



THE TARBELL TRIBUNE

JUL. 2026

IBM RING 43 NEWSLETTER

The Month & Upcoming

Ondrej Psenicka Lecture

Next Meeting: Tuesday,
August 18th, at 7:00 pm
@ **Magic Inc**

Inside this month's issue, we look back at Ring 43's Annual Close-Up Competition and the wide range of magic shared by our members. From cards and comedy to mentalism and theatrical presentations, the evening showcased the creativity and performance experience within our club. Congratulations to **Simon Black**, **Gene Bloomquist**, and **Paco El Mago** for earning the top three spots—and thank you to everyone who performed, volunteered, voted, and supported the contestants.

This issue also honors the life of Don Wiberg, a longtime Ring 43 member, former Ring President, I.B.M. National President, teacher, performer, and mentor.

His influence will be remembered throughout the Chicago magic community. You'll also find Mike's latest "Prez Says," featuring two recent books with fascinating connections to magic and entertainment.

Although Ring 43 is taking its traditional summer break in July, there is plenty to look forward to when we return. Exciting new updates are coming to our monthly meetings, with special opportunities designed to make each gathering even more engaging and rewarding. Members will need to be present to participate and take advantage—so make plans to join us regularly and see what is ahead.

We return on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m. with a special lecture from acclaimed magician **Ondřej Pšenička** at Magic Inc. Please note the Tuesday date rather than our usual Friday meeting night, and mark your calendar for what promises to be an outstanding evening of inventive and unforgettable magic.

Last Month: Annual Close Up Competition

President **Mike Kamlet** opened the meeting and said this is the last "official" meeting before the summer hiatus. This year is our 80th anniversary and we are planning a salute to Harlan Tarbell. **Pedro Nieves** announced that Magic, Inc was holding a Summer Camp for young magicians. Also, Eric Jones will be giving a lecture and work shop this Summer.

Terrence Hunter went first starting with a math trick and then showed a talking tennis ball. He then asked the front row to shout a color and a tool. **Alan Koslow** shouted "Orange Hammer" and Terrence pulled an orange hammer from the bag on the table. He did a nice Ball Vase routine where the ball vanished then a silk turned into a golf ball and the silk was then found in the vase. Terrence finished with a card effect.

"Fancy" **Nancy Anderson** went second and chose **Alec Schraegle** as a volunteer, Nancy dealt cards until Alec said stop. He dealt the cards into two piles and Nancy turned over the top two, a 2 and a 6. The first card represented the suit and the second represented the value. She first showed that the 26th card was the predicted one. She then reversed the cards and made it a 62. On page 62 of her magic book the selected card was found.





Nancy asked Alec three questions and he wrote the answers on a pad. His best friend, what row he sat in in class, and his locker combination. She guessed all three answers.

Asher Schulman had Nancy pick a card and lay it on the table and then start a one minute timer. He sorted thru the deck and attempted to figure out the card. Nancy placed another selected card back in the deck and Asher said he would make her card vanish. He went through the deck and it was indeed gone. He then made the card reappear, face down in the face up deck.

Simon Black also picked Nancy for a card trick. She picked the 3S and slipped it back in the deck. Simon cut the deck and shuffled half face up and half face down. Simon began eliminating face up cards. He asked what suit her card was and she said "Spades". Simon showed that all the cards he had discarded were spades. He then shook the packet and the cards rearranged into numerical order, making it obvious which was Nancy's card. He then spread the deck and her card was face-up in the spread.

He finished with a card routine that showed lots of cards but, in the end, when he turned over all the cards they were all blank!



Levy Elsberg, who works at Magic, Inc. performed with Alec as his volunteer. Levy began turning over cards as he told the story of how he began in magic, The cards he turned over perfectly aligned with his story. Alec chose the 4S. Levy showed a picture of the nine-dot puzzle, As he rubbed the deck on the table the cards on the table formed an image of the puzzle. One card was left sticking out of the deck and it was shown to be Alec's 4S.



Gene Bloomquist was next and chose Kristen to assist. He spread the cards face up and Kristen chose the QH. It was returned to the deck and Gene cut the cards and shuffled the two halves face up and face down. He spread the cards and they were all face up except for Kristen's QH. Next he had Nancy name any fruit. She chose "pear" Gene said he had a brown paper bag and wouldn't it be amazing if her fruit was in it! He reached in the bag and pulled out a can of mixed fruit. After the laughter died, Nancy opened the can and found a whole pear inside!



Paco El Mago performed his act to music, with a video screen His daughter introduced him. He had Nancy pick a card, put it in the deck and put the deck in a glass tumbler. When he waved a feather over the deck Nancy's card rose out of the deck. He had another card selected and repeated the trick, but this time he inverted a glass vase over the tumbler and the selected card still rose

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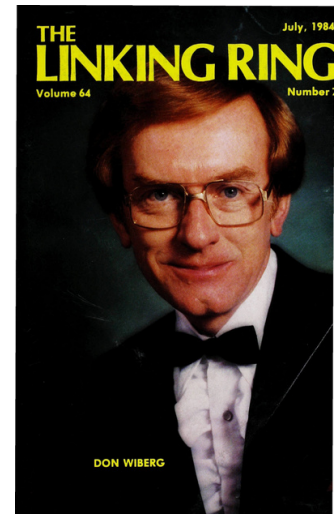
Member Spotlight – Broken Wand

Don Wiberg 1936 – 2026

Don's interest in magic began at an early age when his dad showed a few tricks. His first magic purchase was from Riley's Trick Shop in Worth, Illinois and his parents also bought him a Mysto Magic Set. By the time he was in grammar school, Don was a paid performer.

Don worked in Riley's shop in high school through college. Later, Don worked for Frances Marshall when Jay and Fran first moved to Lincoln Avenue. Don ran the junior magic club and built some of Jay's first bookshelves. (Don was a shop teacher).

