



Society of Memphis Magicians

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16

May 2019

www.ring16magic.com



A Few Words from the President

Jeffrey Day - President

Remember Your Mother This Month



Harry Houdini considered her a "Saint" and honored a deathbed promise made to his father to always look after her. In 1904 he moved her into a large new family home at 278 West 113th Street in Harlem. He once even requested his salary in gold coins, which he poured into his mother's lap.

Cecilia never learned English. She and Houdini communicated in German. Despite being the wife of a Rabbi, Cecilia did not speak Yiddish (according to Bess Houdini). She understood German, French, Italian, Spanish and Hungarian only. Also despite what has been dramatized in some biopics, there was no conflict between Cecilia and Bess. Cecilia later became close with Bess's mother, Balbina, who was also a German speaking widow with five children.

Cecilia Weiss died on July 17, 1913 after suffering a stroke while on vacation with Hardeen in Asbury Park, New Jersey. Her funeral was delayed so Houdini could travel back from Europe to see her one last time. In her coffin he placed the last thing she had asked for; a pair of woolen slippers size six. She is buried amid her family in Machpelah cemetery in Queens, NY.

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Notes from the VP

Bill Canaday—Vice President

Fellow Ring 16 Members: As always, great to see everyone at our last Meeting. The Magic/Mentalism Community, as you know has lost a lot of greats recently: Denny Haney, Steve Dusheck, and Johnny Thompson. As of writing this, I learned that John Cornelius has sadly passed away. I had some of his products, including his very popular Thought Transmitter Wallet. These gentlemen will always be remembered, and as they say, their many contributions to Magic and Mentalism will continue to be performed and enjoyed for many years to come. Another gentleman that passed away in March was Marshall Brodien. As Ronnie Rucker mentioned at our April Meeting, Mr. Brodien was a major part of his early years in Magic. As I am sure this is true for a lot of us, Ronnie is right; he sure was an early inspiration for me too. Seeing him on TV, especially advertising his TV Magic Cards, which I am sure a lot of us had, really elevated our Magic in those years. I read in Genii Magazine that he sold millions of these. I remember for us, going to Raleigh Springs Mall, especially at Christmas time at Woolworths, and seeing his TV Magic Cards, and his Magic Sets, right there by all of the Christmas decorations. Needless to say, I asked for and got these for Christmas. Back then, and with The Fun Shop being Downtown, these were simpler times, and while it is great to get the current Magic/Mentalism routines available now, it is worth remembering the times when we started out on this great journey of Magic and Mentalism. See you next week
Bill Canaday. ♦♣♥♠

RING 16 MAY MEETING

Tuesday May 7th - 7pm

Memphis Botanic Garden

Magic That Mother Would Love...and Mentalism

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(below L: Celicia Weiss, Harry / C: Cecilia, Bess, Balbina / R: Cecilia, Harry, Bess)



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April Business Meeting - Kathy Kalagias, Secretary

The April meeting of Ring 16 was very well attended. Our President Jeffrey Day led the meeting. We discussed recent events such as the lecture by Mario the Maker Magician. Everyone enjoyed having Mario and

his family here to share their magic with us, and several of our members went to see his sold out show at GPAC. We also reminded members to check out the new website, and submit what you want to have put on the site to our secretary Kathy so she can add it for you. Larry DuFrene, Treasurer, presented his financial report.

Several of our Ring 16 members performed this past month! Don Berry performed at FCM in Ohio on March 14, 15, and 16. Michael Clayton performed a Dinner, Magic, and Variety Show at Sweetpea's Table Restaurant and Events in Olive Branch, MS on March 22. Jeffrey Day performed for the Germantown Silent Auction benefiting the Germantown Animal Shelter, as well as a Rotary event at The Guest House at Graceland. Magic Brunch at the Railgarten is a popular event at a local hot spot. We have a group of members who perform regularly there. Many of our members will be performing at the Botanic Gardens Annual Easter Egg Hunt later this month to say "Thank you" for letting us hold our meetings there.

We had a special guest, John Midgley from Murfreesboro, that came to discuss the possibility of becoming a combined IBM/SAM ring assembly. A lot of our members are already SAM members, and many of us are interested in finding out more information on this idea.

The theme of the meeting was April Fools Magic...and Mentalism. Our special guest John Midgley did some magic for us with Michael Clayton. Something we are calling "Don't lie to me." Ronnie Rucker did "Box Office" with Bill Canaday. Jeffrey Day read one of his newsletters from when he was in the Alaska Magic Circle. It was an April Fools theme letter about magicians and some tricks. Then Jeff did a card trick called "Double Vision" with John Midgley and Bill Canaday. Don Berry showed us some coin magic. Then Grayson Smith did "Color Changing Knives" with our 8 year old guest Timothy. Next Richard Hiller did "Tongue through Napkin." Then Jeff did "Ambitious Card" with guest Timothy, letting him shuffle the cards and he made the card come back to the top right in his hands. John Midgley also showed us a version of "Triumph." Don Berry performed a "City Lights" book test. Jeff Day also did "The Man Who Knows" by Liam Montier and Matt Lingard.

Looking forward to more magic at next month's meeting. If you are in the Memphis area the first Tuesday of the month, we would love for you to join us after the business of the meeting is taken care of. We love to have visitors!♦♣♥♠

Upcoming Lectures:

Dan Fleshman — May 28th

Nathan Coe Marsh — August 27th

APRIL MAGIC PHOTOS *Grayson Smith*

