



# Heart of the RING

“Quality Ring Award Winner”

January 2007 Newsletter

## Regular Meeting

Jan 4—7 PM  
Best Western

## Board Meeting

Jan 18—7 PM  
Denny's Restaurant  
9001 Shawnee Mission Pkwy

## Bill Abbott Lecture

**Free** (if your dues  
were paid by 12/07/06)  
Jan 20—7 PM  
US Toy Magic

## Lonnie Chevie Lecture

Jan 28—7 PM  
US Toy Magic

## NEXT MEETING

**Jan 4, 2006 7:00 P. M.**

Best Western  
Rainbow & Southwest Blvd.  
(directly behind Applebee's Restaurant)



**Bill Abbott**

## OFFICIALS

President  
Chuck Macan 913-681-0368  
Vice President  
Matt Gurley 913-422-3596  
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John Hicks 913-334-1392  
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Alan Goodheart 913-648-0331  
News Editor  
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Independence, MO 64052  
ewoods20@hotmail.com  
913-709-1606

## About Bill Abbott — Lecture Jan 20

Bill's lecture includes magic, illusions, mentalism, family routines, comedy and more from a seasoned and hard-working pro. As one of Canada's foremost magicians, the 32-year-old native of Toronto has been performing since the age of five making numerous television and film appearances sharing his talents with audiences throughout Canada and western Europe.

For over 15 years Bill has magically turned office parties, business luncheons, receptions, art shows, anniversaries, soirees, and benefits into unforgettable events. His study of magic, music and mentalism for the past 19 years as well as a university degrees in both psychology & sociology, have made Bill Abbott one of the most sought-after and interactive performers in the world today. From personal thought-readings as featured on CityTV's Breakfast Television to voodoo-based illusions that sent CTV's Ben Mulroney (Canadian Idol) screaming from the studio, Abbott is a performer with the gift of impacting everyone with whom he comes in contact. As an accomplished violinist he has married his love of music with his passion for magic in a performance piece that elevates the average card trick into a spectacular performance of art.

Sleight of hand is only the beginning, for when Bill begins his mentalism it has a truly mind-blowing effect on people. In fact, this "magic of the mind" was featured in Bill's short documentary entitled *Sleight of Mind* that took first place at

TVO's Telefest. Celebrities from Samuel L. Jackson to Charlize Theron have left his show firmly believing they have witnessed the work of a psychic, believing no other explanation is possible.

Recently in Toronto, Bill Abbott's Magic & Mysteries Show at the Torch Lounge Top O' the Senator, opened as a six-week run and went on to play for an extended six-months! Bill's magic, mind reading & other mysteries was described as "Tricks for Grown-Ups" by Globe & Mail.

Continued on Page 7...



**Lonnie Chevie Jan 28**

The old phrase "don't mess with Texas" may soon be changed to "don't miss the Texas Magic of Lonnie Chevie!" Mark your calendar and don't miss this amazing lecture. # # #



## President's Column

by Chuck Macan

Can you believe the year has passed. I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as President of this distinguished organization this year. To the Board Members I wish to say a special thanks for stepping up and being the core of making this Ring the envy of the entire International Brotherhood of Magicians.

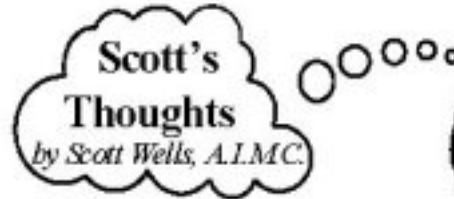
We have brought into our fold a number of new members but will not forget the foundation of the ones we lost. This past year L.C. Collier, Dave Burtram, Paul Palmer and Harvey Stege left us in body but their legacy lives on in the spirit in which they gave.

