



Society of Memphis Magicians



International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16
September 2017 www.ring16.org

A Few Words from the President

Jeff Day - President

EUGENE BURGER (June 1, 1939 – August 8, 2017)

With the loss of a giant in the magic community on August 8, I am reminded at how Eugene Burger has helped magic change the way magicians think about how their magic should be performed, and viewed by audiences. We all have our own ideas about this, but I will let Eugene say it so perfectly in his own words. Below is an excerpt from his booklet, “Growing in the Art of Magic” (1992)



“As magicians, when are we growing in the art of magic? Are we, for instance, growing when we’re buying more tricks? Well, we’re accumulating, aren’t we, but are we also growing? Are we growing in magic when we’re buying more books, since most books that are purchased probably remain unread or at least unstudied? Are we growing when we’re reading more magic books?”

Western Europeans especially have been utterly hypnotized by books and by this idea that the best way to learn something is to learn it from a book. Perhaps this idea springs from the notion

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Notes from the VP

Bill Canaday - Vice-President

First, we have had to postpone our lecture from TC Tahoe; thanks for all of you that voted to host TC here. He told me he appreciates this, however, he has had to postpone his lecture tour for now, and he hopes to come and see us at another time. Second, we did vote to have Devin Knight; he was able to reschedule us for Sep.16th; this will be his final lecture tour, and we are glad to have him. Next, I am sure you have all heard about the passing of Eugene Burger. Eugene came here years ago, and was doing a show at Memphis State at the time, and he went by the Fun Shop, and also gave a lecture here since he was already here. Fast forward to a couple of years ago, and he came here for a lecture, workshop, and has he put it, BBQ. Eugene was very nice to all of us, and I am glad to we got to make a new friend. He will be missed by all of us in the magic and mentalism world. Rest in peace, Eugene. See you next week at our September meeting, and I hope you and your family have a nice and safe Labor Day weekend.



IBM Ring 16

September Meeting

Tuesday September 5th - 7pm

Memphis Botanic Garden

Theme: “Impromptu Magic” & Mentalism

(Impromptu Magic will consist of several “mystery bags” with objects inside that the participating magician will have to use to create a trick in an allotted time)

President (continued)

that certain books in and of themselves are sacred or holy, whose content is not simply opinion but revelation from the gods or from a god. Whatever the reason, it is a rather weird idea when you think about it, because some of the most exciting and interesting things in life are best learned not from a book but directly.

And so I ask you: Are we growing in the art of magic when we are reading a book? Let me put it another way. Which of the following activities do you think would more promote personal growth for you?

1. Reading a magic book about coin tricks for four hours, or
2. Reading a magic book about coin tricks for 30 minutes and then locking yourself in a room for three and a half hours without the book but with some half-dollars and a mirror.

I'll leave you to ponder that question for yourself. And the answer becomes clear to you."

" ... The last thing I would like to mention by way of introduction, is the relation of growing and caring. If we are to grow in the magical art, we need to approach our magic with great care and even love. The depth of our care and concern for our magic is the key to any success we might achieve as magicians. In one sense, each of us involved in the art of magic is very much like a gardener tending a garden. If the gardener forgets the garden, or if he visits it only rarely, or does not give it his deep attention, the weeds will overtake it and any sense of order and design will be lost. On the other hand, if the gardener exerts great care and love for his garden, it will grow in marvelous ways.

Is this how we want our involvement in the art of magic to grow? Are we ready to give our magical garden new attention and care? If we are, we are on the path to growing in the art of magic."

--- Eugene Burger



August Business Meeting

John Sorrell

August 1st, 2017

* Lectures:

- Devin Knight - Waiting to hear TC Tahoe - Sept 9-15 - waiting on Scott Wells
- * Martin Seiler - Treasurer's Report
- * Doug Green - House Party Gig
- * Jeff Day - Dyersbury Library Gig
- * Grayson Smith - St. John's Gig for Future Music Professionals
- * Rollie Dickerson - Attended Aaron Fisher 2 Day convention
- * Richard Hiller - Attended combined IBM/SAM convention
- * IBM next year in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- * Guests: Larry Hass and Ron Burns (Bentley's dad)



Firefly Night @ the Botanic

Grayson Smith



August Open Magic

Grayson Smith - Larry DuFrene



Marc Salem Lecture

Monday, February 17th - 7pm

Masonic Lodge - Berclair