



MAGIC NEWS

HEART OF THE RING

IBM Ring 129 - "The Heart of America Ring" - Kansas City

H. Claude Enslow's Stage Magician of the Year Banquet and Show Comes Back to Roeland Park Community Center

Top Magic Talent Ready To Perform for Top Honors

This year, as in those past, it comes time to honor a member of Ring 129 that has made monumental contributions to its success. Someone whom some of us have met and know, and who others have only heard of in stories and writing. We speak of H. Claude Enslow, and the Stage Magician of the Year Banquet that bears his name.

Several members of our Ring have qualified for the honor of participating in this event that honors Enslow. Those performers are: **Brent Ahsmuhs, Dr. Roger Billings, Dr. Mike Blum, Harris Deutsch, Chris Gates, Dale Huffman, Kevin Kirwan, Keith Leff, Roger Miller, Kyle Scheel, and Jay Steffan.**

This year marks the return to the Roeland Park Community Center stage for what looks to be one of the premier events we have seen in some time. It all happens on Saturday, January 25th. Doors open at 6:00 pm with dinner served at 6:30 pm. This year's menu has

changed a little – combining baron of beef with chicken and pasta and vegetables – to give a totally different taste and atmosphere. We promise you a great lead-in to a terrific evening.

We are also honored to have as our guest the International Brotherhood of Magicians' President Mike Stratman and his wife. You should look forward to meeting Mike and making him feel welcome at our evening's festivities.

Costs for the event are \$17 for regular and associate members, and \$15 for Sorcerer's Circle members. **Bring your checks or cash to the January 2nd meeting and pay there**, or you can send your checks to Danny Mahar at 2510 Van Brunt Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64127. Seats are assigned on a first-come **PAID** reserved basis. **Cut-off date for ALL reserved seats is January 17th FOR SURE!!**

If you cannot send or bring your checks, be sure to call Danny Mahar at 816-923-4788 or Alan Goodheart at 913-648-0331 to make

LET'S MAKE A DEAL!!

Some of us are very conscientious and have paid our 2003 dues, and others may not have paid. So Let's Make A Deal!

If you have taken care of this obligation, we thank you. If you haven't, bring them to the meeting January 2nd. If you pay your dues by the end of the meeting, you can attend the upcoming Tim Ellis – Sue-Anne Webster lecture for FREE! Also if you have not paid your dues, when we change the password to www.ring129.com, you will not get this, and we will have to stop sending you this marvelous publication. That's right, so don't delay! See you January 2nd with lots of cash in hand.

WE NEED YOU!!

Do you have a digital camera and/or a video tape camera? We are needing someone to take still pictures as well as video tape the Stage Contest on January 25th. If you could help save the Ring this Club expense, please call Alan Goodheart, event chairman at 913-451-8334 days or 913-648-0331 evenings.

SURPRISE! NEW! EXCITING!

Those are words that describe a new contest that will begin in NEXT MONTH'S newsletter. Watch for your name and a chance to win!! Details to follow in the February issue. Don't miss it!!!

Upcoming Events

January 2, 2003
(Day after New Year's)

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

At Best Western Inn
and Conference Center,
Southwest Blvd. At Rainbow
501 Southwest Blvd.
Behind Applebee's – lower level

January 16, 2003

Board Meeting

Magic Supply Company,
624 Walnut; Blue Springs, MO
7:00 pm

January 24, 2003

Sorcerer's Circle Event
Announced at 1/2/03 Mtg.

January 25th, 2003

Stage Magician of the Year
Banquet and Show– 6:30pm

Roeland Park Community Center
Call Danny Mahar
for Reservations!!

February 6, 2003

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

At Best Western Inn
and Conference Center,
Southwest Blvd. At Rainbow
501 Southwest Blvd.
Behind Applebee's – lower level

February 8, 2003

Kid's Show at Roeland Park Com-
munity Center – 1:00 pm
Ring Auction –
5:00 pm to 10:30 pm

February 27, 2003

Tim Ellis – Sue-Anne Webster Lec-



**New President's
Column
By
Larry Warshaw**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. On one

hand, this would be the perfect time to make resolutions for the club as we start January with a new year and a new Board. On the other hand, for more and better reasons, I suggest that this is not the time to resolve making drastic changes in our club. As we reflect on the state of the club, we are now over 100 members strong with a tremendous mix of founding and long-time members along with so many newer members. Some of us have been in magic for years -- some are newly smitten with the art. Some are collectors, some performers, and some just love to learn. So, thanks to Jay Godwin, David Sandy and Carl Macan, all of whom leave the Board having left the club better for all their hard work and dedication. Especially, thanks to Doc Blum, whose stewardship over the last two years will be a tough act to follow. And -- thanks to all of you who make being a part of Ring 129 such a magical treat. Having said all that, I suggest that our resolution for the new year should be to build onto our already incredible foundation.

