



# Society of Memphis Magicians



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

## A Few Words from the President

*Jeff Day - President*

### **RING16's Got Talent!**

Don't forget – the Ring16 SMMURFFF Competition will be on November 6th. Encourage some of your friends to come to the Memphis Botanic Gardens for a really entertaining magic show. Think of it as our own local “Society of Memphis Magicians Got Talent”!

Here we are near the end of 2018. November has a national holiday, Thanksgiving, and this month also shares many birthdays of magicians. I just thought you might like to see who is on the November birthday list.

- 03 – Frederick Bancroft (1866-1897)
- 04 – Will Alma (1904-1993)
- 05 – Chevalier Agoston (1821-1876)
- 10 – Hans Trunk (1887-1966)
- 11 – Tobias Bamberg (1875-1963)
- 15 – Graham Adams (1893-1974)
- 16 – Robert Nelson (1901-1973)
- 17 – Karl Norman (1918-2013)
- 18 – Bautier DeKolts (1847-1903)
- 18 – Mysterious Alma (1904-1993)
- 26 – Blanka Absolon (1944 - )
- 27 – William Hilliar (1876-1936)
- 28 – Newmann (1880-1952)
- 30 – Henning Nelms (1900-1986)

Some, or most, of these magicians you may have never heard of. However, they pretty much have had an important role to play in the history of

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## Notes from the VP

*Bill Canaday - Vice-President*

As we get ready to wind down another great year for Ring 16, thanks to everyone who came out for the highly respected and knowledgeable John Mendoza lecture. I am sorry I missed it, however, everyone who was there really enjoyed it, and learned a lot from a true legend in our art. Thanks again to Mike Speros for putting this lecture together, and hosting it at his home. I did get to attend the Gregory Wilson lecture, and it was our most attended lecture in awhile. Gregory was very engaging, and helpful and friendly, as he gave an outstanding lecture. We are glad that he could schedule us on his lecture tour; a great night for our Ring! Don't forget about our annual SMMURFFF competition next week, and our annual Holiday/Christmas Party at Coletta's in December; more on that to come! Happy Halloween to you and yours! Make sure it is a safe one, and at the same time, this date is designated as World Magic Day, in Honor of Harry Houdini, who died on Halloween, in Detroit, in 1926. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

♣♥♠♦

### **Ring 16 November Meeting**

**Tuesday November 6th - 7pm**

**Memphis Botanic Garden**

**Theme: Annual SMMURFFF  
and 2019 Elections**

### **December Banquet**

**Tuesday, December 4th - 6:30pm**

**Coletta's - Bartlett**

**(President - From page 1)**

modern magic. If you have a computer or phone (and I believe you do), I suggest just taking a bit of time to look up some of these magic performers and see what all they've done. You might be surprised. At the very least, it'll be an interesting read.

See you all at the Ring16 Meeting on November 6, 7:00 – 9:00pm at The Memphis Botanic Garden.



**October 2nd Business Meeting**

*John Sorrell*

- Lectures: Greg Wilson - Tuesday, October 9th  
John Mendoza - Sunday, October 21st
- Justin Bloom - October 12 - Seminary
- Larry DuFrene - Treasurer's Report
- Steve Thomas - IBM Territorial VP - MS discussed the need for Ring members to be IBM members in good standing (paid up dues).
- Paul Frankel - Magic at upcoming Pool Event
- Nick Toombs - Upcoming Comedy Hypotism
- Grayson Smith & Jeff Day - Upcoming Art on Fire event at Dickson Gardens
- Jeff Day - Upcoming Fountain House Haunted Happenings, Live at 9
- Steve Thomas - Upcoming Halloween gig at Tupelo Barnes Crossing
- Nick Toombs - Upcoming Zoo Boo
- Welcomed back Bill Thompson, Blake Thompson, Mike Waits



