



# MAGIC NEWS

## HEART OF THE RING

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

### Upcoming Events

Thurs., July 10, 2003  
**(NOTE SPECIAL DATE)**

Regular Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

At Best Western Inn  
and Conference Center,  
Southwest Blvd.

Saturday, July 19, 2003  
**Close-up Magician of  
the Year Contest**  
Holiday Inn at I-35 and 95th St.  
in Lenexa, KS  
6:30 p.m.

Thurs., July 24, 2003  
Board Meeting  
Time and Place to be announced

Thurs., August 7, 2003  
Regular Meeting  
7:00 p.m.  
At Best Western Inn  
and Conference Center,  
501 Southwest Blvd.

## **RING'S CLOSE-UP COMPETITION SCHEDULED FOR JULY 19TH HOLIDAY INN LENEXA IS THE LOCATION**

It's time for the summer's Grand event – Ring 129's famed Close-up Magician of the Year Contest.

This year's contest is easy to find. You can come to the same location where we used to hold our monthly meetings- at the Holiday Inn in Lenexa (I-35 at 95th St. in Lenexa, KS). The event starts at around 6:30 p.m. with a cash bar in Salon E (room at the north end of hotel). Then around 7:15 p.m., we will adjourn to three meeting rooms next to Salon E for the actual Close-up contest. 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 Salon E for a very special part of the evening – to experience a wonderful dessert bar where you can create your own ice cream sundae, with cookies, cake, fruit and flavored coffee, and for those that wish, the cash bar remains open for further liba-

tions. *(There is no dinner at this event)*. 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 (July 10th) to make reservations, or **contact Alan Goodheart at 913-648-0331**. Prices are \$15 for guest and regular members, and \$13 for Sorcerer's Circle members.

***Please be sure not to  
miss this great event!!***

## **IBM INT'L CONVENTION KC COMES TO AN END**

The anticipation proved to be correct – the IBM Int'l Convention held this past week in KC was everything it was built up to be. Days filled with performances by the world's greatest magicians. Lectures giving you creative insight into the minds of the artisans themselves. Time to meet new friends or a chance to renew acquaintances with your fellow magicians from everywhere. And the evening shows left you breathless and wanting more! Acts ranging from comedy magic, black art, quick change artists, mysterious appearances and vanishes, vaudeville style balancing acts and pantomime, Las Vegas like illusions producing several assistants, five

gowned beauties, live white tigers, and oh, yes a few doves as well!!

Enough to say that our Ring was very well represented, both in attendance and in helping the Convention committee keep everyone getting to the right room, or finding the best restaurant to venture to. In listening to those in attendance, you heard lots of comments commending us on our running a smooth and fun event. If you attended, then you know what a great time you had. If you did not attend, then talk to some of those that did to learn of what you may have missed, and make plans now to join us in 2004 in Cleveland, Ohio for next year's convention.

### **Magician of the Month June Winners**

Ken Reedy  
Stage

Todd Lamanske  
Close-up

Visit our website:  
[www.ring129.com](http://www.ring129.com)

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## Ring 129 Lecture Fees

Unless listed otherwise,  
are as follows:

**Non-Members \$15**

**Members in good standing \$12**

**Sorcerer's Circle Members \$10**

**REMEMBER THE RING  
MEETING HAS CHANGED  
TO THIS THURSDAY, JULY  
10th AT BEST WESTERN**

## **LAST MONTH'S MEETING WAS ONE NOT TO BE MISSED** *Special Thanks to Stu Lewis*

Perhaps in anticipation of the International convention (which will be history by the time you read this -I hope you were here), attendance at our monthly meetings has been getting stronger. About fifty-five magicians and guests were on hand for our June 5 meeting.

Walt Mitchell led off the evening's activities with the teach-a-trick presentation, which was more of a teach-an-origami session, as he gave us some tips on making paper roses from napkins. He brought a package of napkins so we could all try it. This is one of those non-magic things which magicians find it convenient to know. (Making a bill from a dollar is another, but that's more expensive).

There was only one entrant in the stage contest, leaving it for the board to determine if there should be a winner. Ken Reedy performed a bag rope routine, in which his hands were tied together, and while he pretended to be hopelessly tied up, he was able to use his hands to maneuver to his assistants.

