



Our very own wizard, Steve Zuehlke, will take us on a trip from the ancient roots of our Art, and voyage ahead two thousand years to bring us valuable insights into three favored effects used by today's successful workers. The venerated Cups & Balls, having roots in ancient Rome (and possibly Egyptian antiquity), is a classic effect that never fails to impress an audience. Picking up an often used maneuver from the 1860s, Steve will explain how the Paddle Move, and its variations (ie: hot rods, color-changing knives) have remained a staple in most magicians' repertoire. The enigmatic Sponge Ball routine will be discussed if time allows.

Everyone in attendance will take home free samples of the Paddle Move, and a set of two Sponge Balls. Cookies, candy, chips and drinks will be provided for free as always, so there really is no reason to miss our first gathering of the New Year! Bring along a guest and they will also receive all of the above mentioned goodies. Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!

Please remember that our meeting is on Jan. 10th instead of our normal first Wednesday of the month. Also your 2024 dues (\$20) can be paid in person at this meeting, or by using the online option on our website.

<https://www.ibmring1.com/dues-payments>

# Upcoming Events

| Date        | Event  |
|-------------|--|
| January 10  | Ring 1 meeting: Steve Zuehlke presents Cups & Balls and Paddle Move.   |
| February 7  | Ring 1 meeting: Viewing of 2015 Close-Up Contest - Beginner competition (Tentative)  |
| March 6     | Ring 1 meeting: Kevin Kelly Lecture  |
| April 3     | Ring 1 meeting: Arts and Crafts Magic Lecture with Barb and Steve Zuehlke  |
| April 11-13 | Gateway Close-Up Convention<br><a href="https://www.baskervilleproductions.com/gateway2024">https://www.baskervilleproductions.com/gateway2024</a> |
| May 1       | Ring 1 meeting: Nathan Kranzo Lecture (and Ring 1 Elections)   |
| June 5      | Ring 1 meeting: Ring 1 Auction   |
| July 3      | No Ring 1 meeting  |

**Magic Conventions** <https://www.themagicwordpodcast.com/magic-convention-guide>

## 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>

## Pay 2024 Membership Dues

To pay online: <http://www.ibmring1.com/dues-payments>  
To pay by mail: Write a check payable to "IBM, Ring 1" for \$20.  
Write "2023 Dues" on the memo line.

Mail the check to:  
Sandy Weis, 1755 Elkins Drive, St. Louis, MO 63136.



## Ring 1 Report by Sandy Weis et al.

Steve Zuehlke, Mike McClure and Jill Schmidt shared the following—At the December meeting the Ring held their annual Holiday/White Elephant Exchange Party. With almost thirty people in attendance, the night was a huge success. We were treated to a wide variety of food, including sandwiches, cookies, chips, cakes, and a whole lot more. After enjoying our snacks, we were treated to a mini lecture by Chad Jacobs. Chad is one of the busiest performers in the area. Making his living solely off of entertainment, Chad truly understands the definition of branding oneself. Google Chef Bananas and you'll see what I mean. Chad shared a ton of ideas from his working show repertoire, especially the props he uses during the holiday season. Something you don't often see these days. Chad demonstrated Dream Bag Gifts Production, which he purchased from Albion Magic. The audience sees a bag that looks obviously empty because one side of the bag is clear. Chad amazingly pulled out six wrapped gifts. The meeting attendees agreed this new version is much better than the old dream bag trick. Also, in Chad's Christmas show, he makes an elf float with a zombie ball gimmick and produces three books from a tear-apart change bag. The meeting attendees laughed when, instead of predicting a thought of a song, he had a drawing of musical notes. Kudos to Chad for sharing his knowledge and his experience! After Chad's lecture, we all gathered together in a circle for the gift exchange. Similar to "rob your neighbor" but with a few twists. This year Mike McClure and his wife, Susan, went above and beyond (again) to make this a memorable event. All who participated left with a gift and some of the gifts were quite expensive, as usual. However, there was some extra fun planned for the evening. Several games/contests were held with the purpose of members getting to know each other a bit better, and the result was an additional eight prizes being awarded to the winners. Identifying members' images of isolated facial features and first names were a couple of the challenges that led to some spirited fun. At future events we should have some "white elephant" gifts made available to purchase at the event (as was appreciated this year), so that everyone can participate regardless whether or not they have surplus items to share. Nobody should feel they can't attend because they are new to magic and do not have extra props lying around the house. Everyone had a fun time, thanks to all that participated! And thanks to all who brought a dish to share or contributed \$5. As of late, our club is on the move again. We are gaining more members, having more lectures, and our attendance is up. Thanks to our President, the entire Board, and others for making this happen. You all know who you are! By the time this goes to press, the holidays will have passed. I hope all had time to spend with their family and friends and reflect on how thankful we should be.

