



# Society of Memphis Magicians



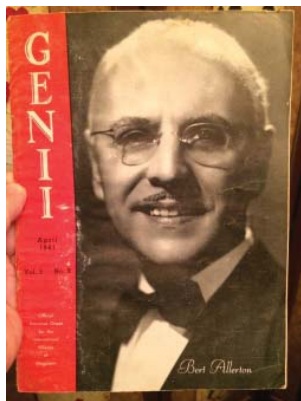
International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16  
January 2018 [www.ring16.org](http://www.ring16.org)

## A Few Words from the President

*Jeff Day - President*

Since this newsletter will be the last one of 2017, I hope everyone had a Very Merry Christmas. I will also wish your all a Very Happy New Year for the upcoming 2018 year. I chose to highlight a magician for this newsletter that really has influenced a lot of close-up magicians today. I hope you'll look him up and find some material that he's contributed to the magic community.

**Bert Allerton** (Albert Allen Gustafson) entered the world on New Year's Day, **January 1, 1889**. He worked as a successful close-up magician in top nightclubs and hotels across the United States. Allerton also created several playing card routines that are in full use today.



(Genii, April - 1941)

After a career as an oil salesman and the death of his wife, Allerton took up magic. He eventually started performing close-up magic in nightclubs. He worked for many years at the Ambassador East Hotel Pump Room in Chicago as well as the House

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## Notes from the VP

*Bill Canaday - Vice-President*

First, thanks so much for the great turnout and full room at our Holiday/Christmas party at Coletta's earlier this month! As always, a great wrap-up for another great year for us! As we look forward to our New Year, and our first meeting of 2018, try to bring some Magic/Mentalism that you received at our Santa Swap, or that you received for Christmas. I hope that you and yours had a great Hannukkah, Holiday, and Christmas, and have a nice and safe New Year! Best for all of you in 2018! See you next week, and Happy New Year!

♣♥♦♦



**Bill Canaday presenting the 2017 SMMURFFF award to Jeff Day**

### Ring 16 January Meeting

**Tuesday January 2nd - 7pm**  
**Memphis Botanic Garden**  
**Annual Initiation/Christmas gift Magic**

**(President - From page 1)**

of Murphy in Hollywood and the Hotel Pierre in New York City.

Allerton was one of the few magicians at the time to work exclusively in the close-up arena. One of his features was performing the *Vanishing Bird Cage* close up. His effects and routines appeared in many publications, including, “*The Bert Allerton Aspirin Tin Routine*” (found in “*The Performance of Close-Up*”, by Eugene Burger, 1983). He also appeared in Series 3 of the *Stars of Magic* was published in 1947, and was devoted to Allerton. One of his card routines that is still performed to this day is “**Pump Room Phantasy**”. This is a trick worth looking into, as there is a lot of comedy potential found in this one. He also authored an important magic book titled, “*The Close-Up Magician*”. Bert Allerton passed away in 1958, and his final resting place is at Memorial Park Cemetery, 9900 Gross Point Road, Skokie, IL

Thank You ALL for making 2017 a magical one for our RING16 group! Please have a safe and happy holiday season, and we’ll see each other in 2018 !!

♣♥♠♦

**Holiday Party Photos**

*Larry DuFrene - Grayson Smith*

