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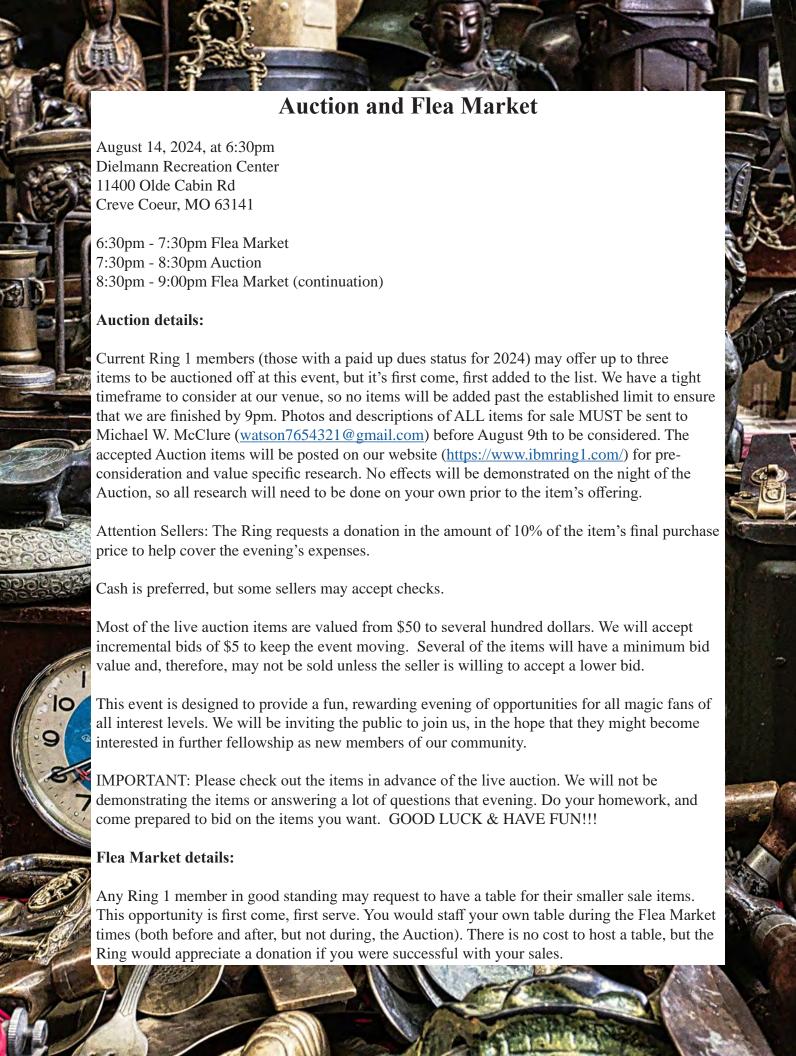
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Since there was no June Spirit publication, this month's publication is a double-hitter with both June's and July's Ring 1 Reports!

June's Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis

On May 14th, Naathan Phan, along with Hayden Allcorn and Lucas Breneman, performed at the Gaslight Theatre in St. Louis. It was advertised as FOOL YOU TWICE: An Evening of Magic, Singing, Comedy, and Friendship. Michael W. McClure had bought tickets for the show and contacted Naathan beforehand to see if he was available to give a lecture to Ring 1 members on May 15th. He agreed! Sandy Weis commented, "The lecture was terrific! Nathan is a dynamic presenter. He is quite busy but I recommend that other Rings book him for a lecture—you won't be disappointed. Not one member left the lecture early. They didn't want to miss anything he had to share. One of her favorite effects he performed was N.A.M.E (Not Another Mental Epic). What a clever effect! Another one of her favorites was his version of Torn and Restored Newspaper which he calls Ripped Off. He had both of these effects for sale after his lecture." Paul Gregor commented, "Every second of his lecture contained magical gems that everyone could enjoy and apply to their performance work. His expertise was apparent from the start, sharply dressed with his signature color clothing and a deep knowledge of the current work of magic. His lecture moved briskly along yet was easy to keep up. A vast array of tricks were demonstrated and were for sale at the end of the lecture. His well thought out routines and high quality props made for a fantastic evening of magic." Thank you, Michael, for reaching out to Naathan!