Don attended the University of Illinois and got his BS and got an MS degrees in Industrial Education from Chicago State University. He has taught Industrial Arts in both junior high school and high school. His wife Joyce was also a teacher where she last taught computer literacy.



Don befriended many of magic's legends. Jack Gwynee was Don's neighbor in Oak Lawn, and Don used to drive Jack to magic events.

Don developed an interest in clowning when he performed at a Children's Hospital. He also performed as Corny the Corn King Clown (Corn King Meat Company), doing supermarket promotions throughout the Midwest.

During the summers, since Don and Joyce were teachers, they became assistants to Mark Wilson playing state and county fairs. Later he worked for Mark Wilson Magical Productions setting up trade show illusions. Don also performed several times on the Bozo show. One time he performed the Mismade Girl with Cookie and Bozo assisted.

Don and Joyce were also docents for the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CFA) where they gave tours for many years, often getting recognized as giving more tours than the other docents.

Don was very active in the magic clubs as well. He became a member of the I.B.M. in 1953, and served in various offices for Ring 43 becoming president from 1965–7. In 1967, he was elected Territorial Vice President for Illinois. Don then moved on to the I.B.M. executive committee and became the I.B.M. national President in 1984. After "leaving office," Don continued to be active at the national level serving as national secretary for 20 years. Don also ran the Magic Masters club in Chicago for many years.

Don's life was defined by his love of magic, teaching, and service to others. Through his performances, leadership, and generous mentorship, he inspired countless people and left an enduring mark on the magic community. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.





Prez Says...Other Books

I recently read two books that had also had some magic related interest. I read Arsenio Hall's autobiography, *Arsenio: A Memoir*. The bulk of the book focused on his ground-breaking talk show, but he also discussed his childhood. As some may be aware, Arsenio was a teenage magician. He learned his dove act from Johnny Thompson and performed a lot in his hometown of Cleveland. He also discussed a pivotal moment at the Abbott's Get Together where he won second place in the teen contest. Hank Moorehouse told him that he was funny and he would do well as a standup comedian; setting Arsenio up for his career. Overall, I enjoyed this book.

Another book that has some touches of magic was *Love Johnny Carson* by Mark Malkoff. Mark also used to host the Carson podcast where he interviewed several magicians including Harry Lorayne, Kreskin, Randi, Uri Geller, Lance Burton and Paul Gertner. While the book does talk about Carson's interest in magic, there are only brief stories of Kreskin and Geller and a mention that Carson used Lorayne's memory system to memorize jokes. Gertner is quoted once and there is a nice photo of Gertner at Johnny's house. I was a bit surprised there wasn't more "magic" in the book given Carson's background and love of magic. But if you're a fan of Carson or even late night shows, it's a good read.

...Annual Close Up Competition continued from page 2

Alan Koslow did a comedy version of Any Card At Any Number with Craig and John. John chose a card (2H), Craig chose a number (13). Alan then pointed out a second deck sitting on the table the whole time. Craig counted down thirteen cards and showed the 2H. Alan then had John count down in his borrowed, shuffled deck and he, too, found his card at the selected number.

John Hutsebaut began with a card trick where he showed the Ace thru Six of hearts. As he turned each card face-down he showed the backs were numbered one thru six in magic marker. Picking up the six he said, "One of these numbers is not like the others because if you turn the six over it magically turns into a nine... On both sides." He turned the card around to show it had transformed into the Nine of Hearts! John also did his Mini-Linking Ring routine and a nice rubber band routine

While votes were being tallied Mike Kamlet gave a presentation on Harry Houdini.

When the votes were tallied the results were:

Third Place **Paco El Mago**
Second Place **Gene Bloomquist**
and the winner was **Simon Black**.

After the meeting some of the club members went to Primo Chuckies for additional fun and fellowship.



Membership Dues

It's that glorious time of the year. A few tornadoes have come and gone, we're closing out 10+ days of scorching 95 degrees of heat with 150% humidity, and the air quality index is inching it's way back down from 500. Oh, and it's Ring 43 dues time!

As we like to say, don't vanish from Ring 43 like a bad coin palm—renew your dues now before your membership disappears in a puff of smoke! Dues are \$35 if you pay before our September meeting (\$40 after that), and we've included a payment link and handy QR code to make it easier than a self-working card trick.

[Payment Link](#)



Happy Birthday

Lucy Amundson
Simon Black
Alec Dylo
Brandon Martinez
Robert Miller
Sol Shatz
Andrea Solimbergo
Asher Stuhlman
John Sturk
Gary Wenzel



Events Calendar

AUG 18* Ondrej Psenicka Lecture

SEPT 18 ABC Teach a Trick

OCT TBD Caleb Wiles Lecture

Meeting location is graciously
hosted by



1838 W Lawrence Ave. Chicago, IL 60640

*Meeting date different from our normal 3rd Friday of
the month, on Tuesday

Upcoming Conventions

Be Magic - August 20 - 22, 2026 | New
Albany, IN
<https://bemagicevents.com/>

Coin Magic Study Group - Work through the
classic coin magic book, Bobo's Modern Coin
Magic, on the second Saturday of every
month from 2 pm - 4 pm.

Magic Inc. - Support your local magic shop!
For more info, call 773-334-2855 or
magicinc.net.

Club Meetings:
S.A.M. Assembly 3—At Magic Inc, first Monday
of the month 6:30pm.
www.magicalchicago.com

Conjurer's Corner Magic Club—Fourth
Monday, Mr. Beef & Pizza, 1796 S. Elmhurst Rd.,
Mt. Prospect.

IBM Ring 43 Board of Directors

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Dedicated to teaching its members to become better magical entertainers!