



# Heart of the RING

“Quality Ring Award Winner”

May 2007 Newsletter

[www.ring129.com](http://www.ring129.com)

**Regular Meeting**  
May 3—7 PM  
The Radisson  
Teach a Trick by  
Alan Goodheart

**Board Meeting**  
Monday, May 14th, 2007  
7:00 PM  
Mike (Doc) Blum's house  
8217 W. 100th Terrace  
Overland Park, Kansas

**Close-Up Magician of the  
Year Contest**  
June 16—5:30PM  
RPCC

## NEXT MEETING

**May 3, 2007 7:00 P. M.**  
The Radisson,  
95 St and I-35  
Lenexa, KS



## OFFICIALS

### President

Mike Blum 913.383.2586  
Vice President  
Julia Clark 816.478.9787  
Secretary  
John Hicks 913.334.1392  
Treasurer  
Kirk DeWeese 816.224.5000  
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Board Member  
Ken Reedy 816.734.1484  
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Eric Woods  
2719 S. Vermont Ave  
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ewoods20@hotmail.com  
913-709-1606

## Map to The Radisson

## Our New Meeting Location!!!

**We still meet the first Thursday of the month,  
but are now at our new location:**

**The Radisson Hotel  
12601 W. 95th Street  
Lenexa, KS**

**(corner of I-35 & 95th Street).**

**Meeting begins at 7:00pm. There is a resuarant and bar in  
the hotel so show up early if you like. Mention you are with  
the magic club and receive a 10% discount (sorry no dis-  
count on alcoholic beverages)**

**Go to our "Calendar" page to get a map.**

## Close-Up Magician of the Year Contest

**By Alan Goodheart**

It's time for the summer's Grand event - Ring 129's famed Colonel Boone's Close-up Magician of the Year Contest. Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, June 16th**. This year's contest is easy to find. It is going to be at the **Roeland Park Community Center**, at 4850 Rosewood in Roeland Park. Doors will tentatively open at 5:30 PM. We will serve dinner at 6:00 SHARP, and will adjourn to several rooms set up specifically for enjoying close-up magic after dinner.

Margaret Singer Catering who catered our Stage event this past January will be there again to bring us the best dinner money can buy! Our Ring members that have qualified to participate

are (in no particular order): **Mike Melito, Blake Silvernail, Ken Reedy, Jason Dean, Laird Wilcox, Justin Brewer, Josh Chaikin, Larry Warshaw, and Stu Lewis**. The contestants will make their way from room to room performing their unique blend of magic. Then after the contest ends, we go back to the main dining area for a very special part of the evening - to experience a wonderful dessert. There will be a small program planned. And of course, we will announce the winners of the contest as the results are calculated. We are following in the same manner we produced the show last year and the way the IBM conducts its close-up contest and show at our convention. There will be no bad seats in the house. And you can be part of one of the best events of the season. ***So do not hesitate - make your reservations*** as soon as you can to reserve your spot. Bring your checkbooks to *this* Thursday's meeting (May 3rd) to make reservations, or **contact Julie Clark at 816-478-9787 or Alan Goodheart at 913-451-8334**.

**For a full catered buffet dinner and dessert, a nearly 2-hour Close-up performance, and camaraderie with your fellow magi, you get all this for JUST \$17 per person for regular members and guests (\$15 if you are Sorcerer's Circle)!!** For sure less than the cost of dinner and a movie on the weekend! And remember, if you reserve a spot, and do not attend, you will be billed for your reservations.

So let's see a great turn out at this year's premier close-up event!!! ***Please be sure not to miss this great evening!!***

## Ring Report by Stu Lewis

### **RING 129 (Heart of America Ring, Kansas City): Meets first Thursday of every month at the Radisson, 95 St and I-35, Lenexa, KS**

First, take note of our new masthead, above. By the time you read this, we will have moved to our new meeting place. With average attendance of about fifty people at a meeting, our old place was getting a bit cramped.

March 22 we were treated to a lecture by Tyler Wilson and Andi Gladwin, and in my opinion, it was everything a lecture should be. I have often complained about the over-commercialization of lectures in recent years, so I was delighted to attend a one where the instructors seemed truly intent on teaching instead of selling. While they provided a small sampling of the material in their books, most of the routines were available in a ten-dollar set of notes. They were as entertaining as they were informative, taking advantage of the fact that they were in a magic and costume shop by borrowing a number of the costumes during the lecture. Tyler taught one routine while dressed as a chicken, and Andi dressed as a ballerina for one of his presentations. Except for people who don't like card tricks, we would recommend them to any Ring.

