

International Brotherhood of Magicians



THE Home of MAGIC in St. Louis

THE SPIRIT – OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF I.B.M. RING ONE  
JUNE 2026 EDITION – SUSAN G. MCCLURE, EDITOR  
CONTACT US AT [IBMRINGONE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:IBMRINGONE@GMAIL.COM)

# June 2026 Ring Spring Fling

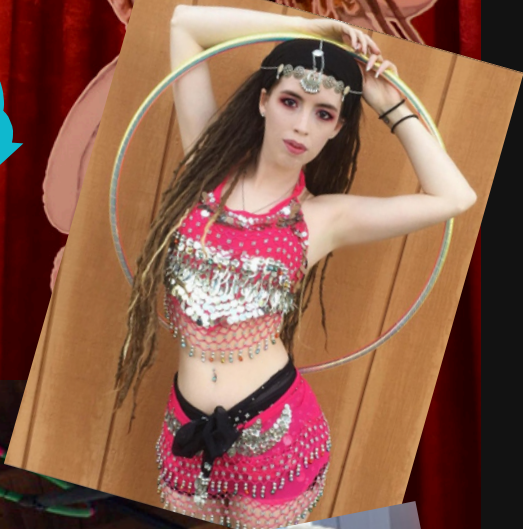


# June 3, 2026 Meeting Theme

# Ring Spring Fling

BRING THE FAMILY

JUNE 3  
6PM



FREE PIZZA

**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 1ST RING ONE SPRING FLING!  
An Evening of surprises... Without relying on magic.**

**Every magician has a secret. Some secrets involve double-lifts or a well-timed misdirection. But other secrets...the ones we rarely share...are the passions and talents that shape who we are beyond the wand.**

**This spring, RING ONE proudly presents a brand-new tradition designed to bring us closer, and celebrate the remarkable people within our extended family of magic... The Spring Fling: A Night of "Other" Avocations.**

**Join us as half a dozen of our own members step into the spotlight to reveal the unexpected hobbies and skills that fill their lives when they're not astonishing audiences with magic.**

**No sleights. No gimmicks. Just genuine talent, surprising stories, and the kind of camaraderie that reminds us why we are, and always have been, The Brotherhood of Magicians.**

### **WHAT TO EXPECT**

**A chance to discover new sides of old friends  
Laughter, connection, and a few delightful shocks  
A warm, family-style evening celebrating the humans behind  
the hocus-pocus**

### **WHY THIS NIGHT MATTERS**

**Magic may have brought us together, but it's our shared curiosity and fellowship that make Ring One a true extended family. The Spring Fling is our chance to deepen those bonds, welcome new faces, and strengthen the circle that keeps our club thriving.**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Ring One's 1st Annual Spring Fling - A celebration of talent and personality, including the joy of belonging.**

**Come support your fellow members.  
Come be surprised.  
Come be part of the family (bring yours as well).**

**JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm - FREE PIZZA - Parkway UCC**

# **New Opportunity for Members Only**



**A new benefit has opened within our Ring ... one designed to support our members and breathe fresh life into magic already loitering on their shelves.**

**On each special meeting night, when no visiting lecturers are scheduled, one different member will have the chance to serve as an in-house vendor, offering their overstock or no-longer-needed quality effects at special member-only prices before and after the evening's program.**

**Much like the dealer rooms at magic conventions, these rotating vendor tables will add value to our evenings, spark discovery, and help great magic find new hands. The sales tables will remain respectfully closed during the night's featured event, and only be accessible prior to the meeting and after, if allowed.**

**Participation as a vendor is first come, first served, and upcoming sellers will be listed on our website for full transparency.**

**With no Flea Market currently planned until possibly next year, this initiative gives our members a meaningful way to share and sell their magic within our extended magic family. It also adds a bit of "treasure-hunting" excitement for attendees to look forward to.**

**Email [ibmringone@gmail.com](mailto:ibmringone@gmail.com) to get on the list.**

**NEXT UP - JUNE 3RD - STEVE FINKELSTEIN!**

**BOOKS \* PROPS \* DON'T MISS OUT  
STEVE ACCEPTS CASH & CHECKS (NO PLASTIC)**

**Future vendors include Jim Hodge, Tim Shegitz,  
& Steve Zuehlke**

# UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

## I.B.M. RING ONE MEETINGS AND SHOWS



**JUNE  
3**

RING SPRING FLING - NEW EVENT

7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6)

RING ONE SUMMER MAGIC SHOW

(DOORS OPEN AT 1) 2 pm

**JULY  
18**



**JULY  
22-25**

I.B.M. CONVENTION  
REGISTER NOW !