**Greg Wilson Lecture**

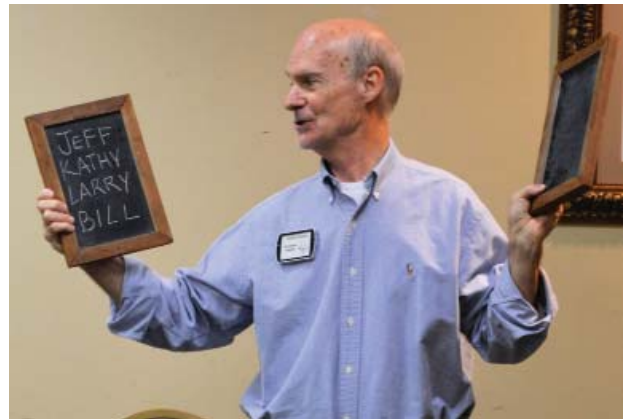
*Larry DuFrene - Photographer*



**2019 Proposed Slate of Officers**

*Grayson Smith - Nominating Committee*

- President - Jeff Day
- Vice President - Bill Canaday
- Secretary - Kathy Kalagias
- Treasurer - Larry DuFrene



**John Mendoza Lecture**

*Larry DuFrene/Grayson Smith-Photographers*





# October Open Magic Photos

Grayson Smith & Larry DuFrene



## Down in the Boro

### *Nashville Ring 37's Alan Fisher*

The theme for our October meeting was “Color Changing Magic.” I made a joke at the top of my slot saying, “I really don’t do any color changing magic in my act save for The Coloring Book. And that’s just too impressive a bit to waste on a club meeting!” Truth be told, The Magic Coloring Book is one of the most amazing and underrated bits we can put in a show. Rumor has it that after making the Statue of Liberty disappear David Copperfield asked one of the audience members what they thought of his grand illusion. The response was simply, “Not bad, but how do you do that thing with the coloring book?”

Why does a simple kid’s trick get such a reaction? And it’s usually not from the kids. Oh kids like it, don’t get me wrong. But at every show I use it the biggest reaction is from the adults. No matter what I do, afterwards all they want to ask me about is that Coloring Book. It completely blows their minds. And as it turns out, that little book has been doing this for centuries.

Originally known as a “blow book,” the effect has been around since at least the 16th century. It’s one of the oldest (if not the oldest) recorded magic props sold, thanks to the invention of the printing press in 1450. The effect is described in European publications on magic or witchcraft from the 1550s. The “blow book” is mentioned in Hocus Pocus Junior, the earliest known collection of magic tricks in the English language, published in London in 1635. It was called a “blow book” because the magi would have the spectator blow on the book to cause the magic to happen, a standard gimmick at the time for most conjurers. By the 19th century prices on printed materials had dropped so much that the trick was quite well known, and it was not uncommon for magicians of the period to hand them out after their performances. At one time Quaker Oats even gave out a version in their cereal.

I guess it’s such a hit with adults because it’s something they can all relate to and remember having as a child. It’s something they’ve held in

their hands and are very familiar with. Kids more readily accept that a magician can do wondrous things with whatever objects they hold. But adults are more suspicious of anything we use. They suspect everything as being a “prop” that is gimmicked in some way, even if we tell them it is not (and are truthful when we tell them). They know cards can be gimmicked as well as coins and scarfs and anything else. But there’s something about a coloring book that throws them. They are totally taken by surprise and caught off-guard by the simplicity of it. To them, it truly is magic. And that’s all that matters.



## Magic Conventions

### *From Ring 252 Murfreesboro Newsletter*

Music City Creative Ministries Conference is November 9 to 10 at Connell Memorial United Methodist Church (113 Church Street, Goodlettsville). Cost is \$40 or \$60 for a family. Single day tickets are available for \$20.

Winter Carnival of Magic in Pigeon Forge is March 7 to 9, 2019. Cost is \$159 for magicians and \$85 for companions / youths. Single day tickets are available for \$89 for magicians and \$65 for companions / youths. Show only tickets for Friday & Saturday night are available for \$20 each night. Primary hotel is the Ramada Pigeon Forge North with Hotel Pigeon Forge and Inn on the River as the overflows.

The next IBM convention is July 10 to 13, 2019 in Scottsdale, AZ at the Talking Stick Resort. Till February 28 the price will be \$299 and it keeps going up from there. Banquet tickets are extra. Show only tickets for Thursday, Friday, & Saturday night are available. Hotel rate is \$95 a night plus \$3 a day for housekeeping gratuity and \$10 per room for bellmen services.

The next SAM convention is January 18 to 21, 2020 (note the year - that’s 2020) in Las Vegas, NV at the Golden Nugget. Registration for SAM members started August 1st for \$269. Non-SAM members can register at a higher price starting January 1, 2019. Convention rate for rooms at the Golden Nugget are \$69 / night.