Congratulations to the 2006 Stage Magician of the Year, Terry Elton and Close Up Magician of the Year, Dale Huffman and Steve Steiner, Stage Magician winner at the Midwest Magic Jubilee. Dennis Burks stepped up and took on the responsibility of producer of the Kids Show for the Roeland Park Community Center. The entire gang who put on the Ring Auction, and the Ring Picnic. The Magical Wedding between Eric and Christy/Pam Woods. The Halloween Show, the roast of our own Roger Miller who currently is the Immediate Past International President of the IBM, to the raffle we had for a member in need. Members who care about the community and act on it like Ken Reedy and Walt Mitchell with the Healing of Magic program. The lectures we had this year at US Toy which were brought to us by Phil Klein and Jason Dean were second to none. Member's like Terry Elton, Jason Dean, Brian McElvain, Larry Warshaw who are never too busy to assist fellow magi who want to improve their art.

I am proud to be associated with a group of individuals who come from varying backgrounds and interests who have found the common bond and love for the art of magic.

Most of all I want to thank my father, Carl Macan, who taught me, through his actions that to be a magician—growing older is mandatory—but growing up is impossible. You have all my love and respect.

As I write this I am excited for 2007 because I know this Ring will continue to be the envy of the IBM. We may have differences of opinion, but we always have the Brotherhood. See you all January 4th at the meeting and also at the Stage Magician of the Year Banquet and Competition on February 3rd. Don't forget to sign up with Julie Clark or Alan Goodheart.



## What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

What are you doing here? Why are you working late hours in a restaurant? Where do you want to go with this job? Where do you want to be five years from now, 10 years, 15 or in 20 years? What are your goals? What future plans do you have? Do you want to travel and live on the road or would you rather stay close to home? Would you consider relocating if work were better elsewhere?

These are soul searching questions which do have answers . . . answers that only you can provide after careful introspection. If you intend to run your magic business like a business, then you should treat it like a business. You should have a budget and goals, both short term and long term goals. Look at where you want to be in a year and beyond then review it at the end of year and determine if you have been successful and are on target with your goals. What did you do right or wrong with your advertising and promotional dollars? What area of expertise do you seem to be developing more than another? Are you doing more shows of one type than another? Are you finding a niche in the magic market place for your talents?

Let's narrow our scope a little to deal with restaurants for a moment. When you first took this job as the house magician, did you expect that it would last as long as it has...or did you expect it to last longer? Are you using the restaurant to try out new material? Are you using the restaurant to showcase your magic? Are you inviting potential booking agents (i.e. those responsible for booking company Christmas parties, trade shows, safety award banquets, etc.) Are you passing out dozens of business cards each night in the restaurant hoping to get "outside" work? And what kind of work do you want outside of the restaurant . . . birthday parties, trade shows, corpo-

rate banquets, hospitality suites, cocktail parties, festivals, TV commercials? All of these opportunities and more are available through the contacts you could make at the restaurants.

Aside from the obvious (making sure that you have an adequate back-up while you're out), are you ready and well equipped for what could be offered? Will these jobs take you further and further away from your restaurant work? Sure it's easy to say that you'd give up the restaurant at the drop of a thumb tip for a crack at the bright lights of "Hollywood" and a movie or television career, but how realistic is that? Getting back to earth, you could expect to get lots of offers to do junior's birthday party which shouldn't conflict with the evening job at the restaurant since those parties are usually held during the day; however, the more lucrative opportunities are the trade shows and corporate banquets. These are the ones that could take you out of town for a few days and/or require you to work in the evenings.

I'm reminded of my friend, Charles Greene III who once worked up to nine different restaurants each week! Little by little he weaned away from this work as he started making contacts and doing corporate work, eventually working the college and comedy club circuit until he matured into a successful trade show magician to where he is now highly respected in his field.

