



HEART OF THE RING



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**2008 Stage
Magician
of the Year
Results!
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Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday, February 7th

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

Tuesday, February 12th

Duane Laflin Lecture, 7:00 @ US Toy

Thursday, February 21st

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

Thursday, March 6th

March Ring Meeting, 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 8th

Ring Auction, 6:00 @ Roeland Park Community Center

Thursday, March 13th

March Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

Friday, March 28th

Rick Maue Lecture, 7:00 @ US Toy

Thursday, April 3rd

April Ring Meeting, 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 10th

April Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 13th

S.A.M. Assembly #38 - Spring Magic Show

Tuesday, April 29th

Ken Scott Lecture, 7:00 @ US Toy

2008 Ring 129 Board Members



President - Julie Clark
816. 478. 9787
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Treasurer - Kirk DeWeese
816. 224. 5000
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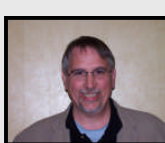
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Secretary - John Hicks
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Past President - Mike Blum
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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to New Member! - Please welcome our newest member, **Katie Miller** from Horton, Kansas! She was sponsored by Barren Stringfellow and Dale Huffman.



Upcoming Lectures - We now have three lectures scheduled in the upcoming months including Duane Laflin at U.S. Toy & Magic on Tuesday, February 12th beginning at 7:00 pm. Cost will be \$6.00 for regular members and \$5.00 for Sorcerers' Circle Members. This lecture will be free for those members that paid their dues early! (To view that list see page 16 of the newsletter.)



Duane Laflin

New Sorcerers' Circle Member - Congratulations to Mike Melito, the newest Sorcerer's Circle member. Mike was officially inducted into the Sorcerers' Circle at the January 12th annual Stage Magician of the Year Banquet.

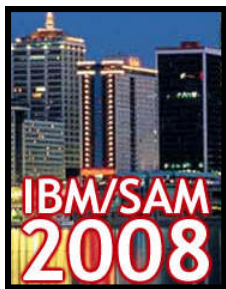


Mike Melito & Rod

Concerning Club Dues... Now is the time to pay your annual club dues. If you think about it, the annual club dues of only \$20 is quite a bargain! Last year members' dues helped the club once again operate in the black and still afford seven lectures and the great monthly meeting site at the Radisson in Overland Park! Dues can be paid at the regular monthly meeting or by mail to the ring treasurer, Kirk DeWeese, 634 SW Walnut, Blue Springs, Mo., 64014.



Trivia Question! - Speaking of Dues... Can you name the amount of the original Ring 129 dues charged members back in the early 1960's? A prize awaits one lucky person at the February Ring Meeting for the correct answer!



2008 IBM / SAM Combined Convention - Are you planning to attend the historic I.B.M & S.A.M. Combined Convention this coming summer in Louisville, Kentucky? If so, please contact Rod Sipe, (816. 916. 3655 rod@eatfire.com) who would like to explore the possibility of carpooling to the event.

S.A.M. Spring Show - Be sure and mark your calendars for the local Society of American Magicians Assembly #38's annual spring magic show that will be held Sunday afternoon, April 13th at the Fairmount Community Center.



Congratulations! - To Mike and Noelle Melito, the recent proud parents of an 8lb, 11 oz. baby boy named Tyler!





2008 Stage Magician of the Year Event a Huge Success!

By Steve Steiner

On Saturday, January 12th, nine Ring 129 members competed at the Roeland Park Community Center for the Ring's annual Stage Magician of the Year honor. In what has been described by some as "the best stage contest show in several years", the sellout crowd attending the event enjoyed not only an evening of great magic, but also great food, fellowship, and fun!

A new judging format was utilized for the first time in this year's contest. Though the five judges were encouraged to write comments and use the traditional point sheets during the evening, their only contribution towards determining the winning act was a simple listing of how they ranked each performer during the evening.



After the contest totals were tabulated, Kyle Scheel was named the 2008 Ring 129 Stage Magician of the Year. Kyle, assisted by his girlfriend, Emma Jo, won the event by performing a very moving version of the Jim Steinmeyer, "Shadow Theater" illusion. Kyle began his presentation by sharing a story about how one day he had noticed a beautiful sunset and by the time he was able to go back to his car and get his camera it had disappeared. To illustrate the lesson he learned in that experience, Kyle proceeded to place his assistant inside a shadow-type box and magically fold her shadow up into a small rose which he placed in a vase before exiting the stage.

Finishing 1st Runner Up in the competition was Rod Sipe. Rod's comedy style



thoroughly entertained the audience as he used several humorous props, gags, and magic effects. His closing magic routine involved using a young audience member to test out his head guillotine illusion while Rod fired off a series of humorous one-liners.

Roger Miller took the 2nd Runner Up award by also doing a comedy routine of his own. He opened the act by attempting to move his magic prop table closer to the audience only to have two of the table legs fall away. After pronouncing the magic words, "Zany Blany" a new pair of comedy legs appeared. While constantly rolling out comic one-liners, the remainder of his routine included a version of Hypnotic Silks, a disappearing cane, and a series of golf ball productions from his mouth.



