



Heart of the RING

“Quality Ring Award Winner”

February 2006 Newsletter

Regular Meeting

Feb 2—7 PM
Roeland Park Community Center
In Room 4

Special Lecture: Eugene Burger

Feb 10—7 PM
Us Toy Magic

Magicade

Feb 12-----1:30 PM
Shawnee Mission East High School

Board Meeting

Feb 16—7 PM
Denny's Restaurant
9001 Shawnee Mission Pkwy

Kid's Show

Feb 18—2:00 PM
Roeland Park CC

Bruce Kalver Lecture

Feb 28—7 PM
US Toy Magic

NEXT MEETING

Feb 2, 2006 7:00 P. M.
Roeland Park Community Center
4850 Rosewood Dr.
Mission, Ks.



Dr. A. M. Wilson

OFFICIALS

President

LC Collier 913-579-1506

Vice President

Chuck Macan 913-681-0368

Secretary

John Hicks 913-334-1392

Treasurer

Kirk DeWeese 816-224-5000

Sergeant at Arms

Matt Gurley 913-422-3596

Board Member

Dan Bradbury 816-531-2468

Board Member

Ken Reedy 816-734-1484

Board Member

Eric Woods 913-709-1606

Past President

Alan Goodheart 913-648-0331

News Editor

Eric Woods
5738 Long Ave
Shawnee, KS 66216
ewoods20@hotmail.com
913-709-1606

Why Does *this* Title Make Sense? By Eric Woods

Last month there was a featured article about Donald Holmes, a local author and magic dealer of the past. If you read carefully you may have noticed a mentioning of the Robert-Houdin Club of which Holmes was a charter member. As far as I know the Robert-Houdin club (c. 1902) was the first magic club in Kansas City, predating the existence of both the IBM and SAM.

After the Rober-Houdin Club's mystical disappearance a latter group of Kansas City conjurers formed the Dr. Wilson Magical Society in honor of one of the greatest contributors to the art of magic.

Albert Miller Wilson (1854-1930) began his magic career in January 1862, appearing on stage as an assistance to, Robert Heller, one of the very first magicians to bring magic to the American stage. From the days of his youth he began to associate with the top names in magic, forming connections that would one day lead him to his labor of love: *The Sphinx*.

Wilson's professional life outside of *The Sphinx* was as varied as his writing. He was an ordained minister, a practicing physician, registered pharmacist and professor of medicine and dentistry at KU Medical School. As a magician each year he performed around 35 stage shows in the Kansas City and surrounding area.

The Sphinx was created by the prolific writer William Hiliar

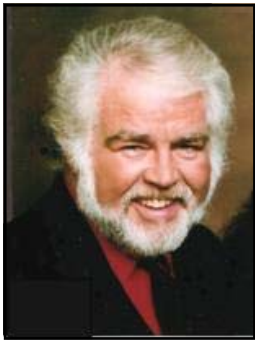
but was mostly an imitation of *Mahatma* (the only other major American magazine devoted to magicians at that time) and seemed to be, like the actual sphinx in Egypt, falling to ruins. Dr. Wilson was an ideal candidate to save the fledgling *Sphinx*, being an influential voice through his regular column that appeared in *Mahatma*, and his "Book Notes" column that appeared in *The Sphinx*.

For a short time Dr. Wilson was Associate Editor, doing all but publish the magazine, and then in September 1904 he established *The Sphinx* in Kansas City and took over complete ownership of the publication.

Names such as T. Nelson Downs, Leon Herrmann, Harry Kellar, and Dr. Henry Ridgley Evans became regular contributors to the *Sphinx* under the leadership of the determined Doctor. Buried in the pages of *The Sphinx* are treasures of effects, tips and history. It was truly a time line of who's who and what was happening in magic during it's time.

There are many more stories of Dr. A.M. Wilson. Search the index of you magic history books and you may find one your self, or wait until next month when we unearth his character. For now I leave you with one of many "Wilsonisms"

"Better late than never, but better to never be late."



