



HEART OF THE RING

I.B.M. Ring 129 - Kansas City, Missouri

October 2007 Newsletter
Volume 20, Issue 10



Ring to Present Two Halloween Shows

Jay Scott Berry to Lecture at U.S. Toy

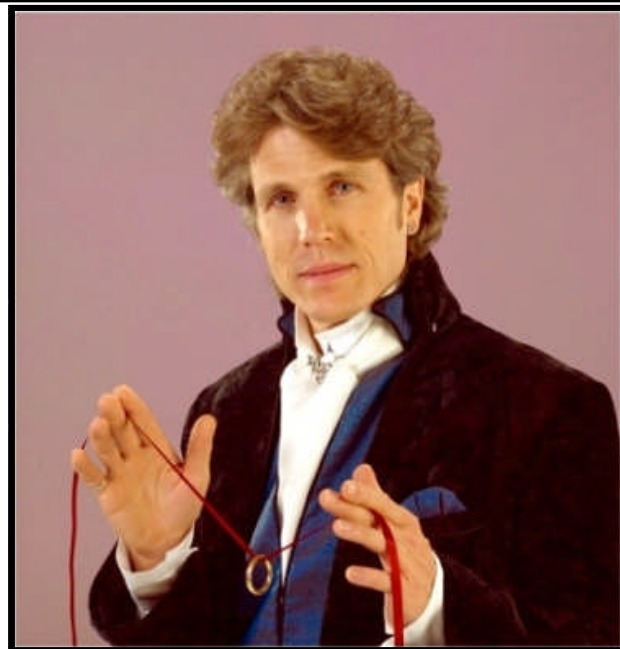


In the late 1990's, former ring president, David Sandy, produced a series of Ring 129 fundraising shows in conjunction with local city theater organizations in several northwest Missouri towns. The success of these shows helped stabilize and increase dramatically the club's financial status.

Reminiscent of these shows, during this coming month of October, Ring 129 will produce two local Halloween-themed magic shows. Both shows will be performed by ring members as fundraising activities and will run on consecutive evenings during the month of October.

The first show will be held at Roeland Park Community Center on Friday, October 12, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The show is in conjunction with a children's Halloween Costume Contest outing annually held by the City of Roeland Park, Kansas. Our Ring annually trades producing a children's magic show for future use of the Community Center, specifically the ring's annual Stage Magician of the Year Contest in January. Tickets can be purchased for only \$4.00 through Roeland Park Community Center.

Cont. on page 10 - (See "Halloween Show")



Jay Scott Berry Coming to Town! Ring members will want to mark their calendars for Jay Scott Berry's "Pure Magic Lecture" to be held at U.S. Toy, on Friday, October 19th, at 7:00 p.m.! A three-hour "Master Class" will also be taught by Jay on Saturday, October 20th, with pre-registration required.

The lecture is part of a national tour by Jay, and according to ring president, Mike Blum, this lecture

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Mark Your Calendars!

September 22nd - October 31st

“Spooktacular” at Worlds of Fun featuring Wacky Dracky & Morgan. See page 19 for details.

Thursday, October 4th

Regular Ring Meeting, 7:00 pm,
Radisson Hotel, 95th & I-35, Lenexa, KS.

Saturday, October 6th

Sorcerers Circle Sponsored Day at the
Renaissance Festival - See page 14 for details.

Friday, October 12th

Ring 129 Halloween Show
Roeland Park Community Center - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 13th

Ring 129 / Blue Springs City Theatre Halloween Fund-
raiser Show @ Civic Center, Blue Springs High School
- 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 18th

October Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Denny's Restaurant, I-35 & Shawnee
Mission Parkway

Friday, October 19th

Jay Scott Barry Lecture, 7:00 pm at U.S. Toy

Saturday, October 20th

Jay Scott Barry “Master Class” at U.S. Toy

Thursday, November 1st

Regular Ring Meeting, 7:00 pm,
Radisson Hotel, 95th & I-35, Lenexa, KS.

Thursday, November 15th

November Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Denny's Restaurant, I-35 & Shawnee
Mission Parkway

DON'T FORGET!

Our Next Regular Ring Meeting, Thursday, October
4th,
7:00 pm, The Radisson,
95th & I-35, Lenexa, KS
INVITE A FRIEND!



CONGRATULATIONS!



Marty Isenberg - September's
Close-up Magician of the Month!



Kyle Scheel - September's
Stage Magician of the Month!

Rob Scheel - September's winner of
2 Renaissance Festival Tickets!

OCTOBER



Teach-a-Trick

October's Teach-a-Trick will be
taught by Dennis Burks.

To sign-up to do a “Teach-a-Trick”,
contact Mike Melito at
mmelito@kc.rr.com
Teach-a-Trick qualifies for

Ring 129 Board Members

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

Sergeant-at-Arms - Mike Melito 816. 459. 8314

Board Members:

Rod Sipe 816. 916. 3655

Ken Reedy 816. 734. 1484

Eric Woods 913. 709. 1606

Past President - Chuck Macan 913. 681. 0368



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to New Club Member! - Our newest Ring 129 member, *John Weaver*. He has been interested in magic since the age of six and has spent 20 years as a banker. John's complete Bio is available on his website: www.johnweavermagic.com.



October Mini-Lecture - *Mike Melito* will present a mini-lecture at the regular Ring 129 Meeting on October 4th on the subject of "Using Ebay for Acquiring Magic". He will include several tips and tricks that will assist not only the beginner, but even the experts in using the internet auction service. You will not want to miss this lecture!

Nominating Committee Election - At the last regular ring meeting, the membership selected *Alan Goodheart*, Rod Sipe, Chuck Macan, and Janie Fields to serve on the Ring Nominating Committee. Chairman Alan Goodheart reports that the committee has met and will present a slate of nominations for board positions at the October Ring Meeting. The election will take place at the Regular Ring Meeting in November. At that meeting, candidates may also be nominated from the floor, provided the nominated member is present or has sent the Ring President written communication that, if elected, they would accept the position.



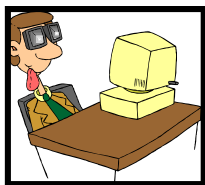
Stage Magician of the Year Chairman Needed -



The ring is currently looking for someone to serve as chairman of the Stage Magician of the Year Contest and Dinner that is currently slated to be held in Mid-January. Former coordinator, Alan Goodheart, has saved all of his notes and checklists from past contests to help make the job very easy for his successor. Should you have an interest or any questions concerning the job, please contact *Alan Goodheart* or Ring President, *Mike Blum*.