JULY 22-25 @ MARRIOTT AIRPORT HOTEL

For more info visit  
[www.ibmringone.com](http://www.ibmringone.com)

# UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

## I.B.M. RING ONE MEETINGS AND SHOWS



**AUG  
5**

GRAND CONJURING CONTEST

7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6)

JAMIE WILLIAMS IN-PERSON LECTURE

7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6)

**AUG  
21**



**SEPT  
2**

RING ONE MAGIC OPEN MIC NIGHT

7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6)

STEVE BARCELLONA IN-PERSON LECTURE

7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6)

**OCT  
7**



**OCT  
17**

"MAGIC OF AMERICA" FALL SHOW

2 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 1) @ FLORISSANT PAC

For more info visit  
[www.ibmringone.com](http://www.ibmringone.com)

# UPCOMING EVENTS 2026-27

I.B.M. RING ONE MEETINGS AND SHOWS



**NOV  
4**

LECTURE TBD

7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6)

RING ONE HOLIDAY PARTY

7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6)

**DEC  
4**



**JAN  
13**

MEETING THEME TBD

7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6)

MEETING THEME TBD

7 pm (doors open at 6)

**FEB  
3**



**MAR  
3**

MEETING THEME TBD

7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6)

For more info visit  
[www.ibmringone.com](http://www.ibmringone.com)

**PERFORMERS  
CONTACT US  
NOW!**



**A FALL FUNDRAISER HONORING 250 YEARS OF WONDER, COURAGE & COMMUNITY  
PRESENTED BY I.B.M. RING ONE OF ST. LOUIS  
FLORISSANT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER OCTOBER 17TH 2:00 PM**

**A CELEBRATION 250 YEARS IN THE MAKING  
THIS FALL, ST. LOUIS MAGIC FANS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR AN  
UNFORGETTABLE AFTERNOON AS WE COMMEMORATE THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**A MILESTONE WORTHY OF SPECTACLE, STORYTELLING, AND PURE ASTONISHMENT.  
HONORING HEROES AMONG US**

**AT "MAGIC OF AMERICA" WE PROUDLY PAY TRIBUTE TO THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN  
WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION — OUR VETERANS, ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY, AND  
FIRST RESPONDERS. THEIR COURAGE INSPIRES US. THEIR SERVICE PROTECTS US.  
THEIR STORIES DESERVE A STAGE.**

**MASTER MAGICIANS • UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS**

**PREPARE FOR AN AFTERNOON WHERE MASTER MAGICIANS STEP FORWARD ONE BY  
ONE TO CREATE:**

- **JAW-DROPPING ILLUSIONS**
- **HEARTWARMING MOMENTS**
- **PATRIOTIC SPECTACLE**
- **AND MEMORIES FAMILIES WILL TALK ABOUT LONG AFTER THE CURTAIN FALLS  
THIS IS MAGIC AT ITS MOST MEANINGFUL ... A CELEBRATION OF WONDER WOVEN  
WITH GRATITUDE, UNITY, AND THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA.**

**BRING YOUR FAMILY. BRING YOUR FRIENDS. BRING YOUR PRIDE.  
WHETHER YOU'RE A LIFELONG MAGIC FAN OR DISCOVERING THE ART FOR THE FIRST  
TIME, "MAGIC OF AMERICA" PROMISES AN EXPERIENCE FILLED WITH AWE, LAUGHTER,  
AND THE TIMELESS JOY OF LIVE PERFORMANCE.**

**LET'S CELEBRATE OUR NATION'S 250TH BIRTHDAY THE MAGICAL WAY ... TOGETHER.**

**AS ALWAYS, OUR DEEPLY DISCOUNTED TICKET PRICING REMAINS:**

**ADULT - \$15  
SENIORS - \$10  
CHILDREN - \$5**

# **JULY JUBILEE OF MAGIC 2026**

**PRESENTED BY I.B.M. RING ONE  
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WONDER IN ST. LOUIS**

**SATURDAY, JULY 18 - 2:00 PM  
PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

**LOBBY PRE-SHOW MAGIC BEGINS AT 1:00 PM**

**THE MAGICIANS OF I.B.M. RING ONE ARE KICKING OFF SUMMER  
WITH A BRAND-NEW TRADITION:**

**AN AFTERNOON PACKED WITH LAUGHTER, AMAZEMENT, AND  
HIGH-ENERGY FAMILY FUN - ALL IN SUPPORT OF OUR CLUB'S  
SUMMER FUNDRAISER.**

**FEATURING FOUR REGIONAL FAVORITES!**

## **CHEF BANANAS**

**THE BANANA-LOVING, JOKE-CRACKING, KID-PLEASING  
WHIRLWIND OF COMEDY MAGIC. EXPECT SILLINESS. EXPECT  
SURPRISES. EXPECT BANANAS.**