Presidents Column

And so it begins! The year 2006 is presenting itself as one of the best yet.

In the past the club has been run by, what has become known as “the click”. I want that to change this year and am going to ask that you become involved. The board will

meet at 7PM, on the third Thursday of every month in the meeting room at Denny’s, located at I-35 and Shawnee Mission Parkway. These meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend and we look forward to hearing your voice help shape the club and participate in the decisions being made. The board meetings are intended to be as short as possible with magic taught and shared afterwards.

This board is excited about all that will transpire this year. Chuck Macan and I have worked out an agenda for the year that promises a Ring 129 event every month. We are publishing those goals (look for “Ring 129 Agenda”) in this news letter, so you can plan ahead and evaluate how we are doing in terms of getting things done.

We will have several ongoing programs like the “Healing of Magic’ and a new “Young Member Program”, where magic will be taught to our young members and this should also increase our young member population. In addition we are going to have a “Magic Exchange Program”, where we will go to other magic clubs in the area and put on a program at their regular meetings. They in turn will come to Kansas City and do magic for us. This will allow us to see some new magic and meet new people in our beloved art of magic. US Toy has promised a great year, in terms of magic lectures. I ask that you show your appreciation by shopping at their shop whenever possible. Kirk DeWeese is taking on the “Sorcerer’s Circle Program” and promises this year to be an active one. We have talked with Joe Stevens are attempting to have “A Dealers Show” in Kansas City. This would be a mini convention that all will be able to attend.

All of this is in addition to our regular monthly events. Take a look at “Ring 129 Agenda” and you will see that we are planning Public Shows, Magic Contests, a Picnic, Magic Universities, Auctions, and much more. We also want a teach a trick or a mini lecture at every monthly meeting.

Sooo many things are going to be happening. Ambitious? Perhaps! Impossible? Not really! If we all pitch in, none of it will be overwhelming for any of us and we all will enjoy making 2006 of the best magical years the Ring has ever known.

Jan. Magician of the Month Winners

Close Up Winner

Barron Stringfellow

Stage Winner

Roger Miller

Congratulations to the winners! We look forward to the upcoming performances.



Prediction: Your result will be 18

- Think of a number.
- Add 7 to it.
- Subtract 2.
- Subtract your original number.
- Multiply by 4.
- Subtract 2.

MAGICIAN’S FOR HIRE

We have added a new web page to our web site for all of you. It is a "Magician for Hire" page. I say it is for *you* because if you are a working magician you can put your ad on it so that people can see it and hire you. This is a free ad for you and it is easy to use. You can view the page and see what kind of info we need from you at <http://www.ring129.com/hire.htm>.. If you wish to be added to our "Magician for Hire" page on our web site then please send Ken Reedy your name, stage name if any, brief one line description of your act, phone number, email address and your web page address with an attached photo. Please make the description of you act as brief as possible. We only have room for one line.

Don’t forget about Magicade!

This is a competition for youth magicians, the winner will go to Tannen’s Magic Camp, complements of US TOY. Show your support for the magicians of tomorrow and be at Shawnee Mission East High School Sunday Feb. 12 @ 1:30 PM. \$5 donation suggested, proceeds go to the foundation to send other youths to magic camp.

KIDS SHOW

Anyone wanting to perform or help with the Kids Show ,at the Roeland Park Community Center, on Feb. 18th @ 2PM, should contact LC Collier at 913 579-1506.

This is always a fun show to do! We need stage performers, walk around performers, stage hands, and tech crew. If you have never done any of these jobs we will teach you . It is an excellent time to have some fun and to learn about putting on a stage show. We will also need demonstrators for the magic kits we will be offering for sale at the show.

Join the fun! Call LC today!

RING 129 AGENDA

Items in red have firm dates, all others are not yet set or are subject to change.