In the close-up contest, the last qualifying event before our annual contest in July, was more hotly contested. Jim Wright led off with a small-act routine in which the kings and spot cards kept changing places, concluding with a flourish revelation of the vanished kings. He continued with a copper/silver coin effect. Todd Lamanske did a card routine in which he dealt cards to the table and asked a spectator to slap his or her card. The slapped card turned out to be an indifferent one and the selected cards turned up in his pockets. He also changed some dollar bills into hundreds. Stu Lewis performed the DeSouza endless chain routine. Roger Billings called up two doctors to assist him (I would call this a pair-o-docs) and did a two-deck, card-at-number effect which had the spectators totally baffled. I won't describe the effect, because the way I remember it, it would be impossible. In the voting, Todd Lamanske's outstanding presentational skills earned him a place in our

annual contest.

In the open segment, Marty Isenberg did a humorous spelling trick and showed a clever adaptation of the "out-to-lunch" principle. Ken Reedy did a ring-and-rope routine. L.C. did some card work with an Iraqi deck (one with the most-wanted Iraqi war criminals on the faces of the cards).

Four days later, forty of us returned to our meeting site for a lecture by Docc Hilford. Docc's specialties are mentalism and routines built around stories. He is a wonderful performer, able to create real drama with his captivating way of speaking, sometimes basing routines on occult themes, though he does not attempt to tap into real belief in the occult. In his ability to weave a hypnotic spell with his voice, he reminds me a lot of Eugene Berger.

One of the interesting things about Docc's presentation in a lecture is his fantastic knowledge of magic history (for example, that Si Stebbins used a stack different from the one that bears his name-that was the one he marketed). More than any other mentalism lecturer I have seen, he builds his routines on classical moves, such as billet switches, pencil reading, and nail writers, to name a few. Yet everything seems fresh because of his original applications and presentation. He has a fascinating approach to the ball in tube, one which may lead many magicians to re-evaluate this prop. He also showed us a clever book test and some stacked and gimmicked decks for which he has devised several routines.

As a lecturer he is both entertaining and informative, and maybe some of us will return to dust off the old classics on our own. We recommend him highly to other rings.

...Stu Lewis, ring reporter



# You May Have Missed The Best Meeting of the Year (*Read On To See if You Did*)

*Special Thanks to Stu Lewis, Our IBM Ring Reporter*

As we anticipate the International coming to our home turf (hopefully, some of you may be reading this July issue in your Kansas City hotel rooms), we continue to get good crowds at our monthly meetings. About fifty were on hand May 1 for an evening of magic and fellowship.

Jason Dean started the meeting with a deceptively simple one-coin effect, the apparent penetration of one's head with a coin. We then followed with a business meeting, including a discussion of the upcoming convention and some angry comments about NBC getting into the magic exposure *Zeigfreid & Roy* business under the guise of revealing the tricks of phony psychics. At least most of the stuff was pretty basic, but my personal concern is that the networks seem to be on a campaign to ridicule the art of magic in general.

Competition was light this month, as we had only one entrant in each of the two divisions, leaving it to the board to decide if winners should be declared. Marty Isenberg performed some mentalism as his entry in the stage contest. He did his own variation of a Max Maven effect divining which spectator had selected the only odd-

colored ball out of a bag. He also predicted which ESP card a spectator would choose from a deck. As a finale, he moved on to the physical magic, making an ice cube appear in a sealed bottle. L.C. Collier performed a routine built around stars, including the stars on the U.S. flag—including Dan Harlan's "Starcle" and some cards with stars on the back which changed back designs and wound up being part of a flag design.

Roger Miller read some excerpts from old Ring 129 newsletters to give us a sense of our history, and we then went on to the open segment, where four performers were ready to try out some material. Kyle Scheel did some impressive work with cards, including an ambitious-card routine with a lot of transpositions. Ken Reedy did the endless chain. Josh Stiles changed a nickel to a silver penny. And Danny Mahar began with a couple of gag predictions which led to a real prediction of a selected card.

Take your pick for an ending: (1) I hope you enjoyed KC-come back soon; or (2) Sorry you missed a great convention. It's up to you.







