

Ring Meeting Themes

Below you will find a list of 437 potent themes for your monthly Ring meetings. Assuming your Ring meets 10 times a year, this list will last you for the next 43 years.

A monthly magic theme is often a misunderstood concept. A theme is more than a central idea for a monthly meeting. It goes well beyond that. Your magic monthly theme represents the heart and soul of your artistic work. It provides a primary reason for coming together as performing artists. The purpose of this list of potential IBM Ring themes is to provide you and your program committee with a resource of generating intriguing meetings.

This list was generated by combining information from five different sources: (1) a compiled list of all of the Ring activities reported in *The Linking Ring* during 2016; (2) Ring Meeting Ideas found in the New Ring Development Guide (2016, pages 76-81); (3) Ideas and Activities listed on the I.B.M. website <http://www.magician.org/resources/ring-resources>; (4) welcomed unsolicited suggestions from Daniel Brock III; and (5) meticulous notes from the files of Dr. Richard Mossey, I.B.M. president (1965-66). Duplicate verbiage has been eliminated, although a particular theme may be expressed in more than one phrase, recognizing that some language expressions may be more appealing than others.

1. 52 Card Pickup
2. ABC – Anything But Cards
3. Alexander Herman
4. An Old Friend
5. Ancient, Antique, and Unusual Magic
6. Ancient/Historical Magic
7. Animal Magic (real or otherwise)
8. Animation Magic (Fitzkee)
9. Annual Auction (A Great Opportunity For Members To Get Rid Of Some ~~Junk~~ From Their Magic Drawers; Recycle Quality Magic Props, Books, And DVDs)
10. Annual Cookout and Magic Show (in June for Members and Families)
11. Any Effect from a Magic Book or Magazine
12. Anything Goes – Your Free Choice To Present Whatever You Wish
13. Anything Involving The Number Three
14. Attraction Magic (Fitzkee)
15. Audience Management/Crowd Control
16. Audience Volunteers/Lay Volunteers
17. Back to School
18. Backdrops and Stage Décor
19. Bag Magic
20. Balloon Magic/Sculpting
21. Bar Betchas/ Sucker Tricks
22. Bar Magic
23. Birthday Party Magic

24. Bizarre Magick
25. Black Art Magic
26. Blades in Magic (Knives, Choppers, Swords, Scissors)
27. Book and Video Reviews
28. Book Tests
29. Bottles and Glasses
30. Box Magic
31. Brain Freeze: I'm Really Stuck On This
32. Bread and Butter Tricks
33. Bring A Winner
34. Build-It-Yourself Magic
35. Business Card Exchange or Critique
36. Business Card Magic
37. Business of Magic
38. Busking/Working for Tips
39. By the Book (Effects From Books Along With Book Itself For Public Viewing)
40. Candles, Canes, and Wands
41. Card Controls And Sleights
42. Card Magic
43. Card Magic Gimmicks
44. Card Magic On Stage
45. Card Magic Teach-In
46. Card Magic With Gimmicks Or Special Decks
47. Card Magic With No Sleights
48. Card Magic Without Gimmicks Or Fake Decks
49. Card Splitting
50. Card Trick Night
51. Card Tricks Without Pick-A-Card
52. Cardboard box illusions
53. Character Magic (Done In Costume)
54. Charity & Benefit Gigs
55. Charity show
56. Children's Magic
57. Children's Magic Class (Invite Public Parents And Kids For A Free Magic Lesson)
58. Chop Cups
59. Christmas in July
60. Circus Magic
61. Classic Challenge (Example: develop your routine for "The Cords of Fantasia," using ingenuity and creativity. The ropes could represent the bonds between friends through college with the wand replaced with a diploma; the ropes could represent a two lane highway with a tree [wand] in the way; a Chinese shaman but use cords, Chinese coins and a chopstick; the ropes might represent clotheslines with clothes-pinned laundry; a car mechanic might use a dipstick for the wand and a mini-fan belt for the rings.)
62. Close Up Contest (Beginning And Intermediate)
63. Close-Up Cavalcade Show
64. Close-Up Showcase