Jan 28	Magician Of the Year Stage
Feb 18	Kids Show (Roeland Pk. Comm. Ctr.)
Mar 11	Magic Auction
Apr ??	Public Show
May ??	Magic University 2006 A
Jun ??	Ring Picnic
Jul 29	Close-up Magician of the Year
Aug ??	Roast
Sep ??	Fun Magic Day
Oct 13	Halloween Show (Roeland Pk. Comm.)
Nov ??	Magic University 2006 B
Nov ?? `	Magic Swap & Shop
Dec ??	Holiday Party

YOUNG MEMBER PROGRAM

We are getting ready to implement the Ring 129 Young Member Program. This exciting new program will be open to any member, 12 years old through 16 years old, who wishes to learn about and practice our beloved art of magic. The only cost to the student will be the magic supplies needed for the program.

The program will begin teaching our young members the basics of all facets of magic and allow the student to move on to higher skill levels, while attaining awards in the process. We will also bring in valued guest speakers who will pass on their experience and, in the process, give back to the magic community. Our goal is to turn out magicians who perform well and fully understand the art.

We are presently looking for a suitable (centrally located) public facility in which to have our monthly meetings. The meetings will be one hour long and will be held on a Wednesday evening, every month.

Eric Woods and Jason Dean have agreed to chair this worthy effort and would like to see all of our magic community become involved. The program has been written and is easy to implement. With lesson plans already typed and a curriculum in place, anyone will be able to teach under this system. If you would like to become a part of this valuable group, as an instructor or as a student, please contact Eric Woods at 913 709-1606 or email him at ewoods20@hotmail.com.

Submit your Want Ads: & Buy, Sell, and Trade...

Check the website and you will see a new form in the **downloads section** that will allow you to put your want ads in the newsletter. This free service to all paid members may include, but is not limited to magic items.

Our Web Page

Go to www.ring129.com

User Name: ring129

Password: aj

See all the new changes that have been made and that you can download!! If you have questions, contact Ken Reedy at 816-734-1484 or email him at ...

webdesigners@kc.rr.com.

Ken Reedy

Magician of the Month Winners

Stage		Close-Up	
01/06	Roger Miller	Barron Stringfellow	
02/06	_____	_____	
03/06	_____	_____	
04/06	_____	_____	
05/06	_____	_____	
06/06	_____	_____	
07/06	_____	_____	
08/05	_____	Laird Wilcox	
09/05	_____	Mike Melito	
10/05	_____	Blake Silvernail	
11/05	_____	Chuck Macan	
12/05	_____	Eric Woods	

In Remembrance



Dave Buttram

May 7, 1941– Jan 24, 2006

David was born May 7, 1941 in Springfield, MO to Lester L. and Ethel B. (Thiemer) Buttram. He was a life-long member of the Assemblies of God Church. David was a life-time member of the African Violet Society of America, having hybridized a new variety named after Lady Bird Johnson. Mr. Buttram was currently the President of the Gospel Tract Society, and had made 40 mission trips to Haiti and several African countries. He was a board member of the William J. Murray Foundation, former deacon at church and Sunday School Teacher of the Keenagers Group at church. He was also the past President of the Independence Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Buttram is survived by his wife Beth (Hamilton) Buttram of the home; brothers and sisters-in-law Thomas and Shirley Buttram, Phillip and Christine Buttram; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Lester Paul Buttram.

Sick and Convalescent

If you know of a ring member or their family member who is hospitalized or has passed away Contact:

Carl Macan
913-648-1465

crm130@aol.com (if e-mail is sent please contact Carl by phone to let him know to check his e-mail account)

A Ring 129 Welcome to

Josef “JJ” Zeman
 415 N. Charles St.,
 Warrensburg, MO 64093
 913-432-9975
 joe@ptg.org

Kirk N. Pattee
 2208 SE 3rd Street
 Lee’s Summit, MO 64063
 816-524-1375
 kpattee@kc.rr.com