On June 5th, the Ring 1 Meeting was advertised as JUDGEMENT DAY! Ring 1's Fall Show is scheduled for October 19th this year at the Florissant Performing Arts Center. The following members volunteered to be on the Production Committee: D. Jay Lenz, Steve Zuehlke, Steve Finkelstein, Paul Gregor, and Michael W. McClure. All members who would like to perform at the show were asked to submit a video of no more than 5 minutes, showcasing one or two effects they would like to perform at the show. If their act was selected, the committee would provide music and background images to accompany their magic. The theme for the show is Magic & Fantasy: Including Fairy Tales & Adventure. The members were encouraged to let their imagination run wild! They were told to try to think of a fairy tale, legend or fantasy character/ story that their favorite act could represent such as Cinderella, Snow White, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Frog Prince, Pirates, Sherlock Holmes, Romeo & Juliet, Light-Scare Halloween themes, Wizards, Dragons, Leprechauns ... anything that is a fictional story and of course, is in the Public Domain. An example is as follows: Our President D. Jay Lenz hopes to earn a spot and performed a version of his Professor's Nightmare Rope Trick but with a nod toward Goldilocks and the Three Bears. If one remembers, the titular heroine had trouble with things always being too big, too small, and only one just right. Therein lies the connection that we would embellish and charm the family audience. At the meeting, all members present were asked to rate the performances on a scale from 1 to 5. Also, they were asked to write at least one positive comment and also any suggestions as to how the magician could improve their act. Any member who voted, then became a co-producer of the show just by sharing their opinions.

The members viewed the following videos: D. Jay Lenz (performed a Professor's Nightmare routine), Steve Finkelstein (performed 2 effects, one using a mind-reading puppet and the other using a handkerchief as a ghost), Tim Shegitz (performed several including the 3 card monte, ropes, etc.), Steve Buesking and Jeff Lefton (Snow Way to Play, a card using pieces of bread as the deck), Marty Kopp (A Silent Mystery Act), Paul Gregor (a variety comedy act using his handmade assistant on a tripod), and D. J. Edwards (a stage show he had previously performed which included several stage props). The members rated the performances and also included comments. With the added input from the members, the show will probably be one of the best the Ring has ever produced. Also, all the performances were excellent and will, more than likely, be included in the show.

During the second half of the meeting, Steve Finkelstein discussed launching Magic 101 again. The Ring previously met a half hour before the regular meeting and Steve, or another member, would present effects that members could learn immediately. The members are excited he is willing to lead Magic 101 again. He passed out a handout and taught the group two effects which everyone went home knowing how to do. In fact, Sandy Weis attended the Puppet Guild of St. Louis' Picnic on June 8th and performed the effect where she had everyone think of a card mentally. Then she gave them a few mathematical operations to follow and she was able to guess everyone's card (except one person who wasn't paying attention). Everyone attending the picnic was amazed at her ability to read their minds.

The Ring's newly elected officers and Board Members for the 2024-2025 year are as follows: President D. Jay Lenz, Vice-President Steve Queen, Treasurer Sandy Weis, Secretary Alan Zibits, and Board Members Scott Smith, Steve Finkelstein, Gary S. Chan, Christian Misner, and Michael W. McClure. Michael is also the Webmaster. Gary S. Chan and Paul Gregor are the Spirit Editors. Sandy Weis is the Scribe.

July's Ring 1 Report

by Sandy Weis

The money remaining in the Midwest Magic Jubilee account is now being used to provide lectures for I.B.M. Ring 1 and S.A.M. Assembly 8 members. Shep Hyken was able to book Lior Manor, who is a world class Israeli mentalist.

Steve Buesking and Steve Finkelstein both shared their input regarding the lecture on July 1st which the Jubilee sponsored. The lecture was divided into three parts. During the first part, a lay, non-magician audience was invited to attend. Lior requested this since he actually performed a show. It was originally scheduled for 20 minutes; however, it lasted approximately an hour. He used the lay audience when he needed assistance performing his effects. He started off with a Strong and Weak effect which was hysterical. He then performed several other effects including invisible touch, Cryptext and a few others. The show was amazing and entertaining for both the lay audience and magicians. Then there was

a break, and he asked the lay audience to leave. He then taught the magicians how to perform the effects he presented in the show. Most of the effects were