Stage Competition Committee - The Stage Magician of the Year Committee, headed up by *Larry Warshaw* has met twice and their recommendations concerning ways to improve the Ring's annual event were shared to the Ring Board this past month. The committee is recommending changing the judging sheets to make the competitions even better than before. They will next look for ways to improve our monthly competitions.



Want-Ads - The Ring Newsletter is available for members to list personal Want-Ads. Ads need not necessarily be magic-related. To place an Ad, members need to fill out the Want-Ad application found on the ring website, www.ring129.com. Click on "Downloads", and then click on Magic Want-Ad Application.

LAST MONTH'S

RING

REPORT

SEPTEMBER

By Ring Reporter, Stu Lewis

A number of events of note have occurred since our last report. Our ring had its presence felt at the recent Midwest Magic Jubilee, where Mike Mellito won the close-up contest and Josh Chaiken placed third. Paul Cummins was in town for a lecture at the U.S. Toy Magic Shop. His presentation was of interest especially to card workers, with a lot of practical effects, since he specializes in routines which do not require a set-up. His lecture was strong on detail, and he graciously took the time to answer our questions. At the end of August we held our third magic teach-in--Magic 103--featuring members of our ring as instructors. Thanks to Jason Dean and John Hicks (cards), Eric Woods and Rod Sipe ("geek" magic), and Mike Mellito (magic with everyday objects), as well as to Carl Macan for organizing the event. The twenty or so magicians who attended all walked away with valuable insights.



Highlight of the September meeting was a mini-lecture by our own Gene Turner, who showed how he uses magic (especially his pick pocketing skills) spice up his lectures on identity theft and other security issues. He brought various scams to our attention and suggested ways that we can avoid becoming victims. It wasn't a "magic lecture," but we all acquired a lot of valuable information.



Our two monthly contests had only one entrant each, leaving the decision to the Board as to whether there will be a monthly winner. Marty Isenberg's close-up performance, to no one's surprise, featured mental-

ism. He began with a coin effect in which he was able to tell which of five plastic canisters contained a coin with the spectator's initials. He then followed with Darryl's "Untouched," a card effect in which a spectator handles the cards and yet manages to determine which card the magician "dreamed" about the night before. Kyle Scheel's stage act consisted of "Sands of the Desert" set to music.

Carl Macan performed "Parralax" to start off the open, non-competitive part of the meeting. In this routine, a card literally turns over in a spectator's hand--a sort of



John Hicks & Carl Macan

topological paradox. Jason Dean did a couple of card routines. First, he forced four 4's in an entertaining manner. He followed this with a poker demonstration in which the spectator had several free choices but still wound up with a losing hand. The effect was



Brooks Anderson & Janie Fields

similar to that of the familiar 10-card poker deal (Jonah card), but the method was baffling even to those who know the standard effect. Finally Brooks Anderson, former ring member and always a welcome guest, performed his "Delilah

Duck" routine in which a wooden duck attempts to pull a selected card out of the deck, only to lay an egg instead with the card folded inside. Standard stuff--but Brooks's unique sense of humor makes it his own. I remember how much my son--then about six years old--used to enjoy this routine week after week when Brooks performed it at a local restaurant.

On a sad note, we were informed of the death of Frances Gershon, owner and founder of the U.S. Toy company, which houses the area's largest magic shop, a locale which has been a favorite hangout for local magicians for the past several years.

The Monthly Ring Report is also published monthly in the I.B.M. "Linking Ring" Magazine.

To contact Stu Lewis you can email him at ANDIAM@kc.rr.com

Magic University 103

By Chuck Macan



a dollar bill. He concluded his class period teaching several soda straw effects and how to do an amazing routine using dental floss!



Magic University just keeps getting better and better. On August 25, 2007 students and professors gathered at Meadowbrook Country Club for a fun packed and very instructive afternoon of magic.

Professors Rod Sipe and Eric Woods taught shock or geek magic. This class was so much fun we had to close the door because our laughter and “shock” was disturbing the other classrooms (not to mention the rest of the country club). The professors taught us how to... have a string visually go through half of your neck, be a human pin cushion, eat a balloon with some possible hilarious revelations, suck a Q-Tip up your nose, eat glass, and have Tic-Tacs



penetrate your tear ducts. They also taught a geek trick using the traditional Scotch & Soda coins incorporating a surprise finish!

Our newest Midwest Magic Jubilee first place award-winning close-up magician, Professor Mike Melito, taught magic with everyday items. He combined his natural humor with the effects he taught. Mike took a glass marble and flattened it right before our eyes and then showed his handling of Jay Sankey’s Mercury Ring. Professor Mike



had toothpicks jumping all over the table, showed us how to do a routine using ordinary dice, used a calculator to do a mentalist routine, and showed us how to balance a fifty-cent piece on



Finally, Professors Jason Dean and John Hicks taught magic with cards. All of us know a little card magic, but, watching Jason and John handle cards – well – it was a work of art. We were taught several neat effects using indicator cards and utilizing a “cut deeper force”. The professors handed out helpful information on books and DVD’s that illustrate the difference between card *manipulations* and card *tricks*. The “Piece de Resistance” effect was a truly a “mind blowing” (no pun intended) mentalist effect.



All of the professors taught not just tricks but the subtleties that go into making each effect entertaining as well as magical.



I would like to thank our professors Rod Sipe, Eric Woods, Mike Melito, Jason Dean and

John Hicks for a wonderful afternoon of magic. I also want to thank my father, Carl Macan, who provided us the venue as well as refreshments for the entire afternoon. Most of all I want to thank each of the attendees for participating in this magnificent afternoon we call – Magic University. I am looking forward, as I am sure all the participants who took advantage of “Magic 103”, to next year’s “Magic University 104”!

Editor’s Note:

This year’s Magic University 103 helped net the Ring 129 Club \$235. Thanks, Chuck, for all of your work too!

**Chuck Macan can be reached
by emailing him at
cmacan@kc.rr.com**

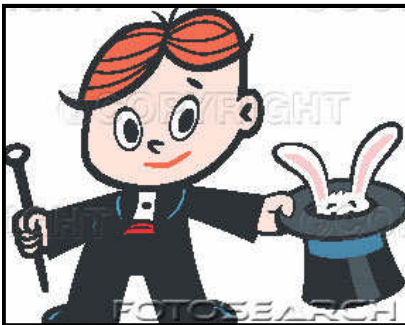


By Ken Reedy

What can I say about the Healing of Magic Program that I haven't already said? Well, Steve asked me to write something about it for the newsletter so here it goes.