Bob Blattel has been very busy in December performing "volunteer" magic shows. Following are the events where he performed: December 2<sup>nd</sup>—Annie's Hope 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party, December 9<sup>th</sup>—Sunflower Hill Farm Breakfast with Santa, December 15<sup>th</sup>—magic at The Employment Connection, December 16<sup>th</sup>—St. Josephine Bakhita Breakfast with Santa, and December 17<sup>th</sup>—St. Mathew Breakfast with Santa. He and his wife also sponsored a Toy Drive for children in St. Louis City. So far (as of December 9<sup>th</sup>) they had delivered over 60 trash bags and 15 boxes of toys. Bob commented that this December has been busier than usual for shows. The Ring thanks Bob and his wife for all their hard work making the holidays a joyous occasion for the children and their families.

Dan Todd shared the following--“December is an interesting time for magicians. Sometimes you are performing at Christmas parties and other years not so much. This year on December 1<sup>st</sup> was Children's Hospital live CCTV and the first caller called before I even started the show. It was fun and some of the patients had met me teaching and playing chess on Wednesdays there. The show lineup was as follows: ESP Testing with jumbo cards in conjunction with the newly acquired Wheel of Mind (from Steve Finkelstein's sale), my Blue Jeanie gag with a 12" brass lamp, Substitute Rabbit, Hernando the World's Strongest Flea, Aerostatic Glass, Mother of All Diamonds, Multi Color Paper Production, and for the final--my EMPTY routine with jumbo frig letters and a flip over box kicker ending. December 2nd was even more exciting. Jeff Lefton asked me to perform strolling magic with Larry Minth and Chuck Levy. We were busy for two full hours entertaining approximately 1,200 foster parents, kids, and caregivers at Harris-Stowe State University. At one point a family told me that their father was a magician. It was none other than Matt Olsen! He was not there but a whole gaggle of kids proudly called him DAD. I told them that I knew him well and we both served as officers of SAM Assembly 8 as well as helping Gibbol's Novelties & Costumes (which is no longer in business) with Google and the website when Matt was working there for Lois. I told them that I had given Matt a replica Pirates silver coin to use with the Golden one he used for Renaissance fairs and his eldest daughter immediately chimed in that he still had it. Kudos to Matt for fostering kids! Ranken Jordan Children's Pediatric Bridge Hospital did not wish to have Project Magic this month. They said next year we might not perform each month. I'll keep Ring 1 updated as information of the schedule is established. Shriners did not request me this month either. The schedule at most hospitals gets interrupted during the holiday season. BJC is back to requiring masks for staff starting 12/13. Happy Holidays.”

Christian Misner recently visited Las Vegas. Following are his comments regarding his trip: “A Magical Adventure: Exploring Las Vegas and Its Spectacles. Las Vegas, a city known for its dazzling lights and captivating performances, became the backdrop for an unforgettable journey for my wife, Johanna, and me. Our escapade was a perfect blend of outdoor adventures and world-class entertainment. Outdoor Marvels: Our love for adventure led us to explore the stunning landscapes surrounding Las Vegas. Riding electric bikes through the majestic Red Rock Canyon, hiking the rugged trails of the Valley of Fire, and kayaking into the serene Emerald Cove on the Colorado River offered us a taste of nature's grandeur. Captivating Performances: Las Vegas, the entertainment capital, lived up to its reputation with mesmerizing shows. Cirque Du Soleil's "Ka" left us in awe with its breathtaking acrobatics, intricate costumes, and a set that seemed like a marvel of engineering. Mac King, hailed as the "King of Comedy Magicians", delivered a delightful performance, overcoming the challenge of an unruly audience member. King's classic tricks, including the iconic bear appearance from shadow tent and swallowing a live goldfish, showcased his mastery. He almost sent me back to my seat after bringing me on stage when he learned I am an attorney. Johanna and I even had the privilege of a photo with the comedy magician himself after the show. An Otherworldly Finale: The highlight of our trip was witnessing the legendary David Copperfield live on stage (me for the 8th time and Johanna for the first time). A magician who has been a lifelong inspiration, Copperfield's performance was nothing short of "otherworldly." Despite his apparent physical challenges that hinted at the toll of a relentless career, Copperfield's magic was as spellbinding as ever. His innovative acts, featuring an appearing UFO, a dinosaur, and a "zombie human," (like a Zombie Ball, but with a live human) demonstrated his continued dedication to pushing the boundaries of magic. As Copperfield gracefully bowed out from the stage, we left Las Vegas with cherished memories of adventure, laughter, and the enduring magic that lingers in the city's vibrant atmosphere.” *Visitors are always welcome to attend Ring 1's meetings and activities.*