Other performers during the evening included Marty Isenberg, who appeared looking like Rod Serling, the host from the old television series, "The Twilight Zone", only Marty proceeded to stick Rod's signature cigarette up his nose!



Joe White also brought the crowd to laughter when he entered the stage dance shuffling to upbeat music. Joe used several colorful stage props in his performance, including a beautiful set of color-changing plumes.



(Continued on next page)

Returning to the stage after recently entering the



world of retirement, Gene Kean combined singing with magic in his performance. Singing in Italian the famed “Figaro” song throughout his entire routine, Gene performed several tricks, including a linking ring and a coin production effect using a beautifully made coin ladder.



Jonathan Atkinson used his smooth style to perform a series of stage illusions that were tied together using the flight of a blue silk hankerchief.

Dennis Burks once again performed in the competition with his daughter, Ashley. Together they performed a series of Hawaiian themed tricks that delighted the onlooking crowd. Ashley made her appearance using a Paliquin cabinet and then proceeded to give Dennis the customary Hawaiian Leis. Dennis then used the opportunity to perform a version of “Linking Leis”.



Completing the evening of magic competition was Steve Steiner, assisted by Anna Stastny and Crystal Clayton. All three were dressed in pirate-themed outfits and followed the elusive pirate map through a series of three major stage illusions, including a Sword Basket, a pirate-themed Modern Art Cabinet, and a pirate Tip-Over Trunk.



The show was hosted by Master of Ceremonies, Larry Warshaw who kept the show moving along very nicely while entertaining with some of his own magic along the way.



Duane Fields served as the 2008 chairman for the event and from the way the evening played out, it was obvious that he had spent a great many hours planning and organizing the event. Assisting Duane was his wife, Janie who helped make and provide the various magical decorations.

The entire show could not have been done without the “amazing” assistance of Terry Magelssen and his family. Terry provided his “Amazing Productions” sound and lighting equipment for the event. Terry’s dedication to the club and the event showed throughout the day, as he was one of the first ones to arrive and also one of the last ones to leave following the show.

No production is ever done alone and this year’s event is no exception. Thanks goes out to others that pitched in to make the event a success including backstage helpers Alan Goodheart, Rob Scheel, and Dale Huffman.

The evening ended with the two traditional Ring 129 ceremonies. Rod Sipe recognized the members earning their Soccerers’ Circle awards during the past year and ring president, Mike Blum swore in the 2008 Board of Directors.



DUANE LAFLIN Finding Magical Treasure

7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 12th @ US Toy

Duane Laflin is well known in the magic world for his creative thinking, showmanship, and practical approach to performing. He has performed and lectured for nearly every major magic convention in the USA and has been featured in many international conventions as well.

As a lecturer, Duane brings "real world insight" because he truly is a working performer. He and his wife Mary now have their own theater, "THE MONTANA WONDER THEATER" in Libby, Montana where they do full scale illusion shows for a ticket buying public.



Beyond that, Duane and Mary spent years doing programs in schools and churches before venturing into magic for corporate situations. During recent years they have stayed busy performing in hotel ballrooms around the world for special events sponsored by business organizations. They performed in Hong Kong to promote Disney products, performed in Singapore to promote a chain of malls, and performed in New Zealand as part of the "International Stars Of Magic" show sponsored by Centerpoint Mall in Christchurch.

Duane's credentials are numerous. Magicians will know him for his DVD series "The Secrets Of Silk Magic" and many other DVDs and Videos. He is the author of "Laflin's Laugh Lines" and "Greater Gospel Magic" along with a variety of smaller books, pamphlets, and magazine articles. From 1991 until 1996 Duane was the international president of the "Fellowship Of Christian Magicians".

A rule Duane has given himself in lecturing is to only show things he knows work well by way of personal performance. Everything in his lecture has been tested and proven in public shows. "Finding Magical Treasure" is a re-discovery of wonderful magic ideas and routines. New concepts ... and a look at how to get things you already own "out of your closet and into the show".

Tricks Include: Fast and Visual Sponge Balls, Boomerangs Revisited, Card Box To Silk, On Stage With Ten Cards To The Pocket, A Box Full Of Nothing, The Box Of Mystery, A "Wow Factor" Silk Routine, How To Make And Do "Snap Silks", Silk To Banana, Ribbons And A Thumbtip, Paint My Flower (for kid shows), and more!



The lecture is a combination of performance and instruction. Duane performs each routine, often to a musical background, before explaining it. Each explanation is clear and thorough. In the explanations there is strong emphasis on showmanship and presentation techniques. The lecture is fun to see because there is lots of visually strong magic, but it also is strong on theory about doing magic correctly.

Expect a worthwhile and magically entertaining lecture loaded with useful information and fascinating ideas. The Laflins will also have a nice display of their unique and high quality line of magic.

Note: Those members that paid their 2008 dues by the early deadline qualified to attend this lecture for free! A complete list can be found on page 16 of this newsletter.

