

Featured
In This
Edition



TRUDY
MONTI-MONTEITH
PUBLISHED BOOKS

Ring 1
Close
up
Competition



LOCAL MAGIC SHOW
FEATURING
RING 1 MAGICIANS



The Official Newsletter of Ring 1 - August 2023

June Ring Report

On June 7, the Ring held a Zoom lecture featuring **Magical Katrina**. Katrina Kroetch (AKA Magical Katrina) has performed her unique blend of playful and whimsical magic all over the world, including Africa, India, Mexico, Europe, and America. She is a volunteer and advocate with Magicians Without Borders and the non-profit Emergency Circus. She has been a cast member of the international touring show Champions of Magic and has been on numerous network television shows including Masters of Illusion and Penn and Teller: Fool Us. She has also performed her magic show at the Magic Castle and at the Academy of Magical Arts. She was featured for her magic in the Washington Post and in an article about Virtual Magic Shows in the Wall Street Journal. Katrina is the winner of many magic awards including winning first place at AbraCORNdabra's virtual magic contest in May 2020 and was awarded the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians Children's Entertainer of the year for 2020. Before the Zoom lecture she gave this synopsis of her lecture: "The lecture will focus on many of my 'absolute best' advice and most helpful tips and tricks to share. Topics I'll discuss: being a professional magician, how to book high-paying shows, how I've helped multiple magicians get on Fool Us and what they are looking for as well as day to day best things to do and practices, (things beyond the basic stuff like "practice" or "have good photos"). I give real advice and share my systems for how I do many things. I talk about creativity and creating new tricks and scripts, and I will teach a few tricks as well. I know everyone is into learning new tricks so I'll definitely include some but this will center mostly on creative theory, performance, random tricks and tips, and business development. I've really crafted this lecture based on what I wish someone had told me years ago – the 'hacks' that would have blown my mind when I was at an earlier phase in my career."

Katrina divided her lecture into the following three parts—Creativity, Learning three tricks, and 44 Hacks and Tips. The Ring 1 members thoroughly enjoyed her lecture. Steve Finkelstein commented

that she could have had a lecture on just creativity and one just on 44 hacks and tips separately since there was so much information she shared. He also commented that she expanded our view of how to make our magic more effective and unique. Josh Weidner commented: “She did great. Big highlights were creativity to help you come up with your own spin on a routine, business tips to help you start or improve a successful magic business, and search engine optimization to help you be found by potential clients without spending a lot of money on google ads.” Sandy Weis shared—“Even though I do not perform I really thought this lecture was outstanding. She is an excellent presenter and is SO knowledgeable! I actually learned things I can apply to other activities I am involved with. I highly recommend that other Rings have her lecture for their members. I am sure they would not be disappointed!” After the lecture the members viewed Magic Moments Our Favorites – Volume 2. Due to time restraints, the Ring was not able to view the entire video. However, both Volume 1 and 2 can be viewed on Ring 1’s website - www.ibmring.com. Various Ring 1 members performed for the video. Both of the volumes were filmed by **Michael W. McClure** who compiled the performances and added special visual effects for the final edited video presentation. **Paul Gregor** composed the music specifically for each act, along with added sound effects. Both of these volumes were shared with the various St. Louis area children’s hospitals. Both Michael and Paul did an outstanding job! The Ring is very fortunate to have these two talented individuals as members.

Steve Zuehlke and Steve Buesking announced plans for another close-up convention next year. Formerly known as the Senior Tour, the new name will be The Gateway Close-Up Convention. The dates are April 11, 12 and 13, 2024 and will be held in Collinsville, IL. Visit their website at www.baskervilleproductions.com/gateway2024. The guest of honor will be the incomparable John Bannon. John will open Thursday night with a two and a half hour lecture. Something not to be missed! Seating is limited so be sure to make your reservations early. Nick Lewin from Las Vegas, Robert Moreland from Savannah, GA, Steve Ehlers from Arizona, and Dan Fleshman from Colorado are scheduled to appear. Both Steve and Dan are outstanding close-up performers who do more than just cards. Dan is a St. Louis native with over forty-five years of performing experience. Anthony Gerard will also be performing. He is the inventor and master of

Enjoy this wiki link to a glossary of magic:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_magic_\(illusion\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_magic_(illusion))

And now for some quotes . . .