## **SILLY JILLY**

**ST. LOUIS' MOST COLORFUL COMIC MAGICIAN BRINGS HER  
JOYFUL CLOWN-INSPIRED CHARACTER, BIG LAUGHS, AND  
BIGGER HEART TO THE JUBILEE STAGE.**

## **CHRISTIAN THE MAGICIAN**

**FAST-PACED, FUNNY, AND FULL OF FAMILY-FRIENDLY ENERGY.  
CHRISTIAN KEEPS AUDIENCES LAUGHING AND LEANING  
FORWARD FOR MORE.**

## **HOSTED BY STEVE ZUEHLKE**

**OUR MASTER OF CEREMONIES BRINGS CHARM, WIT, AND HALF A  
CENTURY'S WORTH OF RING ONE SPIRIT TO GUIDE YOU  
THROUGH THE SHOW.**

# July Jubilee of Magic!

A KIDS' MAGIC SHOW



Tickets: \$5 for kids (under 18) & \$10 for adults

**Parkway UCC - 2841 N Ballas Rd. - St. Louis - 63131**

**Brought to you by the International Brotherhood of Magicians - St. Louis Chapter**

**PLUS: PRE-SHOW MAGIC IN THE LOBBY!**

**ARRIVE EARLY FOR CLOSE-UP MIRACLES PERFORMED RIGHT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS BY MEMBERS OF RING ONE. STARTS AT 1:00 PM AND IS INCLUDED WITH YOUR TICKET.**

**DRASTICALLY DISCOUNTED TICKETS**

**ADULTS: \$10**

**KIDS UNDER 18: \$5**

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT I.B.M. RING ONE'S MISSION TO BRING MAGIC, JOY, AND CREATIVE LEARNING TO ALL FAMILIES ACROSS ST. LOUIS SOMETHING WE'VE PROUDLY DONE FOR 100 YEARS.**

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY. BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS.**

**BRING YOUR SENSE OF WONDER.**

**THE JULY JUBILEE OF MAGIC TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/JULY-JUBILEE-OF-MAGIC-A-KIDS-MAGIC-SHOW-TICKETS-1990038994202?AFF=EBDSOPORGPORFILE](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/july-jubilee-of-magic-a-kids-magic-show-tickets-1990038994202?aff=EBDSOPORGPORFILE)**

# Our 2026 Up Close & Magical WINNERS!



(pictured left to right)  
**First Place : Timothy Shegitz**  
**Second Place: Zi Teng Wang**  
**Third Place: Steve Finkelstein**

# Up Close & Magical COMPETITORS



(pictured left to right)

**Larry Minth - Reggie Dunn - Steve Queen**

**Jeff Halcomb - Steve Finkelstein - Zi Teng Wang**

**Matthew Horowitz - James Higround - Columbus Smith**

**Timothy Shegitz**

# 2026 I.B.M. Convention

*July 22 - 25, 2026*

Where magic's past, present, and future come together—uniting performers from around the world to inspire, connect, and push the art forward.

## **Magic. Friendship. Inspiration.**

The I.B.M. Convention is a one-of-a-kind celebration of every corner of the art of magic. From legendary performers and world-class lectures to hands-on workshops and fresh ideas, St. Louis 2026 is your chance to connect, grow, and be inspired.

**REGISTER**



# Why You Can't Miss It



## World-Class Performances

Experience unforgettable shows from the biggest names in magic and discover rising stars who are pushing the art forward. Every performance is crafted to inspire, amaze, and leave you buzzing with new ideas.



## Learning Like Nowhere Else

Dive into lectures, workshops, and sessions led by masters of the craft. Whether you're refining classic sleights or exploring bold new concepts, you'll take home knowledge that transforms your magic.



## Community That Lasts

Connect with magicians from around the globe who share your passion. The friendships and connections you build here extend far beyond the convention hall.

**REGISTER**

## Marriott St. Louis Hotel Airport

Stay just steps from the action at the Marriott St. Louis Airport, where modern comfort meets unbeatable convenience. With stylish rooms, a sleek lobby bar, and a free airport shuttle, it's the perfect home base for your convention experience.

Explore nearby St. Louis attractions, enjoy easy access to dining and entertainment, and relax knowing you're minutes from the magic. This isn't just a place to stay—it's where the excitement begins.

[Reserve Room](#)



## Guest of Honor: Connie Boyd

Connie Boyd—award-winning magician, producer, and writer—rose to prominence as a Las Vegas headliner and has spent more than thirty-five years breaking barriers for women in magic. A true pioneer, she has produced groundbreaking shows, mentored performers worldwide, founded the Magical Women Project, and authored *The Power of Magical Women* (2025). The International Brotherhood of Magicians is proud to honor Connie Boyd as Guest of Honor at the 2026 I.B.M. Convention in St. Louis.