easy to learn. Steve F.'s recommendation is to buy his Penguin Live magic lecture which includes what he covered plus much more. The cost is well worth it. The magic he shared could be performed close-up, parlor, or on a stage. Some of the items could also be used in corporate or trade shows. However, he did not share the details regarding the blindfold effect. Several members then paid an additional fee if they wanted to attend a special lecture where he covered some of his special and secret effects to include his Blindfold Act and another Strong and Weak effect, Handshake. The additional cost was well worth this two-hour workshop. The most discussed effect was Lior's blindfold effect. The blindfold is used, but he can still see after 6 pieces of black duct tape are affixed over his eyes and forehead. Why he still has any eyebrows after the tape removal remains a mystery. If you want to try this effect, you should only practice with your own tape. You cannot substitute tape, or lay a fabric cloth over your face, as those options change the outcome of the tape placement. Some may say a trick does not fit their style. I believe this effect may not suit your skin care or facial regimen. Structure was also discussed. A card effect was done with a spectator, then a second card effect was done. The second effect had the card selected, then pocketed by the spectator. Audience members were randomly selected by the spectator to reveal the color, suit, number, VS court card, and the final value. The simplicity was brilliant and the audience's response was big. According to both Steves, Lior was funny and baffling while explaining the material. Lior's material is thoughtful and well within the capability of most magicians that wish to add a mental piece or two to their act. Thank you, Shep and Mike McClure, for making this happen. What an amazing lecture!

Dan Todd shared the following: "In July, I performed three shows at Shriners Hospitals for Children. St. Louis Children's Hospital cancelled the morning I was scheduled for their CCTV show due to a lack of a technician for the setup. Not a problem because there will always be next month. For the close-up performances at Shriners, I have added a few new routines. I added the following: Scott Alexander's Thought Toon, Black Hole on a playing card, Liam Levanon's Ishihara Test (a color vision test), Boyet Vargas' Word 4 Word which I will follow with Wiz Spencer's Chinese Secret. I made parlor versions of Word 4 Word (jumbo alphabet cards), Ishihara Test (Large book pages from online with different colored self-stick paper backs), and an Eli's Die Box for 2.5" dice. You can get these 2.5" white foam dice online and with a Magic marker draw ESP symbols (triangle for 6th side), chess pieces, even the six senses on them (E.S.P. being the sixth sense). The box was made from a wood box from Michaels with a little modification. The dice come in a dozen, so I also made a set of Human Calculator dice! I added a new Closeup table in June, consisting of DeWalt Tstak tool storage organizer cart base/drawers/ with tabletop. These are also compatible with Craftsman Versastack systems. In July, I also created a stack for the stage. Each has components that have been modified by me to give even more versatility for large props. Some pieces were on sale and some suppliers had more

competitive pricing. These are sold online but some items are sold at True Value and Lowe's. I start with a Base with wheels, a single deep drawer, a couple of double drawers, and a wood top from a TV tray from Walmart. Definitely enjoying my retirement!"

Jill "Silly Jilly" Schmidt came up with a magic routine that she only had the chance to perform for about a month. She hopes to still be

performing magic in 13 years so that she can bring the trick out again. Silly Jilly begins the routine by asking, "If you were a real magician and could make something disappear, what would you choose? Perhaps something annoying." Most of the someone would say the answer Silly Jilly was looking for, "Cicadas!" She

would then make a cicada drawing disappear in a magic pizza oven type box. However, the kids called Silly Jilly out for being unsuccessful when they noticed that the cicada did not disappear, but was instead on Silly Jilly's back. How creative! Silly Jilly is again performing at Eckert's Belleville Farm located in Belleville, Illinois this fall. Check out her Facebook page for further information: https://www.facebook.com/share/qw8UcvmB1AJncWXX/

