

International Brotherhood of Magicians



THE Home of MAGIC in St. Louis

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

February 2026 Edition

The poster is for 'I.B.M. RING 1 OPEN MIC NIGHT' and 'Showcasing Tonight's Very Important Prestidigitators'. It features a central globe logo with a hand holding a wand and the text 'THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS' and 'I.B.M.'. The poster includes portraits of the following magicians: Jason Michaels, Sandy Weis (our emcee), Keith Fields, Stephen Levine, Matt Stanley, Mike Unagan, Eric Schuster, Scott Cantrell, Jeffrey Sobel, Steve Queen, Jeff Lefton, Jen Queen, and Timothy Shegitz. The date 'FEBRUARY 15, 2026' and the website 'WWW.IBMRINGONE.CO' are also displayed.


I.B.M. RING 1
OPEN MIC NIGHT
Showcasing Tonight's
Very Important Prestidigitators
OUR EMCEE SANDY WEIS

JASON MICHAELS KEITH FIELDS
STEPHEN LEVINE MATT STANLEY
MIKE UNAGAN ERIC SCHUSTER
SCOTT CANTRELL JEFFREY SOBEL
STEVE QUEEN JEN QUEEN
JEFF LEFTON MATTHEW HOBOWITZ TIMOTHY SHEGITZ

FEBRUARY 15, 2026 WWW.IBMRINGONE.CO

Upcoming Events

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

Date	Event (all events are in person)
February 15	Meet the I.B.M. Leadership (RSVP to eat dinner) Venue: Parkway United Church of Christ
February 17	Nathan Kranzo Lecture Funded by Midwest Magic Jubilee and hosted by S.A.M. Assembly 8 Venue: St. Louis Activity Center
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

Ring 1 began the new year with a milestone worthy of celebration: we officially outgrew our previous meeting space. With membership steadily rising and enthusiasm at an all-time high, the Ring stepped into its new venue on January 12th — and what an inaugural night it was.

The evening marked our first gathering in the new location, the Parkway United Church of Christ, and we christened the space with a lecture from none other than Mark Strivings, one of the most influential mentalists of the modern era.

Mark, who hails from the Denver area, has been a full-time professional mentalist since 1995. His career has taken him from Monday Night Magic on Broadway to the world famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, and his contributions to the art are nothing short of foundational. His groundbreaking work in Mobile Mentalism helped ignite the worldwide movement of strolling mentalism, and his creations — including the legendary Sight Unseen Case — are used by thousands of working pros across the globe.

With over 80 published books, nearly two dozen video features, and more than 100 commercial releases, Mark's influence is woven deeply into the fabric of contemporary mentalism.

In preparation for this last-minute event, Michael W. McClure coordinated with Mark, shaping the evening into something truly special. Mark's lecture notes thanked Michael "for taking the lead and making this event happen." Michael had created a special surprise for Mark's introduction to the club. He wrote his own lyrics, sometimes satirical but always assuring, and created a song that heralded Mark's incredible career and expertise. Mark was shocked and delighted by the unique tribute and claimed that this magic club will be one he never forgets.

The lecture, titled "St. Louis Secrets — A Lecture for My Friends at I.B.M. Ring 1," was crafted specifically for our members. Mark shared that he custom tailors every lecture he gives — a rare and refreshing approach that made the evening feel intimate and uniquely ours.

Almost 50 magicians filled the room, eager to learn from a master. Mark emphasized that every effect he teaches is designed to be powerful, easy to learn, practical, and deeply deceptive. His philosophy was clear: miracles should be within reach of every performer.

The lecture notes, offered at a very modest \$15, contained 12 fully developed effects, each explained with Mark's signature clarity and generosity. Most routines required nothing more than everyday objects — business cards, ESP symbols, dice, and other simple tools already found in any magician's drawer. True to his character, Mark credited the creators who inspired earlier versions of each of the effects, while showing how he refined and elevated them through decades of professional experience.

Before the event, Michael had emailed attendees a copy of Mark's 426 page catalogue ... a



testament to the sheer breadth of Mark's creative output.

Mark's presentation style was filled with the kind of insights that only come from thirty years of creating and shaping the art. At the conclusion of the lecture, he offered a selection of his products, including special discounted bundles available exclusively to Ring 1 members. Judging by the number of purchases, his material resonated deeply with the crowd. Ring 1 members wholeheartedly encourage other Rings to invite Mark for a lecture. His visit to St. Louis was not just informative ... it was inspiring.

Beyond lectures and learning, Ring 1 continues to shine through service. Each year, Bob Blattel and his wife, Chris, devote their holiday season to bringing joy to children and families in need throughout St. Louis. This year their efforts reached extraordinary heights: they collected and delivered 120 trash bags full of toys, 21 boxes of toys and 5 bikes. They helped over 200 families in need, including 400 children, experience a brighter and happier Christmas. They partnered with Employment Connection, and offered special thanks to Sal Martinez and his dedicated team for coordinating distribution. Additional support came from Dee White at St. Josephine Bakhita Church, who organized distribution at their North Grand facility. Chris shopped for toys throughout the entire year, filling their basement before the season even began. Bob performed magic at multiple "Breakfast with Santa" events and three additional shows for children in other locations. And in true Blattel fashion, the day after Christmas, Chris was already securing half price toys for 2026. Ring 1 extends heartfelt gratitude to Bob and Chris for their unwavering generosity and the magic they bring to the community.

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!

Dinner & Show with I.B.M. Leadership

Feb.15, 2026

Parkway United Church of Christ

2841 N Ballas Rd. Louis, MO 63131

5pm BBQ Buffet Dinner (\$18 and RSVP required for dinner)

7pm Magic Show

If you would like dinner, please RSVP by e-mailing watson7654321@gmail.com . You will be asked to pre-pay \$18.