I have heard a lot of members say that they would like to be involved with the Program but they work during the times that we have the sessions. They have asked if we could schedule the sessions at a different time or a different day. This is not possible because the therapist tells us when to come and when the patients will be there for a therapy session. I completely understand why they can't come and I don't want them to feel bad that they can't help.

Others have told me that they aren't a good enough magician to do the Program. This just is not true. There isn't one member who doesn't have the skills or talent to do this program. Let me explain how this works.



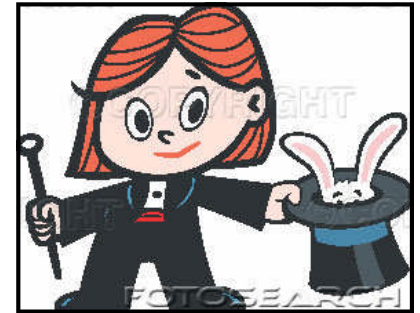
We have a book that is from Kevin Spencer that has a wide variety of tricks in it. The instructions are clear and they have photos of illustrations to guide both you and the patient through the

trick. On the back of the page it gives you the following information; Primary Goals, Performing Requirements, Therapeutic Goals, and Adaptations. This helps you to decide if the trick is for this patient's needs. They are all very simple and most do not require any slight-of-hand. We also have a videotape that you can use to show a prospective

client that explains the program. We also have the two Project Magic books from David Copperfield to help us to have more tricks to teach.

When we have a session we copy the instructions of the trick from the book and give each patient a copy at the end of the session. This is for their use at home so that they can practice the trick and know that they are doing it correctly. We also make sure that the therapist knows how to do the trick because this way he can help them after you leave.

It may be some time until you see this patient again, if ever, but the therapist will be able to work with them in your absence.



You can start your own program at the nearest hospital or therapy company or at any home for the elderly. The tape and book is all you need to talk to a therapist in charge and present the information and get the program started on your own. You can setup the Program for the times that you are available. This way you can make it as easy on yourself as you want.

You can go to Kevin's web site and it gives you a lot of information about the Program and how it works. His web address is <http://www.magictherapy.com/>. I will share with you one paragraph from Kevin's web site. Here is what he has to say about it:

"The HEALING OF MAGIC program involves the teaching of simple magic tricks to people who have been the victim of stroke, accident, spinal cord injury, head injury, developmental disabilities, and other diagnoses. By learning to perform magic, individuals achieve new skill levels which enhances their rehabilitation progress as well as develops and improves their self-image. It is a carefully designed, systematic approach that has gained widespread support from therapists as a viable treatment modality. It combines the skills of entertainment professionals (magicians) with those of the medical field (therapists) to provide a quality of therapeutic training that exceeds the limits of traditional rehabilitative techniques and programs".

Continued on next page - (See "Healing")

“Healing” - (Continued from previous page)

I hope that this helps everyone to understand how the program works and encourage some of you to step forward and get involved by joining this very fun and rewarding effort.



**Ken Reedy can be reached
by email at
magicbyken@kc.rr.com**

Editor's Note:

At last month's ring meeting, Ken announced that starting October 20th, he has been hired as a teacher at UMKC to teach a 6-week magic course to mentally challenged people. This is being done as part of a grant that UMKC received through a program called "ACED". They are running it as a continued education program and not a program for the handicapped. It pays him \$26 a week and he gets a Teacher Assistant in the package. He will have 15 students and the classes will run for 1 hour and 10 minutes. Ken says that he is not doing it for the money, but rather for the love of magic and to help the mentally challenged students.

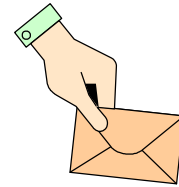
They can hire only one magician, but Ken has been told that he is free to have anyone to come in and demo a trick to show how far the students can go doing magic. In a way, this program is connected to the Healing of Magic Program and Ken will be using a lot of the Healing of Magic material.

Don't be surprised if Ken gives you a call to come in and do some magic for the students! The classes are held on Saturdays beginning at 9:00 AM.



**Sick and
Convalescent**

By Carl Macan



Ron London

Past-IBM International Pres. Jerry Schnep wrote to me a couple of weeks ago and said that Ron London had a very serious heart attack and is feeling very depressed. Ron has lectured several times over the years to the Ring 129 Club.

I sent Ron a get well card from the K.C. Ring #129 hoping to add some spirit to him. I know Ron would love to have some cards wishing him well from his many friends around the world. Should you wish to write Ron, his address is:

Heritage Health Care, 3401 Soldiers Home Road,
West Lafayette, In. 47906



Francis Wang Gershon, the mother of Philip Klein, a Ring 129 member, died August 28th. She was a strong supporter of the Ring.

While the recipient of many awards, we will remember her as the founder of the US Toy Company. US Toy grew from a small idea, started in her living room in 1953, to be nationally known with stores in 6 states.

The Magic division in Leawood, Kansas has supported Ring 129 with donations, discounts and lecture sponsorships over many years. We will miss her and wish condolences to all her family and friends.

Sick and Convalescent

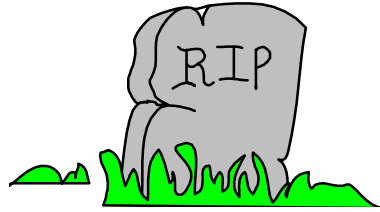
If you know of a ring member or their family member who is hospitalized or has passed away contact:

**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)

Duane's Spook House!

By Steve Steiner



To long-standing Ring 129 member, Duane Fields, Halloween is a special day. For over twenty years, Duane and his wife, Jane, have turned their house and yard into a special spook house event that has become a Lee's Summit, Missouri neighborhood tradition. Complete with Halloween sounds & music, a graveyard, a maze, scary sets, a fog machine, a fire-breathing-talking dragon, and scary people, one can easily understand why it takes Duane about a month to set it all up!

If you have ever had the opportunity to visit the Fields' home on Halloween evening, you will see a steady parade of children, parents, and teenagers that patiently wait their turn in line to examine Duane & Jane's handiwork.



"I think my wife enjoys it too. It is an opportunity to have fun, do something for the kids in the neighborhood, and fellowship with our friends who show up to help", says Duane. "We started small over twenty years ago-just costumes and such. Then it just grew, and grew, and grew!"

In fact, the exhibit grew so much that Duane even experimented with opening the house for several nights. However, since the crowds were usually down on the other nights, Duane now only opens on the traditional Halloween evening.

The maze set up in Duane's garage is probably the most popular area. Kids take turns walking through the maze while workers wait until just the precise moment to jump out and scare them! But don't worry; there are different levels of fright for different ages of children.