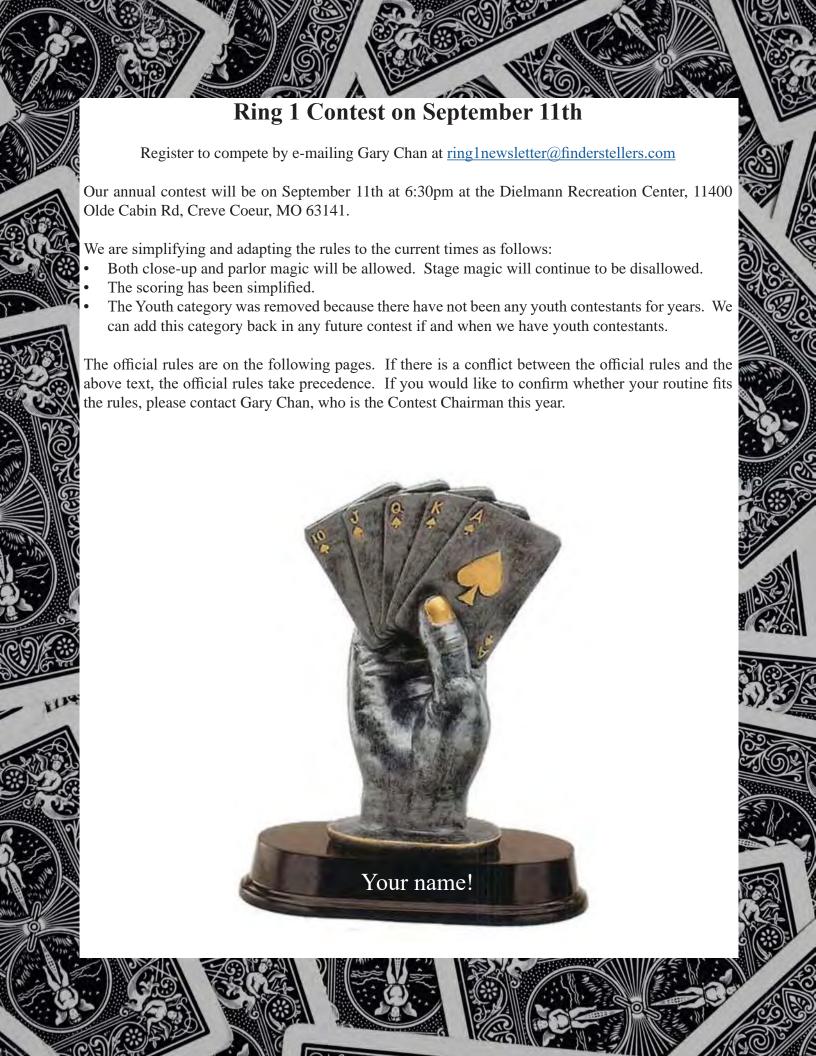
time.



Christian Misner shared the following: "As a St. Louis magician, I'm excited to share news about Union Station's enhanced entertainment offerings this summer. As you all may remember, Union Station completed Phase One of its renovation, opening to the public on May 10, 2014. This revitalization included the reopening of the St. Louis Aquarium and St. Louis Wheel, providing new attractions for visitors. I'm pleased to be part of the summer entertainment lineup with my show, "Magical World of St. Louis Union Station featuring Christian the Magician." My performances were June 8th, July 6th, and July 13th, with two, 30-minute shows each day. The shows were designed for family audiences and consistently attracted over 100 people per show. These additions to Union Station's offerings provide families from all around the country (and magicians) with a new venue to enjoy. It's an opportunity to support a historic St. Louis landmark while experiencing quality entertainment. Looking ahead, Union Station has plans for further improvements. Construction for the next phase is set to begin in January 2025, with completion expected by Memorial Day weekend 2025. I encourage fellow magicians to visit Union Station this summer. It's a chance to enjoy the renovated space, experience the new attractions, and perhaps find inspiration for our own performances)."

