



# Society of Memphis Magicians

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16

March 2019

[www.ring16magic.com](http://www.ring16magic.com)



## A Few Words from the President

*Jeffrey Day - President*

## A FAMOUS MAGICIAN PERFORMED IN MEMPHIS IN 1899

There are quite a few famous magicians born in the month of March.

<b>John Scarne</b>	<b>3/04/1903</b>
<b>Penn Jillette</b>	<b>3/05/1955</b>
<b>Lance Burton</b>	<b>3/10/1960</b>
<b>T. Nelson Downs</b>	<b>3/16/1867</b>
<b>Milbourne Christopher</b>	<b>3/23/1914</b>
<b>Harry Houdini</b>	<b>3/24/1874</b>

Like most Memphians, the Orpheum Theatre has always been a great place to see shows like plays, musicals, movies, operas, even lectures now and then. I used to go to quite a lot when I was here in Memphis. In the early 1980s I saw Richard Harris in the production of "Camelot". When I left the theatre and was walking down the sidewalk, I noticed something that I had never seen before. It was a STAR honoring the great Harry Houdini. What??? Why have I never noticed that before? I never knew he had performed at the Orpheum Theatre. After the ensuing research, I discovered that he couldn't have performed there. The Orpheum Theatre was built in 1928, Houdini died in 1926. I found out later that in 1899 he performed at the Grand Opera House that use to stand where the Orpheum is today, on the corner of Main and Beale. The Grand Opera House was touted as the finest opera house outside of New York City. Unfortunately, it was completely destroyed by a fire on October 17, 1923, and the Orpheum Theatre was later built in 1928. Can you imagine the crowds that came to see Houdini's magic show?

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## Notes from the VP

*Bill Canaday—Vice President*

Fellow Ring 16 Members:

As you know, there is a lot of Magic, Mentalism, etc. available today. When I first started out in Magic, and then when my interest turned more to Mentalism, there were a lot of choices, however, not like today. There is no doubt that there are a lot of great routines, and creators of these routines, as well as some really great thinking and marketing. A lot of these are great to have in our acts, shows, etc. My wife and I went to see KISS at The FedEx Forum Saturday night. Great show, and every bit of it was worth seeing. They are professionals who have been doing this for over four decades, and very well, I must say. The show was sold-out, a tribute to true talent. This can be used in comparison of Magic and Mentalism that has also been around awhile; The Linking Rings, Cups and Balls, Professors Nightmare, Mental Epic, Book Tests, Predictions, etc. It is always, in my opinion, to not only have great performance items today, however, it is still nice to see performances of routines that we remember when we were getting started. Looking forward to seeing you next week!



### RING 16 MARCH MEETING

**Tuesday March 5th - 7pm**

**Memphis Botanic Garden**

**Escapes & Card Magic ... and Mentalism**

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 (A Few Words from Our President)

I would love to see a program of his show when he performed there. Maybe one day I will. I'm sure, at least I hope, that he performed his world famous "Metamorphosis". I wonder if he hurled cards up to the balcony seats. It was common for magicians back then to have "throw out cards" to toss to adoring fans as souvenirs. I wonder if he did that.

On this month of March, remember where you live and think about all the vaudeville performers that came through Memphis on their way to other large cities to perform. Go down to the Orpheum and look for Houdini's STAR and have your picture taken with it. You'll find David Copperfield's STAR, also! ♦♣♥♠



*Jeffrey Day with Houdini's Star outside the Orpheum.*



Please be sure to check out our new website! [www.ring16magic.com](http://www.ring16magic.com)

If you are a member of the IBM, and Ring16 that would like to be in the Member Directory on the page, please send me a message with a photo, short bio, and any links to your social media/website that you want to share. Thank you so much!

### February 5th Business Meeting—Kathy Kalagias

The February meeting of Ring 16 was well attended. Our Vice President Bill Canaday led the meeting. We discussed the Lance Burton Teen Seminar. Jeff Day sent some brochures that he made for visitors so we could all approve them. We mentioned public shows by Ring16 "16 Days of Magic" and we will be discussing it more in the upcoming meetings. Don Berry brought in some information on a possible location for a show, the Bartlett Performing Arts Center. Kathy Kalagias discussed Jeffrey Day's recent show "The Mesmerist" and mentioned the possibility of future shows at the historic Woodruff-Fontaine House. Bill Canaday, Vice President, discussed future lectures. Larry DuFrene, Treasurer, presented his financial report.

Mario the Magician will be performing at GPAC on March 30, at 9:30 and 10:30 am. John Campbell showed us a book that he has been working on for the past five years with Andi Gladwin. "Scott Robinson's Pure Imagination" that will be available on Vanishing, Inc in a few months. Doug Green invited our magicians to perform at his "February Club" party later this month.

The theme for this month was "Valentine's Magic and Mentalism".

After the business part of the meeting, Martin Seiler performed his version of the trick "seven keys to baldpate" with Chris Wetzel. Grayson Smith performed his trick "Grayson's Valentine Story". Doug Green did a Valentine's themed "any card at any number" with Rocky Yarbrough and Don Berry. Doug also performed his variation of a Bob Farmer trick, "Bammo Deckronomicron". Paul Frankel did a trick with Aaron Mathis that he calls "reversing the aces."

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Don Berry did some light bulb magic, and Aaron Mathis did several tricks with a Rubik Cube. Lucio Martinez did the card trick for us that he did to win first place at the Winter Carnival of Magic. I am looking forward to more magic at next month's meeting! ♦♣♥♠

## FEBRUARY MEETING MAGIC PHOTOS

*Grayson Smith & Larry DuFrene*

