



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

MARCH 2012

VOL. XXVI #3

## *Auction!*

The next Ring 76 meeting will be our semi-annual Auction. This is the time of year when you can clean out your magic closet and sell those seldom used treasures. It is also a great time to add to your collection of magic at incredible auction prices.

To insure that the evening goes smoothly, and that we finish before our 9 pm deadline, a few simple rules should be followed.



First, everyone who wishes to bid must have a number. When you arrive, there will be a sign in sheet and number cards. If you do not have a number, you cannot bid. By the way, bidding is not exclusive to Ring 76 members. If you have friends who want to increase their collection of magic, please bring them along. Their money is as good as any paid member's.

Next, if you plan on selling, please follow these instructions. Each seller can have up to five lots to sell. There may be as many separate items as you want in each lot, but they will be sold as one lot. So a Zig-Zag could be one lot, and the complete Tarbell course could be considered another. Please write down what is in each lot and a selling point if you have one. For example, is it "like new"? Is it autographed? Does it come with full instructions? That sort of thing. Then, finally, what is your "starting bid" for the lot? What is the absolute lowest price you will accept to part with your treasure?

As is customary, the Ring will collect 10% of the selling price, for the Ring treasury. We will try and have the doors open early so that sellers can deliver their items and unload their trucks of value. The meeting and auction will start at seven o'clock.

If you have any questions, please e-mail the Treasurer, Richard Ustick, at [rustick@flash.net](mailto:rustick@flash.net).

— *Richard Ustick*

## *What a Night It Was!*

Our February meeting was our annual Close-Up Competition, and once again, it was some of the finest magic of the year! What a show!

The meeting began with an audition by prospective member John Hunter, with assistance from guest

**PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS**

**HONEST SID GERHART RING 76**

**EDITOR JAMES THAYER — [EDITOR@RING76.COM](mailto:EDITOR@RING76.COM)**



## *President's Message*

Hello to all members of ring 76,

I have to say this was the best close up contest that I have ever seen. For me, it was tough trying to pick just one winner. All contestants, please give yourself a pat on the back because everyone ended their act within the time limits.

Our next meeting is the auction night so bring some stuff you like to auction off or bring your money to buy some neat magic.

The April meeting is going to be a teach-in where some of the Ring 76 members will show you some cool tricks that they made up or they will bring something from the past has been forgotten. Contact Syd to sign up for a teacher spot.

Also in April we will have a free Ring Member lecture and it R. Paul Wilson. This will be on Tuesday night following Monday night's Teach-In. It will be free to members in good standing and \$20 to non members, payable at the door.

— *Kenny Shelton*

Elizabeth Kim, and Henrietta, John's talking chicken. The routine was called "The Coffee or the Egg" and climaxed with Henrietta laying an egg filled with coffee beans. At the conclusion of this unique routine, John was unanimously voted into membership. Welcome, John!

We had eight competitors in the Close-Up Competition this year, and we used a new format. The competitors performed for up to 10 minutes at each of 4 viewing stations, which allowed each performer a 10 minute break between performances. Jeff Marcus, Joe Mystic, Syd Segal, and Richard Ustick acted as station hosts.

The competitors, in alphabetical order, and their routines, were as follows: Chuck Cook did a storytelling card routine called Four Witches, along with a deck vanish and flaming card change. Loch David Crane's routine, done in his American Indian persona, was a card transposition called

Three Mates and a card stab. Godfrey the Magician did one of the most unusual routines of the evening with appearing and vanishing thimbles. Our youngest competitor, Alex Greenbaum, performed a variety of close-up routines, including Coins Across, the \$14 Card Trick, and Red Hot Momma.

Derek Ostovani, an outstanding young pro, did some coin manipulation, Ambitious Card and an Ace Assembly, and a bar-magic chop cup routine. Leo Sy, last year's contest winner, did a Ring and Rope routine that could lead to a repeat win. Our reigning Stand-Up Competition winner, Mago Ruly, demonstrated his close-up skills with both coins and cards. Larry Samuels rounded out our list of performers with a series of color-changing card routines.