In the absence of Ring president Doc Blum, Julia Clark presided over our last meeting at the Best Western. Eric Woods taught us a coin switch called "Switcheroo." Ken Reedy reported on the Healing of Magic and on a show by that organization's founders, the Spencers, which a number of members recently attended up the road in St. Joseph. Laird Wilcox reported on the progress (or lack of it) he has made in attempting to secure rights for street performers in Kansas City, MO.

Rod Sipe and Phil Klein then took the stage to perform the Broken Wand ceremony for David Steinberg. For a number of years before his retirement, David had been manager of the U.S. Toy Magic and Costume Shop, of which Phil is president. Phil spoke of the warm working relationship he had shared with David and how much he had learned from him.

Then we moved on to the performances. Strangely enough, no one chose to compete in the stage division, and there were only two contestants in the close-up. Stu Lewis performed a card routine in which he "lost" four kings in the deck and reproduced them by various means before switching them for the aces. He then performed a four-ace routine he had learned in the above-mentioned lecture. Joe White did some coin transpositions under jumbo playing cards, following it with McDonald's Aces. Since Joe went overtime and only one contestant remained, the decision on whether there could be a winner was deferred to the Board.

To lead off the "open" performances (non-competitive), Justin Brewer did some mentalism with cards, including a very entertaining version of "Out of this World." We were then treated to a performance by Brooks Anderson, a former Ring member visiting from St. Louis, who showed us his original comedy linking-ring routine. Though lacking difficult moves, this is my favorite routine with this apparatus, since most of the links and unlinks take place in the spectator's hands. I remember when my sons were young how they could be entertained by this routine again and again. Finally, Harris Deutsch entertained us with some ventriloquism before we vanished into the unseasonably cold April night.

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**Newsletter Editor  
Needed:  
Contact:  
Eric Woods  
913.709.1606**

# The Pendragons Carlson Center Johnson County Community College 8 p.m., April 20 and 21

On Saturday, April 21, I drove to the Carlson Center on the campus of the Johnson County Community College in Overland Park KS to see the Pendragons perform. This is a show I have long wanted to see and I was not disappointed. The show was entitled “Ghosts of the Theater.” Throughout the show Jonathan discussed magicians and illusions of the past.

He opened the show by telling a story of Harry Kellar’s performance of the levitation and a row of Tibetan monks. Then he performed a version of the levitation with his wife, Charlotte. Then Jonathan did the Linking Rings and some card manipulations similar to what Juliana Chen does. This was followed by the introduction of Mystina, one of the Pendragons’ assistants. She did a nice routine with a male volunteer that consisted of three main effects: a silk penetration, the sword through neck, and finally the production of a champagne bottle. This was followed by a black light/black art routine called “Gypsy Rose Lee.” In it, a female performer stripped and in doing so, her various articles of clothing floated off-stage and more and more of her disappeared.

Jonathan then came out and asked the audience if they wanted Charlotte or him to perform the next illusion. The audience voted for Charlotte. She came out in a cape and after showing a box empty, she lights a fire and the box immediately has a large Samoyed dog (Kashmir) in the box, and Charlotte vanished with Jonathan appearing under the cape and Charlotte reappearing on the left side of the theater.

After clearing the stage, Jonathan introduces the dog, Kashmir. He brings the dog down to the audience and then goes back up on stage. Sitting on the stage, Jonathan talks about how he got the dog. He then goes on to discuss his nearly fatal accident last September. After the initial accident, he tried to call 911 but passed out. He woke with Kashmir licking his face and was able to call 911.

For his next effect, Jonathan discusses the famous play by Edmond Rostand, “Cyrano De Bergerac.” Cyrano was a real person, a dramatist and duelist who lived from 1619 to 1655. Donning a long nose, Jonathan relates that Cyrano would often recite French poetry in sword duels. He says he’s going to replicate those duels in a card effect. He has four volunteers each select a card, remember it, and replace it in the deck. He has them all stand. He says that as he reveals each person’s respective card, they must die dramatically, and if not, the audience will boo. He recites the poem and reveals the first three, with the third person just sitting down to a prompt chorus of boos. For the last, he brings out a sword, and throwing the deck into

the air, stabs the last person’s card.

The first half of the show closes with “Clearly Impossible,” the Pendragons’ version of sawing a woman in half. Before doing the illusion, Jonathan talks about the origins of the illusion mentioning Horace Goldin and P. T. Selbit. In the Pendragons’ version, the woman (Mystina) is enclosed in a clear box. Then Jonathan places a sword at the midpoint and pulls it through. He then places dividers and separates the halves. The effect concludes with the woman’s restoration.