RICK MAUE WITH SPECIAL GUEST DAVID LONDON

7:00 pm, Friday, March 28th @ US Toy



Rick Maue has been creating theatrical deception for more than four decades and his specialty is getting inside the heads of his audience. His demonstrations range from controlling the decisions of others to reading their thoughts - but not really. After all, everything that Rick does is nothing more than theater, but sometimes he has a difficult time convincing everyone that sees him that he is simply creating illusions for the mind.

Rick's current lecture contains items from just about all of his releases. Routines range from mentalism, to standard magical effects, to haunted items. In addition, a number of utility moves and techniques are demonstrated. Other topics that are covered include: How to create magic routines, Making Your Magic More Personal, and How to Develop a Bond with your Audience.

The lecture runs over two hours, and it is structured very much like Rick's books with the emphasis on presentation. This means that he will discuss not only "how", but also "why" the routines are designed in the manner that they are. But do not fear, each point is illustrated with effects that are technically very easy to do, and they do not require special gimmicks or equipment.



David London is a magician, storyteller, filmmaker and all around strange fellow. His creations of live performance, combining his unique style of magic and offbeat humor, have been experienced and enjoyed by young and old alike. His venues include the National Theater, The Woodstock Opera House, the Live Bait Theater, The Warehouse Theater as well as colleges and museums nationwide. From Las Vegas to Washington, DC, New York to Austin, TX, his theatrical creations never cease to push the limits of magic and performance.

KEN SCOTT

7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 29th @ US Toy



Ken Scott has over 20 years of experience, performing over 350 shows a year. He has entertained over a million people with his unique cutting edge programs. He was voted Greater Atlanta Entertainer of the year. Ken was also featured on CNN Headline News, where he headlined their segment on A Day of Magic. Ken performs yearly in Hollywood, California at The World Famous Magic Castle, which is home to the Academy of Magical Arts. Ken has also been invited three times to perform at the White House.

Ken travels around the world teaching other entertainers his original ideas and routines that he has written and developed. Ken also writes monthly columns in children's performers publications called "The Funny Paper" and the Kidabra Journal.



A Message From The President

By Julie Clark



I want to begin by telling you all how very honored I feel to be heading up Ring 129. I thank you for the trust you've placed in me and I am excited to serve as your President in 2008. Although I have many ideas I would like to explore, my goal for the upcoming year is simple....Continue building upon our strengths.

These strengths lie in many areas. It lies in our talented membership, in the many programs & activities we offer throughout the year, and with our dedicated Board of Directors & Chairs. Not to be forgotten are the founding fathers of Ring 129. I have much gratitude for those that laid the groundwork decades ago as well as those that joined up along the way, working hard, giving back, and creating many of the traditions we still celebrate.

I ask those who haven't become involved to step up, attend a board meeting, offer suggestions, perform, write a newsletter article, or lend a hand on various committee work. You'll find that it's very rewarding and a lot of fun too! We need new faces and new perspectives to keep things fresh! If you haven't attended a regular meeting for awhile, make plans to attend, we'd love to see you!

Next I would like to congratulate not only our Stage Magician of the Year winners for their great performances this past month, but also to all of our contestants! Wow! What a great evening of magic! We couldn't have had such a nice evening if it were not for the efforts of Duane and Jane Fields, who were in charge of this year's show. Fantastic job! Everything was beautiful!

Also, a big thanks goes out to Terry Magelsson & his family that provided & directed our technical, sound & lighting. He brought in a tremendous amount of equipment that was needed to run the evening professionally and transformed a plain gym

into a real theatre setting. What an Amazing Production!

We also owe thanks to Doc Blum, Larry Warshaw, Alan Goodheart, Chuck Macan, Dale Huffman, Rob Scheel, Mike Melito, and Carl & Elaine Macan, whose work made for a memorable evening! J

I need your help in reaching out to others, making new members and guests feel welcome, getting current members more involved, and helping each other learn and grow in the magical arts. Find a way to contribute. I am proud that we are one of the top five rings in this country. I will do my best to avoid the icebergs and stay on course, so that Ring 129 will remain King of the World! Let's have a great time in 2008!

See you at the February meeting!

Julie Clark became Ring 129's first woman president in January. She can be reached by emailing her at theclarkx@comcast.net



"What's your father's occupation?"

"He's a magician."

"What's his favorite trick?"

"Sawing people in half."

"Gosh! Any brothers or sisters?"

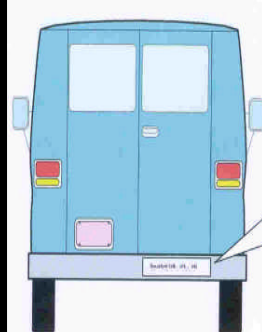
"One half brother, and
two half sisters!"



**MAGICIAN'S
BUMPER STICKER**



If you can read this,
I've lost the trailer!



Dig Through Those Closets!