65. Close-up Tricks Suitable for Walk-Around
66. Clown/Character Driven Magic
67. Coin Magic
68. Coin Magic Gimmicks
69. Collections
70. Collector's Corner
71. Color Themed Magic
72. Colorful Magic
73. Combining Effects to Create Something New
74. Comedy Delivery & Timing
75. Comedy Magic
76. Comedy Scripting
77. Comedy Workshop
78. Community Volunteerism
79. Computer/Electronic Device Magic
80. Construction of Apparatus
81. Contests
82. Convention Magic
83. Convention Purchased Magic
84. Cooking Magic
85. Costumes, Wardrobe, and Accessories
86. Creepy Magic
87. Critiques
88. Cups and Balls and Bags
89. Dai Vernon
90. Danger Magic – Any Effects With A Danger Theme
91. Dante
92. Daryl's Deceptions
93. Dealer's Night (Product Demonstrations and Sales)
94. Dealing with Hecklers
95. Déjà vu Magic (Different Performer Takes On Some Classic Magic Effects)
96. Demonstration of Collectible/Rare Magic Items
97. Dice and Odd and Unusual Things
98. Digital Magic
99. Directing Magic (Importance of Having A Skilled Director for Your Show)
100. DIY Magic
101. Do as I Do Magic
102. Do It Yourself Magic
103. Do Whatever You Want Magic
104. Dollar Store Magic
105. Dollar Store/Thrift Store/Hardware Store Magic
106. Don Alan
107. Don't Leave Home Without It
108. Don't Thread on Me
109. Doug Henning
110. Dumbfounding with Dice

111. Eggs: Anything To Do With Eggs Or The Fowl That Produced Them
112. Electronics and Magnets
113. Emceeing a Magic Show
114. Escape from the Ordinary
115. Escapes
116. Ethics for Magician
117. Ethics in Magic
118. Evening of Odd
119. Every Day Prop Magic
120. Exchange Night
121. Exchange Night/Swap Meet
122. Fairs, Festivals, and Magic Conventions
123. Family/Spouse Night (Treat Family Members to VIP Dinner and Show)
124. Famous Magicians' Night (Tricks Done By Famous Magicians)
125. Fanning and Palming
126. Favorite and/or First Magic Trick
127. Favorite Ways To Misdirect An Audience
128. Featured Performer Of The Month (One Individual Does 20-30 Minute Show)
129. Fee Setting And Negotiating
130. Festival/Fair Magic
131. Fire Magic
132. Fix-It Shop (Bring Props or Demonstrate Moves That Need "Fixing")
133. Flea Market/Yard Sale
134. Flower Magic
135. Food Themed Magic
136. Fool The Panel (Performers Try To Stump A Knowledgeable Panel With An Effect)
137. Franken-Trick
138. Free Choice (Do Anything Desired)
139. Fright Night
140. Fun And Games
141. Gambling Night
142. Game Show Night
143. General Helpful Hints
144. Ghost/Spirit Magic
145. Ghosts, Goblins, Spirits
146. Gift Magic
147. Gimmick Cards (Tricks With Cards That Have Something Extra)
148. Gimmicks
149. "Go To" Magic (Things That You Are Always Prepared To Perform, Anywhere, Anytime)
150. Going, Going, Gone (Things that Vanish)
151. Grab Bag (Teams Compete To Create Effects From Non-Magic Odds Ends Tossed Into Bags)
152. Green Magic
153. Halloween Hocus Pocus
154. Halloween Magic
155. Halloween Magic Spook-Tacular

156. Harry Blackstone, Jr
157. Harry Blackstone, Sr.
158. Harry Houdini
159. Harry Kellar
160. Haunted Hayloft Magic
161. Have A Ring Member Do A Lecture At The Meeting
162. Heavy Metal
163. Helpful Tips (Tool Kits, Care Of Props, Emergency Repairs)
164. Helpless Hands
165. History Of Magic
166. Holiday Themed Magic
167. Homemade Magic
168. Honor Night (“This Is Your Life” For A Member)
169. How To Routine Magic Performances
170. Howard Thurston
171. Humorous Magic
172. Hypnotic Magic, Pseudo Hypnosis, And Suggestibility Stunts
173. I’ve Got The World On A String (Magic With Ropes, String, Shoelaces, Ribbons, Twine, Wire, And Bungee Cords)
174. Illusions
175. Impromptu Magic
176. Innovation And Renovation – Share Your Favorite Makeover
177. Insurance (Liability. Health/Audio/Business)
178. Internet Magic (Tricks Either Learned On The Web Or Could Be Performed On The Web)
179. It’s Mathemagic!
180. Jack Gwynne
181. John Booth
182. Juggling
183. Jumbo Card Magic
184. Karrell Fox
185. Kids Magic
186. Knife/Sword Magic
187. Lapping/Sleeving/Topit Magic
188. Levitation, Suspension, Animation
189. Liar’s Panel (Several Panelists Give Convincing, Funny, And Outrageous Explanations Of Variety Of Magic-Related Items And The Members Must Determine Who Is Telling The Truth.)
190. Library And Video Maintenance And Tracking
191. Library Magic (Harry Potter, The Magicians, Alice In Wonderland)
192. Library/School/Preschool Magic
193. Linking Ring Parade Magic
194. Liquid Or Chemical Magic
195. Magic Accessories & Gimmicks
196. Magic Accessories (Tables, Fanning Powder, Magician’s Wax, Special Cards)
197. Magic And Book Tests

