



# Society of Memphis Magicians



International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16  
November 2016 [www.ring16.org](http://www.ring16.org)

## Presidential Ponderings

*Bill Canaday - President*

Fellow Ring 16 Members: It has been another great year for us here at Ring 16. Don't forget that at our November meeting next week, we have our annual SMMURFFF Competition; so please join us and participate if you can. Now, on Nov. 12th, Memphis has been chosen to be one of the cities to host Penguin Magic's Magic Expo. They have gone to a lot of cities, and have a variety of guests. Here in Memphis, we will be treated to Mark Mason, Paul Richards, and others. The location has been announced; Sheraton Hotel Memphis, 250 N. Main St., Memphis, TN 38103. This event will run from 10 AM-4PM. This again will be on Saturday, Nov. 12th. At your convenience, please go to Penguin Magic's website to get more details and to sign up. This is a very exciting event to be here, and I hope you can make it. Now, those of you outside of Memphis that receive our newsletter, this Expo will be in Nashville the next day, Sunday, Nov. 13th. Early sign up at Penguin's website will save you some money. Also, just added for a 1 hour lecture for this Expo, according to Penguin Magic's website, we will be fortunate to see the great Mentalist, Richard Osterlind. (As of 10/24/16 - Penguin's website says Michael Weber not Richard Osterlind - obviously subject to change - js). This will definitely be a history making weekend in Magic for Ring 16 and Memphis! See you at our November meeting, and don't forget World Magic Day, and the 90th Anniversary of Harry Houdini's death will be on Monday, Oct. 31st. I hope you and yours have a safe and Happy Halloween!

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## Notes from the VP

*Jeff Day - Vice-President*

This is an excerpt from Eugene Burger's booklet, "Growing in the Art of Magic" (1992)

### Chapter 1 - GROWING

"And so I ask you: Are we growing in the art of magic when we are reading books? Let me put it another way. Which of the following activities do you think would most promote personal growth for you?"

1. Reading a magic book about coin tricks for four hours, or
2. Reading a magic book about coin tricks for 30 minutes and then locking yourself in a room for three and a half hours without the book, but with some half-dollars and a mirror.

I'll leave you to ponder that question for yourself. And the answer becomes clear to you.

Another question that I think we need to ask ourselves is: "What is the relation between growing and listening?" If we are really to grow, don't we need to stop talking for a while and begin listening? Most of us are talking most of the time,

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**Ring 16 November Meeting**  
**Tuesday November 1 - 7pm**  
**Memphis Botanic Garden**  
**Themes: SMMURFFF**  
**2017 Election of Officers**

## Notes from the VP (continued)

not always verbally of course, but inwardly. The little voice in the head, the endless chatter in the skull, commenting, evaluating, weighing, judging. But to grow don't we also need to be quiet? Don't we need to listen to others and to the world around us and, most of all, let us not forget to listen to ourselves, to our own imagination, our own dreams.

One of the problems I always had with school is that they were always telling me what my dreams should be, and seldom giving me the time to stop and listen to what my dreams actually were. I suppose that we could say an important part of growing is learning to ask the important questions. We need, in fact, to learn to ask the right questions at the right time.

In magic it seems that the vast majority of magic books have lost sight of what the important questions are. They are concerned instead with the very tiny part of what magic is about, namely, how different magic tricks work. Yet if our dream is to perform magic to a great response from audiences, if that is our dream, how the magic tricks work is, well, it's rather on the level of the child in kindergarten playing with toys and discovering how they work. How the magic tricks work is only the beginning of the magical journey.

The last thing I would like to mention by the way of introduction, is the relation of growing and caring. If we are to grow in the magical art, we need to approach our magic with great care and love. The depth of our care and concern for our magic is the key to any success we might achieve as magicians. In one sense, each of us involved in the art of magic is very much like a gardener tending a garden. If the gardener forgets the garden, or if he visits it only rarely, or does not give it his deep attention, the weeds will overtake it and any sense of order and design will be lost. On the other hand, if the gardener exerts great care and love for his garden, it will grow in marvelous ways.

Is this how we want our involvement in the art of magic to grow? Are we ready to give our magical garden new attention and care? If we are, we are on the path to growing in the art of magic."

This was just an excerpt from the first chapter of this booklet which contains ten illuminating chapters. Eugene Burger hit on something very important. There is something more to making "magic" than merely learning the trick itself. How the trick is approached and then interpreted, and then presented and translated to the audience, that is the key to magic. Lots to think about when opening up that next trick you just got in the mail.

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## October Business Meeting

*John Sorrell*

- \* Lectures: Nathan Kranzo, Fri. Feb 17  
Shawn McMasters - Tuesday, Feb 7th - will take vote  
Tom Frank - Jeff will poll
- \* Monday Night Magic Jams - Might stop soon for holiday break. Next Oct 10/24.
- \* Penguin Memphis Expo - Saturday, Nov 12
- \* Grayson made motion to have cards/postcards printed for Ring publicity @ Expo.  
Motion passed. Bill will explore and spend up to \$50.
- \* Holiday Banquet - Coletta's, Monday, Dec 5th - 6pm.
- \* Nominating Committee 2017 Slate of Officers:  
President - Jeff Day  
Vice President - Bill Canaday  
Treasurer - Martin Seiler  
Secretary - John Sorrell
- \* Jeff Day has show Sunday - American Yeast Company.
- \* Martin Seiler gave treasurer's report.
- \* Ian Munk performed his initiation and was voted into Ring 16. Welcome, Ian.

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# October Open Magic

*Grayson Smith - John Sorrell*

