



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

Meeting: December 4th, 2013, Cameron's Birthday, Club Holiday Party Extravaganza

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday December 4, 2013 at the Maryland Heights Community Center. This is our annual "Holiday Party", and of course it's Cameron's birthday. So we are celebrating both events at this magnificent event. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 p.m., and Magic 101 will be cancelled that evening. We will be having our usual "Holiday Party" meeting with food, and the IBM famous "White Elephant Gift Exchange". Please notify Larry Skorepa @ toolmanlarry@sbcglobal.net if you are planning to attend, and what food item you would like to bring, or if you will be paying \$5 (for those not bringing food).

NEW MEETING AGENDA

7:00pm Holiday Party, Following the meeting- Workshop and Fellowship till 10PM

Inside this issue:

December 2013

Volume 13, Issue 12

Meeting Update	1
President's Message	1
White Elephant Rules	2
Member New	2
Ring Report	3
Schedule of Events	3
Article Todd Robbins	4-5
This Just In	8

President's Message

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

Ring 1 has had an exciting year of growth, 4 great spring shows, 5 lectures, meetings, community service, and of course an exceptional Presidents Banquet. We should be proud of being part of the IBM, and especially Ring 1. Because Ring 1 members are invested in giving back to the St. Louis Community. All of that for just \$15 dollars a year, that comes out to only \$1.25 a month. So make sure you take the time to pay your 2014 dues. Ring 1 is going to have a great 2014, so make sure your involved in the club.

I want to take this time to thank everyone who has helped with Ring 1 this year. So many of our club members have given there time, effort, and energy to make this Ring successful. We have a lot of activities planned for 2014, and we need everyone to help make our events successful. We need volunteers for JDRF, the Spring Parade of Magic, Shriners Hospital, Close Up Competition, IBM/SAM National Convention, President's Banquet, Haunted Hayloft, and of course the election of officers in May. So please look at your schedule and plan on getting involved in Ring 1. If you missed the 2013 President's Banquet, don't make the same mistake in 2014. Membership in Ring 1 has it's privileges.

Please remember the January meeting date has changed. The January meeting will be on MONDAY JANUARY 6, 2014. Since the first Monday of the month is New Years Day, the community center will be closed. The only available day is Monday January 6, 2014. This will be a regular meeting with Magic 101 starting at 6:30 p.m. The theme for the meeting is "Members Perform Those New Magic Tricks", so let me know if your interested in performing.

The Annual JDRF Family Day is scheduled for Saturday January 25, 2014. The location has changed due to the Millennium being under construction. It will be held at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel. Several tables will be set up for the magicians starting at 11:30 when registration begins. This year we are asked to perform just one show for all the children. It will be a 45 minute show starting at 3:30 to 4:15. If you would like to help please contact Steve Finkelstein. Have a wonderful and safe Holiday Season.



One of these guys is the President of Ring 1

The World Famous White Elephant Gift Exchange Rules

Traditionally, a "White Elephant" is something lying around the house that you don't want (some horridly ugly item that someone gave you as a gift.) For our meeting we are asking you to bring a magic item for our white elephant get together. Here are the rules:

There is no requirement to come to the meeting that you have to participate in the White Elephant exchange. Each person wanting to participate in the Gift exchange must bring a WRAPPED, COMPLETE magic effect, INCLUDING INSTRUCTIONS if needed. The effect does not have to be new, but it must be in presentable and working shape and no less than \$5 in value if new.

Participants will sit in a circle with the packages in a pile in the middle. Each person participating will draw a number out of a hat. The lowest number goes first and selects a present from the pile. Once a present is selected from the pile of gifts, the trick is unwrapped for all to see. The

next person may choose from the wrapped pile of gift or may "take" the present from one that has been selected by another. The person that lost the gift may choose to select a gift from the unopened pile, or may take a present from another person. A single gift can only be stolen a total of 3 times. This is continued until all of the presents are exhausted or everyone has a gift. As an added bonus, it is a known fact that there will be at least one gift that will be worth over \$50 and New to boot! You might be the lucky one!