Paul E. Brune
 87 S. 16th Street
 Kansas City, KS 66102
 913-621-5128
 lus2kl@yahoo.com

Brenten James Davis
 305 N. Keeler
 Olathe, KS 66061
 913-488-4477
 remataklan1280@yahoo.com

We are glad to have you as new members to one of the largest, and most active Magic Clubs in the World. We wish you the best in your magical endeavors and look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

*Eugene Burger Special Lecture

Feb. 10 7 PM

Bruce Kalver

Feb. 28 7 PM

Daryl

March 27 7 PM

Mark Wilson

March 29 7 PM

Nathan Kranzo

May 5 7 PM

Pavel

May 15 7 PM

All lectures held at:

US Toy Magic
 2008 W. 103rd Terr.
 Leawood, KS 66206

Sorcerers Circle: \$5
Regular Member \$6
Non-Member \$15

***Eugene Burger Feb 10-11**
***Special Lecture: \$7.00 Sorcerers Circle/Reg**
***Burger Workshop \$85**

The Basic Principles of Magic

Reprinted from Aug 1998 newsletter (author unknown)

Mastery of the basics is important in any worthwhile endeavor. In the art of magic, mastering the basics is critical. There are several basic rules in performing magic that have stood the test of time and are as important today as they were when they first appeared in print several centuries ago.

1. Never repeat an effect for the same audience. Usually the spectators do not know in advance what the climax will be. They are unable to follow the procedure. If you repeat the effect, the spectators, knowing the climax, can follow your actions more closely. The risk of discovery of the secret is therefore obvious.

2. Never tell in advance what the climax will be. If spectators know that a rabbit will be produced from a hat, it will be no surprise when the bunny appears. You also invite the same danger of discovery as when you repeat a trick. Surprise as well as mystery is of prime importance in presenting tricks.

3. Resist temptation and never reveal the secret of a trick simply to satisfy curiosity. Magic is fascinating only as long as an audience is puzzled. An explanation punctures the balloon of amazement and reduces the performer to the level of a gagster. When you cast aside the aura of mystery that should surround you, the investment in time and money spent in learning your effect is thrown away. A juggler at the end of his act does not reveal that his props have been specially weighted so they could be thrown more accurately. A ventriloquist does not expose how he operates his dummy. A dancer using black light does not stop to explain how special lighting illuminates chemically treated parts of her costume. Such actions would cheapen their performances and make the performers appear ridiculous. This is even truer of the magician to whom mystery is of primary importance.

Ashton Stevens, Chicago's noted dramatic critic, once said: "I have faith in magicians and I believe in them—but I was the most disappointed man in the world when Thurston once had me come upon his stage and I discovered how one of his tricks was performed. I would rather believe that magicians perform miracles." Despite their temporary curiosity, most persons would agree with Mr. Stevens and choose ignorance rather than the loss of their sense of wonder.

4. Master each effect before you perform it publicly. A musician does not play a new composition once or twice

and then go out and give a public recital. He plays it over and over again until he can present it in a smooth and artistic manner. In the same way you should study a new effect, memorize the patter that goes along with it, then practice it until the necessary actions that make it possible can be performed almost automatically. Performing a trick before you have mastered it carries the risk of exposure and loss of your prestige. It is a good idea to practice in front of a mirror, or video tape yourself. In this way you see the effects from the spectators' viewpoint. In some effects your hands or various objects must be held at certain angles in relation to the vision of your audience.

5. Have your next effect ready, so that you can go right into it when you have finished with the one you are performing. Your next effect should use a different method or have a different climax.

Once you have mastered these basic rules you must learn how to arrange a routine. To present effects in an hodgepodge manner, without rhyme or reason is like an actor going on the stage with scenery, words, and gestures, but no play. Like the plot of a story or play, your magic routine should have an eye-catching beginning, a middle that increases interest and suspense, and finally a surprise climax.