Another friend, Pat Hazell, once worked several restaurants and every other possible venue that Omaha, Nebraska could offer. He finally got tired of people saying that he was wasting his talent in Omaha and that since he was so good, he should move to Los Angeles. Only after he resolved to himself that he had topped out in Omaha, having worked for every company that had entertainment budgets (and some that didn't) and opening as the local entertainer for popular singers and comedians who passed through Omaha (i.e. Sheena Easton, Rodney Dangerfield, Al Jerreau, among others), he finally decided to relocate to L.A. where he found success on the comedy circuit now having TV credits like the Disney Channel, M-TV, and many other comedy specials to his credit.

Is this what you want to do? Is this where you want to go? Or are you satisfied with working the same restaurant(s) as long as they can keep the doors

open? There is nothing wrong with either strategy so long as you know where you want to go and where you want to be next year and the year after that. Ultimately you have no one to satisfy except yourself.

# # # # # #

### Raffle Winners

Drawn at the December Meeting

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Magicians Extra Pocket            | <b>Marty Isenberg</b>  |
| IBM Regalia Merchandise           | <b>Gene Hernandez</b>  |
| Gift Certificate – Bradbury Books | <b>Gene Turner</b>     |
| Gift Certificate – Klamm Magic    | <b>Ken Reedy</b>       |
| Magicians Table                   | <b>Eric Woods</b>      |
| Decks of Cards                    | <b>Rod Sipe</b>        |
| Bill Malone 4 DVD Set             | <b>Richard Garritt</b> |
| Magiccreations Gift Box           | <b>Gene Turner</b>     |
| Gift Card – US Toy                | <b>Eric Woods</b>      |
| Gift Certificate – Magic Supply   | <b>Brent Ahsmuhs</b>   |
| Arm Chopper                       | <b>Matt Gurley</b>     |
| L.C. Collier Magic                | <b>Alex Luther</b>     |
| Dell Laptop Computer              | <b>Kenneth Ervin</b>   |



**The City of Mystery:  
Being a Historical Account of the Life and Times  
of Magicians in Kansas City and the Role of the  
Magician in American Society.**

...Continued

By Eric Woods

Perhaps performing magicians had a place in other cultures at the time of Dedi. In *The Annals of Conjuring* Sidney W. Clarke wrote:

Though it is in Egypt that we find the first mention of the actual performance of tricks, it is probable that similar exhibitions were given in other countries. At the date to which Dedi's performance is attributed, the people of China, India, and Babylonia had reached a stage of civilization possibly higher than that of the Egyptians, and though no similar record to that just quoted [Westcar Papyrus] has come down to us from those countries, it is a fair inference that what was known in Egypt was not unfamiliar in other centres of civilization.

Magicians have been mentioned in numerous literary works of the past, referred to most commonly as conjurers or jugglers, and practitioners of *prestidigitation* or *legerdemain* (French words for sleight-of-hand). They were also tagged with names, of little consequence here, that referred to the trick for which they were most well known: the *cups and balls* (a trick where pebbles or little cork balls vanish, appear, multiply and grow under inverted cups).

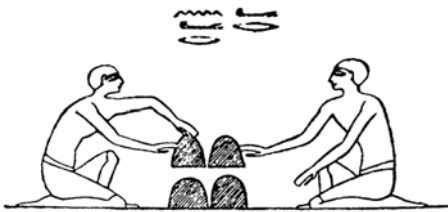


Fig. 1

The *cups and balls* is often called the oldest trick in magic, due to a misinterpretation of hieroglyphics found at Ben-Hasan (Fig. 1) on the Nile River, which have since been destroyed by flooding. The trick can however, with certainty be dated back to 1404 when an illustration by Joseph of Ulm, appeared in a book about planets. I believe if one were to study the iconography of magicians appearing in popular art and literature up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, no one trick would be identified with the conjurers of the past more than the cups and balls.

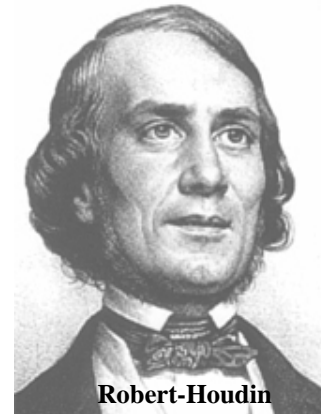
It was not until the printing of Reginald Scot's *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* in 1584 that literature concerning magic became more than just mentioning performers and performances or reference to sleight of hand. Scot's work was the first English book to include the magician's secrets.