"We have code words for young children. We don't scare them", explains Duane. "They can just walk through with their parents and look. However, anyone older than eight is fair game, unless they cry and beg off. We only want to have fun! We have strict rules against touching anyone. We only scare."



Duane and Jane always appreciate help in manning the display. Many Ring 129 members have helped in the past and are encouraged to bring a costume and help again this year! For more information one should call 816-525-0021.

Directions to the Display:

Take 470 to MO 291 South to Langsford Road (Second Street) in Lee's Summit. Go east on Langsford Rd about a half a mile to the Oaktree Farm housing development. Go north into Oaktree to the very first right. Then take the third left into the cul-de-sac. Look for the big brown house on the left at the end of the street.

You can't miss it..., there is a graveyard out front!



Duane Fields can be reached by email duane@micro.com

The 3rd Annual Magi~Que Was Smokin'!

By Barron & Athena Stringfellow

Magic Review



It is best described as a “free 3-day event to bring those with a love of magic together”...but that wouldn't begin to cover the food which included one 40-pound beef brisket, four racks of pork spare ribs, four racks of whole ribs, four racks of beef ribs, six whole chickens, and all the sides, salads and desserts you could hope for under one food tent! The food itself would not begin to cover the music; three guitars, one mandolin, one banjo, twelve harmonicas, one African drum, one set of percussion eggs, several maracas and even someone playing a couple of sticks! Obviously, Magi~Que is better experienced than read about!

It's a non-denominational and non-affiliated,... well... there were folks from Nebraska, Joplin, Kansas City, Independence, Wichita and Topeka in attendance and we hear that next year Oklahoma, Iowa, and Illinois are going to be there!

Day One was spent putting up the coverings, tents, food gazebo, back-drops and chairs. The BBQs are also started and the first of the meats begin to smoke. Everyone pitches in and knows that the big day will be well worth the effort! On the first night, we stayed up until around 2:00 a.m. playing magical charades on the back patio and around the fire pit while eating pizza. (We all pitched in for the pizza, including six large and three mediums, with no leftovers!) While eating the pizza, we all fellowshiped



together by discussing music, magic, and philosophy. We also passed around plenty of insect repellent!

Day Two was the big event! Athena (and helpers) made sure we

start off with a good breakfast which included eggs, pancakes, sausage and bacon. These were all made to feed an army of overnights, early arrivers, and morning stragglers who didn't want to spend the night, or who preferred to wander in for a one-day trip. The food smoked so much that the whole town could smell it! Later, we discussed and demonstrated, saw some pretty good deals being made on three doll houses, found a rabbit a home, pronounced a card guillotine D.O.A., witnessed some great deals being made at local yard sales, and saw free magic tricks being passed out by one of the long-distance guests.

Then we ate. I mean... WE ATE! After filling ourselves to the bursting point, the electricity started building in the air. Around 3:00 p.m. the good people of Horton, who let us make noise all night and day...and park on the streets, and wander to the yard sales; began to show up with chairs and ice chests to claim their spots for the Magic Show! The show was loosely produced, featuring entertainment rather than magic. There was music, mind-reading, magic, panto-magic, and some good ole fashioned Ma and Pa clowning! The crowd loved it, the performers loved it, and the show was a good two-hour free-for-all!

Day Three was a wind down. Breakfast was once again prepared and eaten. The tents, covers, stages and BBQs are then taken down and put away. Everyone participated and helped. Some did dishes, some made food, and some loaned their back and muscles! All lit the way with their smiles and joyous laughter.

As folks left and night came, the remainder of us just had to have one more fire pit night! What a time! Let's do this again next year!



Barron & Athena Stringfellow can be reached by
emailing barronofmagic@yahoo.com



"Halloween Show" - (Cont. on page 1)

Our second show will take place on Saturday, October 13th in Blue Springs, Missouri at the Civic Center located on the Blue Spring High School Campus. This show is being staged in partnership with the Blue Springs City Theatre organization, with the show beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are only \$8.00. The Ring's agreement with the City Theatre includes producing the show and providing all performers and stage & tech crews in exchange half of the gate receipts from the show. The City Theater in turn will handle all tickets and promotion.



Alabama Jones

The producer of the Halloween shows, Ring Board Member, Kirk DeWeese, is excited about the lineup of performers he has already confirmed. On Friday, performers include Duane Fields doing his Phantom of the Opera routine, Terry Elton, Alabama Jones, Kyle Scheel, Pirate Steve Steiner, and Terry Magelsson. On Saturday, City Theatre promoter and magician, Greg Lane will join the lineup, replacing Terry Elton. Other performers on both evenings include guest appearances from "I-Gor" and Frankenstein!

Duane Fields



Terry Elton

Terry Magelsson

The Ring 129 Board wishes to thank all of the performers for donating their time and talent to help make both these shows successful. However, we are still in need of help in several important areas, including, walk-around magic, stage & tech assistants, and magic kit sales. If available to help, please contact Kirk DeWeese at kdeweese@micro.com.



Steve Steiner w/ Anna Stastny & Crystal Clayton



Kyle Scheel

With the Blue Springs Civic Center capable of holding 600 people, it is important that the Ring 129 members help promote the Saturday night show. If successful, it is reasonable to expect that single show to net the club between \$1,000 to \$2,000! Tickets will be available at the October 4th Ring Meeting or at the door on October 13th.



Greg Lane

Ring 129 2007 Halloween Magic Shows
October 12th & 13th
(See BSCT Poster in Photo Section of this Newsletter)



“Jay Scott Berry” - (Continued from page 1)

should be the highest attended Ring 129 Lecture in years. Jay’s wife, Lisa, will also be on hand to install the JSB Topits during the weekend. This is a special service that is offered with the lecture. Lisa is recognized as the best in the world at installing JSB Topits, Sleeve Pockets and Side Pocket Slits. Advance reservations for this are recommended. However, anyone who just wishes to bring along their jackets can decide after the lecture to have installations done.

Those wishing to attend the three-hour advanced class on Saturday, October 20th should sign up in advance by going on-line; <http://www.jayscottberry.com/masterclass.aspx>. The normal price for this 3-hour, hands-on session is \$50 per person. However, Jay is offering \$10 off for anyone wishing to reserve a space in advance. This is recommended, as seating is limited.

Jay has spent over 25 years developing a master system for powerful visual magic. His practical gimmicks and versatile methods apply whether you perform close-up or stage magic, comedy or serious, for children or adults. He challenges pre-conceived notions of what is actually possible and inspires one to

reach for a higher level of performance. But most of all, what sets him apart is that the illusions he creates actually look like real magic! The ultimate impact of the magical experience is directly relative to the strength of the illusions that you create. Make no mistake, if it looks like real magic, it will blow them away! Why settle for less?