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

-Henry Ford

"I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened." -Mark Twain

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." -Robert Louis Stevenson

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." -Eleanor Roosevelt

"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." -Babe Ruth

Be sure to send nominations to D. Jay and Scott Smith for the upcoming Midwest Magic Jubilee Committee election on September 14, 2023. The nominee has to agree to the nomination.

the Idiosyncratic Force—a thing of beauty to witness. Tony will be doing a MEGA lecture on Friday evening! Tony mentioned he once lectured for TEN HOURS straight and NO ONE left! David Parr, an award winning mentalist/storyteller, will be making a rare convention appearance. He performs all over the country and has appeared on Penn and Tellers: Fool Us. Michael Rubinstein will also be appearing. First there was Bobo, then David Roth and then along came Michael. Michael's latest book, Rubinstein's Coin Magic is a must have for any library. He was also featured on Penn and Tellers: Fool Us. As an added bonus, Michael has agreed to do a special one-hour workshop for an added fee, limited to only 10 people. The dealers' room for the convention has been expanded. Featured will be Don's Magic and Books, Gerard Magic, and our own Old Time Magic Shop. This will be Eric Bausworth's first convention, so be sure to support him.

Dan Todd has been busy volunteering at the local St. Louis Hospitals. He shared the following: "On June 2nd I performed magic on St. Louis Children's Hospital CCTV. The effects were: Aerostatic Glass, Reading Book (Coloring Book), Bubble Catch, Card Duck, Cereal Killer, Seven Dwarfs Repeat, and Substitute Rabbit! Then on June 5 I performed by myself at Ranken Jordan Children's Hospital Bridge. The effects were: Aerostatic Glass, Card Duck with ABC flash cards, Backstage Elephant, Is There Magic in the Air, Copycat - Big Bicycle cards and tall hotel bell, and Square Circle full of silks with the bowling ball dropping finally! Always fun. So please Ring 1 members, offer your talent to D. Jay for this monthly event on the first Monday of the month. On June 6, I performed close-up at Shriners Hospital for Children for patients and families waiting for a clinic appointment. I performed: 4K Color Vision Box, Bending Coins, Card Collection - Youthful cards, Chinese Secret, Coins through a Table, Disney Poster - Disney Poster deck and a 5x7 framed predicted poster that matched, a small silver drawer box and small foam letters that spell EMPTY, Jumping Rubber and, and Three Duck Monti. This and puns kept them laughing until their doctor visit." The Ring appreciates the time he spends performing for children and their families at the various St. Louis hospitals. Thank you, Dan!

Gary S. Chan attended Laurence's show and shared the following—"Laurence 'Nothing Up My Sleeve' Levy performed a laugh-out-loud comedy magic routine on stage at the packed Blue Strawberry Showroom & Lounge in St. Louis, MO, on June 5, 2023. His quick wit is second-to-none as demonstrated when he responded to volunteers' reactions with quips, jokes, and puns that were spot-on and relevant. His show included a variety of illusions and magic tricks and involved many audience members, some of whom experienced the magic from their seats and others on stage. Everyone who attended enjoyed a laughter-filled show in a perfect atmosphere."

Trudi Monti-Monteith posted on Facebook—"Hi everyone! I am pleased to announce that I have finished a publishing project that has been a wonderful learning experience for me. Many of you may know that I have been actively conducting research on the history of magic in St. Louis. While conducting this research during the period of 1904, I came across a murder mystery in St. Louis featuring the "world's greatest detective" (Sherlock Holmes??) that was published in the newspaper, but had never been published as a book. As I got further into the project, I found that the murder in St. Louis storyline had also been duplicated by that author in another story by the same title, regarding a murder in New York. It was then that I decided to publish both novels as the editor of same. It has

been a huge learning experience for me, and I am very pleased with the current outcome. I have just submitted the first novel to Amazon for publication and it has been accepted successfully and is now available. You may order the book, *The Fatal Chord: The Baffling Mystery of the Carnegie Hall Murder*, directly from Amazon or from me if you would like an autographed copy. Please send me a FB Personal Message or an email to TTMstlBOOKS@gmail.com - and please feel free to share this with others.