The meeting will be open to immediate family members. Anyone who brings a gift is allowed to participate in the White Elephant.



Congratulations to Harry Monti for 50 Consecutive Years Appearing At the Magic Castle



Ring Report: September 2013

By Sandy Weis sweis@psdr3.org

At the September meeting, Magic 101 was cancelled; however, several members offered to share magic/techniques with the group who were present. The members enjoyed these presentations.

After refreshments, Mike Niehaus, the President, made several brief announcements. He reminded the members that the December meeting would be the annual "Holiday Party". Members are asked to bring a side dish or contribute \$5. The Ring will purchase the main dish, plates, utensils, etc. The "Famous White Elephant Gift Exchange" is scheduled after the meal. Members bring a wrapped gift and then members can pick an unwrapped gift or steal a gift from one of their members. Gifts can only be stolen three times. The members always look forward to this event every year. The January meeting will be held on Monday, January 6th since New Year's falls on the Ring's regular meeting date. Members are encouraged to perform any magic trick they want—even the tricks most of the members have which have never been opened.

After announcements, Roy Zaltsman performed an excellent lecture. Roy is a well-known professional Israeli mentalist who is very knowledgeable about magic. He has performed throughout the world. Members questioned him on how he relates to his audiences who speak other languages. There were approximately 45 people who attended the lecture. He performed and explained the magic he performed. He taught the members how to perform mind-reading effects using billets, index cards, and everyday objects. Most of the magic he taught could be readily learned and performed by all members present. He shared that it is OK to make mistakes because all magicians may make a mistake(s) in their career. Members especially enjoyed his magic using invisible elastic thread, which he sells. He informed the members that the thread he sells could actually make 300 loops since members were concerned about the thread breaking when they use it. Members also enjoyed his variation of the card in mouth routine. Another trick he shared was the "Lottery Winner" which consists of business cards numbered 1 through 49. After his lecture, he sold quite a few items since he offered his items at such a reasonable price. The members present encourage others to attend one of his lectures if they can since it was so practical and informative.

The Ring congratulates one of its members, Harry Monti. Harry recently performed at the Magic Castle and is the ONLY magician who has performed there for 50 consecutive years. Congratulations, Harry!!

The Ring always welcomes visitors to the Ring's meetings. Each month, the Board selects a different theme for the evening so members will learn a variety of magic.

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 6, 2014

Members Perform

February 5, 2014

Ray Belz Chemical Magic Lecture

March 5, 2014

Close Up Contest

April 2, 2014

Poker Run

May 7, 2014

Election of Officers

Magician Todd Robbins' show 'Play Dead' inspired by stories told at Long Beach cemetery

By [Richard Guzman](#), *Press-Telegram*

POSTED: 11/14/13, 10:18 AM PST



Magician Todd Robbins and Teller of Penn & Teller have teamed up for a spooky show called "Play Dead" at the Geffen Playhouse. Robbins was born in Long Beach and used to sneak into the Long Beach Municipal Cemetery to tell scary stories, a sort of precursor to the Geffen show. (Photo by Brittany Murray/Press Telegram)

Years ago, after the sun went down on Friday nights, Long Beach native Todd Robbins and his friends would often sneak into the Long Beach Municipal Cemetery. The 100-year-old graveyard, with its mausoleums and old tombstones, was perfectly suited as the background for Robbins' fascination for the sordid and macabre.

So in the dark chill of the night, with the possibility of getting caught for trespassing hanging over their heads, he would captivate his teenage friends with made-up stories about the people buried there, and then, just when the tension from the morbid tales was ready to snap, Robbins would scare the life out of them with a trick that usually involved an accomplice leaping out at the screaming teens.

Robbins, who grew up to become a professional magician and illusionist, still loves to scare people and he has teamed up with a very successful accomplice to tell more scary stories with the show "Play Dead." Co-created with Teller, the silent partner in the famed Penn & Teller magic duo, the show opens at the Geffen Playhouse on Wednesday and runs through Dec. 22. There are preview performances at 2 and 7 p.m. today.

