



# Heart of the RING

“Quality Ring Award Winner”

June 2006 Newsletter

## Regular Meeting

June 1—7 PM

Best Western

Featuring Jason Dean Mini-Lecture

## Ring Picnic

June 3—11 AM

Chatlain Park Shelter House

Shawnee Mission & I-35

Pg. 3 for details

## Steve Bender Lecture

June 12—7 PM

US Toy Magic

## Board Meeting

June 15—7 PM

Denny's Restaurant

9001 Shawnee Mission Pkwy

## NEXT MEETING

**JUNE 1, 2006 7:00 P. M.**

Best Western

Rainbow & Southwest Blvd.

(directly behind Applebee's Restaurant)



## OFFICIALS

### President

Chuck Macan 913-681-0368

### Vice President

Matt Gurley 913-422-3596

### Secretary

John Hicks 913-334-1392

### Treasurer

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## Nearly Normal Acting!!

Some people say that a magician is an actor playing the role of a magician.

It is also said that an actor rather than a "true magician" is often cast as a magician in movies. This is done for a variety of reasons. My role as a magician was precipitated by work in the theatre and improvisation groups.

This summer I am returning to my roots and joining the Salt and Light Troupe, a professional theatre group, for a couple of productions. In many of the on-line magic forums, I have suggested theatre involvement to improve one's magic persona.

This nearly normal guy is stepping out of his comfort zone and stepping into a musical theatre production. After auditions, I was cast as Herb in the musical Godspell. The role calls for more of a comedian than singer. "Good thing", quipped Nigel. It will give me a chance to learn under the direction of a very talented director. (Lori Triplett)

Information is below.

Godspell

A Musical Based Upon

The Gospel According To St. Matthew

Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

August 24-26 at 7:00 PM

Matinee: August 26 at 2:00 PM

Performing Arts Location

Knox Presbyterian Church

9595 W. 95th Street, Overland Park, KS 66212

Tickets are \$12.50 or \$10.00 ea. for groups of 4

Reservations at AHOPKINS8@kc.rr.com or 913.648.2363, or tickets can be purchased at the door.

Sometime the theatre reflects on real life. First there was Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. An now in June, Annie, my nearly normal wife and I will play a wife and husband (Shepherd Mother and Father)

in

A Wise Woman, a play by Lori Lee Triplett based on the book by George Macdonald will be presented June 22-24 at 7:00, 2:00 matinee on the 24th, by IMAGO DEI: Friends of Christianity and the Arts, performed at Knox Presbyterian Church, 9595 West 95th St. Overland Park, KS 66212.

Have a wonderful safe, well and creative summer.

Submitted by the "Nearly Normal One", Harris Deutsch  
<http://magician.org/member/doctoroflaughology>

**President's Column**

by Chuck Macan



It is with a heavy heart that I tell you that we lost another member this past month. On May 9, 2003 Paul Palmer passed away. He had been very sick over the past year but he never gave up. I saw Paul at the auction in March. He was very thin and wore out easily but he still had a sparkle in his eye. Paul

is survived by his wife Jennifer and twin sons Andrew and Glen and recently became a grandfather to Jack. Please remember Paul in your prayers.

Don't miss the June meeting for we will have a mini lecture by Jason Dean. Jason is on his way to Las Vegas soon thereafter to record another instructional DVD. Personally, I can't wait.

Our ring picnic, organized by Julie Clark is June 3 at Chaitlain Park Shelter House. We currently have approximately 40 people signed up to go. RSVP is needed because the Ring is providing sandwiches, salad and drinks (non-alcoholic that is). See Julie about signing up.

At the June meeting we will also begin to take names for the Close Up Magician of the Year contest and banquet to be held on Saturday night July 29, 2009 at the Roeland Park Community Center. Fees will be \$13.00 for all. Plan on being there for a night of great close up magic, wonderful food and camaraderie.

In the May 2006 issue of *The Linking Ring* (sorry I guess I am just not suave and debonair enough to call it *TLR*) the Kansas City Ring Parade was published to honor Ring member and International President Roger Miller. This was started by L.C. Collier and finished after his passing by Eric Woods. Thank you Eric for stepping in and completing the this work. You did a fabulous job. Jon Racherbaumer edited and selected the effects to be published. Effects that were published were presented by Todd Lamanske, Matthew McGinnis, L.C. Collier, Corey Harris, Our Nearly Normal One—Harris Deutsch, Eric Woods, The late Claude Enslow, Brent Ashmus, and Jason Dean.