Visitors are always welcome to attend Ring 1's meetings and activities.

Sandy Weis

July Ring Report

Ring 1 does not meet in July; however, the members are looking forward to the annual "Ice Cream Social" and flea market which take place during the August meeting. Members are encouraged to bring their 'old' or 'unwanted' magic to sell at the flea market. Members also need to remember to bring money so they can purchase the magic others no longer want or need. The **annual Close-Up Contest** is scheduled to take place at the September meeting. Members who wish to compete should submit their name to **Steve Queen (the winner of last year's contest)**. On September 24th the Ring has planned a President's Banquet at Rosalita's Cantina in Des Peres, MO.

In June, **Jill "Silly Jilly the Clown" Schmidt** attended Clown Camp in Wisconsin. She had a blast and learned tips to improve her magic shows. She carpooled with Columbia, MO resident Kathleen Neason who Jill became Facebook friends with thanks to the Midwest Magic Jubilee. Kathleen saw Jill's post raving about Clown Camp, so Kathleen enrolled. "Clown Camp changed my life," says Kathleen. Jill has been going to Clown Camp since 1995, attending approximately half of them.



Christian Misner recently performed at the Weingarten in Belleville, Illinois. He shared the following: "On the evening of July 7, 2023, The Weingarten was transformed into a world of enchantment and wonder as Christian the Magician and **Joshua Weidner** joined forces to deliver a spellbinding magic show that left the audience awestruck. Opening the show, Joshua Weidner took the stage, igniting the atmosphere with his comedic charm. With each act, he seamlessly blended humor and mind-boggling tricks, captivating the audience's attention from the very first moment. Weidner's captivating performance set the stage for an unforgettable evening of magic.

Closing the show with infectious energy and flair, Christian the Magician stepped into the spotlight. The audience leaned forward, eager to witness his repertoire of comedy magic. Christian's performance was nothing short of extraordinary. His new, 20-minute routine dazzled spectators with a seamless fusion of mentalism effects, weaving a captivating narrative that kept everyone on the edge of their seats. The highlight of his set was a remarkable variation on his renowned "Bill In Instagram In Lemon" routine, leaving the audience in awe and wondering how the bill ended up in the Lemon.

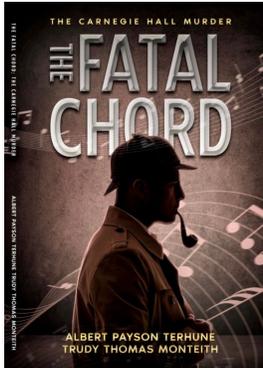
While several local magicians were in attendance, the majority of the audience consisted of non-magicians, eagerly embracing the opportunity to immerse themselves in the realm of magic. Gasps of astonishment and bursts of laughter filled the air, as the crowd experienced the artistry and wonder of Weidner and Christian's performances. The Weingarten, the esteemed venue hosting the magical affair, expressed their utmost satisfaction with the turnout and the caliber of the show. The synergy between the performers and the enthusiastic response from the audience solidified the success of the event. Talks are already underway for a command performance before the year's end, promising an even grander display of magical prowess. After an hour and ten minutes of non-stop, spellbinding entertainment, the echoes of applause reverberated throughout The Weingarten as the audience gave a standing ovation. The collaboration between Joshua Weidner and Christian the Magician cast an enchanting spell, leaving the audience longing for more. Attendees departed with a renewed sense of wonder and a shared memory of an extraordinary night where the impossible became possible. For those who missed this remarkable event, anticipation now grows for the promised command performance, destined to transport audiences once again into a world where dreams are realized and magic reigns supreme.”

Gary S. Chan performed stage mentalism in Warsaw, Poland, in June 2023. He wowed audiences with predictions, influences, and a quick wit. Perhaps more importantly, he and his wife took the opportunity to travel around Poland, enjoying the sights, food, and excellent weather.