The magic was, to say the least, superb. Close-up seems to be our Ring's forte. As a stage-guy myself, I can only marvel at their skills and envy the small bags in which they carry their acts.

— *Bob Miegs*

## *Elections*

Even though "Super Tuesday" has come and gone members of Ring 76 are not out of the election woods just yet. While it is only March, it IS time for all good members to come to the aid of their Ring. That is right, it is time to start looking at the election of the new Board of Directors. The election is not until June, but as you all are aware, there is an established road to the Ring Presidency.

The Board decided NOT to have fourteen debates between the candidates, mainly because we do not, as yet, have any candidates. We do have an election process and the first part of that process is now in place. An election committee has been formed to seek out and contact members who would be interested in serving the Ring for the next year. If you are a member in good standing you may run for any office on the Board of Directors, with the exception of the President. If you have served on the Board in

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## *Photos from the Close-Up Contest*

*John  
Hunter*



*Godfrey*



*Leo  
Sy*



*Chuck  
Cook*







## *Photos from the Close-Up Contest*



*Loch David Crane*



*Alex Greenbaum*



*Derek Ostovani*



## *Photos from the Close-Up Contest*



*Mago Ruly*



*Larry Samuels*



**SAN DIEGO RING 76, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS**



## *Review of Mariano Goni's DVD "Signed"*

*Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D  
October 23, 2011*

From Mariano Goni, in Spain, we must welcome "Signed" a bewildering effect with American coins (Tango gimmick supplied). A borrowed coin is signed on both sides and transposes from the hands of one spectator to a purse and then to another spectator. Mario exhibits his 'gravity switch' and how he 'steals' the coin clearly with camera angles which tell all. Although the DVD jacket promises 'no sleeving' - this promise is deceptive. The coin doesn't go up any sleeve but with the aid of a gimmick (which is happily supplied), one coin is able to adhere to the outside of the magician's sleeve.

Mariano has excellent command of English and his demonstrations are lucid. The student magician will want to watch this DVD more than one time. Also it would be well to practice the moves before a mirror at least three times, before your dog two times more, the cat one time and a friendly family member another time before taking it on the road. Two versions are described - for a standing encounter or when one may be sitting at table. The latter allows the novice not to have to repeatedly stoop to pick up the erroneously dropped coin(s). Once mastered the student magician will have a miracle which will magnetize spectators to him. Not yet satisfied? Mariano offers a bonus effect with a laser (not supplied) which some will think too grandiose - involving a stooge who secretly adheres a

coin on the top of a building many feet distant. After 'vanishing' the coin by shining the laser at it, you aim the laser at the distant wall and 'wallah' the coin is there! This reviewer would class this ending as 'too incredible'.

Mariano 'knows' his audience and for him and his persona it works. This one trick



DVD is especially to be complimented for the photography and the earnest efforts of Mr. Goni to teach. Dr. Moskowitz prescribes this for the coin enthusiast Rx Rx Rx Rx (4/5)

## *"MagiToon"*

*by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman*



**"Lamps just aren't what they used to be!"**

*(Elections — Continued from page 2)*

any capacity, at any time in the past, you may run for the office of President.

The Ring does not run itself. It needs a President, Vice Presidents of Membership and Entertainment, a Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-arms, and Members at Large to insure all the great times, entertainment, and education, that Ring 76 prides itself on. The work is neither long nor hard, but it is important.

If you are interested in learning more about your Board of Directors and what it takes to serve the Ring, contact any Board Member. If you are interested in running for an office on the Board, contact Jeff Marcus [jkmarcus@cox.net](mailto:jkmarcus@cox.net) or call him at 619-562-3434.

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*(Elections — Continued from page 6)*

Any member in good standing can serve the Ring. All members in good standing should.

— *Richard Ustick*

## *Coming Up in April*

April brings us a double dose of meeting mayhem! Our traditional meeting, which will be on Monday April 9th, will feature an old theme recently resurrected: The Teach A Trick Night! During this meeting, a small group of our members are encouraged to go table-to-table teaching a routine, sleight or bit of business you enjoy performing and would like to share with the rest of the members.