If you do not wish to have dinner, there is no fee for Ring One members who have paid their 2026 membership dues.

Dinner will be catered by Pappy's Smokehouse:

BBQ Chicken, BBQ Beef, BBQ Pork, Salad, Baked Beans, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Corn, Applesauce, Potato Salad

7pm showtime! I.B.M. & Ring One Joint Magic Open Mic Night

Set List: (Each Act should be less than 10 minutes)

Steve Queen - Coin/Bill/Ring Vanishes

Stephen Levine - Mish-Mash Card & more

Jason Michaels - Cootie Catcher (his effect)

Matthew Horowitz - Vanishing bottle

Keith Fields - Chop Cup

Matt Stanley - "Needle"

Jeff Lefton - TBA

Scott Cantrell - Multi-card revelation

Jeff Sobel - Tarot intro and routine

Jen Queen - Tarot effect and reading

Eric Schuster - TBA

Mike Dunagan - Mentalism

Tim Shegitz - Coin act

Nathan Kranzo Lecture

February 17, 2026 at 7pm

St. Louis Activity Center

5602 Arsenal Street

St. Louis, MO 63139

This is funded by the Midwest Magic Jubilee and hosted by S.A.M. Assembly 8.

Nathan Kranzo has performed and lectured all over the United States, Europe and Asia for the last 26 years. He has written seven magic books and created hundreds of magic effects. His original creations have been published in MAGIC, GENII, MUM, The Linking Ring, PENUMBRA...and the list goes on. He was also a columnist for MUM magazine for multiple years.

Nathan has worked as a consultant for Penn and Teller, appeared on the SyFy show "Wizard Wars", as well as the FOX show "Houdini and Doyle".

Most recently, Nathan was featured on the Chinese hit television series "The Amazing Magicians" which was the #1 show for TEN weeks in China!!!

****FOR THE CLOSE UP GUYS****

52 GONE

Probably the cleanest and most visual vanishing deck you will ever see.



<https://youtu.be/U7z-d98ZH5g>

Stand up Triumph

This is a cool version of DAI Vernon's classic TRIUMPH card effect that is not only funny, but super visual, and can be done standing "in the hands" with NO table.

<https://youtu.be/BbTYF4eAw7Q>

THE OPENER COIN ROUTINE

This is a routine that Kranzo uses as an opener for small groups. It combines visual magic with comedy, and Kranzo uses this routine to talk about the psychology of social dynamics as well as simultaneously teach some seriously strong Coin Magic.

Moneyball

This effect will astonish a four-year-old and a 94-year-old. A quarter visually transforms into a rubber bouncy ball and can be immediately given away.

<https://youtu.be/KMWQBYBLrCc>

****FOR THE STAND UP/Parlor GUYS****

Repetition

This was nominated for trick of the year in 2021!!! This is Nathan's modern take on "six card, repeat". A stand-up card routine that can be done for a small or large audience, young or old, with built in comedy and a surprise ending. Oh, and it's self working.

<https://youtu.be/VJSNj1cSZW4>

GAGS GALORE

Kranzo will teach several bits, gags and effects from his classic books Comedy For Magicians and Mentalists.

<http://kranzomagik.myshopify.com/products/comedy>

****FOR THE MENTALISTS****

THE TRU TEST/MAGAZINE TEST

Take any modern magazine and perform a MIRACLE. Imagine if you could perform the Mother Of ALL Book Tests with a page from a MAGAZINE.

<http://kranzomagik.myshopify.com/products/grants-tru-test-the-best-magazine-test-of-all-time>

*****All this and MUCH MUCH MORE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

"I love your stuff.....great work!"

-David Copperfield

"VERY good lecture!"

-Jay Marshall

“One of the best lectures I’ve ever seen!!”

-Jack Carpenter

“Nathan never fails to astonish me every time we meet, he fools me badly.”

-Joshua Jay

“Nate is part of The Next Generation of Magic. He has amazing work with everything from cards and coins to breath mints and tan lines (really!).”

-Steve Mayhew

“I was fortunate enough to catch Nate’s lecture recently and he did an excellent job. His magic is extremely visual and very well routined.”

-Steve Bedwell

“Magicians often claim there are no new effects in magic. Nathan Kranzo proves that’s a lie.”

-Teller

“This lecture was one of the best I have attended in a long time. If your group is looking for a GREAT night of entertainment with something for everybody I highly endorse booking Nate Kranzo.”

- Steve Zuehlke

I.B.M. Ring 1

St. Louis, Missouri

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 1” 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



Monkeys of St. Louis (I.B.M. Ring One) Contact Info

Role	Name	E-mail
President	Steve Queen	stevenstrangestl@gmail.com
Vice President	Tim Shegitz	wizard5301@aol.com
Treasurer & Scribe	Sandy Weis	sweis50@yahoo.com
Secretary, Board Member, & Webmaster	Michael W. McClure	watson7654321@gmail.com
Board Member	Chad Jacobs	chef@chefbananas.com
Board Member	James Hodge	jamesphodge@earthlink.net
Board Member	Jeff Lefton	jlefton@q4solutions.com
Board Member	Steve Bolland	steverinno@att.net
Board Member	Steve Buesking	svbuesking@gmail.com
Board Member	Steve Finkelstein	sfinkelstein1@sbcglobal.net
Board Member	Steve Zuehlke	stlsteve2009@yahoo.com
Immediate Past President	Darryl "D. Jay" Lenz	djay1000@yahoo.com
Spirit Editor	Gary S. Chan	ring1newsletter@finderstellers.com
Asst. Spirit Editor	Zai Shi	zs2573@columbia.edu