Ring 129

Magic Auction

6:00 pm, Saturday, March 8th
Roeland Park Community Center

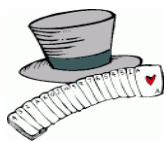


- ◆ Doors open at 5:00 PM for set-up. Auction will begin promptly at 6:00 PM.
- ◆ Admission fee for Buyers and Sellers is \$2.00. Everyone pays!!
- ◆ We encourage sellers to group less expensive items into lots valued at \$20.00 or more; items listed at less than \$20.00 will be sold at NO reserve price.
- ◆ Up to 5 items or lots per seller. If time allows, sellers may exceed this limit only after all sellers have had their first lot of five items on the auction block.
- ◆ Tag each item for sale with your name.
- ◆ All items for sale must be placed on the viewing tables prior to the auction.
- ◆ There will be a 10% sales commission for I.B.M. Ring #129 members (dues must be paid). There will be a 15% sales commission for non-members.
- ◆ Private sales before the auction forfeits seller's rights to participate in the auction.
- ◆ Dutch auctions are prohibited.
- ◆ Be prepared to offer a BRIEF description of the items you plan to sell.
- ◆ Buyers will be provided with bidding cards.
- ◆ Buyers must pay with cash or check before leaving or removing any merchandise.
- ◆ Minimum bids (if any) must be at least \$20.00 or more and shown on the seller's consignment sheet.
- ◆ You are responsible for your purchase as soon as you are declared the winning bidder.
- ◆ Ring #129 is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged items.
- ◆ All merchandise must be removed from the building by or before 10:30 PM the day of the auction

**Auction is open to those outside of Ring 129.
Invite a friend! The more - the merrier!**

LAST MONTH'S RING REPORT

By Steve Steiner



The first regular ring meeting of the new year was held on January 3rd, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel, 95th & I-35, Lenexa, KS. Weather conditions made for a light turnout. However, those that did make the meeting were treated to a great time.



It was the last meeting for President, Mike "Doc" Blum to preside as club president. Mike handed over the presidential reins to Julie Clark the following week at the

ring's Stage Magician of the Year Banquet. Julie is the club's first woman president and promises to bring new and innovative ideas to the meetings in the coming year.

The club welcomed two guests to begin the evening. Barren and Athena Stringfellow brought guest, Katie Miller with them from Horton, Kansas. Katie since has become an official club member. Terry Magelssen also brought a young aspiring guest, 8 year old Noah Wood. Noah later performed a couple of his routines during the "open magic" session of the meeting.

Teaching this month's "Teach-a-Trick" was Dennis Burks. Dennis taught club members a great and easy version of "The Linking Paper Clips".

The trick can be one of those easy to carry effects that only needs two paper clips and some form of paper currency to perform.



Ken Reedy was the only one to perform during the month's close-up contest, using a small motorized fan to help choose a selected card. Ken was later officially named by the ring board as the January Close-Up Winner.



In the stage contest two individuals performed. Barren Stringfellow first performed his Weight of the World suspension trick that uses three small plaques fastened to a belt and suspended upon a

small wooden musical note. Steve Steiner next performed a series of effects that mixed stories and magic including a stiff rope, a pom-pom pole, and a crystal silk cylinder routine. At the end of the evening, club members voted Steve as the January stage winner.



In the open magic section several members performed for the assembly. Chuck Macan began by showing a card trick that included a morphing effect on four aces. Marty Isenberg followed Chuck by performing three card tricks that caused selected cards to pass through a handkerchief. Shaun Rivera next performed a slick sleight of hand routine involving a regular Bic pen and cap.

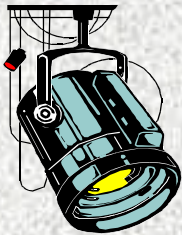
Closing the evening was the young guest Noah Wood. Noah performed several tricks including a card and a prediction trick. Closing the open magic part of the evening was Terry Magelssen doing an awesome string trick and cut & restored ribbon effect.



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

Member Spotlight

By Eric Woods



Ken Reedy

Ken Reedy was born on June 24th 1952. He always liked magic as a kid and watched it on TV with great interest. Watching Mark Wilson on The Magic Land of Alakazam every week was his biggest inspiration in magic. He also watched The Wizzo Show every day and even

appeared on the show once. Ken actually got to go to the TV station, dress up as a clown, sit on the set, and be on TV himself!. He was not too astonished by the magic, but it was great fun, and one of his fondest early memories.

Ken did not get started in magic until he was 21 years old and started reading magic books at the public library. Although he ordered some props by mail most of his magic props he built himself.

After he got an act together he started to do children's birthday parties. When he went to his taxman and they started to go over his magic earnings the gentleman explained that he did the taxes for a local magician, Jay Patchen as well. Jay introduced Ken to the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the local ring. Just about that same time there happened to be a magic convention in town. Ken went and began to build a national network of friends in magic.



Ken also learned about a local magic shop called Astra Magic and started to buy some of his props and tricks from there. He got to meet magicians from all

over the world and made some great friends. He joined the IBM and the local ring that year and started to come to all of the meetings. He got to meet Harry Otto and hear him talk about doing all kinds of things with Houdini. Ken was privileged to meet and become friends with Col. Boone and Claude Enslow. He enjoyed the wisdom that they had to give out to help him become a better magician.