Dan Todd shared the following: “Being retired from a day-to-day job allows me the freedom to volunteer my time at four children’s hospitals, three individually as an official hospital volunteer and a fourth one through the Healing Powers of Magic (Ring 1’s program). The last official volunteer position I applied for had the most hurdles--Shriners Children’s Hospital of St. Louis, MO. Even though I had performed for Special Events there for almost ten years as part of Ring 1’s Healing Powers of Magic, there were about twenty documents to sign in front of a Notary and a physical exam which included hearing, vision, blood, and urine. While all the hospitals get background checks on their volunteers, Shriners also requires proof of many immunizations and vaccinations. They, also, to be as stringent as possible, added a series of Hepatitis B shots, spread out over several months. At two of the hospitals, I teach or just play chess with the children. This is sponsored by the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis. I get paid to teach, yet the volunteer hours from the hospitals are through the Chess Club. A paid volunteer! The chess work for Children’s Hospital of St. Louis, started as a Special Event and morphed into volunteer time. This was partly my fault. They had to come down to greet me at the door each time for special events, so I suggested I become a volunteer so that I could just come on up when I arrived. As the volunteer process progressed, they started to realize that ‘outsiders’ for repeat special events had no background checks of verification of vaccinations, etc. The day before I was officially cleared, they said that I could not be with the children until approved! Now for the Magic. I have a variety of venues each month and at each one do different things. At Shriners Hospital of STL, I perform close-up and strolling magic in the lobby for the families who are waiting to see the doctors, as well as when I perform at special events. At Children’s Hospital of STL,

I perform 30 minute magic shows on their CCTV monthly. This means I am in a room with just a person controlling the audio/visual. No kids, unless they call in or if they are at a special event. Starting in July, Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital wants me to perform parlor magic in a classroom. Once a month at Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital, I represent I.B.M. Ring 1, usually with other magicians, on a small stage, open platform setting. Since I get some repeat audiences, I try to avoid repeating the same effects for each show. I keep track of all my effects at each hospital and at each show. I try to keep repetitions to only a yearly occurrence, if at all possible.” Thank you Dan for all your hard work entertaining the children, the families, and the staff at these hospitals!



Trudy Thomas Monteith (aka Trudy Monti-Monteith) now has two books available on Amazon. She is the editor/publisher of these murder mystery books, which were originally published in a newspaper by author Albert Payson Terhune. Neither were ever published as a book. The stories are the same; however, one takes place in New York (brown cover) and the other takes place in St. Louis (blue cover). Reviews have been very positive. One reader stated “As good as a real Sherlock Holmes mystery.” Another reader stated, “an exceptional book that effortlessly captures the essence of

Sherlock Holmes.” The books, “The Fatal Chord: The Baffling Mystery of the Carnegie Hall Murder” (New York) and “The Fatal Chord: The Baffling Mystery of the Odeon Murder” (St. Louis) can be ordered through Amazon or from Trudy, if a reader would like an autographed copy. The links to Amazon for these books are as follows:

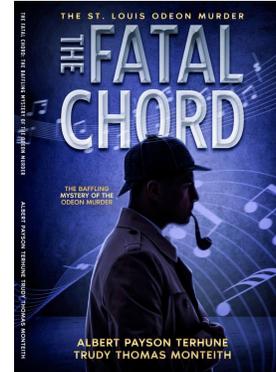
<https://www.amazon.com/Fatal-Chord-Baffling-Mystery-Carnegie/dp/0964932105/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Fatal-Chord-Baffling-Mystery-Murder/dp/0964932148/>

The Midwest Magic Jubilee (a joint collaboration between I.B.M. Ring 1 and S.A.M. Assembly 8) will hold an **election** for officers on September 14th (time and location to be determined). Following are the candidates who have accepted a nomination: General Chairman-Trudy Monti-Monteith, Scott Smith and Terry Richison, Vice Chairman-John Apperson and Treasurer-Sandy Weis. Members who belong to both the national and local organizations of either or both clubs are encouraged to vote. **Please send your nominations to D. Jay and Scott Smith. Remember, the nominee has to agree to the nomination.**

Visitors are always welcome to attend Ring 1's meetings and activities.

Sandy Weis



Fellow magicians,

We are coming up on that time of year again. We are approaching the **annual close up competition**. Every year we get together and enjoy seeing our own members put forth their art.

Club members get a chance to show what they have been working on for an audience and to be scored by our judges.

I love a good competition. There is nothing harder than performing for other magicians, and there is nothing more rewarding than the feedback you receive.

