



MAGIC NEWS

HEART OF THE RING

IBM Ring 129 - "The Heart of America Ring" - Kansas City

Upcoming Events

December 5, 2002

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
NOTE NEW LOCATION!

At Best Western Inn
and Conference Center,
Southwest Blvd. At Rainbow
501 Southwest Blvd.
Behind Applebee's - lower level

Board Meeting

December 19, 2002

Required Meeting for Both 2002
and 2003 Board Members
Mike Blum's House
8217 West 100th Terrace

January 2, 2003

Day after New Year's)
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
NOTE NEW LOCATION!

At Best Western Inn
and Conference Center,
Southwest Blvd. At Rainbow
501 Southwest Blvd.
Behind Applebee's - lower level

January 24, 2003

Sorcerer's Circle Event
To Be Announced

January 25th, 2003

Stage Magician of the Year
Banquet

Roeland Park Community Center
Mark your calendar NOW!!

February 8, 2003

Kid's Show at Roeland Park Com-
munity Center - 1:00 pm
Ring Auction -

Hail To The Chief! *Larry Warshaw Elected To Ring Presidency*



Hard to believe that 2 years have past since Dr. Michael Blum assumed the leadership role of Ring 129 as its President. Well, times they are a changin'.

At the November meeting, our Ring has spoken. We conducted our annual elections, and the new President-Elect for the 2003 year is none other than Larry Warshaw. Larry takes over his reign at the January 2003 meeting. He comes to us after serving the Ring as its Sergeant-at-Arms, as well as working diligently on the Rules Committee to refine some of the Sorcerer's Circle requirements.

Larry takes over for a very exiting year. One of his first tasks is to assist with the Stage Magician of the Year Banquet in January. He will conduct the Ring's regular meetings and the Board meetings, and later this year will help preside over the 2003 International Convention coming to Kansas City.

But Larry cannot do it all himself. He has the support of several Board members that make his task even more enjoyable - Vice President Rod Sipe, Treasurer Kirk Deweese, Secretary Alan Goodheart, Sergeant-at-Arms Jason Dean, Board Members Ernest Bruch, and Danny Mahar.

This is an exciting year, and we look forward to all that it has to offer us. Let's wish the best for our new Board members as they

**DO YOU HAVE
ANY HOLIDAY
MAGIC YOU
ENJOY
PERFORMING?**

It doesn't matter which Holiday you celebrate - Christmas, Kwanza, Chanukah - whatever might be fun for you could be even more exciting for the Ring. So bring your sweet candy canes, blossoming trees, magic Santa hats, "ornaments", or the sweetest, snowiest, ho-ho-ho-iest Magic you can think of, and show us what the Holidays are meant to be!!

BRING YOUR SORCERER'S CIRCLE POINTS SHEETS TO THE DECEMBER MEETING

We included these in last month's newsletter, or you can download them from
www.ring129.com

Fill this out to join this fun, prestigious group or be recognized for your hard work to support Magic in many ways!

Ring Location to Change Again WHAT?????

That's right, but it's not exactly what you think. We are still meeting at our NEW same location, but we are making an improvement. We will move just two doors down to **Salon B**. This will give us a larger room to meet, more room for all the dealers, and the chance to adapt as we add new members to our Ring. So look for the 'B' and come join us De-



President's Column
By
Mike Blum

A deviation is necessary from my previous folksy columns. There is no question these last two years have been the best Magic years of my life. They have also been the hardest. My observations of our Ring 129 over the last 24 years had mostly been as a member, not as a president. During the last two years, I have had to rollup my sleeves and work very hard to be the leader of this group. Guess what, I did not do it alone! Absolutely every member on our roster has in some way helped me have a great two years as president. Maybe you did not come to a meeting. Maybe you did not attend a lecture or other event. Maybe you never even met me. Nevertheless, the ring could not have been successful without each of you. My thanks!

Why has it been so much fun? Attending lectures, meetings, workshops, conventions, dinners, phone calls, cards, letters, emails and more have introduced me to a wonderful group of people who have individually and collectively made me want to be a better magician and performer. Every day in my work as a pediatrician, I have to perform. I have to get good results. I have to make people feel better. I have to smile. I have to be happy and sincere at 7 in the morning and at the end of a full day. Performing as a magician is the same thing. Make people happy. Entertain each person. Be sincere. Get good results. Attending all the events I mentioned above has helped me to be better at everything that I do. It has made it fun.

I have purposely tried to not thank any one individual in my monthly columns; for fear of leaving someone out. It was a year that not one person helped me and the club, but many. Again, I thank all of you!