As a creator, performer and teacher, Jay Scott Berry is recognized as one of the Masters of the Art. His impeccable style of magic has made him a regular performer at some of the world’s finest hotels and for some of the top global corporations. His lectures and master classes have received rave reviews and standing ovations worldwide. As a professional speaker, he is concise and articulate. As a creative force, his unique and diverse ideas have helped shape the current State-of-the-Art.

A Modern Day Merlin - Jay Scott Berry is a modern day Merlin and Renaissance man. He is an accomplished performer, inventor and teacher of magic. As such, Jay is recognized the world over as one of the leading architects of the Art form. For over 20 years, he has traveled the globe, delighting audiences with a style of illusion that goes beyond deception, to inspiration. From intimate close-up magic to spectacular stage illusions, he is one of the few who have earned the title of magician's magician; a master in his field.

Magic and Music - Jay is also a noted composer and musician. Among his musical achievements are four acclaimed instrumental CDs. Initially creating soundtracks for his own performances, Jay slowly developed a unique musical style that is as breathtaking and beautiful as his magic. As one of the highlights of his musical career, Jay was called upon to create and perform an original score for the ballet "Angels in Disguise", which premiered in Vienna.

The Early Years - Born in 1960, Jay practically grew up in the theater. By the age of 4, he was already performing in local plays and musicals in his hometown of Reno, Nevada. His lifelong interest in magic was sparked when his mother gave him a magic kit when he was only 5. His talent and love for music also surfaced early on, in school bands and

Continued on next page - (See “Jay Scott Berry”)

“Jay Scott Berry”-Continued from previous page

orchestras, where he played a number of instruments. These three elements; Magic, Music and Theater were to provide a crucial early foundation for his career to come.

A Bright Young Star is Recognized - After High School, he moved to Hollywood to pursue a career in the performing Arts. Within a year, he was being hailed as one of magic's brightest new stars, and, at 19, was the youngest magician ever to perform at Hollywood's famed Magic Castle. Jay's international career took off in the early '80's, when he first performed in Europe. His unique style of classic magic with a futuristic flair was an instant success. Since then, Jay has performed thousands of shows, from Las Vegas to Monte Carlo, New York to Paris; from the Grand Ballroom of the Beverly Hilton to the historic Theatre-an-der-Wien in Vienna. He's been featured on dozens of national and international television shows.

Creating Magic - Seminars and Consulting - As one of the pre-eminent creators of original magic effects, Jay is often found traveling the world as a lecturer and seminar leader. He has collaborated on numerous film, television and theatrical productions, working alongside the likes of Walt Disney's Imagineers, Alan Parsons, Anthony Robbins, Muhammad Ali, Jon Anderson and Jim Stafford. His creative, motivational style is in constant demand at corporate events and trade shows. Over the years, Jay's range of clients includes Apple, Nissan, Ford, BASF, AMD, and Capitol Records.

Theatrical Festivals and Productions - With all this experience in theater, it's no surprise that Jay began producing shows and events. As early as 1985, Jay wrote and produced his first magical stage play. Currently, one of his most exciting projects is The Palace of Magic Festival in Scotland. In August 2002, the first Festival took place, and Jay was honored to be one of the headline performers. It proved such a success that it was made an annual event, and Jay became one of the show's producers. Now in its sixth year, The Palace of Magic has become one of the largest Magic festivals in the world.



*FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK
By Steve Steiner*

Over the past two months, Larry Warshaw has chaired a committee to evaluate the Ring 129's Annual Stage Magician of the Year Contest. The purpose of this committee is to “seek ways to improve the annual event”. At the last ring board meeting, Larry shared some of the suggestions from the committee, including changing some of the judging sheets and point systems to make sure the best act of the night receives the coveted prize.

Since I was not able to attend any of the committee meetings, I would like to use this column to offer a couple of my ideas on how to make the Stage Contest Event even better than it has ever been before. You must keep in mind that although I have only been a ring member for three years, during that time I have witnessed 7 different magic competitions, participated in three of them, and actually won two of them! However, don't take me too seriously because I am still considered a “New Kid on the Block”!

Idea No. 1 - Understand that the best act doesn't always win! - In all the competitions that I have observed, I have discovered that I cannot pick the winners. I guess the judges and I don't see things the same way! For example... last month at the Midwest Magic Jubilee Stage Competitions, I watched five or six magicians do their 10-minute acts and knew for sure who the top three winners would be. Wrong! I missed all three! I guess the judges got confused or something!

I remember performing in one of the monthly stage contests last year in which I brought my “A” game with my best stage routines and lost! It sure didn't help things when a member came up to me later and told me, “Man, you got robbed! You should have won!” The first basic thing to learn when entering into the contest is to remember that each judge is different and they will probably not see your routine the same way that you do.

Continued on Page 14 - (See “From the Editor”

Magician of the Month Winners

The following monthly winners have qualified to compete in the
Stage Magician of the Year Contest
 To be held in Mid-January, 2008.

Month	Winner
January	Rod Sipe
February	Steve Steiner
March	Dennis Burks
April	_____
May	Joe White
June	Marty Isenberg
July	Jonathan Atkinson
August	Gene Kean
September	Kyle Scheel
October	
November	
December	

The following monthly winners have qualified to compete in the
Close-Up Magician of the Year Contest
 traditionally held Mid-Summer of each year.

Month	Winner
July	Jim Hager
August	Josh Chaikin
September	Marty Isenberg
October	
November	
December	
January	
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	

Reminder for all members that would like to compete in the monthly contests and open performances:

- ◆ Please make sure that your performances are within the allotted time of 10 minutes.
- ◆ Make sure that you are aware of the fire policy.
- ◆ You can find all the details for performance rules on the ring website.

Check This Site Out!

Website of
the Month
By Steve Steiner



At this month's regular Ring 129 Meeting, Mike Melito will give a Mini-Lecture on the subject of buying and selling on "eBay". Therefore, I felt it appropriate that this month's "Website of the Month" be my all-time favorite site, eBay!

There are many, many sites that I visit on the internet. However, I would have to say that by far, my most frequented website is eBay. I have been a member since December 19th, 1998 when one of the parents of the Christian School I was involved with told me about it. He said that it was a fairly new internet auction site where you could find just about anything. I quickly discovered that he was right.