## **SOME IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS, AS A TALL TALE BEING SHARED RECENTLY BY ONE OF OUR PARTICIPANTS IS FAR FROM ACCURATE**

Your I.B.M. Ring 1 Board is proud to remind everyone of our designation as a 501(c)(3) Missouri Non-Profit - which is FULLY approved by the I.B.M. Thanks to the recommendation of one of our members, Christian Misner, who happens to also be a lawyer, we enlisted the help of the Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (in early 2024) to give us accurate legal advice regarding the former status of our club in Missouri. They determined that we had no longer held valid non-profit status, due to a former leader's lack of diligence, and offered these suggestions to rectify our situation.

### **•THEY MOST STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FORMING A NEW ENTITY**

Our club's former leaders were soon to be subject to reprimands and fines due to their unregistered status and refusal to adhere to the State of Missouri's demands. It was best to start with a clean slate and seek REAL non-profit, tax deductible status for the first time in our club's history. We were encouraged by our lawyers to file for new MO non-profit and IRS determination.

### **•They further suggested that we consider a 501(c)(3) Status and its perks:**

- Allows ALL donations to Ring 1 to be tax deductible (even our own "dues").**
- Provides Non Profit liability coverage for Officers and Directors (Missouri Revised Statute Section 351.355) protecting them from expenses incurred in connection with civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative actions.**
- Tax-deductible enticement for Donors/Grants, allowing us to seek donations from Grants that we were not eligible for before, as any donations to our old 501(c)(6) were NOT tax deductible as previously claimed by certain leaders.**

### **Board driven leadership:**

**Only Board Directors vote (on all high level decisions), per Section 355.066 of the Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Act, for us to stay in compliance.**

**Only Board Directors vote to elect Officers & Board Directors (future date November 2026). Elections held Annually (Fiscal Year Jan. through December) - Any Director or Officer can resign at any time, or can be removed by majority of Director-only votes (with or without cause ... MO law), which provides the general participants the strongest influence over recourse against improprieties and negligence. The Board will always need to work hard to retain your trust!**

**Officers have the authority to perform day-to-day business of Ring 1.**

**"Participants" of Ring 1 are legally considered "Delegates," and ALL can offer their candidacy for any Office or Board position at every election, which is encouraged.**

**"Participants" pay "dues" to local and International - thereby satisfying I.B.M. requirements.**

**Very limited annual reporting (until our income exceeds \$50,000 annually).**

**An expanded number of elected Directors creates an Officer and Director Leadership team that contains about half of the participants that attended the current regular meetings at that time. This was unprecedented in Ring 1 history! The club is now in the hands of its most active participants, and our list of active meeting attendees has more than tripled ... further proof of doing business right.**

**Many other I.B.M. Rings enjoy the benefits that 501(c)(3) status affords them. Now we do too!**

**We want to remind you about an important detail regarding voting procedures in Ring 1. Because we are now registered as a real nonprofit organization, a 501(c)(3), in order to bring in more funding and save more money, we must adhere to Missouri Statutes governing nonprofit corporations. Under these regulations, voting rights are limited to Board members only. We assure you that your voice and input remain invaluable to our organization. The Board is committed to actively seeking and considering the perspectives of all Delegates (Ring 1 participants). This new structure allows us to maintain our nonprofit status, which in turn enables us to increase our fundraising potential, while providing generous donors tax savings. We already have received donations totaling over \$5000 (thanks to our 501(c)(3) status), but also look forward to a world of financial opportunities, the likes of which have never been available to us before. 2024 was only the beginning of a brighter and more inclusive Ring 1, dedicated to the needs and desires of ALL its participants, instead of only a small clique. If you have further questions regarding our exciting new opportunities, please reach out to [ibmringone@gmail.com](mailto:ibmringone@gmail.com) .**

# **I.B.M. RING ONE - MAY REPORT**

## **BY SANDY WEIS - RING SCRIBE**



**On May 6th, Ring 1 gathered for one of its most anticipated traditions of the year: the Up Close and Magical Competition. The room was filled with energy as over 60 members and friends came together to celebrate artistry and the joy of close-up magic. The evening had the warm, communal feel that defines Ring 1, with laughter, applause, and the unmistakable buzz of magicians supporting magicians.**

**We extend heartfelt appreciation to our distinguished judges, Steve Buesking, Shep Hyken, Chad Jacobs, and Jeff Lefton. Their combined experience, thoughtful scoring, and constructive comments added tremendous value to the event. Each performer benefited from their insights and enjoyed hearing perspectives from seasoned professionals.**