Ken learned so much from all of the lectures and other club members that when Ring 129 held its first Magician of The Year contest in 1979 he entered and won first place! He was more



shocked than anyone!. It was about that time that he became involved with and headed the Project Magic Program for the club. He worked with the project for a few years at Children's Mercy Hospital and had to stop because of a change in his day job. Although saddened by having to quit the program, Ken felt like the he had done some good work for the kids involved in the program.

Ken's day jobs have been in a lot of different fields. He has worked in the electrical field, was an electronic technician for 12 years, and worked in the field of bio med. Ken has also been building internet web pages for the last 10 years. Some of his clients include a doctor, mechanic, the Ring129 website, and a few magicians (including the famous winner of the first Claude Enslow Stage Magician of the Year contest www.magicbyken.com)!

Building web pages requires a lot of pictures and to fill that need Ken became versed in the field of photography. Although he has been taking pictures for the past ten years, it is only recently that his picture business has been picking up for him. He currently has several photo shoots scheduled, including upcoming photo shoots for models, weddings, and has just finished a shoot for the Harlem Globetrotters. Ken is also offering photo sessions for club members at unbeatable prices.

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Ken has been disabled for several years now and that has allowed him to put his energy into the Healing of Magic Program. He now has the days open to go and work with people that need the program. He is happy with the success that he has made with the program.

In my interview with Ken, he shared this touching memory of his involvement in the Healing of Magic program:

“I do have one story to share with you,” Ken recalled, “that happened at Children’s Mercy Hospital when I was doing the Project Magic Program. I was given a young girl about the age of 13 to work with that had both legs amputated at the knees and also had all of her fingers and thumbs amputated down to the first knuckle on both hands. This left her with just stubs for fingers. She came into the room where I was with her head down and wouldn’t look up because her self-esteem was so low. She was having a hard time dealing with what had just happened, and this was just a couple of days before she was brought to me. It was my job to try to teach her some magic and make her feel good about herself. I decided to teach her to do some rope tricks with what little fingers she had left. I got to work with her for about six weeks and she did an excellent job. I taught her two tricks and she got to the point that she could do them with great ease and they looked great. I asked her and the therapist if she could come to one



of our magic meetings and perform to the club and they both said yes. The hospital made the travel arrangements and everything was set. The day she was

to come to the meeting she got her artificial legs and she looked great.

She came to the meeting and the time came for her to perform. I introduced her and she did her two rope tricks and she got a standing ovation from the members. She was on cloud nine. She had to leave shortly after that to go back to the hospital but she was as happy as I had ever seen her. Now she could sit in her chair and look up at me and smile and was able to



deal with what had happened to her. This was a far cry from what she was like just six weeks ago. This is just one of the many stories and things that I have seen this program do to people and that is why I do it.”

2008 marked his fourth year to hold an office in the I.B.M club, largely because he now has more free time. He feels that working on the club’s board of directors has helped him with the Healing of Magic Program. Through the years, Ken has given back to club by heading the Project Magic and Healing of Magic Programs. Both programs are his passion and something he believes in very much. It has brought notice to the local magic club in the newspaper, television and the Linking Ring magazine bringing recognition to the club from other rings through out the country.


Ken has enjoyed entertaining people with magic for the last thirty plus years and has learned a lot from magicians and the people he performed for. He feels that he gets more out of doing magic for others than they do, because of the smiles and laughter he receives from them.



***Eric Woods can be reached by email:
ewoods20@hotmail.com***

Check This Site Out!

Website of the Month
By Steve Steiner



This month's website is called MagicTimes.com. In internet years, it would be considered an older site because it has been around for at least 4 or 5 years. However, I stumbled on to it only a few weeks ago and thought it to be site worth sharing.

Basically this is a news site that deals with magic. The site uses automatic search engines to scour the major news sites and look for anything that has key magic words, such as "magic" or "magician". It then automatically updates their site by reprinting the headline and first part of the story on their home page along with a link to the original site should you wish to view the entire story.

The only major problem is that the searching is all done automatically and there is no human discretion in choosing the stories. Therefore, one may see several stories listed that have nothing to do with magic but only have the word in their headline. However, should you regularly visit their site, you will definitely keep up with all of the magic news that makes the major news services. As an example, one day I checked out the site and saw three or four links to the major story about the magician in the Dallas, Texas area that kidnapped a girl from an elementary school.

This site also has a great section devoted to weekly television schedules. Should you want to know if any major magician or magic specials are on television in the coming week, then you will find it listed. For example, last week's television schedule may have included a couple of talk shows that were to have a magician guest and also the listings for the times and channels that were to air the movie "The Illusionist".

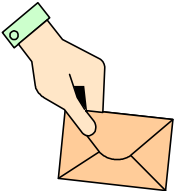
One of the best aspects of their site is the archive section. You can read headline news week by week

back through the year 1998!. They also have a link to their sister site that sells magic and should you wish, you can sign up for their regular email newsletter.


You might want to check this site out for yourself. I have placed their link in my "favorites" folder and plan to check it on a regular basis. Have fun!