Your opening must be fast, flashy, and astonishing. It must immediately capture the interest of your audience. If you can convince your audience from the very beginning that you are skilled and can mystify them, you'll have fascinated spectators throughout the rest of your show.

Your middle effects should take your audience on a journey and keep them interested. Each effect should compliment the others by having a different story, a different method, and a different surprise.

Your final effect is the climax—your best trick. It must be mystifying, and be the effect the spectators are most likely to remember and comment about after your routine is over.

These routineing rules hold true for close-up or stage shows. You could complete the beginning, middle, and end series with as few as three effects, this is common during restaurant table magic, or you could have a hour long show. What matters is following the routine principles. Many performers learn these principles only through painful, *sometimes embarrassing* experiences. Don't you be one of them. Learn these basic rules and stick to them.

Kirk DeWeese

634 SW Walnut

Blue Springs MO 64014

The Heart of the Ring is published monthly as a service to the members of IBM Ring 129. Views and comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Ring 129 officers, the IBM, or the Editor.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and comments for publishing and earn additional Sorcerer's Circle Points.

Articles must be in the Editor's office by the 20th of the month.
ewoods20@hotmail.com

NOTICE!

The February Meeting will be held at the Roeland Park Comm. Ctr., in room number 4.

Stu Lewis' Ring Report

A crowd of about fifty packed our meeting room for a magical beginning to the new year, with outgoing president Alan Goodheart presiding for the last time. Following the usual announcements, Roger Miller read the Ring Reports from five, ten, and fifteen years ago, noting how many of the people mentioned were still active in the Ring. We also welcomed a few members and former members who have been away for a while: Brooks Anderson, C. W. Stanford, and Tom Burgoon.

With Harris Deutsch acting as M.C. for the last time before relinquishing his post to the new Sergeant at Arms, we then moved on to the stage competition. Steve Steiner opened with a demonstration of a Gospel routine he uses in church shows. He did a silk blendo, using the various colored silks to represent the different types of people who make up a church and showing how they all blend together. Roger Miller did a card routine with jumbo cards, having four spectators take bunches of cards and exchange them in apparently random fashion, only to show, after a false misfire, that they had brought the four aces to the tops of their stacks.

Barron Stringfellow was the first performer in close-up. He explained that people always lose in casinos because the mathematical probabilities are always in the house's favor. He then went on to show that probability does not always work, through a color-separation routine from a shuffled deck. Stu Lewis, inspired by Jason Dean's performance the previous month, performed a routine linking three effects from Simon Aronson's *Try the Impossible*, including one using the "undo influence" principle, where a freely cut deck is restored to a prearranged

order through some deceptively natural actions. Marty Isenberg performed a torn-and-restored bill routine and continued with a packet trick involving poker hands. Harris Deutsch concluded the competition with an in-joke for magicians about the six-card repeat before moving on to his specialty--coins. He made change by splitting a half-dollar into two quarters and did a sequence using the muscle pass, which is sort of a trademark for him. In the voting, Roger Miller and Barron Stringfellow were selected as winners for their respective contests.

Paul Brune opened the open, non-competitive segment with a card location and an ace assemble. David Sandy, who has missed several meetings due to his business travels to Branson, where he is heavily involved in the entertainment industry, did a pen-through dollar bill with a borrowed pen. Eric Woods provided the comic highlight of the evening when he loaned David a gaffed pen--a fact which David did not realize until he got to the end of the routine. He also performed a Frank Garcia card routine which he said he had reconstructed from a taped performance when he was a child. Jason Dean then performed a card sequence beginning with an "elevator card" premise (one jack was buried in each of four stacks, then each jack rose to the top). He followed this with a four-ace location using the jacks and a transposition of two packets. Blake Silvernail followed him, with a demonstration of what might be termed a "bar bet" (though he's way to young to go to bars), a demonstration of probability where the odds are against the spectator more than he might think.

Some of us stayed around afterwards to exchange some ideas on magic, while the rest walked up the hill to Applebee's restaurant to continue the magic of the night.