While the book included a few chapters on conjurers se-

crets; Scot's true intention was to end accusations of devil worship and human sacrifices that resulted in the punishment, often to the point of death, by hanging and burning at the stake. During the time of the books publication the witch hunts reached their peak in Europe. The stories of witchcraft and devil worship were believed so severely that witch hunts would break out. Their victims were mostly women who were tortured until they confessed to false charges.

I doubt worship of the devil was ever widespread, but *stories* about it created a mood of fear and anxiety. "In the eyes of a superstitious audience, a performance of magic might well be considered a display of occult powers rather than a demonstration of dexterity, applied psychology and mechanical knowledge."

Although accounts of deceptions as pure entertainment were recorded as early as 4,000 years ago, only recently has the art freed itself from vestiges of the occult. *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* was instrumental in that role, but it also changed the way that seekers could learn the magicians' craft. The first book devoted solely to performance magic was *The Art of Conjuring or Legerdemaine* (1612) which began a whole new tradition of passing on the magic secrets in print. Many successful magicians began their magic career due to a chance encounter of one of the treasured works, but none were more famous than Robert-Houdin.



No account of magic history would be complete without mention of the man known as the "Father of Modern Magic," Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin (1805-1871). He came from a family of watchmakers and married the daughter of a prominent Parisian clockmaker they met in his home town of Blois, France. The couple moved to Paris and opened a shop backed by his father-in-law, which was when he "added the Houdin family name to his own to become Robert-Houdin".

Robert-Houdin (not to be confused with Houdini who will be mentioned later) was introduced to the world of magic by accident when he went "to purchase Berthoud's trea-

tise on horology but, in error, he received the two volume *Dictionnaire Encyclopédique des Amusemens des Sciences, Mathématiques et Physiques* (1792), which contained many conjuring tricks.” Soon after he took lessons in sleight-of-hand and juggling, but did not start performing professionally until 20 years later.

Robert-Houdin gave his premier performance on July 3, 1845, at the age of forty. His contributions to magic on the stage were many. Foremost he is known for being the first to dress in the popular apparel of the day. Before his time magicians costumes consisted of the pointy hat and long robes like modern day Harry Potter. He was the first to perform in common clothing often wearing a top hat and tailcoat which was the current fashion during this era. Ironically it remains the stereotypical look for magicians today.

There were several routines and illusions that brought him fame and subsequently became famous through his performing them. One such routine was titled “Second Sight” it was the type of routine that kept the patriots coming back just to see if they could fool the magician. The routine started by blindfolding his son Emile, then a member of the audience would hold up an objects and the blindfolded boy would announce what the presented object was. The audience enjoyed this so much they started bringing in the most unusual objects they could find and started putting items in sealed envelopes. They walked away amazed when the blindfolded boy was still able to announce the unusual and hidden objects.

Another illusion technique he popularized was the “Aerial Suspension.” He performed the illusion with his son as well, and presented the illusion, with a claim that the newly discovered medical remedy *ether* had a property that could make one defy gravity. Robert-Houdin would have the boy smell the ether and he would lean his elbow against a pole. At the end of the illusion Emile would be suspended horizontally in mid air with only his elbow remaining on the pole. “He retired after only 7 years of performing and set out to pursue an interest in science, particularly the study of electricity.”

At the request of the French government he returned to the stage in 1856 in one of the most unique venues of all time. In a theater in Algiers the performance was in the form of a contest. Robert-Houdin’s performance not only discredited Islamic sorcerers who were forming a rebellion against the French rule, it also showed them his magic was stronger than theirs and thus ended the revolt. The French conjurer convinced the sorcerers that Houdin could take their strength away by performing the “Light and Heavy Chest” illusion. The illusion begins with an

empty chest that can be easily lifted one moment and impossible to move the next. This created the belief that he could take the sorcerers strength away. A steel plate in the bottom of the chest along with an electromagnet device under the stage provided the needed power for the illusion.