**This year featured ten talented contestants, each bringing a distinct voice and style to the close-up arena.**

**Zi Teng Wang opened with a polished series of card effects involving three volunteers. His calm confidence and technical precision allowed him to locate each chosen card under increasingly impossible conditions.**

**Reggie Dunn followed with a playful rope routine, where his “snake” slithered through knots, loops, and transformations. He then shifted gears into coin magic, producing vanishes and flourishes that showcased his dexterity.**

**Larry Minth charmed the audience with a blend of dollar bill magic and comedy. His humor and timing kept the room laughing throughout the routine.**

**Steve Queen delivered a memorable set, producing coins in a glass before moving into a remarkable demonstration of sensory deprivation magic. Blindfolded and wearing earmuffs, he still managed to identify selected cards. Steve Finkelstein presented a thoughtful dice routine symbolizing the magic purchases magicians gather over time. Even as dice vanished, more appeared as an elegant metaphor wrapped in a clever effect.**

**Tim Shegitz performed a strong, clean card revelation. After a volunteer freely selected a card, Tim later revealed it beneath an inverted glass that had been in full view.**

**James Higround wove storytelling and magic together, using two volunteers and a narrative he crafted himself. Each beat of the story aligned with the cards he displayed, creating a charming theatrical performance. and delight.**

**Matthew Horowitz energized the room with his upbeat style and crisp card work. His rapport with the audience elevated every phase of his routine..**

**Jeff Holcomb combined card magic and coin work, using two volunteers to create moments of surprise and delight.**

**Columbus Smith closed the lineup with a story-driven card routine, blending character, pacing, and narrative structure into a cohesive performance.**

**After the judges' tally revealed three with tied scores, a second round determined the winners:**

**1st Place - Tim Shegitz**

**2nd Place - Zi Teng Wang**

**3rd Place - Steve Finkelstein**

**Congratulations to all performers for contributing to a truly memorable evening.**

**Last year's winner, Bob Danner, served as host for the evening.**

**Dan Todd has been quite busy this year. He has performed at St. Louis Children's Hospital 6 times and Shriners Children's St. Louis Hospital 13 times. Children's Hospital has recently remodeled their playroom which gives him the ability to perform in front of a live audience as well as on their CCTV. He shared that the hospitals still want entertainment volunteers to be full-fledged hospital volunteers, completing vaccinations, immunizations, background checks, and training. He teaches and plays chess twice a week at Children's and twice a month at Cardinal Glennon Hospital. Dan does perform close-up magic after chess at both. He enjoys using the Eli's Box and chess dice. He performs card effects with Paws and/or chess decks. Paws decks are playing cards using pictures of the therapy dogs that visit the hospital. If he sees a "dog" card in a patient's room, then this is the card they "freely" choose. The Sharpie Marker bubble catch also is well received. He enjoys telling jokes, as the laughter magically relieves the stress that children endure. Thanks, Dan, for sharing magic with the children.**

**Gary S. Chan recently shared a useful insight from a conference performance. Despite confirming microphone needs in advance, he arrived to find only a handheld wireless mic instead of the requested lapel/Lavalier. For magicians, holding a mic while managing props can be a real challenge. Gary discovered a helpful workaround by using a neck-mounted holder designed for handheld microphones. While not perfect, it frees both hands and serves as a reliable backup when a proper lapel mic isn't available. For performers who rely on venue-provided equipment, this small accessory may be worth adding to your kit.**



**- SANDY WEIS**

# GUESS WHO'S COMING TO THE NEXT I.B.M. PODCAST!



**I.B.M. Official Podcast Ep.35 - Meet Steve Queen, President of Ring One**

International Brotherhood of Magicians • 00:00

Magicians and I.B.M. Podcasters Jason Michaels, Scott Cantrell, and Ben Young welcome Steve Queen, the President of I.B.M. Ring One, to the show. They discuss how Steve helped grow his Ring, how he got started in magic, and what happens when you do magic in schools as a school resource officer.

For more information on the International Brotherhood of Magicians, please visit [www.magician.org](http://www.magician.org)

To learn more about the I.B.M. Convention, please visit [www.magician.org](http://www.magician.org)

Jason Michaels Steve Q  
Scott Cantrell Ben Young

Premieres in 8 days  
June 1 at 7:00 AM

## OUR RING 1 PRESIDENT - STEVE QUEEN

Magicians and I.B.M. Podcasters Jason Michaels, Scott Cantrell, and Ben Young welcome Steve Queen, the President of I.B.M. Ring One, to the show. They discuss how Steve helped grow his Ring, how he got started in magic, and what happens when you do magic in schools as a school resource officer. The I.B.M. can also be found on social media at [@IBMMAGIC](https://twitter.com/IBMMAGIC)

