

March

International Brotherhood of Magicians



THE Home of MAGIC in St. Louis

The SPIRIT | Official Newsletter of I.B.M. Ring One
March 2026 Edition

Upcoming Events

I.B.M. Ring 1, and other events nearby St. Louis (US Central time)

Date	Event (all events are in person)
March 4	Javi Benitez Lecture
March 26-28	2026 Gateway Close Up Convention https://www.baskervilleproductions.com/gateway2024
April 1	Speed Lectures: 8 Quick Basic Effects Taught
May 6	Up Close and Magical Competition
June 3	Ring Spring Fling party (families encouraged to attend)
July 22-25	I.B.M. Convention, St. Louis https://ibmconvention.com/ 
August 5	The Grand Conjuring Competition (parlor magic) with Bob Danner as host
September 2	Ring 1 Magic Open Mic Night
October 7	In-person Lecture
October 17	Ring 1 Florissant Fall Show "Magic of America: 250th Anniversary of our U.S.A."
November 4	In-Person Lecture
December 2	Holiday Party Gift Exchange Officer/Board Installations

The St. Louis Magic Roundtable meets every Saturday at 1:30pm at Dierbergs, 1080 Lindemann Rd, Des Peres, MO 63131. Check the following website for the latest information before attending each week:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/374210993307299>

Magic Conventions

<https://www.themagicwordpodcast.com/magic-convention-guide>



Ring 1 Report



edited by Sandy Weis

On January 29th, Alain Nu presented an extraordinary lecture for members of IBM Ring One and SAM Assembly 8, sponsored by the Midwest Magic Jubilee Fund. Known internationally as “The Man Who Knows,” Alain is a celebrated mentalist, illusionist, magician, television personality, author, and speaker whose performances have reached audiences around the world. Attendees were captivated by his signature metal bending demonstrations. Alain explained that he offers an online course in spoon bending and confidently guarantees that every participant will succeed by the end. He shared a touching story of an elderly gentleman who, through simple finger strengthening exercises, eventually learned to bend spoons himself. One of the evening’s standout moments was Alain’s book test, which was fully examinable and deeply deceptive. He generously explained how anyone could create a similar book using his method, and another process whereby they could use a borrowed book. Members thoroughly enjoyed the lecture, and Alain offered a selection of his products at special reduced pricing for those in attendance.

Ring One member Chad Jacobs (Chef Bananas) attended Kapital Kidvention in Arlington, Virginia, where he presented two lectures for magicians and children’s entertainers from around the world: Cooking Up 5-Star Reviews and Consent, Choice, and Respect in Children’s Magic. His sessions explored practical business strategies, professional ethics, and respectful audience participation, with a focus on strong magic and child-centered performance. Chad also spent time reconnecting with colleagues and engaging with performers from across the global magic community. Kapital Kidvention continues to be an important gathering for education, collaboration, and the advancement of children’s magic.

Gary S. Chan noticed how something as simple as table placement can dramatically influence audience engagement. For efficiency, banquet-style shows typically seat spectators all the way around round tables, leaving half of the attendees turning their chairs and the other half looking at the back of other attendees’ heads. The event organizer of his recent show in Newport Beach handled it differently: they used round tables, but with seating only on the side facing the performer. The result was a clear line of sight for every guest, stronger engagement, and far less opportunity for distraction. It’s a small adjustment, but one that can make a big difference in the energy and focus of a room.

Harry L. Monteith, known worldwide as Harry Monti, recently passed away on January 26, 2026. His service was held on February 6th at Bonhomme Presbyterian Church in Chesterfield, MO. He was a very well-liked individual that never made a negative comment about anyone. He was extremely talented and always willing to share his expertise. Harry is the only magician who has performed continuously at the Magic Castle, since it first opened, for 53 years. He was a member of both Ring One and SAM Assembly 8. [His obituary](#) can be read online at the Schrader Funeral Home and Crematory. Our prayers are extended to his relatives, especially his wife Trudy who was married to him for 54 years. The magic community has lost one of its most talented and respected magicians.



In December 2025, our Ring President, Steve Queen, was selected to perform for a talent show at Rizz Show Game Night. The Rizzouto Show is the number one radio show (105.7 FM The Point) in the St. Louis Area. This was their annual live end-of-year event, where they decided to offer a talent show. The show was held at The Pageant, which is a well-known live music and special events venue. Being a fan of the show, Steve submitted an audition for the talent show and he was selected, getting to perform for the few hundred in attendance. Steve performed a version of “Professor’s Nightmare” and “Of Dice and Men” with the show’s host, which kept the audience laughing and thoroughly entertained.