When the audience became hostile, he convinced them he could not be killed. Having a spectator shoot him with a gun stating the bullet would not harm him. Instead of the bullet killing him he produced it from his mouth making it appear as if he caught the bullet in his teeth known as the “bullet catch” and commonly referred to as the *Gun Trick*. This illusion is very dangerous. 13 magicians have lost their lives to date performing this illusion in a more modern day format.

Another performer of the time of Robert-Houdin to have great success with the *Gun Trick* was Scotland’s most famous magician, John Henry Anderson (1814-74). Anderson became known as the Wizard of the North and is noteworthy for a several reasons. He was one of the great advertisers of his day and when he came to town everyone new about it. Anderson was also one of the first to perform magic in the theater, elevating the art beyond the strolling street performance. He is also the magician that popularized *pulling a rabbit out of a hat*, the trick most commonly associated with the magicians of today.



John Henry Anderson

Anderson was one of the first magicians to travel the world with his magic act, often performing before royalty. He planned to retire from magic in 1854, but his final performance was so well received he decided to continue performing; however he changed the focus of his performances. “Having come upon the very active spiritualist movement in the United States, Anderson was appalled by the number of people taken in by the imposters,” and his shows began to highlight spiritualistic exposures.

The exposé of spiritualism crusade Anderson began in 1854, would be continued through history by like-minded magicians who knew the methods of these psychic fakers, such as Harry Houdini and James Randi (who has an ongoing offer of one million dollars to anyone who can show, under proper observing conditions, evidence of any paranormal, supernatural, or occult power or event.)

Anderson was one of the world traveling magicians of great notoriety during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to be welcomed in the United States, but no magicians of that era were as well received as the Herrmanns. The history of the Herrmann family can become a little confusing as the family produces several prominent performers. The two who are most well remembered were brothers, Compar Herrmann who toured mostly in Europe, and Alexander Herrmann who toured mostly in America.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Saga Continues.... Next Month!**

**Slate of Officers for 2007 –**

- President – **Michael (Doc) Blum**
- Vice President – **Julia Clark**
- Secretary – **John Hicks**
- Treasurer – **Kirk DeWeese**
- Sergeant at Arms – **Mike Melito**
- Board Member – 3 year term – **Rod Sipe**
- Board Member – 2 year term – **Eric Woods**
- Board Member – 1 year term – **Ken Reedy**
- Past President – **Chuck Macan**

All officers be sure and attend the first board meeting of the year 2007. I am sure Doc Blum has great plans to make 2007 another great year for Ring 129. All members are always welcome to attend.

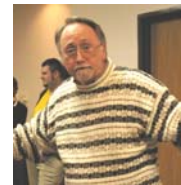
**December Meeting Winners!**



Stage Winner  
**Justin Brewer**

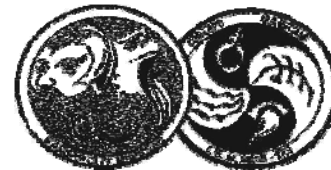


Close-up Winner  
**Laird Wilcox**



**Duane Fields won the dessert!**

**Congratulations to all the winners!!**



**Our Web Page**

Go to [www.ring129.com](http://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](mailto:webdesigners@kc.rr.com).