Certainly, we all will have a large part to play in making July's IBM Convention in Kansas City the best ever, but I ask for all of your help so we don't lose sight of all the things we love about magic and our club while we focus on one major event in our future. Let's continue our energy around the record numbers of performers we have had at our monthly meetings, the upcoming Magician of the Year Banquet (January 25th), the Roeland Park Children's Show (February 8th), and the auction (February 8th). This is, after all, our club. Your participation is what has made the club what it is. Please contact any of the Board members with any ideas you have to make the club better for its members, and better for the community. I look forward to seeing you at the January 2nd monthly meeting, and wish all of you the very best for a wonderful 2003.

**NEW LECTURE SCHEDULED!
TIM ELLIS AND SUE-ANN WEBSTER**

Make plans to attend an all-new lecture by Tim Ellis and Sue-Ann Webster on February 27th, 2003 at the Best Western Conference Center at 7:00 pm SHARP!

If you have changed your address, phone number, or e-mail in the last several months, please contact Carl Macan at 913-648-1465 or crm130@aol.com with those updates. Thanks.

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President: Larry Warshaw.....	(913) 381-8829
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Treasurer: Kirk Deweese.....	(816) 224-5000
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Ring 129 Website
<http://www.ring129.com>

Magician of the Month

DECEMBER 2002

Stage
 Dr. Roger Billings

Close-up
 Tamara Vitale

Remember to visit our Ring's website at:
www.ring129.com

**Our Ring Dues are NOW DUE!
 So Do the Dues!!**

At last month's meeting, we passed out our renewal forms and many of you have paid your 2003 dues. But there are still plenty of us who have not. So don't forget to bring your cash or checkbook to this month's meeting. Yearly dues are only \$20. This way we can update our roster with all your current information.

If you have not paid your dues by January, our password to the Ring 129 website will be withheld as well as the newsletter. So make the effort – pay up if you can.

BE SURE TO FILL OUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS FOR THE ROSTER

Please be sure to fill out our membership renewal form when you bring your dues to the January 2nd meeting. These will be available at the meeting. This will allow us to bring our roster and website up to date, and makes sure your addresses and numbers are current for all members to have access to. Current regular members dues are \$20, and associate members dues are \$5.

MAGIC FROM DOWN UNDER RETURNS



It's back to the 50's with Tim Ellis (Left) and Sue-Anne Webster doing their version of a 6 card repeat

Captivating, exciting, fun.... these are some of the words used to describe the lecture last year of Tim Ellis and Sue-Anne Webster from Aus-

alia. Their non-stop pace and professional presentations make this a must see again. They come to our Ring on February 27th at 7:00 pm at the Best Western Conference Center. Lecture fees are on the outside page of the newsletter. But if you pay your 2003 Ring dues by the end of the meeting on January 2nd, you can attend this marvelous lecture FOR FREE!!! This is a whole new lecture with many new effects to see and learn, with a few old standbys or classics that will still amaze and astound!! So bring your checks or cash to this Thursday's meeting and be ready to mark your calendars for a great evening ahead!

FREE FOOD AND DRINKS, CASH PRIZES, DANCING MONKEYS,

Or What I Miss By Not Coming To The Ring Meetings

We've moved again-but just down the hall to a larger room, necessitated by growing attendance at our monthly meetings. About sixty were present at our December meeting. Jason Dean led off the proceedings with the Teach-a-trick presentation, showing us a Jay Sankey handling of the Invisible Deck. Paradoxically, Jason pointed out, the effect gains in strength if one can design a method that rules out sleight of hand.

Larry Poague led off the stage contest with an impressive display of mentalism, including the prediction of an ESP card selected by a spectator and some locations with unusual props such as a pendulum and set of matchboxes. It might have been good enough to win except for two things: (1) mentalists generally don't do well in the voting; and (2) Roger Billings showed up with four of the sexiest female assistants this side of Las Vegas. He did some effects with an appearing wand and a change bag, a production of a "jackrabbit" (a bottle of Jack Daniels whisky with a rabbit head attached) and some dove productions, eventually changing the doves into a rabbit. The mostly male voting contingent, perhaps impressed by the assistants as much as the magic (which was professionally performed, I should add) gave him first place. Other competitors were Danny Mahar, with the production of a large number of dollar bills and some gags about balloon animals and about the holidays; and L. C. Collier, who did a six-card repeat and a torn and restored card.