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


Sick and Convalescent
By Carl Macan



"Skeeter" Luther
is still recovering from knee replacement surgery. He has been doing very well with his rehabilitation. Cards and letters can be sent to him at
1011 Top Water Dr.,
Bates City, Mo, 64011.
He can be reached by email at oluther@capitalelectric.com



Larry Poague
is still undergoing rehabilitation from a stroke suffered several months ago. He recently attended the Stage Magician of the Year Banquet on January 12th and conducted a discussion at the S.A.M. Assembly #38 January Club meeting. He can be contacted at Larry Poague, Sr., 34221 W. 90th Cr., DeSoto, KS, 66018.



Magician of the Month Winners

The following monthly winners have qualified to compete in the
Stage Magician of the Year Contest

Month	Winner
January	Steve Steiner
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

The following monthly winners have qualified to compete in the
Close-Up Magician of the Year Contest

Month	Winner
July	Jim Hager
August	Josh Chaikin
September	Marty Isenberg
October	Harris Deutsch
November	Eric Woods
December	Mike Melito
January	Ken Reedy
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.



FROM THE
EDITOR'S
DESK

I believe that every now and then we should stop and give thanks. Give thanks, not only to our Creator for things he has done, but also to the dedicated people around us. I would like to take a few moments and thank several members of our local ring for their dedicated service that I have noticed over the past several months.

Mike "Doc" Blum - For his service as ring president this past year. This is the third time he has given the club a year of his time and energy to make it one of the best local magic clubs in the world.

Julie Clark – For daring to be the first woman president in Ring 129 history. Her creativity will make our monthly club meeting special. We are all behind you Julie!

Carl & Chuck Macan, Alan Goodheart, Duane & Janie Fields, and Others who regularly attend and support ring board meetings even though they are not official board members.

Janie Fields – For her work in making the Stage Magician of the Year Banquet a huge success! Hey, I know Duane was the chairman of the event, but Janie's decorating touches was the icing on the cake!

Continued on next page - (See "Editor's Desk")

CONGRATULATIONS!



Ken Reedy - January's Close-up Magician of the Month!



Steve Steiner - January's Stage Magician of the Month!

“Editors Desk” - (Continued from previous page)

Duane Fields – For making the Stage Magician of the Year event a huge success! Duane basically organized, delegated, made arrangements, and then stood behind the scenes on the evening of the event only to watch everybody and everything run without a hitch. Great job, Duane!

Terry Magelssen – For supplying all of the thousands of dollars worth of his personal lighting and sound equipment during the Stage Magician of the Year Contest free gratis to the club, not to mention his personal time and energy to set it all up and run it during the evening!

Kirk DeWeese – Kirk has served as the club’s treasurer for the last several years. Unlike many organizations, our club continues to operate in the black year end and year out thanks to his watchful eye.

John Hicks – For faithfully keeping minutes at our local board meetings. Though it may seem to go unnoticed, it is nevertheless greatly appreciated by those of us that have ever had to serve as a secretary of an organization.

To all of you.... A big Thank You!

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

Feb. Teach-a-Trick

will be taught by **Don Douglas** and is titled **“Vanishing Glass”** from page 117 of the book: *Encyclopedia of Practical Magic*, aka *The Art of Magic and Sleight of Hand*, (Nicholas Einhorn).



To sign-up to do a “Teach-a-Trick”, contact Dale Huffman at

elad509@yahoo.com

Teach-a-Trick qualifies for Sorcerer’s Circle Points!

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)

Snow Policy On Ring Meeting Nights



In the event of snow or questionable weather, be sure and check the ring129.com website or check to see if Johnson County Community College Evening Classes have been cancelled.

The ring will match the college for cancellations.

Our Web Page



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

Password: aj

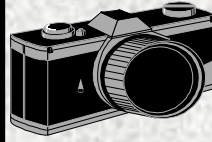


If you have questions concerning the ring website, contact Ken Reedy at **816-734-1484** or email him at ... webdesigners@kc.rr.com.

Those Qualifying for Free February 12th Lecture!

Donald Ball	Martin Isenberg
Paul Benner Sr.	Gene Kean
Mike Blum	Phil King
Roger Burget	Kevin Kirwan
Dennis Burks	Phil Klein
Jim Burnham	Bruce Knapp
Doug Clark	Stu Lewis
Julia Clark	Alex Luther
Terry Davis	Oliver Luther Jr.
Terry Davolt	Chuck Macan
Rich Delaney	Carl Macan
Harris Deutsch	Elaine Macan
Kirk DeWeese	Mike Melito
Don Douglas	Walt Mitchell
Herb Dumortier	Cliff Norris
Terry Elton	Edward Pease
Kevin Emerson	Larry Poague Sr.
Kenneth Ervin	Ken Reedy
Gene Ferguson	Shaun Rivera
Duane Fields	Al Sawyer
Jane Fields	Blake Silvernail
Phillip Franklin	Barbara Silvernail
Alan Goodheart	Rod Sipe
Matthew Gurley	Steve Steiner
Jim Hager	Barren Stringfellow
Shawn Heckmaster	Athena Stringfellow
Lynn Henneforth	Gene Turner
Lenny Hershman	Larry Warshaw
Linda Hicks	John Weaver
John Hicks	Laird Wilcox
Dale Huffman	Dennis Wilson
	Jim Wright

Want Ads



If you are in need of a head shot or a publicity photo then contact me for a photo session. \$25 for an hour sitting and all photos will be put on a CD for you to have printed. I can print them for additional fee.