Jeff Lefton just returned from his trip and shared the following: "I was fortunate to perform July 8-13 at the Melbourne Magic Festival in Australia. Here is a brief review of the festival. The Melbourne Magic Festival was quite an event! Over a 2 week period, 30 magicians performed over 175 shows at 10 venues in Melbourne. Most of the magicians were from Australia. Melbourne-based magician, Tim Ellis, runs the event. You may recall that he lectured in St. Louis many years ago. I still recall his Run Around Sue cups & balls routine, for which he won an award at FISM. Many of the magicians at the festival were quite impressive. There was a lot of creativity and theatrics in their shows. For instance, Jo Clyne performed a 45-minute children's show called Matilda McMishen is not a Musician. The show was about a girl who tries violin, flute, and all sorts of things, but is not very good at any of them. Magical things happen throughout the show and eventually she realizes that something she is good at is magic! Tricky Nick is an amazing performer. He has a booming voice that reminds me of Blackstone Junior. His Tricky Nick Show has lots of innovative stuff, including big packing boxes on stage containing tricks he had ordered. But when he opens them, they have the wrong stuff, yet he winds up doing magic with them anyway. Tim Ellis wrote a new show for the festival called These are a Few of My Favorite Tricks. It was patterned after the Sound of Music. He opened the show singing to "These are a Few of My Favorite Things", performing magic throughout the song, with custom magic-related lyrics he wrote. What an amazing opening! He did a nice cut & restored rope routine that morphed into a Professor Cheers Rope routine which he danced to with music. I think Tim is one of the best magic performers I have ever seen. One of the most impressive things was the collaborative, nurturing culture the Australian magicians seem to have. They have a program called Magicians at Work where every other month, participating magicians perform a new trick they've been working on in front of laymen, who give them written feedback. They often play Magic Sports which is a combination of improv and magic. This helps teach the magicians to be creative and get more comfortable thinking on their feet. Many of the magicians create a new show annually for the Melbourne Magic Festival, which serves as a vehicle for them to get repetition, 6 shows in most cases, in front of a primarily lay audience. Overall, a great experience I was fortunate to have. I would love to see if we St. Louis magicians can implement some of these programs to help us all become stronger performers."

Chad Jacobs (Chef Bananas) is a St. Louis children's magician who has been involved with both Ring 1 and S.A.M. Assembly 8 for years. He works as a magician full-time. In May, he shared on Facebook that he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. He has had to temporarily stop performing while undergoing treatment. He was able to hire a performer, Blake Parhamovich, who moved to St. Louis from Cleveland, Ohio for the summer. Blake is doing a fantastic job filling in for Chad. However, Blake can only stay until July 20 so Chad is in the process of finding a replacement. One of the schools Chad has performed for, Goddard School, in Edwardsville, Illinois has scheduled a Charity Carnival to benefit Chad and his family. For those who cannot attend, Goddard has designed T-shirts and sweatshirts with a special design. All proceeds will be donated to Chad and his family. Check out Chad's Facebook page for further information. Also, please send him notes of encouragement. The magic community sure misses Chad and wishes him a speedy recovery. You can reach him through his website: https://chefbananas.com



Last modified: March 20, 2024

I.B.M. RING 1 General Rules for Close-Up Contest

- 1. To enter an I.B.M. Ring 1 contest, you must notify the Contest Chair by a date chosen by the Contest Chair and published to the I.B.M. Ring 1 membership.
- 2. If you should win the contest, you will chair or emcee the contest ("Contest Chair") for the following year per the rules set forth below unless the board, with a majority vote, selects a different Contest Chair.
- 3. There will be two contest categories:
 - a. Beginner Intermediate Category: A person who has not placed 1st in any close-up magic contest, does not earn a living, full-time as a magician, and does not lecture or teach magic regularly. If there is a concern regarding whether a Contestant may compete in this category, the Contest Chair will determine eligibility.
 - b. Advanced Category: A person who has placed 1st in any close-up magic contest; or is a professional magician, earning a living through magic, full-time; or lectures on or teaches magic; or placed 1st in the Beginners to Intermediate Group contest (respective to the contest being entered). A Beginner to Intermediate contestant may opt to compete in the Advanced category.
- 4. The total number of contestants across both categories may not exceed 20. Contestants will be accepted on a first come, first-served basis, based on the date and time the application is received. A waitlist will be maintained.
- 5. The contest category must have five (5) or more entries in order to award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes. If there are four (4) entries, 1st and 2nd prizes will be awarded. If there are three (3) entries, only 1st place will be awarded. If there are fewer than three entries, a certificate of participation will be awarded.
- 6. If one of the contest categories has only one or two Contestants, the Contest Chair may combine the two contest categories.
- 7. Contestants must appear at the set-up location at the time designated by the Contest Chair. Late arrivals may be disqualified.
- 8. A table and chairs will be provided.
- 9. All contestants are responsible for placement and removal of their own equipment. Contestants may optionally bring and use a tablecloth draped over the table.
- 10. All contestants must be members in good standing in the International Brotherhood of Magicians (I.B.M.) and I.B.M. Ring 1.
- 11. The Contest Chair, at his/her sole discretion, may disqualify any Contestant for breaking any of these rules. The Contest Chair's interpretation of the rules is final.
- 12. For the purposes of this Contest, Close-Up refers to anything that is not widely considered to be exclusively stage magic. Any Contestant may seek preapproval from the Contest Chair to confirm that the Contestant's routine would be considered Close-Up.
- 13. The Contest Chair will determine the order of the performance.
- 14. I.B.M. Ring 1 will have the right to use the likeness of contestants for publicity purposes of promoting the I. B. M. or I.B.M. Ring 1.
- 15. Fire in Contestants' routines is not allowed.