Following intermission, Jonathan talks about the original film version of *The Phantom of the Opera* (1925) starring the Man of a Thousand Faces, Lon Chaney, Sr. Then he goes on to talk about the original novel written by Gaston Leroux. Leroux dedicated the novel to Edgar Allen Poe. Jonathan then talks about how they were able to receive permission to play part of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s music from the musical. In performing the routine, there is a blooming rosebush, a painting that comes to life (Charlotte), and a vanish with the return of the original painting. This involved both Jonathan and Charlotte and was a highlight of the show in it’s artistry and beauty.

Jonathan then did a newspaper tear followed by a straight jacket escape by Charlotte. Prior to the escape, Jonathan talked about how he and Charlotte first met. When she visited his room, she saw the straight jacket on a stack of magic and asked him to teach her how it was done. Jonathan then talked about some of his favorite shows in the 1960s, *The Outer Limits* and *The Twilight Zone*. He asked audience members to name their favorite episodes. In leading up to his next illusion, he talked about an episode in which a young girl disappears through the wall in her bedroom into another dimension. He brings out a mirror and a rose. Throwing the rose at the mirror, it vanishes. Then placing the mirror on one side of a shadow box, he turns on a light in the back of the box and proceeds to withdraw the rose from the mirror. He then reaches in and pulls out a long string of socks. Next he produces Pywacit, his cat. And finally, he pulls one of his assistants (Kerri-Ann?) out of the mirror.

Jonathan then talks about Buddhist ringing bowls and resonance. He borrows three distinctive rings from audience members, places them in the bowl, rings it and draws out the rings linked. He has each person examine and verify it’s really their ring on the chain of rings. He then unlinks them.

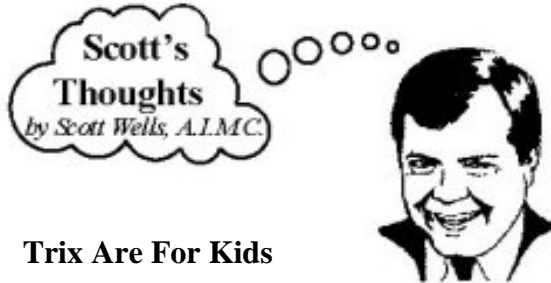
The next routine is called “A Midsummer’s Nights’ Dream,” based on the Shakespeare play. It opened with Charlotte dancing around a basket. Mystina appears out of the basket and she and Charlotte dance producing, throwing and catching blue lights, eventually putting them in a glass that Jonathan has. He drinks them. He and Kerri-Ann then use some of the dialogue from the play. The illusions that occur include a mouth coil, a silk fountain, silk through neck, and a paper fountain. As with “Phantom of the Opera,” this was very well routined, very visual and attractive.

The show concluded with the Pendragons’ most famous effect, Metamorphosis. To no surprise, it was done with perfection and speed. Following the show, the Pendragons came out and

signed autographs.

This was a wonderful show. I was glad to finally be able to see their show. Don't miss them if you get the chance to see them.

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### **Trix Are For Kids**

Are tricks just for kids? Why do people immediately associate magic with children? Is it because of our demeanor, our approach, our looks, our audience's perception, our society, a combination of these, or is it something else? Perhaps it's because that magic appeals to the child in each of us and transports us to a world of wonder where there is a suspension of disbelief where for just a moment, magic happens.

This is what I believe that magic is...a moment isolated in time when there is no known explanation for what just happened. Sometimes this moment lasts for an instant but ideally it should last much longer. It is something that people take home with them in their memories and tell their friends . . . and the legend grows. Their recollection of an instant gets blown out of proportion as the effect grows more and more impossible as the experience is retold.

Often it is a letdown for them to see it ever performed again for it is never as good as the way they remembered it or as Paul Simon said in his hit song 'Kodachrome' ". . . it would never match my sweet imagination." It's like much of life where we only remember the high and low points. The mediocre parts of life, and our routines, are lost in time and space. Without at least one high point, our performances then become, as Michael Ammar has said . . . "bubblegum for the eyes."

A TV sitcom wants to have at least one good laugh in each show, one good joke, one good enough for everyone for viewers to retell at the office the next day. The success of that sitcom rests on that one joke, for if it's good enough and gets retold, then new viewers will tune it in hoping to experience a laugh, a good time, a chance to enjoy what everyone else has seen and heard and perhaps to "chew some bubblegum" for a while. In the meantime, the underlying emphasis is on getting people to buy more of the products advertised on these programs.

The title of this article is the tag line from an advertisement for Trix cereal. Like the cereal which is full of sugar and sweet to eat and directed toward children, tricks done just for the sake of doing them is nothing more than sugar and sweetness and only appealing to kids. If we want to be remembered, then we must put something in our shows to make them remember their ex-

perience. Again Michael Ammar has several excellent thoughts on this but rather than recapping them here, you would be better off hearing it straight from him as I highly recommend his audio cassette "Making Magic Memorable."