Stu Lewis led off the close-up contest with the Doc Eason "Sam the Bellhop" routine, based on a series of apparent misfires. Tamara Vitale gave her inaugural performance doing Vernon's Twisting the Aces and Jim Klayder's "A Bullet for the Cowboys." Jim belonged to the ring several years ago; Terry Elton, who has been mentoring Tamara, taught her this four-ace routine. Danny Mahar predicted the date on a dollar bill and did a routine using a card-box switch. Ken Reedy did some coin transpositions. L. C. showed how a Bic pen could be used for a paddle move. Tamara proved that the first time can be a charm, coming in first in the voting.

The open segment featured a special treat-a visit from former ring member Mark Tams, who deserted us years ago to follow his first love: golf. He is currently a golf pro in Tulsa, OK. He did a number of effects, especially an impressive rope routine which he developed in which the ends of the rope constantly move from one hand to the other. There are some Darryl moves, but some of his own as well. Mark was one of our top magicians years ago, and it was good to see him again.

Several current members also performed. Kyle Scheel did a routine based on the Harry Potter books. Helmut Vitale showed us the "split deck" prediction. Dale Huffman showed us some unusual moves with a drinking straw that melted in his hand and also did a color-changing deck. Keve Kirwan did a rope routine based on puns involving "holes," and also the linking rings. Joe White did Lorrayne's "Revolving Aces" (spectators stop you at the four aces) and an ace assembly similar to "Ghost Deal." Joe Stringer did some comedy with a spring animal.

It was one of our busiest meetings of the year, and we seem to be getting stronger with every meeting. There will be a lot of good magic to look forward to in 2003.

--Stu Lewis, Ring reporter

Ring 129

Lecture Fees

Unless listed otherwise,
are as follows:

Non-Members \$15

Members in good standing \$12

Sorcerer's Circle Members \$10

*Go to
www.ring129.com*

Close-up Winner Tamara Vitale

What a great way to learn of one of our Ring's newest youth members. Of course, we speak of this month's C/U contest winner, Tamara Vitale. Tamara's interest in magic was sparked when she saw one of our members – Terry Elton – performing at a wedding. Her inquisitive nature lead to a challenge from Terry for her to learn some tricks, and show him what they were. A month later, Terry was so impressed with what he saw, he has since become Tamara's mentor bringing her to join Ring 129. She enjoys all forms of magic, but has a true passion for things that happen close up, especially using cards. New to the magic scene, she has recently become members of both the International Brotherhood of Magicians as well as the Society of Young Magicians. The hardest thing she had to arrive at was telling us what kind of animal best describes her. After careful thought, she said simply – a dog! A dog is always friendly and enjoys spending time with the company of others. If there is something new and exciting happening, you can bet she is there. And a dog can be hard-working when she wants to be, but they aren't always! And like a dog, Tamara is *always* hungry.....and hungry as well to keep learning new magic and improving her new found skills. Please find Tamara at the next meeting, congratulate her, and discuss a little magic with her. And wish her "Good Luck" if she decides to join us for the Close Up contest this summer. Congrats Tamara!!

Stage Winner Dr. Roger Billings

The December Stage contest saw something we haven't seen in quite awhile - a full blown stage production by this month's winner - Dr. Roger Billings and company. Roger started his career in magic while living in Brazil many years ago. He visited a small magic shop, and found that it was something that he really enjoyed. Later, he became very active in magic while a student at the University. During a summer magic tour of Southern California, he had the opportunity to meet Bill Larsen of the Magic Castle. When he saw his signature illusion, "FireAngel", they became good friends, and he offered him a staff magician position at the Castle. After several performances the summer ended and Roger returned home to the University to complete his studies in science and engineering. When asked the venue he prefers to perform, Roger prefers stage magic. While close-up magic is something that he sincerely enjoys, stage magic is the area where he feels most at home. Which tree best describes you and your personality? Roger replied readily the oak tree. He compares himself to an oak tree because he likes to do projects the way an oak tree grows -- slow and strong. Having been consumed by his efforts to build a public computer networking company, he has not performed very much magic during the past 25 years. In the last two years, however, he started performing benefit shows for charity. Roger also does a performance once each month at the Millionaire's Club in Blue Springs. Involved in magic for quite a few years, he is a relatively new member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, and is not currently a member of any other similar organization. Our best to Decem-

Close-up Winner

Close-up Winner