Thanks, Ken Reedy

<http://newphotosbyme.com/>

816-734-1484

US Toy Magic Jam Sessions

will be held every Saturday, 4:00 to 6:00 pm. at the US Toy Magic Shop, 2008 W. 103rd Terr., Leawood, KS.

66206. Our hope is to bring magicians together to work on various aspects of magic, including cards, coins, close-up, stand-up, and stage, as well as encouraging discussions on magic and such.



This is not an I.B.M. sanctioned event and is open to the public. Attendees may come and go as they please. But, watch out... you never know who might show up!

FOR SALE - I have for sale, cheap, a factory rebuilt starter for a 1990 through 1996 Ford Explorer. \$10.00. If you want it, telephone me with info and I will bring it to the next meeting. You will need to approach me. I only remember dancers!

Don Douglas, 913-888-9236

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 should be emailed to the editor,
Steve Steiner by the 20th of the month.

steves7@microdsl.net

**Scott's
Thoughts**
by Scott Wells, A.I.M.C.



Selling Yourself

Magicians must have the biggest egos of any profession. By virtue of how we must appear (indeed, BE) confident and in charge at all times, we must have a high degree of self assurance. We need a big ego to be successful. We need not be afraid of “tooting our own horn” when selling our services (“Yes ma’am, I’m the magician for your party. You and your guests will really enjoy my show. I’m the best you will ever see!”).

You can’t sell yourself as if you were selling tires. You are a commodity that is far more important than material things and what you have to offer as an entertainer has no price . . . well, maybe, but a high one.

You should remember what it was like when you were first dating and you fell in love. You didn’t have to force yourself on anyone or try any selling tactics, true love just happened. Don’t try too hard or seem too anxious. Don’t try to make people like you. When looking for a job, it should be like looking for a bank loan. When you don’t appear to need it, that’s when you will probably get it. Successful people like to associate with successful people.

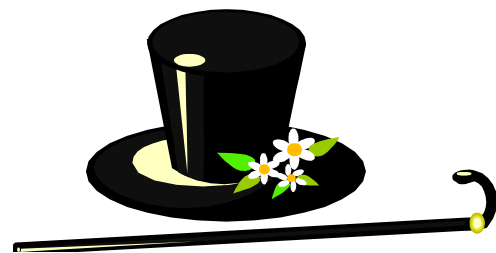
Have all your arguments ready along with your arsenal of references, promotional material, and tricks, but be prepared to walk away from an establishment rather than getting your feathers ruffled and risking the loss of any potential employment opportunities there. After using your most persuasive arguments why they should hire you and they are still not interested in hiring you, then you should leave them with your promotional material and two business cards,

then politely leave. Swallowing a little pride now may pay off later in big dividends. They will remember you as being persuasive rather than obtrusive. After they have had time to think about it, they may call you back for another engagement; however, if you are obnoxious, then you can forget about ever working for them or any of their friends. Keep in mind that each person has about 200 friends and bad news travels faster than good news or recommendations. Remember too that restaurant management and philosophy changes fairly regularly, so don’t be forever discouraged from returning to try again.

And when on stage, you cannot lose control. That doesn’t mean to put anyone in an uncompromising position just to get a laugh, but you should establish early in your program that you are in control and stay there. You should know your routine inside out and where there are potential problems in your show where something could go wrong so you need to know plenty of “outs” in case of an emergency.

However, egos sometime get out of control as seen in those magicians who exude a “better than thou” attitude in their manner and performance. Their style says “I’m cool, you’re a fool.” This is most often found in magicians new to the art, but unfortunately this attitude is also seen in a few “seasoned” performers. These are the ones who should never depend on earning a living from their performances as they would blaze a trail of disappointed audiences who would vow never to see a “magician” again.

This is a fine line we walk as magicians, bordering on the sarcastic and obnoxious to the pleasant and friendly. Just make sure that you’re conscious of which side of the line that you’re on at all times.



Creativity in Magic: Throw the Directions Away!

By Kyle Peron



Directions: Instruction or guidance for making, using, etc. To tell someone how to do something and the way in which to do it. By now you are all probably wondering what this has to do with anything and how it is even remotely related to creativity. Allow me to explain if I may.

In this day and age of mass marketing of magic effects, the magic dealers and manufacturers do a great job of putting out on the market effects that any magician can buy. However, what they also are doing is creating effects that are more than just effects. Instead, you as a consumer have the ability to buy an effect that tells you how to perform the trick, what to say, what patter to use, how to move and even comedy lines to enhance the routine. In fact, you now even have the power to buy a DVD that shows you the full routine word for word.