We all know enough tricks but we continue looking for THE trick that will be the ultimate trick. One which will make us fame and fortune beyond our wildest dreams. I am convinced that there is no trick that has ever been made nor one coming that has been or will be the Holy Grail. What we need to search for is a better performance of what we already know. We need to get in touch with what our experiences are and learn how we can communicate with others through a magical experience. "Know thyself" is the credo and "do the stuff that's you" are words to practice by. Your performances are unique as you inject your personality into every effect.

The "Holy Grail" trick may already be in our closet waiting to be let out. One in which the luster wore off shortly after we brought it home from the magic shop/convention/lecture and read the directions. Just look through your closet or drawers full of stuff still in plastic bags and books with their spine never cracked. Then ask yourself why you are collecting this stuff if not to use it.

If you're looking for books to stick on your shelves to take up space or arcane artifacts to gather dust, then you're better off filling it with junk from a flea market and it would cost you a lot less than buying stuff from a magic dealer. Perhaps you enjoy the "ownership" of stuff just to say that you have it. Maybe you like the colors of the props. Maybe you like to own a piece of history, something that was once viewed by thousands of people around the world. Perhaps you are trying to keep alive your own memories of a different time when you were fooled, that instant in time when you experienced "magic."

Your recollection of that moment is precious to you as it is for your audience when they first experience it. And their first experience with being awed by magic usually occurred when they were children. So any subsequent experience with magic brings out their child like quality, putting themselves in the mindset of that time when they were children.

Perhaps then this is the reason that people immediately associate magic tricks with kids (although tricks should have nothing to do with baby goats.) We appeal to their childlike innocence.

We can play on that innocence by directing our approach to that side of our audience. The old adage goes "It's fun to be fooled" but I say "It's more fun to be entertained." Tricks will fool but magic entertains, or said another way, you can fool people with tricks but you can't entertain their soul, their whole being unless it becomes magic. Tricks must be elevated to a level where it becomes entertainment, transcending our audience's childlike nature and appealing to the logical, adult side of their character.

We want to take our performances out of the "trick" category and transcend them into the "magic" class. It's true that "tricks are for kids" but magic is for adults.

## April Meeting Happenings...

### Teach a Trick with Alan Goodheart

The book *Encyclopedia of Practical Magic* aka *The Art of Magic and Sleight of Hand* (Nicholas Einhorn) will be used for teach-a-trick.

Matchbox off String p . 145

You will need a matchbox, string and a small, opaque (nontransparent) silk.

Come to next months meeting at our new location for your chance to WIN TWO FREE TICKETS to the *Renaissance Festival*. Winners will be randomly selected from the sign in sheet. Must be present to win!

### Want Ads:

**Needed:** Someone to be chairperson of Stage Magician of the Year contest and dinner. Please contact Doc Blum or Alan Goodheart.

**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**

## March Meeting Winners!



Stage Winner

**None**

Close-up Winner

**Stu Lewis**

Reminder for all members that would like to compete in the monthly contests and open performances. There is a time limit of 10 min. Please make sure that your performances are with-in the allotted time. Make sure that you are aware of the fire policy as well.

You can find all the details for performance rules on the ring website.

Thanks—Management.

**Congratulations to all the winners!!**

**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	
01/07	Rod Sipe	Justin Brewer	
02/07	Steve Steiner	Josh Chaikan	
03/07	Dennis Burks	Larry Warshaw	
04/07	_____	Stu Lewis	
05/07	_____	_____	
06/07	_____	_____	

Stage		Close-Up	
07/06	_____	Mike Melito	
08/06	_____	_____	
09/06	_____	Blake Silvernail	
10/06	_____	Ken Reedy	
11/06	_____	Jason Dean	
12/06	_____	Laird Wilcox	

**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

**NEW MEETING LOCATION!!**

**Radisson Hotel**  
**I-35 & 95th Street**  
**Lenexa, KS**

**This Month**

**Regular Meeting**

May 3—7 PM

The Radisson  
Teach a Trick by  
Alan Goodheart

**Board Meeting**

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Mike (Doc) Blum's house  
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Overland Park, Kansas

**RING 129 AGENDA**

June 16      Close-Up Magician  
                 of the Year Contest

Aug 25                      Magic 103

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

Check the ring website: [www.ring129.com](http://www.ring129.com)  
for up-to-date info on all lectures.

**Friday, June 8th, 2007**

**Rick Maye Lecture**

7:00 PM

**Friday, October 19th, 2007**

**Jay Scott Berry 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**