198. Magic And Public Speaking
199. Magic And Science
200. Magic Apparatus Or Magic Box Effects
201. Magic At Work
202. Magic By Specific Groups (Officers, New Members, Young Members, etc.)
203. Magic Challenge Night (Teams Of Magicians Are Handed Bags Of Miscellaneous Props And Have Only Minutes To Come Up With A Routine)
204. Magic Cost Saving Tips
205. Magic For Difference Audiences
206. Magic For Fraternal Organizations
207. Magic For Hospitals (Children's Wards, Rehab, Veterans)
208. Magic For Non-Magicians
209. Magic For Seniors, (Independent Living, Nursing Homes)
210. Magic For Skeptics
211. Magic For Special Audiences (Downs Syndrome, Autism, Muscular Dystrophy, Deaf, Blind)
212. Magic From Foreign Lands
213. Magic From *The Linking Ring*
214. Magic From The Wood Shop
215. Magic I Made
216. Magic Idol (Tailored After American Idol, Members Perform For A Distinguished Panel Of Judges Who Then Provide Formal Feedback And Suggestions On Each Performance)
217. Magic in a Cigar Box (Yes, you can still get cigar boxes from tobacco shops)
218. Magic In Social Situations
219. Magic Night And Performances By Specific Groups
220. Magic Of (Insert Name Of Famous Magician)
221. Magic Of The By-Gone Era
222. Magic On A Shoestring Budget
223. Magic Out Of Our Pockets
224. Magic Performance Night With A Specific Type Of Magical Effect
225. Magic Performance Night With Specific Props
226. Magic Tables And Stands
227. Magic That Needs Help
228. Magic With A Message
229. Magic With A Story
230. Magic With An Impact
231. Magic With Bags And Boxes
232. Magic With Everyday Objects
233. Magic With Money
234. Magic You Love
235. Magic You Wish You Didn't Purchase
236. Magical Presentations That Need Help And Improvement
237. Magical Quiz
238. Magician In Trouble
239. Magician Of The Year Award (Decisions Might Be Based On Votes By The Ring Leadership Or Membership. Alternatively, Some Rings Establish A Point System Such

As Awarding One Point For Attending A Ring Meeting, A Second Point For Performing An Effect Using The Theme Of The Night, And A Third Point For Performing An Additional Effect. Perhaps Additional Points Might Be Awarded For Performing In A Ring Charity Show.)

240. Magician's Choice (Do Anything You Want)
241. Make-Up For Magicians
242. Marketing Magic
243. Marvelous Money Miracles
244. May The Force Be With You
245. Medicine Show Magic/Pitching
246. Meeting Swap With Other Ring/Club
247. Memorized Or Stacked Decks
248. Mental Mania
249. Mentalism
250. Mentalism Magic
251. Mini-Auction (Each Member May Sell One Item To The Highest Bidder)
252. Mini-Lectures By Members (30-Minute Lectures)
253. Money Magic
254. Money Magic Effects With Currency Or Coins
255. Money Magic: Paper And Metal
256. Movie Or Skit Magic
257. Movie/TV Themed Magic
258. Music & Sound Effects In Magic
259. Music In Magic
260. My Favorite (Tenyo/Abbotttannentarbelle/Linking Ring/Others) Effect
261. My Favorite Trick
262. My Favorite Way (Select A Familiar Trick, Say, For Example, Cards Across, And Ask Everyone To Present Their Way Of Doing It. Many Options Exist For Stage And Close-Up)
263. My First Magic Trick
264. My Most Important Reference (Talk About Or Perform Something From Your Most Favorite Dvd Or Book, The Last One You Would Part With If You Had To Get Rid Of All Of Your Reference Material Except One)
265. Mystery Night
266. Natural History of the Rising Cards: From Thread to Invisible Loops
267. New Tricks For The New Year
268. Now It's Time to Sell the Medicine
269. Now That's Funny (Comedy Magic)
270. Now You See It – Appearances
271. October: Bizarre, Mentalism, And Halloween Magic
272. Okito
273. Old Effects Are New Again
274. Old Timer's Night
275. Olympics Of Magic
276. Open House Showcase
277. Open Table Night (Can Do Anything)

