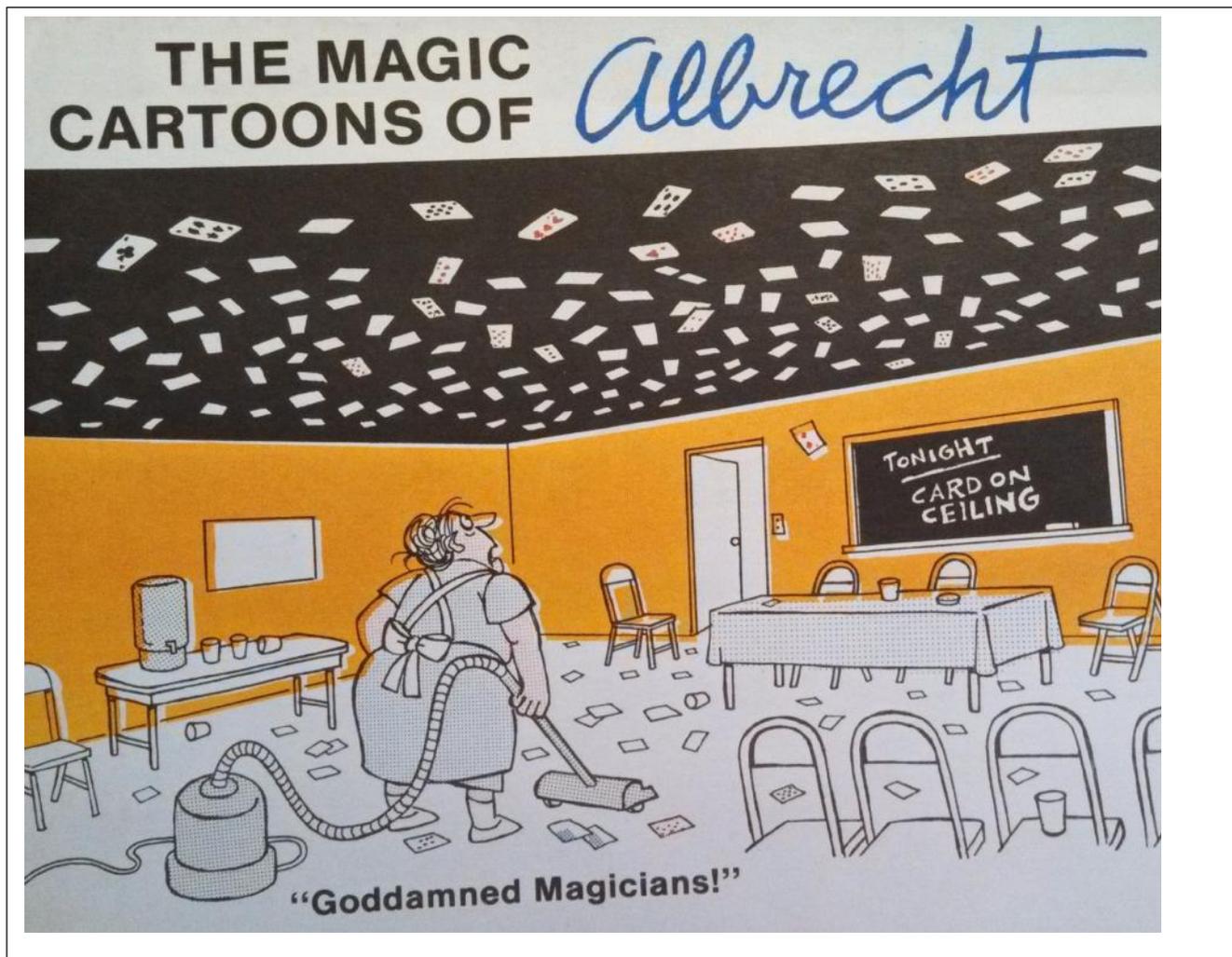
David Copperfield

Copperfield also owns a massive penthouse in Manhattan's Midtown neighborhood, just south of Central Park. Located in the Galleria building, Copperfield's condo spreads across four floors, encompassing 10,000 square feet of interior space and 6,000 square feet of private terraces and rooftop gardens. He purchased the apartment in 1997 for \$7.4 million. Today its value could run upwards of \$60 million according to local experts and sales comps for nearby penthouse co-ops and condos.

The penthouse was originally built for Stewart Mott, an eccentric philanthropist and an heir to the General Motors empire, who reportedly never moved into the space. It has 18 rooms, a glass-enclosed lap pool and wraparound windows overlooking the park. Copperfield says he is renovating the entire apartment, a process expected to take three years.

The apartment is also home to two other collections belonging to the magician. It houses some 300 antique arcade machines that Copperfield has restored and put on display. The other collection, an assortment of life-size antique mannequins once used as "models" by painters like Gauguin, hang suspended from the living room walls. "New York City [home] is an art gallery in an unconventional way," Copperfield explains.

As for his near-billionaire status? "I work really hard and it keeps adding up."



2013 – 2014 Officers

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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