Soon after I signed up and became a member, I found myself bidding on a variety of electronic video editing equipment and cameras that I used in my video editing hobby. Many of these items that I purchased for pennies on the dollar, I still have and use today. I slowly graduated into purchasing other items, including various business equipment, home furnishings, antique & depression glass pieces for my wife, Celia, and eventually got into purchasing magic related items.



Knowing that Mike will probably speak on many of the basics of buying and selling on eBay in his lecture, I will simply share a couple of my eBay stories in this column.

About a year after I discovered eBay, I decided to sell a couple of things that I had lying around my basement for years. One of these things was a collection of old Aurora Model Racing Track and Cars.

Continued on next page - See "Website"

“Website” - (continued from previous page)

Back in the early 1980's I frequented area garage sales and purchased various model racing sets for \$4 or \$5 a box. I then went to the area hobby stores and picked up the missing pieces and eventually built a 4'x 16', four-lane race track in my basement, complete with all the accessories. After a few years, I lost interest in the hobby and boxed it all away in the corner of my basement. That was until the day I decided to put it up for sale on... **eBay!**

I cleaned all of the track, divided it up into various lots, and placed it up for sale on eBay. The auction was to run for just one week. I watched the items each day and saw no real strong interest until the final day. That is when the bidding went crazy! After the auctions had ended, I netted around \$1,500 for all the old race track and accessories!

My best deal on eBay was a purchase I made about two years ago. While surfing the eBay listings, I noticed that someone had listed an item titled “Magician’s Body Box” for sale. After clicking on the listing, I realized the “Body Box” was actually a Zig Zag Illusion. The illusion had been left as part of an unclaimed lot of items at a storage facility and the seller had no idea what he had. I used the “Buy-it-Now” option and bought it for \$150!

After shipping expenses and re-furbishing the item, I eventually figured that I had around \$300 invested in the illusion. One year later I sold the illusion on eBay to a preacher magician in California for over \$850! He was going to use the item in a show at the Knott’s Berry Farm Amusement Park!

Not all of my eBay transactions have been as positive as these. I have also purchased a few items in which I was not totally happy with the end results. However, if you take the time and keep surfing through the eBay listings, you will find something for your magical interest. Many of the magical items that I now own, I purchased on eBay. *Happy Bidding!*

***Steve Steiner can be reached
by emailing him at
steves7@microdsl.net***

Renaissance Festival

By Rod Sipe



On Saturday, October 6th, all ring members and their guests are invited to attend the Renaissance Festival of Kansas City at a greatly reduced rate! Regular ticket prices are \$16.95 for adults and \$7.95 for children. But, because the club has several members who are veteran performers and have pulled some strings, our group can buy tickets priced even lower than the regular group rate! The club prices for tickets will be \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.

Prepaid tickets may be purchased at the regular October Ring Meeting. There is no limit to how many tickets you may purchase but they must be paid for no later than the October meeting. If you will not be at the October meeting, you will need to order and pay for your tickets by contacting Rod Sipe at rod@eatfire.com. Your tickets will then be held for you at the WILL CALL WINDOW under your name at the festival. If there is any interest in tailgating we will need volunteers to put this together. You can have your hand stamped and come and go anytime. See you there!

Rod Sipe can be reached at rod@eatfire.com

“From The Editor” - (Continued From Pg. 12)

Idea No. 2 - We should make each contestant sign an agreement that they will not get their feelings hurt should they not win. This may sound silly, but it might be a good thing to do! Just think about it for a minute. How many times have you seen a contestant get their feelings hurt and refuse to ever compete again? If you ask a long-standing club member, they could probably give you a list of names of people that have got mad and left the club over a competition. My advice to any contestant would be to give your best effort, have fun, and make up your mind before hand that you are not going to be offended over the outcome of the competition.

Continued on Page 17 - (See “From the Editor”

Lecture Review

“Ice” McDonald

By Steve Steiner



Kendrick “Ice” McDonald appeared at U.S. Toy & Magic on Thursday, September 20th to present a lecture sponsored by the local Society of American Magicians, Assembly

#30. Kendrick’s lecture was built around three areas, including, “Show No-Knows”, dove handling, and how to market yourself as a magician.

Ice began the lecture by encouraging magicians to find their theme and stick with it. One should always be working on ways to improve that theme with music, costumes, practice habits, and creativity.

He next spoke for several minutes about the art of showmanship suggesting that shows should be videotaped and reviewed by others that would be honest and forthright in their critiques.

“Find out what makes you a showman, and stick to it”, commented Ice. “Then practice, practice, practice. Make sure that they get a good show!”

Ice next discussed some of his unique methods for handling birds. Attendees were shown several special harnesses and pulls that Ice has used for years in his shows.



In closing, Ice spent some time discussing how one can market himself in today’s world. He also shared several stories concerning how to negotiate, develop pricing fees, and how to close the deal by offering various forms of “waivers” without compromising ones basic booking fees.

Magic Review

Gale & Janet Mack Appear at Horton Baptist Church

By Barron & Athena



Gale Mack, a long time former member of Ring 129 (Gale said not to call him an “old” member) and his wife Janet, recently appeared before the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Horton, Ks. Gale currently uses his magic as the medium for ministering the Good Word to folks east of the Mississippi, saying, “Nobody would come across town to hear me preach, but, when I mention that I’m doing magic, I get a standing room only crowd!”

There were about 100 members in attendance, young and old, that really enjoyed the Sunday show! Although Gale’s magic is considered “common type”, it was performed with an *uncommon* love and message-filled style!

Gale is a member of the I.B.M. and former member of the local Ring 129 and his wife Janet is a member of “Clowns of America”. Both are members of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians, and get to do their magic at least once a month. They are supporters of Klamm Magic, and are able to stop in on occasion.



They currently live in Lake Wales, Florida but wanted everyone to know they haven’t forgotten the Ring or the friends they have in and around the Kansas City area. If you would like to drop them a line, or say hello, the Mack’s can be reached at 462 Montego Bay Drive, Lake Wales, Florida, 33859, by email at gajamack@verizon.net, or by cell phone 863-632-2201 (Gale) 863-632-2204 (Janet)

Barron & Athena Stringfellow can be reached by emailing barronofmagic@yahoo.com

Scott's Thoughts

By Scott Wells

How Do We Look?

"Attention to detail is the essence of showmanship." This quote from Henning Nelms' book Magic and Showmanship is indelibly etched in my mind. I refer to it constantly when fine tuning my routines before going out to perform professionally. But I also think about it as I make one last check in the mirror.