"It's a much more sophisticated version of what I was doing all those years ago. This time all the stories I'm talking about are real," Robbins said after a long day of rehearsals for the seance-based performance. "We play on a lot of fears and phobias and push a lot of buttons. I lock the door and we have fun."

Not only are the stories real this time, but they're also haunted by a few conjured spirits, contain a lot of bloodshed and even include a murder. But believe it or not, there will be lots of laughs, too.

Play Dead

When:
Now through Dec. 22

Where: Geffen Playhouse,
10886 Le Conte Ave., Los
Angeles

Tickets: \$57-\$87

Information:
310-208-5454,
geffenplayhouse.com

"It's kind of like those old rides they have at carnivals where you get into a little car and strange and wonderful things scare you, and then you burst out laughing," said Teller, who directs the show, although he does not take the stage.

"Play Dead" will take place at the Geffen's Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater, where the stage has been transformed to resemble an old carnival.

Robbins narrates and is the main performer in the show, which is centered on a collection of about 100 boxes on stage that contain artifacts he has collected since he was a child, including mementos from people whose lives were defined by death such as serial killers and spirit mediums.



Robbins, who begins the show in complete darkness and dressed in a white suit that soon becomes a bloody mess, uses these boxes to tell the stories, and in doing so performs magic tricks, conjures spirits, resurrects dead people, performs a bloody surgery and takes the show into the seats, with various objects and some apparitions floating by the audience. Then he makes it even more interactive by killing an audience member on stage.

"Yeah, he murders an audience member, and then we call the audience member's ghost back," Teller said.

Teller added that there are no "stooges" in the theater, meaning no one from the show has been planted as the fake doomed-to-die audience member. Of course, no one is really killed. It's all part of the illusions in the show, which Teller said are among the most technically complicated he has tackled.

"There are at least 20 magical effects packed into an hour and 20 minutes that have to look real and emotional. And man, that's been hard," he said.

The industry veterans, however, are up to the challenge.

Robbins' showbiz career spans about three decades. Now based in New York, he's known for his carnival act on Coney Island where he swallows swords and eats glass.

He's appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman," "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." He's currently developing a TV series with Discovery Studios based on dark chapters in history.

Teller has been performing with Penn Jillette since 1975. Penn & Teller have starred in television series and specials. Their show has played off-Broadway and they currently perform at Rio in Las Vegas.

The Geffen performance of "Play Dead" is the show's Southern California premiere, having first been presented off-Broadway in November 2010.

"The goal is really to just entertain people, just an evening of entertainment where the audience will come away not knowing how anything is done and maybe reflect a little on death and dying," said Randall Arney, artistic director of the Geffen.

It's not the first time that a supernatural or magic performance has been hosted at the venue.

William Friedkin's 1973 film "The Exorcist," arguably one of the scariest films of all time, was adapted for the stage and performed at the Geffen in July 2012. Last November, the venue presented "Nothing to Hide," a magic show directed by actor Neil Patrick Harris.

"Play Dead" is another effort to present eclectic and different theater experiences for its audience, Arney said.

For Robbins, who said the show would not exist without his experiences in Long Beach, the performances will be a chance to do what he loves: Scare the heck out of people and then have them burst out in laughter, hopefully all within one breath.

"You're never so alive as when you're scared to death, and there's nothing more lively than a laugh," he said.

2013 – 2014 Officers
Officers

President:	
Mike Niehaus	314-691-0507
Vice President:	
Jason Stack	618-303-6799
Treasurer:	
Sandy Wiese	314-524-7859
Secretary:	
Al Zibits	636-273-9974
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Al Zibits	636-273-9974

Board Members

Harry Monti	636-394-4191
Steve Levit	314-469-6339
Larry Minth	314-776-3836
Terry Richison	314-791-9108

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www.IBMRing1.com
 For the latest info

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...

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
 AND A
 MAGICAL NEW
 YEAR**