If you would like to make some New Year's resolutions, here are some suggestions. Attend as many of our Ring 129 functions as you can. Give the president and board members your thoughts, positive or negative. Try to perform for the club, you can only improve. Help someone with their magic. Attend all or some of the IBM International Convention here in KC this July. The more visible you are, the better the club.

It was a great two years! Thank you for letting me be the president of Ring 129. May all of you have a happy, healthy and magical New Year!

NEW LECTURE SCHEDULED!
TIM ELLIS AND SUE-ANN WEBSTER
 Make plans to attend an all-new lecture by Tim Ellis and Sue-Ann Webster on February 27th, 2003 at the Best Western Conference Center at 7:00 pm SHARP!

If you have changed your address, phone number, or e-mail in the last several months, please contact Carl Macan at 913-648-1465 or crm130@aol.com with those updates. Thanks.

Ring 129 Officers

President: Dr. Mike Blum.....(913) 383-2586
Past Pres: Jay Godwin.....(913) 385-0845
Vice Pres: Carl Macan.....(913) 381-2972
Treasurer: David Sandy.....(816) 233-4177
Secretary: Alan Goodheart.....(913) 648-0331
Sgt. At Arms: Larry Warshaw.....(913) 381-8829
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Ring 129 Website
<http://www.ring129.com>

Magician of the Month

NOVEMBER 2002

Stage
 Dr. Mike Blum

Close-up
 John Hicks

Remember to visit our Ring's website at:
www.ring129.com

Our Ring Dues are NOW DUE!
So Do the Dues!!

At last month's meeting, we passed out our renewal forms and many of you have paid your 2003 dues. But there are still plenty of us who have not. So don't forget to bring your cash or checkbook to this month's meeting. Yearly dues are only \$20. This way we can update our roster with all your current information.

If you have not paid your dues by January, our password to the Ring 129 website will be withheld as well as the newsletter. So make the effort – pay up if you can.

STAGE MAGICIAN OF THE YEAR BANQUET JANUARY 25TH AT ROELAND PARK COMM. CENTER

This evening is very anticipated, so mark your calendars NOW! We will also be planning a sorcerer's Circle event that Friday, the 24th as well. A full weekend of Magical surprises awaits you.

Look forward to January when one of our premier events is scheduled to take place. Your Stage Magician of the Year show and Banquet is slated for **Saturday, January 25th**. You still have December to perform, win, and be eligible for the contest. Alan Goodheart has volunteered to chair the committee for this event. Interested in helping? Give him a call.

Look forward to welcoming our International President Mike Stratman when he attends our event.

Close-up Winner John Hicks

Photo
Not
Available

John has continued to hone his magical skills since joining the Ring several years ago. He prefers to do close-up, especially with cards. John is always open to showing you his latest effect, and wanting your honest critique. He has performed for many groups and organizations and continues to contribute to the welfare of the Ring. He is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. We wish John the best of luck in the Close-up contest next summer!

Close-up Winner Dr. Mike Blum



Good Luck in the upcoming Stage MOY Banquet if you so choose to participate. It was exciting to see "Doc" perform last month. Even though we see him every month serving as our Pres, it was just as grand seeing him deliver a new twist to a great classic. Mike has always supported the Ring in many ways, none more than serving as its leader for two terms. He gives at his job, socially, and philanthropically. He always finds time to help others, and is one of the best at what he does, both professionally and magically. We all wish you our

HOPPING TABLES:

The Art and Science of Restaurant Magic

A SERIES OF SIX ESSAYS BY KEITH LEFF
Article Five: More on Restaurant Magic

Your fee should be based on your talent, confidence as an entertainer and experience. Notice I said entertainer, not magician. You are there to entertain the guests, not to just simply do magic tricks. Also, consider the geographical location of the restaurant you are performing in. Remember, do not charge the same amount you would for a one time private engagement. You could develop a long-term relationship with the restaurant and you should charge less. This is justified because by you performing there, you increase your exposure and thus your chances of booking the higher paying private shows.

Try to work in two to three hour shifts. I find two-hour shifts to be ideal. Also, try to negotiate staying longer if the restaurant is busy and charge for additional time, especially if you're working late for a private party in the restaurant, and on holidays. Get to know the regulars who come in often. Regulars provide a haven of people who can afford your services. Hotels and Country Clubs are also very plentiful. Find out who the Food and Beverage Manager is for the company. Work private rooms and the lounge if there is no main dining area. Also be sure to work the wait if there is any.

Get an agreement in writing. Things to include are how long and when you are to work for the restaurant, how many hours you are to work and how much you are to be paid. Three months is a good start, with the option to renew the agreement at the end of that time.