I naturally check for the obvious . . . hair combed, shirt and suit freshly pressed, zipper in the upright and locked position, etc. But there are other things that are a bit less obvious and may not be noticed at a glance.

If you are performing close-up, then you should definitely take care of your hands and fingernails. In a close-up performing situation, your close-up pad is the stage and your fingers are the actors. Everyone's eyes will be "burning" your hands so they should be made of asbestos...and look "as best as" they can. I'm not suggesting that everyone get a manicure every other week (although it wouldn't be a bad idea). What I am saying is that you can do something about those hands. In particular they should never have dirt or grease under the nails or appear to be chewed to the bone.

You should obviously wash your hands and get them as clean as you can before going out to perform. You can nearly eliminate hangnails by using hand lotion every night before going to bed. Perhaps you suffer from the "Vernon Curse" which is dry hands. Some performers who have this problem will soak their hands in ice water before going on stage and others rub in a little glycerin before breaking out the playing cards.

Take care of your nails by clipping them and applying clear nail polish about every two weeks. This will give them a luster and elegance that suits your clever handling of your card/coins/cups and balls or whatever you're using. By taking this advice, your hands will become more visually appealing and your audience will not be distracted by your dirty hands and nails. That's not the kind of misdirection you want.

One last thing on your hands is your jewelry. Are you wearing a wedding ring (recently cleaned) and a watch or do you have rings on every finger and gold bracelets that makes it look like you're wearing a Mr. T starter set? Some magicians prefer not to wear any rings which might distract from the performance or "clink" at the wrong time when you use coins. Others prefer to wear rings because they want the misdirection and they use the sound of the coin hitting the ring to sound like they have more than one coin in that hand. The choice of what jewelry you wear, if any, is yours but be sure that your choice is a conscious decision.

Listen to how you speak. Do you use good grammar? Do you have an accent that could possibly offend someone in your audience? A friend of mine in Tulsa was from Louisiana who had a strong Cajun accent. He knew that it would be accepted in his own land but perhaps not outside the South. As a result of his concern, he chose to perform a silent act with doves and illusions rather than trying to communicate with his dialect. As a side note, the club where he was working in Tulsa made a mistake when they asked him to do some strolling magic. When he opened his mouth, his lack of education was clear and he lost some potential bookings. Consequently, he went back to his silent act. Much has been said and published about studying dance and theater but little has been said about studying and using proper English. This is no less important than other educational endeavors. Perhaps it is even more important since you must speak properly to get the booking in the first place despite how great your promotional material might be.

Along this same line, a whole article could and should be written about dialog with your audience. Does your patter include offensive, degrading, prejudicial, or embarrassing humor or do you put your volunteers in compromising situations? Using such material could cost you a future booking and is generally not good for the magic profession.

You should be cautious about what material to use and when to use it. Be sure to know what your audience wants before you prepare your show. You may be able to pick up on the "mood" or "feel" of the au

"Scott Wells" (Continued from previous page)

Continued on next page - See "Scott Wells"

dience and what seems to be going over the best. You may be able to insert some effect or joke

that you previously thought wouldn't be appropriate or once you're into the routine you may want to take out something that you thought might be acceptable. Here is a good place to remember the old adage "when in doubt, leave it out."

Since most performances are given in the evening, we need to take one last look at our beard stubble. Be sure to scrape off that 5:00 shadow. If you're going to be talking to people, then be sure to check your breath. Gargle before you go and you may even want to occasionally take a spritz of a breath freshener or chew a mint throughout the evening. Also be sure that you are freshly bathed and anointed with deodorant. It's not necessary to bathe in the stuff before you go out. Besides, your audience may not like its smell as much as you do. A little touch goes a long way. Another thing that may seem minor is to make sure that you have used the restroom facilities before you go. It's better not to have anything on your mind or anywhere else before you suit up to fool the world.

You should appear confident and successful. People want to associate themselves with successful and interesting people. And who better now has that image than you?

"From The Editor" - (Continued From Pg. 14)

Idea No. 3 - Everyone should try to be like Roger Miller! Last Fall, at the Ring Roast for Roger Miller, amidst all of the jokes and revelry, I witnessed a unique quality in Roger. I watched him react as the historian read and chronicled each year of his magical life. It seemed that Roger had participated in the Stage Magician of the Year Contest just about every year. In some years he won the competition, in others, he placed 2nd or 3rd, and in some years he didn't even place. No matter what the outcome was the year before, he continued to participate and have fun competing. I think that we should all try to be like Roger! We should have fun competing and do our best, but not let the contest results keep us from competing in future years.

Guest Column



The C.A.M. Convention

By Josh Chaikin

The summer season breeds a lot of magic conventions. The IBM and SAM host their international ones, and several regional ones are held around the country. While I did attend the Midwest Magic Jubilee this past month along with several other members of our Ring, I thought that I would take this time to discuss another convention I attended this summer: the Camaraderie.

The CAM is held every two years by the Canadian Association of Magicians. This past year, it was held in Kitchener in Ontario, Canada and it was a nice experience to see how other associations host their conventions. While it's always nice to see magicians whom you may not have heard about, lecture and perform, every name was a headliner. Boris Wild, Steve Beam, David Ginn, Oscar Munoz, Steve Beam, Aldo Colombini (I don't think it's possible to host a convention without him) all filled out the bill nicely. However, only one man could pull people in from the United States and even Brazil: Juan Tamariz. I could easily continue for pages on this legend's performance and lecture, but I feel that this essay is not the place for that.

As we know, conventions are not limited to lectures. Also performing in the hospitality suite were Doc Eason and Chris Korn. Personally, I was impressed with how friendly and tall Doc was, even though he put a breather crimp in my deck!

Of course, there's no shortage of sessions at conventions. I found myself staying up until 5:00 a.m. just sharing ideas with other magicians. There was no shortage of food either; every night someone would order six pizzas for all the magi that decided to stay up until all hours. It's amazing that the convention was put together by *one* woman: Joan Caesar, with a little help from Obie O'Brien!

Josh Chaikin can be reached by emailing
josh@joshuacmagic.com

Putting the Trick Back In Trick-Or-Treat

By Kyle Peron



to do magic from a trick you gave them. If they feel they can do the trick easily, they will be encouraged to perform it for others. The more they perform it, the more your name gets out in your marketplace. A mom or dad who sees a happy child would more likely want to find out more information and may hire you for a show in the future.

Just keep in mind that marketing is only successful if your name and contact information is getting out there and it generates more work for you. This means that if you give out a trick, make sure you have your name or logo and contact information on it. Keep it simple and effective. In fact, why not take this up a level and perform a simple Halloween mini-magic show for the children that come to your door. Keep it simple, but have fun with it and give them something to remember you by.