**Ken Reedy**

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

**Magician of the Month Winners**

Stage		Close-Up	Stage		Close-Up
01/06	Roger Miller	_____	07/06	Mike Melito	Mike Melito
02/06	Barron Stringfellow	_____	08/06	Harris Duetsch	_____
03/06	Eric Woods	_____	09/06	_____	Blake Silvernail
04/06	J. E. Mastin	_____	10/06	Josh Chaikin	Ken Reedy
05/06	Marty Isenberg	_____	11/06	Larry Warshaw	Jason Dean
06/06	Steve Steiner	_____	12/06	Justin Brewer	Laird Wilcox



# Happy New Year !!

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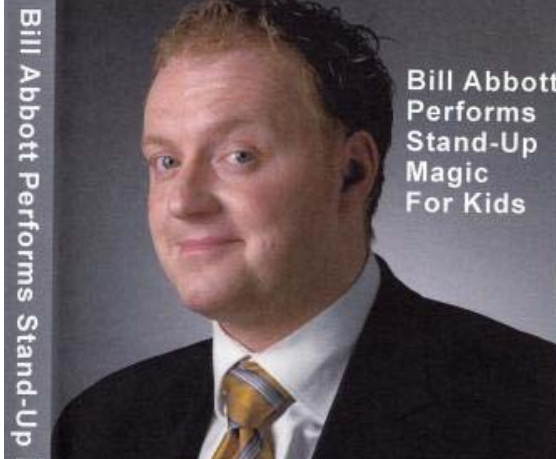
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Bill Abbott

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### News Editor

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2719 S. Vermont Ave  
Independence, MO 64052  
ewoods20@hotmail.com  
913-709-1606

## Bill Abbott Lecture Jan 20... Continued from Page 1

Here is a brief overview of the tricks, routines & techniques Bill performed & explained during a recent lecture...

\*\*\*The Thing: A working performers levitation for anywhere at anytime! Bill has performed this effect in living rooms, on theater stages and on the street.

\*\*\*Mind Control: Bill's recent mentalism release fully explained in detail to make & perform yourself...close-up, standup & at any time.

\*\*\*The Boyd Mystery: Bill's Edwin Alonzo Boyd routine "as performed on TV" fully explained. How to construct your own Buddha Papers, create the right atmosphere, and find the perfect story.

\*\*\*Flash (Ashes On Palm): The real work on Bill's routine & technique with presentations for close-up, standup & walkaround!

\*\*\*Comfortable & Deceptive Card Control: The Card In Wallet, The Psychic Spectator and the Card In Mouth routines are fully explained using Bill's full-time card control system: a practical, simple & hands-off approach that works in the real world.

\*\*\*Sponge Snack: A silent opener that instantly establishes your personality. Bill performed this in 110 performances across Canada in 90 days! Practical, packs small, plays big, for any audi-

ence.

\*\*\*Chico the Mind Reader: The puppet that has booked more shows for Bill than a real animal ever could! The routine was developed for kids & adults is performed and fully explained.

\*\*\*The Rope Routine: A fully developed routine that Bill has used in every venue & situation. All handling tips & bits of business revealed.

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**If you are asking yourself "Self, where is the rest of my newsletter?", most likely you have not checked your e-mail for the full expanded newsletter.**

**If you do not have an e-mail address on file please contact Kirk DeWeese 816.224.5000 to update your information.**

**The January Newsletter Features:**

**About Bill Abbott**

**Scotts Thoughts—What do you want to be when you grow up?**

**The City of Mystery.. Continued...**

**Photos from last months meeting, Monthly Winners and Much, Much More..**

**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

Dues are past due. Be sure and pay your dues soon to insure that you continue to receive the Newsletter . Thanks for you continued commitment to Ring 129 and the art of magic!!!

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**Bill Abbott Lecture**

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**RING 129 AGENDA**

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

No Lectures scheduled at this time.  
Check the ring website: [www.ring129.com](http://www.ring129.com)  
for up-to-date info on all lectures.

**Saturday, January 20th, 2006**

**Bill Abbott Lecture**  
7:00 PM

**Sunday, January 28th, 2006**

**Lonnie Chevie Lecture**  
7:00 PM

**Thursday, April 19th, 2006**

**Pendragons Lecture**  
7:00 PM

*Unless Specified All lectures held at:*

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

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

**2007 Agenda  
coming soon!**