278. Openers
279. Openers And Closers
280. Optical Illusions In Magic
281. Oriental Magic
282. Original Magic
283. Original Or Adapted Magic Created By Members (Submit As A Liking Ring Parade Article)
284. Original Routines With Standard Props
285. Outdoor Performances
286. Packet Card Tricks
287. Packs Flat, Plays Big
288. Paper Magic
289. Paper Prestidigitation – Any Effects Involving The Use Of Paper
290. Parlor Magic
291. Party And Banquet Magic
292. Past Presidents Spotlight Evening
293. Pasteboardless Pocket Perplexers
294. Patriotic Magic
295. Penetration Magic (Fitzke)
296. People Puzzle People Eater (Magic With Something Purple, Or A Puzzle, Or Food, Or Using People)
297. Performance Or Teaching Themes For A Specific Audience
298. Performer Swap With Other Rings/Clubs
299. Performing Surrounded
300. Period Magic
301. Photo Or Video Evening
302. Physical Anomaly Magic (Fitzkee)
303. Platform Magic
304. Pocket Magic
305. Prediction Magic (Fitzkee)
306. Prepared (Gaffed) Cards
307. Presentations With Predictions
308. Press Releases
309. Product Reviews
310. Production Magic (Fitzkee)
311. Professional Lectures
312. Psychology Of Magic
313. Puppetry In Magic
314. Putting The Extra In Ordinary
315. Quickies (Something You Can Do In Less Than One Minute)
316. Raffle/Door Prize
317. Red, White, And Blue
318. Reel Or Thread Magic
319. Reputation Makers
320. Restaurant Magic
321. Restaurant Magic/Table Hopping

322. Restoration Magic (Fitzke)
323. Reviews Of Recent Performances, Books, Or Videos
324. Ring And String Magic
325. Rings And Coins
326. Romantic Magic For Couples
327. Rope Magic
328. Rope, String & Ribbon Magic
329. Rubber Band Magic
330. Safety/Law Enforcement Themed Magic
331. Salesmanship In Magic
332. Script Writing And Editing
333. Scripting Magic/Patter
334. Self-Working Magic
335. Show Or Tell (Either Perform Or Tell A Magic Incident)
336. Showmanship/Presentation/Staging
337. Silk And Handkerchief Magic
338. Silks And Vintage Magic
339. Sleight Night (No Gaffs Or Gimmicks Allowed – Or Don't Get Caught With Them)
340. Sleight Of Hand Magic
341. Sleights And Moves
342. So You're A Magician: Do Something.
343. Someday (Tricks You Intend To Perform But Never Got Around To Mastering It.)
344. Spanish For Magicians
345. Spectator Failure (Fitzkee)
346. Sponge Magic
347. Spookini
348. Spooky Magic
349. Spooky Magic/Séance
350. Spring Magic – Effects Involving The Use Of Springs
351. Springtime Magic
352. Square/Round/Shaped Magic
353. Stage Card Magic
354. Stage Craft And Theatrical Techniques
355. Stage Magic
356. Stage Tech For Magicians (Lighting, Sound, Stage Sets, Managing)
357. Stagecraft And Theatrical Techniques
358. Storing/Transporting/Caring For Equipment
359. Storytelling Magic
360. Street Magic
361. Strolling Magic/Restaurant Magic
362. Stump The Magician
363. Stupefying Via Stories
364. Sucker And Gag Tricks
365. Sucker Tricks
366. Survival Magic (What You Can Do When Your Props Are Lost)
367. Suspensions/Levitations/Antigravity (Fitzkee)