A fellow magician friend had a great idea about sending out a press release to the papers in your local area. Let them know that you are going the extra mile this year to make Halloween safe and fun for the children in your neighborhood. It may generate more interest in your services and may get you a free article in your local paper.

There are many ideas out there that I have not touched base on. I just hope this helps you to open your eyes a bit and see the potential that is out there to promote yourself in various manners. So I simply say go out this year and put the trick back into trick-or-treat.

As always, I look forward to hearing back from you my fellow performers. if you have other ideas or suggestions for this subject or ideas for future articles, please send me an e-mail at magic4u02@aol.com. I

Well fall will be arriving soon and Halloween will be right around the corner. It is a time of transformation as the leaves change colors and the weather starts getting colder again. It should also be a time for transformation of your promotions and how you will promote yourself during this seasonal change.

Advertising and promoting yourself should be an ongoing process. But how do you take advantage of the Halloween season and what ways can you capitalize on this for your own promotional gain? Let me try and go over just a few ideas that may work for you or at least get your own creative juices flowing.

While talking with other magicians on this very subject, many great and interesting ideas came about. I will try and share some of them here with you and give you my own take on them.

I call the process putting the trick back into trick-or-treat. By this, I mean that we have a golden opportunity at Halloween to promote ourselves, have fun and get our names out to a great target group. If your're a children's performer or perform for family oriented shows, then this is a great time for you to capitalize on getting your name out in your area.

How about you give out magic tricks with your contact information on them? The parents alone would be pleased that at least one thing in their child's bag will not cause a huge mess or give their kids a sugar-rush. There are many sources for very inexpensive magic tricks that will not break your bank. These could be as simple as a Fortune Telling Fish or even a simple coin tray.

You will just want to make sure that whatever trick you are giving out to the kids, that it is both easy to perform as well as safe for the young children that you may be giving it out to. I say "easy to perform", as the best PR you can get is from a child being able

Kyle Peron, Magician and Illusionist, can be reached by email: magic4u02@aol.com or by visiting his website: www.kyleandkellymagic.com This article was used by permission from Magic New Zealand, © Copyright 2007 Alan Watson

“Spooktacular” To Begin its 14th Year at Worlds of Fun

By Steve Steiner



If you wish to take in a truly remarkable grand illusion show this next month, you might want to take a trip to the north side of the Kansas City area to the Tivoli

Music Hall at Worlds of Fun. Each Saturday and Sunday from September 22nd through October 31st, Wacky Dracky and Morgan will present their “Spooktacular” Halloween themed show.

Since 1994 magician John Bundy has been appearing as Wacky Dracky at Kansas City’s World’s of Fun Amusement Park during the months of September and October. John brings with him his Broadway styled magic and dance extravaganza, complete with many classic stage illusions that have been re-built to fit in with the holiday theme.



Joining John and his cast is his co-star from THRILLER, the always lovely and totally curvaceous, Morgan. Morgan officially joined her “batty” friend when Wacky needed a Ghoul Friday for THRILLER at Six Flags Great Adventure. Morgan continued with her passion to be diced, sliced, disem-

bodied, transformed and levitated when SPOOKTACULAR opened at Worlds of Fun. Morgan adds style, grace and her own brand of mischievous hu-

mor to the show. Morgan makes Wacky Dracky look good while she does all the work.

Not confining himself to the Amusement parks, Wacky Dracky has toured with SPOOKTACULAR at playhouses and dinner theatres. From time to time Wacky D. and SPOOKTACULAR have appeared at national magic conventions, including Tannen's Jubilee and The Abbott's Get-To-Gether. Wacky has appeared on national television with Elvira on the Ricki Lake show, and with talk show Host Gordon Elliot on the Fox Network.



Wacky and Morgan prepare over a month in advance by flying into the Kansas City area for auditions and rehearsals with local cast members. Their illusions and props are shipped by semi-truck from the East Coast directly to Worlds of Fun. During the six weeks of shows, both will fly into town each Friday night, work on Saturday and Sunday, and fly back to New Jersey for local shows during the week.



For more information about John Bundy and Morgan, you can visit their website www.wackydracky.com. Be sure and click on the video section to view clips from their shows!

“Spooktacular”

✦ **Location:** Worlds of Fun, Tivoli Music Hall in the Scandinavia section

Showtimes During Halloween Haunt: (September 22 - October 31, 2007)

- ◇ **Friday Nights - No shows**
- ◇ **Saturdays - 12:30 pm, 2 pm, 3:30 pm, 5 pm**
- ◇ **Sundays - 12:30 pm, 2 pm, 3:30 pm, 5 pm**

Newsletter Policy



As posted in last month's newsletter, the following basic principles will serve as guides in the Ring 129 Newsletter.

The Emphasis will be Local and Personal

The publication will concentrate on local news and club members.

If it is Local Magic News, Then it's Fair Game!

We will attempt to promote all local magic news.

Club News First

Since this is an I.B.M. Ring 129 publication, the club news will have top priority.

Disclaimer

We reserve the right to *unintentionally* omit events, pictures & news, and misspell individual's names without notice.

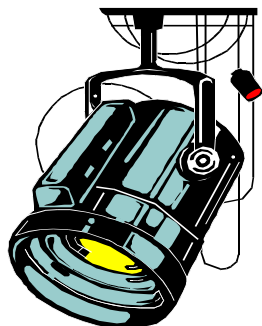
The Heart of the Ring is published monthly as a service to the members of IBM Ring 129. Views and comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Ring 129 officers, the IBM, or the Editor.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and comments for publishing and earn additional Sorcerers Circle Points.

Articles should be emailed to the editor by the 20th of the month.

steves7@microdsl.net

Member Profiles



Look for a new feature in upcoming ring newsletters. We will be featuring various ring members and sharing biographical information about them, including their history and interest in magic.

Our Web Site



Much helpful information can be found on the Ring 129 Web Page:
www.ring129.com

The following passwords are needed for members to access special areas of the website:



User Name: ring129 Pass-
word: aj

If you have questions concerning the ring website, contact Ken Reedy at

Dealer Booth Policy

In order to set up a dealer table at Ring 129 Meetings, the board of directors have established the following policy.

A dealer is considered legitimate provided they meet one of the following criteria:



- ◆ Operate their business out of an actual magic storefront or building.
- ◆ Have an actual magic dealer's I.D. or business license.
- ◆ Have a Sales Tax Number

PICTURES- PICTURES- PICTURES!



Check out the photos from magic events this past month!

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