### Episode Airs June 1st

“Those acquainted with 83-year-old Kirkwood magician Laurence “Chuck” Levy know to always ask him, “What’s today’s bad joke?” And those who see him perform as Laurence “Nothing Up My Sleeve” Levy — with a sign tucked under his sleeve that reads “nothing” — discover his actual bag of bad jokes. For Levy, the jokes aren’t just a schtick during his magic performances but a part of his everyday character. They reveal not just a punch line, but the heartwarming objective of making people laugh.” (Excerpt from the *Webster-Kirkwood Times* - May 11, 2026)

COPY LINK FOR FULL ARTICLE  
[https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/bad-jokes-hocus-pocus/article\\_b6f7f5ce-13ce-4eca-8f78-84a96f6e2df6.html](https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/bad-jokes-hocus-pocus/article_b6f7f5ce-13ce-4eca-8f78-84a96f6e2df6.html)

## LAURENCE “CHUCK” LEVY



# JUSTIN WILLMAN ONE FOR THE AGES TOUR

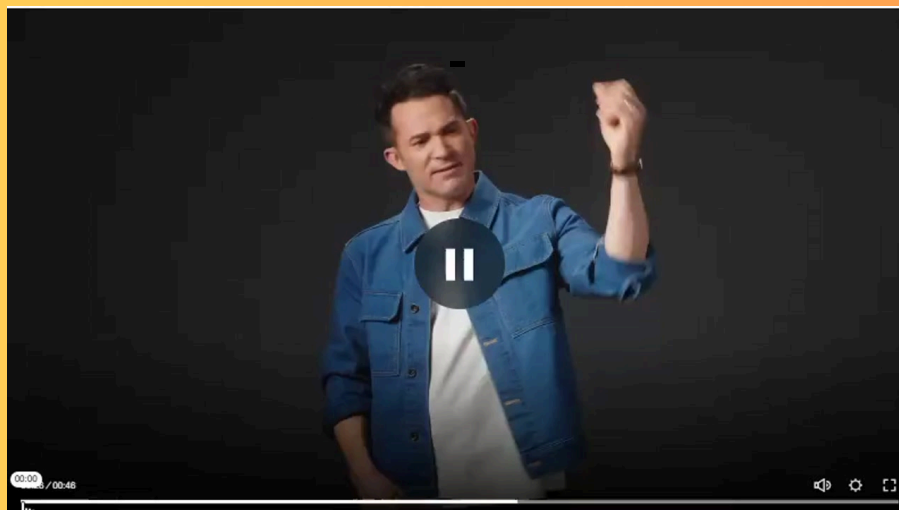


JUSTIN WILLMAN TOOK FIRST-PLACE IN THE 1994 I.B.M. RING ONE JUNIOR COMPETITION WITH A SHORT, BUT VERY POLISHED ACT. HE OPENED WITH THE VANISHING BIRDCAGE, AND THEN PRODUCED A NUMBER OF COLORFUL BOXES FROM AN EMPTY PAPER BAG. JUSTIN MIXED SEVERAL INGREDIENTS IN A PAN, AND PRODUCED TWO DOVES RATHER THAN THE USUAL CAKE. HE THEN PRODUCED A THIRD DOVE AND CLOSED HIS ACT BY TRANSFORMING THE THREE DOVES INTO A RABBIT.

Magician, comedian, St. Louis Native & Ring One Member

## JUSTIN WILLMAN

will bring his One For the Ages Tour to  
The Fabulous Fox on Saturday, November 28 - 7:00 p.m.  
Tickets are NOW on sale!  
[JUSTINWILLMAN.COM](http://JUSTINWILLMAN.COM)



EDITOR: OUR THANKS TO JEFF LEFTON FOR SOURCING THIS INFORMATION!

# **RING ONE** MEET OUR MAGIC FAMILY

## **STEVE FINKELSTEIN**

**IBM Ring One Board Director**

**Lifetime IBM Member**



***“THE REAL MAGIC ISN'T THE TRICK - IT'S WHAT HAPPENS AFTER—  
WHEN PEOPLE THINK DIFFERENTLY, CONNECT, AND TAKE ACTION”***

**Steve, thank you for taking the time to share a bit about yourself with our members. Please tell us about your business background.**

- **Co-founded Experience on Demand, focused on turning strategy into execution**
- **50-year career in consulting, including Partner roles at Deloitte and Grant Thornton**
- **Worked with large, global companies like Wendy's, Emerson, and Case Corporation**

### **How did you get started in magic?**

- **Started young—my father taught me my first trick - - Mutus Nomen Dedit Cocis**
- **I saw how magic could make people smile, laugh, and experience amazement**
- **Over time, that spark grew into a lifelong passion—and a discipline.**