368. Sympathetic Magic (Fitzkee)
369. Table Magic
370. Table Shenanigans And Betchas Night
371. Tag Team Magic (Member Performs, Tags Next Person Who Must Perform Or Pay A Fine)
372. Taking The Sting Out Of Sucker Tricks
373. Tarbell Magic (Any Specific Volume Or One Assigned)
374. TBA: Theatre, Branding, And Administration
375. Teach A Basic Move
376. Teach-A-Trick
377. Teaching And Mentoring Magic
378. Teaching Magic (Simple Effects You Show Someone Who Wants To Learn A Little Magic)
379. Teaching Table
380. Tech Tricks
381. Techniques
382. Teen Magic
383. Television Magic
384. Thanksgiving Table Crap (Anything That They May Find On Their Thanksgiving Tables, Such As Silverware, Napkins, And Sugar Packets Or Tricks You Regard As "Turkeys")
385. That's Impossible (Vanishing Objects That Reappearing Impossible Places)
386. The Art Of Forcing Objects
387. The Business Side of Magic
388. The Love Of Magic
389. The Magic Trick You Rarely Do Because
390. The Nuts And Bolts Of Magic
391. The Theatre Of Magic – Lights, Curtains, Sound, Costumes, Make-Up
392. The Ties That Bind
393. Thimble Magic
394. Things You Could Stuff In A Card Box ((Invisible Thread, Wax, Sponge Balls, Poker Chips, Coins/Bills. Color Changing Knives, Billets, Silks, Mouth Coils, Dice/Dominoes, Marbles, Rings, Keys, Pk Magnets, Paper Clips, Bottle Cap, Pompoms, Bic Lighter, Ball And Tube, Balloons, Toothpicks/Golf Pencils/Gum/Tictacs, Business Cards, Rubber Bands, String.)
395. Thought Reading/Thought Transmission/ESP (Fitzkee)
396. Thread Magic
397. Thumb Tips And Tubes
398. Tom Mullica
399. Trade Show Magic
400. Transformation Magic (Fitzkee)
401. Transposition Magic (Fitzkee)
402. Transpositions
403. Treasures From The Attic (Good Stuff You Dust Off)
404. Trick Twists, E.G., Torn And Restored Newspaper With A Map
405. Tricks You Wish You'd Never Bought

406. Tricks You've Learned From A Magic Magazine
407. Tricks You've Read From A Book
408. Triple Ring Event (Join Forces With SAM And/Or Other Area Clubs)
409. Uncluttering Conjuring (Dig Through Your Magic Drawer And Unearth The Trick That You'll Never Do)
410. Unusual Magic Performance Night
411. Using Confederates And Stooges
412. Using Video Recording In Magic (Performance, Promotion, Testimonials)
413. Valentine Magic
414. Vanishes/Appearances
415. Variety Arts Night
416. Ventriloquism
417. Vintage Magic
418. Volunteers: Selecting, Interacting, Problems, Costumes, Ways Of Thanking
419. Walk Around Magic
420. Wallet Magic
421. What Are You Packing? (Magic Done On The Spur Of The Moment When Someone Asks To See A Trick)
422. What Is It (Display Obscure Magic Items – Contestants Guess Their Purpose)
423. What Would You Do? (You Are The MC, And Your Next Act Is Not Ready To Go Onstage)
424. What You Purchased At Our Magic Auction
425. What's In Your Pockets
426. When Things Go Wrong
427. Who Am I (Famous Magician's Name Card On Forehead Game)
428. Wicked Witchcraft
429. Works In Progress
430. Worst Trick Ever Bought
431. Your Favorite Gimmick
432. Your Favorite Method
433. Your Favorite Trick Close Up Tricks Suitable For Table
434. Your Worst Trick Turned Out To Be Your Best Trick
435. Youth Magic Club Showcase
436. YouTube Magic
437. Zombie/Floating Effects

New Rings often use prop-related themes for their meetings, e.g., card magic, rope magic, and coin magic. As those Rings mature, they usually move on to more broad-based themes that allow even greater room for resourcefulness and creativity. Creative programming, whether it be from themes or guest lecturers, represents the life-blood of Ring viability.

Further Ring Meeting Tips

As noted in paragraph three, these tips represent, in part, a systematic expansion of Ring Meeting Ideas first presented in *IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES* found elsewhere on the Ring Resources

page. You are encouraged to read the original source document, which is presented in a slightly different format.