



# Society of Memphis Magicians



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

## A Few Words from the President

*Jeff Day - President*

**HARRY KELLAR** was the world's most famous magician of his time. Being famous throughout the world isn't an easy job. Harder still, was being well respected and put high upon a pedestal by his peers. That being said, Kellar was a humble man, and I'm sure felt the weight being lifted as he "passed the mantle" to the next great magician the world has known, Howard Thurston. Below is an excerpt of the introduction that Harry Kellar inscribed in the forward of Ottokar Fischer's book, "*Illustrated Magic*" (1945). Most all of what he says can be held true today.

"The most successful professional magicians have been those who could read human nature and correctly estimate the character of their spectators, and so modify their discourse and sometimes their illusions as to fit the different kinds of people that they might confront.

In this, never make the mistake of belittling the intelligence of those who watch your work. Always there is someone keen, alert, and quick to apprehend and you must never play below his or her level. Indeed, you never can afford to hold your spectators lightly. It is better to let them make the mistake of holding you too lightly.

So, in summing up these few remarks which occur to me as the result of a lifetime spent in the practice of magic for my own amusement and the entertainment of others, I would say to all beginners, Keep three things in mind – these three:

(Continued on Page 2)

## Notes from the VP

*Bill Canaday - Vice-President*

Another great auction for our ring came, and thanks to everyone who had items to sell, and congratulations to those of you that got new Magic/Mentalism at the auction. Thanks to Mike Speros, who did a great job again as auctioneer! Speaking of Mike, he is kind enough to host our Tom Vorohjan lecture at his home next month. This is something to look forward to, as is our next lecture, mentalist Ben Blau, will be joining us next week, as he will be traveling here from Detroit. A reminder that Gregory Wilson's rescheduled lecture will be this fall. A lot going on now, as always, and glad to have you join us for the fun. Looking forward to seeing you next week for our meeting!



### Ring 16 August Meeting

**Tuesday August 7th - 7pm**  
**Memphis Botanic Garden**  
**Theme: Mystery Bag Challenge**  
**... and Mentalism**

### Upcoming Lectures

**Ben Blau - August 11 2:30pm**  
**Germantown Presbyterian Church**

**Tom Vorohajan - August 17 7:00 pm**  
**Mike Speros' House - 2700 Breenwood Lane**

**Greg Wilson - Monday, October 1**

## (President - From page 1)

**First** – Practice constantly new sleights, novel devices, and invent new combinations of old feats. You must have something always new wherewith to dazzle.

**Second** – Make your work artistic by clothing each illusion with all the glamor and shadows of fairyland, and the suggestions of incantations and supernatural powers in order to prepare the observer's mind for a mystery though there be no mystery.

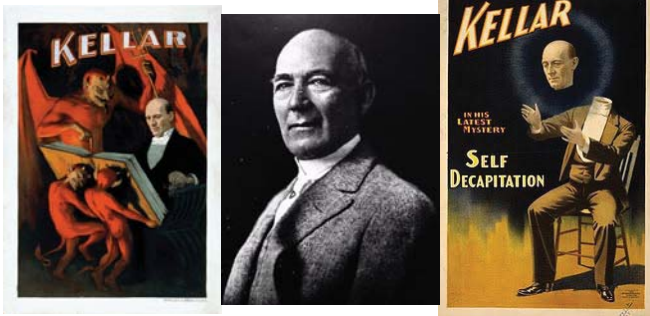
**Third** – Study your spectators and seek to put them under your control even as the mesmerist does his subjects, so that their minds should be receptive to theories of the occult, and their eyes be shut to the obviously simple explanations of your prestidigitation.

Finally, I need not say that the end of all magic is to feed with mystery the human mind, which dearly loves mystery.

So, leave every mystery forever unexplained!

And in the hope that you may, by thus entertaining others, find enjoyment for yourselves, as I did for many years, I tender you my best wishes for your success, and the hope that through you the magician's art may have new masters to perpetuate it."

(signed) Harry Kellar



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## July 3rd Business Meeting

*John Sorrell*

- Lectures:

Aug 17 - Tom Vorjohan - Nick Trost

Oct 1 - Gregory Wilson

- Possible lectures:

John Mendoza - Sunday Oct 21 - Speros' house

- Treasurer's Report - Larry DuFrene

- Grayson Smith - Going to IBM Convention

- Grayson Smith - Botanic Garden flower group cancelled tonight but Gardens paying for security, etc. just for us. Thank them.

- Visitors - Laura Cook, Elijah Poston

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## Nashville House of Cards

*from Ring 252 newsletter*

A magic-themed underground entertainment complex has opened in Nashville's lower Broadway honky-tonk district. House of Cards, located beneath the Johnny Cash museum at the end of a secret tunnel, is described in a press release as celebrating "the art of magic, classic American cuisine and fine hand-crafted cocktails." The project is the brainchild of Bill Miller, who owns the Johnny Cash Museum, as well as Skull's Rainbow Room in Printer's Alley. The 9,500 square foot space boasts a multi-million-dollar collection of fine art. House of Cards opened April 9. "Guests are encouraged to explore the dining room to enjoy the rare collections and be entertained by some of America's top magicians, who are stationed throughout the venue to provide mind boggling illusions and tricks all evening," according to a media release announcing House of Cards. Reservations are required and will include tickets to the magic performances. House of Cards has a dress code and a policy of no photography. The project's interior design took four years to plan and implement, and creates the feel of an authentic 1930s speakeasy. House of Cards will be located at 119 3rd Avenue South in Nashville. Hours: 5 p.m. until midnight (in the bar); 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. (for dinner). Phone: 615-730-8326.

Website: [hocnashville.com/reservations](http://hocnashville.com/reservations)

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