What a tribute to Roger and it shows the whole of the IBM what great talent we have here in Ring 129.

If you are planning to attend the IBM International Convention in Miami at the end of June you need to get your reservations made. At the last meeting Roger Miller, IBM International President invited all Ring 129 members to a gala event. Don't miss it.

See you all June 1.

**A Ring 129 Welcome to:**

**Joshua Chaikin**

898 N 1750 Rd  
Lawrence KS 66049  
913.683.4926

**David Chao**

104 SW 4th Street  
Blue Springs MO 64014  
816.224.8387

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.



May Stage Winner  
**Marty Isenberg**



May Close-up Winner  
**Kyle Scheel**

**JASON DEAN**

Special Lecture

June 1, 2006 @  
the club meeting!

Jason predicts:  
"If you aren't  
there you will  
miss it!"



## PICNIC TIME!

Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:00am---2:00pm

Bring Yourself! Bring the Kids! Bring the whole family! Join us for an outdoor “Potluck Picnic” and a few hours of fellowship and fun at the Chatlain Park Shelter House located at I-35 and Shawnee Mission Parkway (SW side at 63<sup>rd</sup> Terrace & Carter). Don’t miss this opportunity to take advantage of just one of the many benefits offered to all Ring 129 Members! Sandwiches, Tossed Salad and Drinks will be provided. We ask each family to bring one side dish. Your RSVP is needed to accurately account for the food required. Check your calendars and be ready to RSVP at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting or by phone to Julia Clark (816) 478-9787.

**Sorcerer’s Circle shirts available for sale: \$28**  
**Contact Kirk Deweese**

### 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)



**Sorcerer’s Circle Members:**  
**Be sure and wear your Medallion to each event!**

## Want Ads

### Items For Sell:

Large Bird Cage, Small to Large Treasure Type Trunks, Professional Nestle Bunny Character Costume, Classic Abbott’s Super X Suspension Illusion, Virtual Soundman 7.5, Much Misc. Call Julie Clark for emailed list. 816.478.9787

### 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**

### 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.

### Magician of the Month Winners

Stage		Close-Up		Stage		Close-Up	
01/06	Roger Miller	Barron Stringfellow		07/06	_____	_____	
02/06	Barron Stringfellow	Harris Duetsch		08/05	_____	Laird Wilcox	
03/06	Eric Woods	John Hicks		09/05	_____	Mike Melito	
04/06	J. E. Mastin	Marty Isenberg		10/05	_____	Blake Silvernail	
05/06	Marty Isenberg	Kyle Scheel		11/05	_____	Chuck Macan	
06/06	_____	_____		12/05	_____	Eric Woods	

## Ring Report

By Stu Lewis

We've had a couple of excellent visiting lecturers since our last report. Barrie Richardson, who has had a long performing career but who has achieved prominence in recent years with his two *Theater of the Mind* books. He gave us a fascinating look into his performing style, with the search for the apparently cleanest method to perform a mental effect. There was lots of useful stuff. I especially enjoyed joining him, along with several other members of the ring, for a drink after the lecture, where he expressed a genuine interest in what everyone around the table was doing in magic.

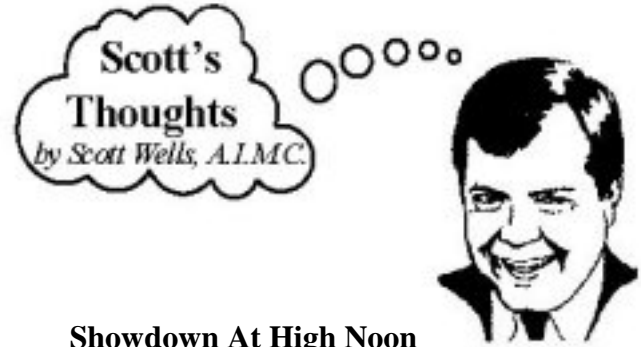
The second visitor was Darryl, who has been a frequent visitor to our ring, having appeared at two of our Workshops, along with other appearances. He is an exceptionally personable presenter. Years ago he had a reputation for doing too much marketing in his lectures, but the current lecture was based on things one could do with cards and other everyday items, and he had virtually his entire lecture written up in a set of inexpensive notes. We recommend him highly to other rings. You will definitely get your money's worth.