I always compete to have fun and get better. Mon Dre once dinged me because he could see the collar of my undershirt. Stewart McDonald at first hated my music choice during a competition, then told me it fit perfectly. My point is, having other magicians see what you do only makes you into a better magician.

I am inviting my fellow magicians to take part in this year's close up competition. If you are interested, **the best ways to contact me are email at stevenstrangeSTL@gmail.com or via text at (314) 651-9162.**

The competition will be held at our normal meeting place and time on **Wednesday, September 6, 2023**. Here is a link to the competition rules. <https://bit.ly/3B66xma>

Please contact me if you have any questions. If you are interested in competing, **please let me know by August 16th, 2023.**

Best wishes and good luck,
Steve Queen

Steve Zuehlke and Steve Buesking announced plans for another close-up convention next year. Formerly known as the Senior Tour, the new name will be The Gateway Close-Up Convention. The dates are April 11th-13th, 2024 in Collinsville, IL.

Visit their website at www.baskervilleproductions.com/gateway2024. This year's guest of honor is the incomparable John Bannon. John will open Thursday night with a two- and a half-hour lecture. Something not to be missed. Seating is limited so be sure to make your reservations early.

Key Considerations for Contractual Agreements Between Magicians and Hiring Parties in Missouri

When it comes to contractual agreements for magicians in Missouri, there are a few key things to keep in mind.

First, if you don't have a contract, you really need to get one. You may find that the risk of not being paid on one or two events is worth not going through the hassle of a contract. But a contract is much more than a way to ensure payment. It signals to your client that you are a professional and it helps avoid misunderstandings. It can also limit your liability in the event someone is injured.

Next, it is important to clearly define the scope of work and the expectations of both parties. This will help avoid misunderstandings and disputes down the line. Some magicians' contracts simply state that the magician will provide "strolling magic", while other magicians' contracts have detailed instructions for how the performance area should be set up. For example, you might say that the audience should be seated like the hours on a clock between 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock and that you need an empty performance space of at least 8'X12'. Some children's performers state that the children's hands should be empty during the show (no squeaky balloons or edibles that end up as projectiles!). Decide what's important for your performance and add it to your contract.

Additionally, it is important to specify the payment terms, including the amount, due date, and any late fees or penalties. I strongly believe in deposits. I personally require 50% up front and that deposit is non-refundable.

It is also important to include a termination clause in the agreement. This will allow either party to end the agreement early if certain conditions are met. For example, the artist may be able to terminate the agreement if they are not paid on time, or the hiring party may be able to terminate the agreement if the artist does not perform as agreed.

Finally, it is important to include a dispute resolution clause in the agreement. This will specify how any disputes will be handled, whether through mediation (non-binding), arbitration (binding), or litigation (binding). You should also include the venue. That means that disputes will be handled in, for example, Saint Louis County, Missouri. By including these clauses, both parties will know what to expect if a disagreement arises.

Overall, it is important for both the magician and the hiring party to be clear on the terms of the agreement and to communicate openly throughout the process. By doing so, they can help ensure a successful working relationship.

—Christian Misner (A.K.A.: Christian the Magician), Attorney at Law

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Scheduled Events:

The St. Louis Magic Roundtable meets every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Dierbergs, 1080 Lindemann Rd, Des Peres, MO 63131. Check the following website for the latest information before attending each week:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/374210993307299>

Board meetings are generally held the third Wednesday of each month over Zoom (virtual meeting), and all members are welcome to attend. To attend, please contact the president and secretary (contact info on last page).

All events are in-person unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Event
August 2, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: Ice Cream Social/Flea Market
September 6, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: Close-up Competition, hosted by Steve Queen
September 24, 2023	President's Banquet
October 4, 2023	Matt Garrett Lecture www.professionalmagic.com
October 21, 2023	Fall Ring 1 Magic Show Florissant Civic Center
November 1, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: Math Magic with "Professor" Steve Finkelstein
December 6, 2023	Ring 1 meeting: Holiday Party with Food and a White Elephant Gift Exchange
December 16, 2023	Magic Show – Kirkwood Community Theater (old theater) (Cancelled)
January 10, 2024	Ring 1 meeting: First Regular meeting of 2024!



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