Javi Benitez Lecture

March 4, 2026
6pm Social Hour
7pm Lecture

Parkway United Church of Christ
2841 N Ballas Road
St. Louis, MO 63131

Javi Benítez, the Spanish magician from the historic city of Seville, is not only a FISM World Champion in Close-Up Magic; he is one of the most exceptional and poetic performers in the world today. Known for his unparalleled sleight-of-hand, deep artistic compositions, and enchanting flamenco spirit, Javi captivates audiences across the globe. His televised performances have gone viral, earning him millions of views and international acclaim.

Penn & Teller famously called him “the best sleight-of-hand artist we’ve ever seen,” after awarding him the coveted Fool Us Trophy on national television.

In the past two years, Javi has become a standout presence in the American magic scene, appearing as a featured performer at top-tier conventions like Magic Live! (Las Vegas) and Magifest (Columbus, Ohio). His performances at these events received standing ovations and glowing praise from peers and organizers alike.

A proud member of the prestigious Magic School of Madrid, Javi is also a highly respected teacher and lecturer. Through international lectures, masterclasses, and mentorship, he shares the theory, structure, and heart behind the Spanish School of Magic. His performances are not just tricks; they are experiences that leave audiences inspired, moved, and transformed.

Javi will be bringing some exclusive tricks, and attendees will be able to buy items directly after the lecture concludes. Zelle, PayPal, contactless credit cards, and cash are all welcome. Prices range between \$30 and \$100 for individual items, or around \$150 for the complete package.



Video Links:

Fool Us: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLB5oOq76c8>

Fool Us: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=956_I1tiM2o

Vimeo Reel: <https://vimeo.com/315631465?share=copy>

Short Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/@javibenitezmagic/shorts>

Volunteer to Assemble the Spirit

We're looking for volunteers to help assemble our monthly Spirit newsletter. It's light, creative work that can be rotated amongst volunteers. You'll get to help shape the stories, photos, and updates that make our club special. Please e-mail ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com if you are interested. Let's keep the magic alive together!



JAVI BENITEZ

World Class Magic

Javi Benitez is a true force to be reckoned with in the magic world. He's won awards at FISM, been the Spanish National Champion, and fooled Penn & Teller. He was one of the last disciples of Arturo De Ascanio, and is a collaborator and friend of the legendary Juan Tamariz. His sleight of hand is next level, with unique approaches to classic techniques that make his moves look like miracles.

What You Will Learn in This Lecture

In this lecture, Javi will introduce you to some of his favorite effects as well as closely guarded secrets that will not only help you grow your magic, but also grow your

idea of what is possible with card magic. You'll see him perform in front of a live audience that falls in love with his amazing magic. This lecture is packed to the gills with incredible tricks, diabolical secrets, as well as philosophy and theory for everyone wanting to take their magic to the next level. Javi holds nothing back as he shares with you his deep thoughts and the tips and techniques that have taken him around the world.

TESTIMONIALS

"The best sleight-of-hand artist we've ever seen." – **Penn & Teller**

"A magic forged from the legacy of Ascanio and Tamariz, shaped by years of experience. When Javi speaks, you listen." – **Dani DaOrtiz**

"Javi's lecture won't just teach you new magic – it will change the way you think about it." - **Eric Jones**

"Everything I've learned from Javi Benitez has made it into my professional shows." – **Shawn Farquhar**



Pay Ring 1 Dues for Calendar Year 2026

Annual membership is \$20 and is a bargain, considering our lineup of performers, lecturers, and activities! If any of your contact information has changed, please e-mail ibmringone@gmail.com.

To pay online: <https://www.ibmringone.com/about-4>

To pay by mail: Write a check payable to “IBM, Ring One” for \$20. Write “2026 Dues” on the memo line. Mail the check to

Sandy Weis
1755 Elkins Dr
St. Louis, MO 63136



2026 GATEWAY

LECTURES, CLOSE UP
SHOWS, WORKSHOPS,
DEALERS ROOM

Close up

CONVENTION



Featuring: A two hour special lecture by
Randy Wakeman & Kevin Kelly

Forty Years Later: A Tribute to Ed Marlo

MARCH 26-28



MARK TAMS



LUKE DANCY



CHAD LONG



JASON BANEY & STEFFI KAY



DANNY CHENG



STEVE MYERS



JIMMY ICHIHANA



STEVE FRIEDBERG

DEALERS: KRANZO MAGIC, TN MAGIC EMPORIUM, STEVE MYERS MAGIC

**THE DOUBLE TREE BY
HILTON
1000 EASTPORT PLAZA DR
COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234
618 345-2800 CODE: 910**

\$250

**STLSTEVE2009@YAHOO.COM
BASKERVILLEPRODUCTIONS.COM**

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