Now, what is wrong with this picture? What is wrong is the simple fact that this hinders creative thought. It stifles magicians and forces them into a one way street. It is basically like putting blinders on someone and forcing them not to see.

Throw the directions away. It sounds harsh now, doesn't it? I am not saying to not learn to do the effect you bought. Everyone needs to know how the trick works. I think that is safe to say. What I am saying is after you learn how to do the trick, throw out the rest of it.

Why do you need someone else telling you what to say, how to say it, how to move or what comedy lines or props to use? You don't need it. A creative thinker is one who strives to look beyond the obvious, to create something unique and special to him or her.

There are several reasons why magicians are attracted to this thinking of buying not only an effect

but an entire routine. First, magicians are here's that word again..LAZY! Face it folks, we are lazy. The reason why magic dealers and creators are packaging effects as full routines is because we as magic consumers want it that way. We are a lazy bunch. We realize that being creative takes effort. Why work hard at being creative if I can buy something that tells me everything to do.

Secondly, there is that false belief that the effect and routine you are buying will actually work and play for you just as it plays for the person who created it. We are all under this false assumption that every routine we buy can be great for us if we just follow the directions it gives us.

But what is really happening here, folks? Well, for starters, you are unique. Every performer reading this article has a unique character on stage and a unique way of presenting their magic. It is what makes us human and what makes our magic so much different and a part of who we are.

Our magic and the routines we create should be as unique as we are. Why would I want to take something someone else created and try and force it and do it in their style or their patter? It doesn't work that way. What works for one person may not work for another. In many cases the patter just is not right or feels awkward or out of place. So why do we try and force it on ourselves to think this way?

Why? The reason is that it is so easy for us to fall into the trap of being another magic clone. Creativity takes effort and hard work. No one said being a creative thinker of magic was going to be a piece of cake. It simply is not.

However, every single one of you has the ability to be as creative as you want to be. The problem is that you have to be willing to work at it. The first step is to break down the barriers or traps that so many of us fall into. That is being too lazy and just doing what has been done before. Demand yourself not to think that way. Tell yourself to throw the directions away and to rework the routine so that it fits who YOU are on stage and how you perform.

Continued on the next page - See "Creativity"

“Creativity” - (continued from previous page)

You are unique and your magic needs to reflect that. Start to open your eyes and look past the obvious solutions. Refuse to do the effect the same way everyone else does. Find out how to make the routine fit who you are and the style you present.

So I ask of you to start by throwing those directions away. By doing so you open yourself up to a world filled with creativity and opportunity that will take your magic farther than you ever thought possible. Sure, it will take hard work and it will take time, but masterpieces of art always do. Besides, doesn't your audience deserve that from you?

The Loss of Imagination

How do we lose the power and the ability of imagination? You may be asking yourself if we ever really had total imagination in the first place. Well, it is my belief that every single person has an innate ability to be as imaginative as he or she wants. Allow me to explain if I may.

It is my belief that every person as a child had great creative skills and great use of imagination. This can be proven easily if you simply take time to watch the way children play. Children can entertain themselves or other children for hours with next to nothing but a simple prop and the creativity that stems from their own imaginations.

They can pick up a simple stick off the ground and suddenly that stick can become a rocket ship, a gun, a magic wand, an oar or a light saber. The area they play in can totally be changed into literally any world their own mind makes up. They all can play like that for hours entertaining each other with pure creativity stemming only from their amazing ability to use their imagination. That is quite a powerful gift.

As children, our minds are open to a world of play and creative thought. The ability to be creative and use imagination is so powerful at this time that it simply must be something every one of us is born with. We are born with this ability to be creative. As a child, we are not afraid to allow ourselves to be

taken on journeys and create wonderful fun. But where does it all go? How and why does our creativity and imagination lose ground or become dormant?

I have a belief that the reason we lose this ability is because of the way culture tells us to change. Could it be that the simple notion of "grow up" becomes the norm in many cultures? This feeling of "acting our age" tells us we need to forget those childhood creative ideas and give up imagination to be a grown up person.

When we start to "act our age" or "grow up" we shut this big door to the imagination and creativity that exists in our mind. We cease to tap into it because we are basically told not to.

However, I strongly believe that those ideas as a child have not gone anywhere. We still have those abilities we once had as a child. We still all have them and can tap into them. We have to open ourselves up and allow ourselves to recall these ideas and to know that being creative is not childish... but healthy.

As a magician, we must learn to open that big door that was shut so long ago. Open up the door wide and keep it open and allow us to tap into the wealth of imagination and creativity we once had as a child. We must not be afraid of how we look or what others will think. Opening that door in your mind can be the biggest tool you could ever have as a magical entertainer.

As always, I encourage you, the readers to let me know your thoughts. So, if you have any thoughts on my articles or suggestions or comments, please feel free to e-mail me directly at magic4u02@aol.com. I would love hear from you!

**This article was used by
permission from Kyle Peron.**

Kyle Peron, Magician and Illusionist, can be reached by email: magic4u02@aol.com or by visiting his website: www.kyleandkellymagic.com



PHOTOS AND PICS



Photos from the January Ring 129 Meeting