- 16. No fanfare is allowed when introducing or announcing contestants before or after their performance. Each introduction should simply be the contestant's name.
- 17. There will be a Timer who is responsible for timing each Contestant. A minimum of 8 minutes and a maximum of 10 minutes is acceptable. There is a penalty of 1 point for each 30 seconds over or under the time allowed. The emcee will ask if the Contestant is ready. Once the Contestant acknowledges he/she is ready, the emcee will introduce the Contestant with the Contestant's name. The timer will begin after the last name is stated. When it is clear that the performance has ended (such as if the Contestant says, "Thank you. I hope you enjoyed my act." or if the Contestant states that the act is over), the timer will end.
- 18. The first-place winner of the Advanced category may not compete in the next I.B.M. Ring 1 Close-Up Contest) but may compete in subsequent Close-Up Contests.
- 19. Persons involved in producing the Contest (e.g., Contest Chair, Judges, Contest Scorer, and Timer) are ineligible to compete.
- 20. The Contest Chair will appoint at least three judges, including at least two magicians and at least one lay person.
- 21. The lay judge(s) will judge only the Presentation and Entertainment Value. (The Time criteria will automatically be included.)
- 22. Those signing up for performances will not be informed of who else is signed up to compete until after the sign-up cutoff date. Last minute entries (day of the event) will be allowed at the discretion of the Contest Chair.
- 23. The Contest Chair may offer all Contestants the option to have a camera and TV monitor to allow a better view of the performance table for the audience. The option must be made to either all Contestants or no Contestants.
- 24. Seating for each judge will be in the front row and assigned by the Contest Chair. While the Contestant may wish to perform in a way that everyone in the room can see and hear clearly, only the judges' scores matter for determining the winners, and the judges will all be in the front row.
- 25. Contestants set up in full view of the audience. Audience members are not required to look away or step out of the room when Contestants set up for their routine. If a Contestant sets up in front of the audience and exposes how the magic happens, judges may deduct points for that even though the exposure did not occur during the performance.
- 26. The winner is the Contestant with the highest total score from the judges. The second-place winner has the second highest total score from the judges. The third-place winner has the third highest total score from the judges. If there is a tie, the judges will discuss and rescore until there are no ties.
- 27. Contestants are prohibited from utilizing prepared assistants and/or stooges during their performance.
- 28. Audience participation is permitted and encouraged, but volunteers should not have been prearranged or coached in any manner prior to their involvement in the performance.
- 29. Contestants may be disqualified for using "blue" material at this family-friendly event.
- 30. Judges will award 1 to 10 points for each of the following criteria:
 - a. Originality Did the participant add his/her own elements and personality to the routine? Did he/she create something new that we haven't seen before?
 - b. Presentation: Did the Contestant establish eye contact with the audience and minimize distracting twitches and mannerisms? Did he/she speak with good posture, diction, and

- speed? Was he/she dressed for the Performance?
- c. Ability and Technique: More difficult routines should have higher potential for points. Did the Contestant flash, reveal, or fumble over techniques or patter? Was hand dexterity good?
- d. Entertainment Value: Were you entertained?
 - i. Entertainment Value is the most important category, so this category is worth twice as many points as each other category. For example, if the Contestant receives 6 points from a judge, this will count as 12 points when the Contestant's total score is calculated.
- e. Time: All contestants start with 10 points in this category. One point will be deducted for each 30 seconds outside the performer's allotted 8-minute minimum or 10-minute maximum. Only the Timer will record the score for the Time category. That score will be entered on each of the judges Judging Forms.





APRIL 3-5

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EDWARD OSCHMANN



NATHAN KRANZO



JACK CARPENTER



CALEB WILES



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