Our May meeting started off with Jason Dean's mini-lecture on a method for creating misdirection for the pass. After Roger Miller read excerpts from Ring Reports of years past, we went on to the contests. Despite a good turnout, only three people took the time to compete. Kyle Scheel led off the close-up with a ring-on-string routine, and an invisible-card sequence with the added kicker that all of the other cards in the deck were shown to be blank. Stu Lewis continued with "Magic in Five Dimensions" (the fourth dimension is time, and the "Fifth Dimension" is a Sixties rock group. At least some of the older members got the reference.) He had a deck effectively go back in time (Steve Pressley) and did a bill penetration (Andrew Mayne) with the song "Bill" ("Wedding Bell Blues") in the background. Marty Isenberg was the only stage competitor, divining four spectators' selected cards with a minimum of pumping. Kyle won the close-up contest, and a decision on Marty's performance will be left to the Board, per our rule concerning uncontested "contests."

Two performers appeared in the open, non-competitive segment. Dale Huffman did a book test and mentally divined a selected card, and Jason Dean amazed us by having a spectator imagine a card and mime ripping it up, only to have Jason pull the pieces of the selected card from his otherwise empty pocket. There was a lot of discussion of the method, but Jason would not reveal the secret or repeat the effect.

We've planned a number of activities for the summer, which you will hear of in future issues.

--Stu Lewis, ring reporter



### Showdown At High Noon

"Hey Dave, show this guy that you can shove a cigarette through a quarter." "Hey Mike, can you show these guys that one where you stick the card on the ceiling?" "Hey guys, watch Frank change this one dollar bill into a hundred. You CAN do it can't you, Frank?" "OK everybody, hang on to your watches and pocketbooks. This guy is good!"

How often have we been put in a situation where two things like this have happened? First, you are caught cold, outside of a regular performing engagement without the appropriate gimmick, and second, even if you had the necessary something for the effect, the denouement is blown. The guy has already spoiled your ending by revealing the climax. It then becomes a challenge to figure out how you are going to accomplish the effect. Perhaps your presentation is entertaining enough to put everyone off guard again and again, particularly those who are seeing it for the first time, but the "friend" who wants you to show it to his friends may be looking for the secret and has heard your clever banter several times before. He may also merely be wanting his friends to know that he knows a magician.

Several issues have been raised here, specifically: 1) are some tricks which become "reputation makers" too strong, 2) should you always be prepared to perform that "special" effect, 3) should we perform on demand like a trained seal, 4) is it possible to have alternate methods for their favorite trick. Basically, what do we say and what do we do when we are placed in a no win situation?

First of all, I believe that there are some effects that are so good that they can give you a reputation as a magician and become associated with you. Whenever that person sees anyone else doing that trick which they saw you performing, they refer to it as "your" trick. For example, I have been performing the rising cartoon card effect known as Martin Lewis' "Cardiographic" since it was first published. When some people who had seen me first perform the effect then saw David Copperfield do it on his TV special in 1990, they said "Hey, he's doing Scott's trick." Or when I do the torn and restored newspaper, they may say "Hey, that guy's doing Bill Palmer's trick (a local magician)." That's just the nature of this business unless you are so creative that you are doing something that no one else is doing yet. This gets into the realm of infringement and copyright problems which is quite topical now and not within the scope of this article.

There are some great effects that can become reputation makers for you that you should never have to worry about. For instance, most any illusion (i.e. cutting a woman in half, a levitation, or an impalement) necessitates you having the proper equipment before you can perform the feat...or does it? You may be in someone's home when you are handed a broomstick and asked if you can suspend someone in the room.

Then there are the dove workers who gain fame by making doves appear and disappear. If this is exclusively the kind of magic you perform, then you should be safe. More than likely, you will never be asked to make the pet canary disappear or to change it into a rabbit.

As we move down in size from the larger illusions, there are some great effects like the torn and restored newspaper mentioned earlier or even the ever flowing Lota Bowl. But even here, you may be handed a newspaper at a party and asked to tear it up and put it back together again or jokingly asked to refill their martini without going to the bar. There are some smaller, close-up effects that require some apparatus that make for a good reputation. One such effect of mine that comes to mind is the ring on stick and/or ring off rope effects. These can be performed if the friend asking you to do it has a rope or wand/stick. I once performed the effect using someone's shoe-lace they took from their shoe and a wooden spoon from the kitchen. How far must we go?