### **How did magic become part of your business career?**

- **In consulting, engagement is everything—magic creates that instantly**
- **I began using it to illustrate concepts like perception, creativity and problem-solving**
- **People don't just understand the message—they remember it.**

## **Can you give an example?**

- I use a simple “Count the F’s” exercise—most people get it wrong – see possibilities
- It shows how people see the same information differently
- Perfect lead-in to alignment, communication, visioning and execution

## **What have been a few memorable experiences?**

- Keynote for 300 accountants at 8:00 a.m. – Everyone Bingoed at the same time
- Worked with magician Bev Bergeron at a trade show—great learning experience
- Performed Paul Gertner’s Triple Die Lemma in competition—with Gertner as a judge

## **Have you used magic in other business settings?**

- Trade shows like Oracle and SAP to draw and engage crowds
- Facilitating strategic planning and creativity business workshops
- Keynote speaking engagements engaging the audience

## **What are you doing today?**

- Semi-retired - Focused on business coaching, improving execution and results
- Still integrating magic into workshops and training
- Having fun using magic in everyday life

## **What are some fun facts about you?**

**Served as a veteran in the United States Army Reserve**

**Lifetime Platinum with American Airlines, surpassing 2 million miles flown**

**Named one of “100 St. Louisans You Should Know” – Small Business Monthly**

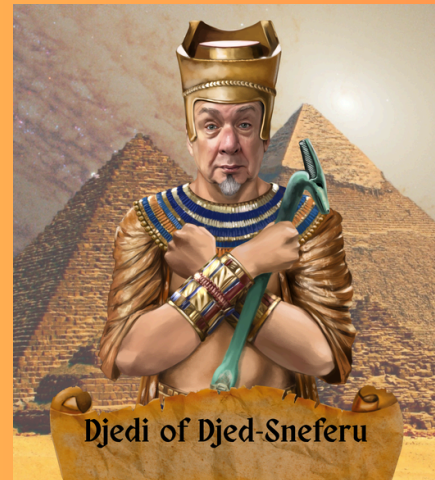
**Featured in Creative Living Magazine on creativity by  
Northwestern Mutual  
Distinguished Career Achievement Award – UMSL  
Received the Theper Award for significant contributions to IBM  
Ring One  
Recipient of multiple awards across close-up and stage  
competitions  
Member of three international magic clubs:  
IBM (Lifetime), SAM and IMS  
Earned the Doctor of Magic Diploma from International  
Magicians Society (IMS)  
Served multiple years as a Board Member of IBM Ring One**



**Which magicians have influenced you the most?**  
**Paul Gertner, Henry Evans and Bill Malone for close-up mastery**  
**Marc Paul, Charles Gauci, Max Maven and Richard Osterlind**  
**for mentalism**  
**Whit Haydn, Chef Anton, and Sal Piacente for gambling magic.**

## What are some of your favorite effects to perform?

- Close-up: Rising Card from a wine glass, Sponge Balls, Dice Stacking
- Gambling Effects – 3 Shell Game, Fast and Loose, 3 Disk Monte, Poker Deals
- Math Magic – Magic Squares, Predict a Total, Memory Effects, Number Magic
- Mentalism – The Tell (my original effect), Magazine Test, mind reading with cards
- Money Magic- \$1M bill penetration (no hole) and a \$2-to-\$1 bill transformation
- Bar Bets, Cons, Swindles and Scams – I did a 1.5 hour lecture for IBM Ring One



Steve's image was used for the Egyptian magi, Djedi, in MASTERS TO MYTHICS, the tabletop board game.

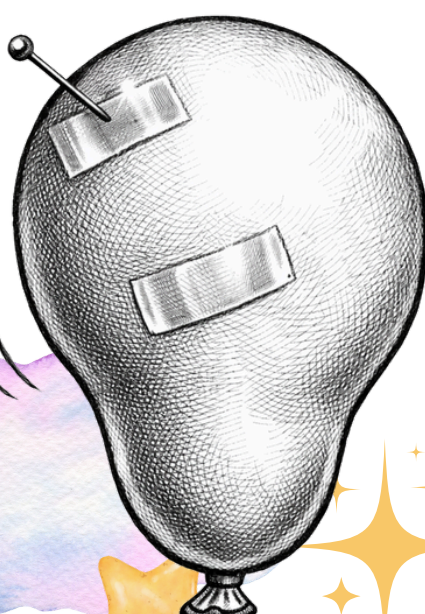

## Final question—what does magic mean to you?

- It's about creating moments that connect people where people think differently
- It helps me to continue to grow and learn. It keeps me youthful, something I genuinely enjoy and have fun with every day.