There are pros and cons to accepting tips. If people ask whether or not they are supposed to tip you, you can merely say "compliments of the house." If you accept tips, customers may feel they have a right to call you back over to their table, even if the restaurant is busy. Accepting tips could also convey the message of magic as being "second class." Accepting tips also has the potential of letting someone else decide your worth as an entertainer. For example, if I accept a \$2 tip, it could be hard to justify my fee for a private engagement. (\$2 for 5 minutes of tableside magic comes out to \$24 per hour.) My normal fee is considerably higher. On the flip side, if you refuse a tip, you may offend the person offering it. The decision on whether or not to accept tips is entirely up to you.

Do not do tricks for wait staff, you are there to entertain the customers. Offer to come in during a staff meeting to perform for the wait staff, get on their good side. Help them turn tables. Tips may be perceived by the wait staff as coming out of their percentage, so if you choose to accept tips, do so discreetly.

Be prepared for monotonous questions, such as "How did you do that?" Do not show annoyance and be sincere in your replies. People will often tell you of other magicians they have seen and ask if you have seen or heard of them. These magicians can range

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IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

DON'T GO TO THE WRONG LOCATION!!

Come to the Best Western Inn and
Conference Center at
Southwest Blvd. and Rainbow Blvd.;
on Rainbow behind and
down from Applebee's
Salon B

*Go to
www.ring129.com*

Ring 129 Lecture Fees

Unless listed otherwise,
are as follows:

Non-Members \$15
Members in good standing \$12
Sorcerer's Circle Members \$10

Ring Report Reminds Us What Went On At Meeting, Or What We Are Missing By Not Coming!!

Reprinted from Ring Report by Stu Lewis

Perhaps inspired by recent Workshop, we had a large turnout for our November meeting, with over 60 members and guests in attendance. After discussing our feelings about the Workshop (all positive), we continued with the election of officers. Larry Warshaw and Rod Sipe won contested elections for president and vice-president, respectively, and will be sworn in at our annual banquet in January. The rest of the slate was elected by acclamation: Alan Goodheart, secretary; Kirk Deweese, treasurer; Jason Dean, sergeant-at-arms; Ernest Bruch, board member. Penny Mahar is the carry-over Board member, and a new board member will need to be appointed to fill the vacancy left by Kirk's election to office.

There were a number of announcements made during the business meeting. Most notable was Rod Sipe's having been given a lifetime achievement award at our local Renaissance Festival in recognition of the many years he has performed his fire-eating act there. President Blum read Ken Reedy's article that was printed in the November Linking Ring about the way that the members had reached out to him during his illness. It was a reminder that "brotherhood" is our middle name. I mentioned my recent meeting with Steven Schwartz, who wrote the song for "The Magic Show." I had the opportunity to thank him personally for his contributions to our art, for his show launched Doug Henning's career, which opened the doors for a lot of others.

Rod Sipe presented the teach-a-trick segment. He performed a basic change-bag routine, but his focus was on the Slydini Silks—a useful move which he told us sometimes gets a bigger reaction than any of his more elaborate tricks.

Doc White led off the stage contest by revealing a jumbo version of a selected card between two wood slates. Doc Blum showed us a "mental die" effect which went beyond the usual dime-store variety and was truly mystifying, since he was able to reveal the number on top despite not being able to handle the die. New member Jim Wright did a find-the-lady effect with a single jumbo card whose face changed from a five-card queen to a single large queen.

Doc Blum led off the close-up contest with a few rubber-band effects and some variations of the 21-card trick, designed to fool those who know the layman's version. John Hicks did an "odd card out" routine and the Chicago Opener, and did a routine which showed that a selected card was the only odd-backed card. Carl Macan did some coin switches and vanishes. Daniel Jackson did a gag routine where he predicted that the spectator would not select a joker, only to show that all the cards except for the selected one were jokers.

In the open segment, Terry Elton performed a card routine where he appeared to be using the "clock principle" but surprised us by having the single blue card in a red deck found in a different manner. Jason Dean did an ambitious-card routine in which the selected card returned to the card box. Terry Davolt did some gags with potato chips. Kyle Scheel did a card routine based on an odd-backed card (a common theme of many effects performed during the evening). Daniel Jackson performed some linking-rope moves and Professor's Daydream, and Stu Lewis closed with Harvey Berg's Intercept.

All that was left was to announce that John Hicks and Doc Blum had won their respective contests and to celebrate Doc Blum's birthday with a cake that was brought in for the occasion. A magician-of-the-month certificate, a cake, and the opportunity to pass the gavel to a new president-

Close-up Winner

Close-up Winner