Then we come to the "impossible" impromptu effects like the cigarette through quarter. What can we do when we are asked to perform something like this? With the larger effects that require props or apparatus, we can easily beg off saying that we don't have the proper equipment. But what about the tricks that apparently require no apparatus, no special equipment, just a borrowed dollar or coin and your renown skill as a magician? You're faced with a no win situation. You have apparently proven your prowess in a previous performance. Now you are asked to do it again for real in an impromptu situation thus securing your fame for a bit longer and building the stature of the one who asked you to do it among his group of friends.

If you can't do it or anything else, then regardless of any clever remark you make, you are viewed as an amateur having no special "powers" and the one who asked you to display your talents still looks good because he "called you down". It was high noon and you lost the showdown.

I could suggest several different responses to someone's request, but I feel that all of them are inferior to actually accepting the challenge if the request is sincere. That is, if you are prepared with the requested effect or if you can do anything else. But even if you are prepared now, will you be ready later when you are asked again? If you don't satisfy the one asking to see the trick now, then you can bet that he will ask you again at another inopportune occasion. At the risk of feeling as if you are performing on command like a trained seal, I suggest that you have something else ready to perform upon request. It doesn't have to be a "killer" effect but something to satisfy

those who are seeing you perform and to prove that you are indeed a magician worthy of professional respect. And more importantly, proving that you are someone whom they should consider as the entertainment for their next affair.

Let me first address the psychological problem you may have of performing on command. If you let yourself be used, then you will be used. You shouldn't feel as if you have to put on a whole show or run through your whole repertoire; however, there's nothing wrong with doing two or three tricks to establish your position then you can use the opportunity to pass out your business cards and ask for their cards. I prefer to try down play the fact that I am a magician rather than trying to always prove that I am a magician at every drop of the hint. Only after I am convinced that they really want to see a trick will I do it. I believe that I have mentioned before that Max Malini was one of the only magicians to have been invited to join the prestigious Player's Club in New York mainly because he didn't "force" himself on everyone by offering to do a trick for everyone all the time; however, he was ready at any time to do some incredible magic when pressed into service. Believe it or not, he nearly always carried a block of ice under his cloak to use as a final load in a trick that made a reputation for him.

You might start by saying something like "Yeah sure, I'd like to show you that but first let me show you something else that's a lot better and you haven't seen before." Then go into a different impromptu routine using anything you have at hand (i.e. coins, napkins, rubber bands, silverware, etc.). If you do any mental effects, then now would be the time to put these talents to work. Whatever you do, make sure that you can do it well and that it's not a weak trick that looks as if anyone can do it. By thus establishing yourself as more than a "trickster" you don't have to feel ashamed that you have not performed the trick requested. You may have been successful enough to make your friend forget about that "special" trick he requested. You have just performed other "miracles" that have satisfied the intent behind his request . . . that is, to let his other friends know that he knows a professional entertainer. Moreover, you have actually secured your place in your friend's mind as a complete conjurer. Someone who is able to leap tall buildings at a single bound, etc.

# # # # # #

## MAGICIAN WANTED!

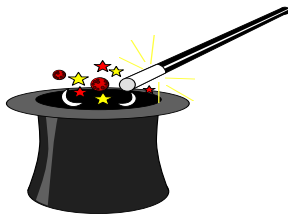
We received a call from Cody Whaley 620-845-1161 who is looking for Magicians to perform at a summer camp for children with cancer ages (3 – 17). The camp will be July 30, 2006 to August 3, 2006 in Excelsior Springs. The theme of this years camp is "It's a Mystery". She is looking for magicians who would like to perform in the afternoon for about a 45 minute show. If anyone is interested please give Cody a call.

**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



## This Month

### Regular Meeting

June 1—7 PM  
 Best Western

### Jason Dean Mini-Lecture

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 US Toy Magic

### Steve Bender Lecture

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 US Toy Magic

### Board Meeting

June 15—7 PM  
 Denny's Restaurant  
 9001 Shawnee Mission Pkwy

## 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 (RPCC.)*
Mar 11	Magic Auction
Apr ??	
May ??	
Jun 03	Ring Picnic
Jul 29	Close-up Magician of the Year
Aug ??	
Sep ??	
Oct 13	Halloween Show (RPCC.)*
Nov 4	Roger Miller Roast
Nov ??	
Dec ??	

\*Roland Park Community Center  
 4850 Rosewood Drive  
 Mission, KS 66205

## Tentative Lecture Schedule

### Steve Bender

June 12 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