Magic from the Rockies will be featured at the Gateway Close-Up Convention. Steve Ehlers and Dan Fleshman from Colorado. Both are outstanding close-up performers who do more than just cards. And as most know, Dan is a St. Louis native with over forty-five years of performing experience. You can register at <http://www.baskervilleproductions.com/gateway2024>

# GATEWAY CLOSE-UP CONVENTION

## APRIL 11-13, 2024

LECTURES, CLOSE-UP  
SHOWS, WORKSHOPS,  
DINNERS, BREAK OUT  
SESSIONS, BOOK DEALER,  
COCKTAIL PARTIES!

REGISTRATION  
\$200

[stlsteve2009@yahoo.com](mailto:stlsteve2009@yahoo.com)

FOR MORE INFO:

[baskervilleproductions.com/gateway2024](http://baskervilleproductions.com/gateway2024)

LEARN FROM THE PROS! 2024  
WILL FEATURE DAVID PARR, DAN  
FLESHMAN, NICK LEWIN, STEVE  
EHLERS, ROBERT MORELAND,  
ANTONY GERARD, DR. MICHAEL  
RUBINSTEIN AND OUR GUEST OF  
HONOR: JOHN BANNON

FORMERLY THE SENIOR  
TOUR

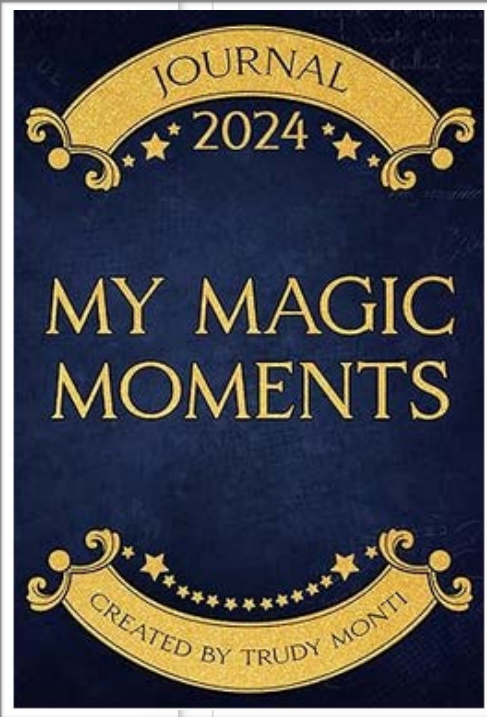


The Double Tree by  
Hilton  
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618-345-2800

Mention "Senior Tour" for a  
special room rate of \$114  
including breakfast for two

## Start The New Year with a New Unique Magic Book

Trudy Monti published a new book that everyone should add to their magic collection! She plans to publish a new edition annually so don't miss out on the first one.



“My Magic Moments 2024” is a unique journal, i.e. in addition to having space for your own notes, there are 700+ HISTORIC MAGIC EVENTS listed regarding 600+ DIFFERENT MAGICIANS!!

Do you know who lost his dog  
when performing in St. Louis?

Or the date Houdini signed up for the WW I draft?  
Or what card manipulator had his hands  
insured for \$100,000?

No ... well, the answers are in the **Journal**, along with hundreds of other bits of magic history.

Because there are so many magicians listed (40 of whom have St. Louis connections) Trudy has prepared a complimentary **Limited Edition Index** which she is providing free to the first 200 who order the Journal from her.

Trudy is thrilled to have received cover praise from **Lance Burton, Gay Blackstone, Michael Finney, and Jay Sankey!**

She will have **My Magic Moments 2024** and the **Limited Edition Index** available at the first meeting in January. You might want to send her a message if you would like her to hold one for you ([TTMstlBOOKS@gmail.com](mailto:TTMstlBOOKS@gmail.com)). The “in person” sale price is \$15.00. Copies are also available from Amazon (\$18.99 without the Limited Edition Index).  
<https://www.amazon.com/My-Magic-Moments-Journal-2024/dp/0964932199/>

Trudy has already begun working on the 2025 Journal so you will want to purchase the first in the series!

## I.B.M. Ring 1 Contact Information

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|--|--------------------|--|----------------|
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**Happy New Year!**