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Show to make some magic

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April 19, 2007 **Section:** News

Glenn Chelius of Crystal Lake has nothing up his sleeve. Rather, he uses that sleeve as a place **to** proudly display his passion for illusion. And for his next trick, the longtime magician and professional sales representative will **make** tickets **to** the Raue Center for the Arts disappear. Chelius is teaming with **some** prominent names in Midwestern **magic** Saturday **to** present a family-friendly **magic**, vaudeville and ventriloquism **show to** benefit the Raue.

"I'm really fortunate **to** be able **to** follow my dreams," said Chelius, 42. "The coolest thing with the Raue is when my daughter had her first dance recital, it was [there]."

"You've got a Bill Cosby and all these big names, but the stage is there for people like my daughter."

Chelius got his first **magic** set as a gift when he was a boy.

Now he is passing on his love for theater and performance **to** his three children: Celine, 10, Cole, 8, and Christian, 6.

Hidden in the basement of Chelius' Crystal Lake home, tucked away behind a sturdy-looking hardwood bookshelf loaded with antique books on illusion and magical props, is the room where the **magic** happens.

Literally.

"When we finished this basement, I needed a place **to** keep my **magic** stuff," Chelius said, pulling the bookshelf - which is hinged mounted on a large door - away from the wall **to** reveal a small office. The well-organized room is about the size of a closet and is filled with **magic** props, tricks and gags. Its walls are lined with signed pictures

of fellow performers, including Harry Anderson of "Night Court" fame, Svengoolie and Bozo the Clown.

"I've been doing **magic** since I was 6 years old, and **some** of this stuff is that old," Chelius said, adding that his children have shown early signs of interest in illusion.

As if on cue, an Easter basket with an extra-long handle hovered its way into Chelius' basement. Upon further investigation, the source of the illusion turned out **to** be Christian, who was carefully holding the handle at the very end and guiding the basket down the stairs.

Although the illusion was a simple, if not accidental, one, it's definitely in the spirit of Saturday's fundraiser.

Dubbed "Nothin' Up My Sleeve 5," the **show** will feature magicians Arthur Trace, Tomas Medina and David Kovac. Ventriloquist Chuck Field and his assistant "Ziggy" will emcee the **show** that Chelius and fellow performer Nino Cruz are coproducing.

Tickets cost \$15 or \$18 and may be ordered by calling the Raue Center Box Office at (815) 356-9212. Proceeds will go **to** the Raue Center.

Richard Kuranda, executive director of the Raue Center, said he was skeptical when he first found out about the program. That doubt since has vanished like a lovely assistant from a glass box.

"It's really a wonderful opportunity," Kuranda said. "I'm looking forward **to** it. At first, I have **to** admit, I was not sure what **to** think of it, but the more I read about [**magic**], the more intrigued I've become."

If you go

What: Nothin' Up My Sleeve 5, a **magic show to** benefit the Raue Center for the Arts.

Who's Performing: Producers Glenn Chelius and Nino Cruz, Ventriloquist Chuck Field and "Ziggy," and magicians Arthur Trace, Tomas Medina and David Kovac.

When: 7 p.m. Saturday, April 21.

Where: The Raue Center for the Arts, 26 N. Williams St., Crystal Lake

Cost: \$15 or \$18

To reserve: Call the Raue Center box office at (815) 356-9212.

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