This can include magic from any genre or background. Cards, coins, stage, close up, mentalism. It is totally up to you! Specific details regarding how many teachers are needed and how long you will be required at each table are forthcoming. If you are interested in being one of the teachers during this meeting and would like to reserve a spot, please contact Syd Segal, either at the March meeting or via email at [bt16380@aol.com](mailto:bt16380@aol.com). The number of teacher spots available are very limited, so do not delay.

On Tuesday April 10th, all Ring 76 members are encouraged to be back at the Lion's Club for a lecture that will definitely blow your socks off. Coming in, as part of his US tour, will be none other than BBC television star and superb sleight of hand magician,



*Paul Wilson*

Paul Wilson! Paul will be fresh off of a performance week and lecture at the Magic Castle and has agreed to come to San Diego prior to speaking at Magic-Con to present his unique lecture specifically for Ring 76. Paul will teach powerful and useful sleights for card and coin magic and show how a simple torn and restored napkin can be elevated to something magical, memorable and meaningful. Since this is one of the 2 lectures provided by the Ring for its members, it is absolutely free for Ring 76 members to attend. However, all non-Ring 76 members will be required to pay \$20 at the door for admittance. This lecture will begin at 7:00pm, doors to the Lion's Club shall open by 6:00pm.

Any questions, just ask Syd at the March meeting or send him an email at [bt16380@aol.com](mailto:bt16380@aol.com).

— *Syd Segal*

## *Magic Notes*

Magic-Con 2012 is only days away (April 12-15 at the Mission Valley Double Tree at Hazard Center) and there is still time to purchase your discounted registration pass for the full 3 day event! Magic-Con, a conference organized by local Ring 76 member Syd Segal, is a conference that brings together magic's smartest thinkers, greatest visionaries, and top performers and introduces an intellectual mentality behind the art, science and technology of magic. This years talent line up is unbelievable and includes top names such as David Blaine, David Acer, Jim Steinmeyer, Piff The Magic Dragon, Dani DaOrtiz, Michael Weber, Chad Long, Chris Korn and Cyril Takayama. The full line up and information about the conference can be seen at [www.magic-con.org](http://www.magic-con.org).

If you would like to attend, Syd offers a special discount to local San Diego magicians of \$100 off the





regular ticket price making the total price to attend this conference only \$199! Contact Syd at [bt16380@aol.com](mailto:bt16380@aol.com) for details on how to get the discount. Submit your information, pay the \$199 and enjoy 3 full days of action packed magic right here in San Diego!



Our very own ring member Godfrey the Magician will be performing at the Pinal County Fair in Casa Grande Arizona March 14th to 18th. This years new feature in the show is a crazy stunt that he learned when he was traveling with the circus side show Circus of the Fantastic.



Godfrey learned the secret of walking the swords from Vanteen and his daughter. Vanteen was the owner of the 10 in 1 tent show. Vanteen's daughter

### *Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar*

Mar. 12	Auction
Apr. 9	Teach-A-Trick Night
Apr 10	Lecture—Paul Wilson
May 14	Stage Competition*
June 11	Hi-Tech Magic*
July 8	Installation Banquet
Aug 13	Mentalism*

\* Opportunity for Members to Perform

was the indestructible child. She would walk the dangerous ladder where the rungs were made out of very sharp swords.

Godfrey is including this act in the performance at the Pinal County Fair as a request from the fair manager Michael Searle. Mr. Searle saw a photograph of Godfrey performing the sword walk and knew that the patrons of the Pinal County Fair would love it.

Godfrey's sword ladder is actually made out of 6 razor sharp machetes. He decided to use machetes because while he was in the Navy he met Navy SEALS who used special machetes to cut paths through the jungle. The machetes were made from World War II jeep springs.

Godfrey's machete sword ladder walk is dangerous, exciting, and still very funny.



Godfrey is also booked April 11 to April 15 at the at Maricopa County Fair. Besides doing his regular show he'll also be performing the upside down straitjacket escape from a crane as a publicity event.



**Correction:** In last month's description of the Ripping Rhinoceros Wringer effect, the rhinoceros is not actually flattened with the steam roller. Magicurrents regrets any confusion that may have resulted from this error.