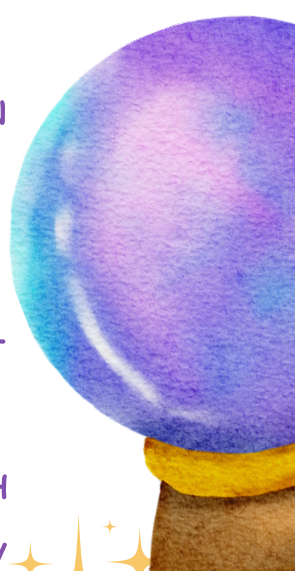


# YOUNG MAGICIAN'S PAGE



EFFECT: YOU DISPLAY A BRIGHTLY COLORED INFLATED BALLOON, THE AUDIENCE CAN SEE IT IS JUST AN ORDINARY BALLOON. ANNOUNCING THAT YOU WILL DEMONSTRATE "IMPOSSIBLE CONTROL OVER FRAGILE OBJECTS," YOU TAKE A SHARP PIN AND SLOWLY PRESS IT INTO THE BALLOON'S SURFACE. INSTEAD OF EXPLODING, THE BALLOON REMAINS FULLY INFLATED. TO HEIGHTEN THE IMPOSSIBILITY, YOU PUSH THE PIN INTO A SECOND SPOT... THEN A THIRD. EACH TIME, THE BALLOON STUBBORNLY REFUSES TO BURST. ONLY WHEN YOU DRAMATICALLY "WITHDRAW YOUR MAGICAL PROTECTION" AND TOUCH THE PIN TO A FINAL AREA DOES THE BALLOON INSTANTLY POP, PROVING THE DANGER WAS REAL ALL ALONG.

SECRET:  
BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE, PREPARE THE BALLOON BY PLACING SEVERAL SMALL SQUARES OF CLEAR CELLOPHANE TAPE ON ITS SURFACE. THESE PATCHES ARE NEARLY INVISIBLE FROM EVEN A SHORT DISTANCE.



WHEN YOU PRESS THE PIN INTO ONE OF THE TAPED AREAS, THE LATEX CANNOT TEAR OUTWARD, SO THE BALLOON WILL NOT BURST. IT MAY SLOWLY LEAK, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO BE NOTICED DURING THE ROUTINE. BY PLACING MULTIPLE TAPE PATCHES AROUND THE BALLOON, YOU CAN "TEST" SEVERAL DIFFERENT SPOTS, EACH APPEARING MORE DARING THAN THE LAST. FOR THE FINALE, SIMPLY PUSH THE PIN INTO ANY UNTAPED SECTION. WITHOUT THE TAPE TO CONTAIN THE TEAR, THE BALLOON WILL POP INSTANTLY, GIVING YOU A CLEAN, DRAMATIC ENDING.



DON'T EVER LET ANYONE  
DEFLATE YOUR VIBE!  
STAY MAGICAL!

# INVITATION FROM OUR MEMBER SHEP HYKEN



## **Masters of the Mind: An Entertaining Mentalist Experience: June 5 & 6**

Hello!

This is Shep Hyken's wife, Cindy, and I am helping Shep organize the Psychic Entertainers Association's annual event, which is in St. Louis this summer.

I wanted to personally let you know about a very special event coming to St. Louis on June 5 and 6 as part of the Psychic Entertainers Association Annual Meeting.

We're presenting **Masters of the Mind: An Entertaining Mentalist Experience**, featuring some of the top mentalists in the world. Many of these performers have appeared on television, headlined theaters, and performed internationally, and now they'll all be together for two incredible nights right here in St. Louis.

This is not your typical magic show. It's an interactive evening of mind reading, predictions, psychological illusions, audience participation, and moments that will leave people talking long after the show ends.

Best of all, each night features a completely different lineup and performances.

**Friday, June 5, 2026**

- Scott Deming - Master of Ceremonies
- Chris Carter
- Jonathan Levitt
- Danny Orleans
- Jason Suran

**Saturday, June 6, 2026**

- Ken Weber - Master of Ceremonies
- Christian and Katalina
- Tobias Heinemann
- Chris Rayman
- Michael Gutenplan

You may have seen these performers on TV. Now you can experience them live and up close. We would love to see you there!

Whether you're a magician, mentalist, or simply love great entertainment, I think you'll really enjoy this unique experience. The tickets just went on sale to the public, but I wanted to get this to you early before the tickets sell out.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/masters-of-the-mind-an-entertaining-mentalist-experience-tickets-1988854902552>

Thank you,

**Cindy Pass Hyken**  
Director of Reputation  
Shepard Presentations

# 2026 RING ONE

vision perspective success support confidence network management teamwork inspiration

responsibility empower influence business captain lead

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