



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

AUGUST 2012

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## *Mental Magic*

I foresee great magic on the horizon... Coming up in August, Ring 76 will feature a new theme for our congregation to consider. That theme is none other than Mentalism. Bring your nail writers, impression pads, spirit slates and more and join in on the fun as we welcome any Ring 76 members who would like to perform. If you are interested in performing, please contact Syd at [bt16380@aol.com](mailto:bt16380@aol.com) and let him know! As always, any type of performance is encouraged. So, if you would like to perform but do something outside of the proposed theme, no problem! Just let Syd know and he will put you into the line up. See you all on August 13th!

— *Syd Segal*

## *Dues are Past Due!*

If you have not yet paid your dues please get in contact with the Treasurer, Richard Ustick, as soon as possible. If you are not sure if you have paid your dues, Richard is also the person to contact.

If you have not paid your dues and have not contacted the Treasurer, this will be the last newsletter you receive and you will not have the rights and privileges of Membership in the Ring.

The dues members pay go to Ring activities and maintaining our meeting venue. If you have any questions, contact the Treasurer at [Rustick@flash.net](mailto:Rustick@flash.net) or at the next Ring Meeting August 13th.

— *Richard Ustick*

## *Beware the Evil Hypnotist Monkey!*

Actually, the Monkey did not make his presence known until near the end of the evening. Our July meeting started off as a typical Installation and Awards Banquet., except that it was held in a restaurant. The restaurant, New East Buffet, gave us a varied menu, eliminated the risk of running out for food, and reduced the work for our “party planners” – all at a very modest cost. We had a large private room, which we rearranged somewhat to create a stage area to accommodate the Evil Hypnotist Monkey and his able assistant, Dave Cox.

The suggested arrival time was 5PM, but many of our enthusiastic members arrived early, and by 5, quite few were already sampling the New East’s abundant selection of food. Our thanks to both Joe Mystic and Jeff Marcus for suggesting this type of venue and directing us to the New East.

After dinner, Belinda Kaesler and Sal Barajas ran a well-organized raffle, with prizes donated by Michael Johnson, Sal Barajas, and Bob Meigs. Then came the



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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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## *President's Message*

As my first message to Ring 76, I'd like to start off by saying how honored and excited I am to be elected your president! This will be a new challenge and responsibility for me and I'm happy to take it on! If any members has suggestions for us, or has any input, I would be glad to take them to the board of directors so we can attempt to accommodate all members.

I think we had a great Installation Banquet, and I hope all of you enjoyed yourself. The board spent a long time figuring out all the details about this last Banquet; i.e. location, food, and performer. Hopefully you all enjoyed Dave Cox and his Evil Hypnotist Monkey!!! We will work out any kinks and make it better each year for our members. And a special thank you goes out to Bob Meigs, Salomon Barajas, and Michael E. Johnson for donating Magic for our raffle at the Banquet!

As this is our first meeting, I am very excited for the rest of this upcoming year. We have a great line-up of meetings this year with many chances to perform! I highly encourage all members to perform as often as they could, because our fellow Magicians are the BEST first audience, if you're not going to perform for US, who ARE you going to perform for? I would like to see everyone perform AT LEAST one meeting of the year. The first time I performed for a ring was for Ring 313 in Irvine, 6 years ago, and boy was I NERVOUS! But by the time I stood up there, all my nerves went away! So let's see some great stuff for this month's theme, Mentalism, and all the months to come!

— *Derek Ostovani*

awards – a major purpose of the banquet. Winners of our Stand-Up Competition were: 3rd place, Tony Perrine, 2nd place, Alex Greenbaum; and 1st place, Bob Meigs. In the Close-Up Competition, 3rd place went to Alex Greenbaum; 2nd place to Terry Godfrey; and 1st place to Derek Ostovani. Jeff Marcus won Entertainer of the Year, based on the cumulative voting at a half-dozen theme-performances throughout the year.

Bob Meigs was elected Member of the Year, an award based on service to the Ring, rather than showmanship. A special Tip-of-the-Hat Award was given to Mary Meigs, for hosting the monthly Board of Director's meetings, at which she provides dinner and dessert. The Board awarded Sherry Luft a Life Membership in recognition of her years of service to the Ring.

Congratulations to you all! Your effort, talent, and hard work is both magical and appreciated!

Following the awards, Jeff Marcus, Territorial Vice-President, thanked – or some might say, roasted – the outgoing Board, and swore in the new. Although some titles changed, the outgoing and incoming Boards consist of the same nine people.

Derek Ostovani, formerly Sgt.-at-Arms, is our new President. Returning to their former Board positions are Syd Segal, First Vice-President (Entertainment); James Thayer, Second Vice-President (Membership); Richard Ustick, Treasurer; Bob Meigs, Secretary; and Sherry Luft and Joe Mystic, Members-at-Large. Donna Greenbaum, formerly a Member-at-Large, replaces Derek as Sgt.-at-Arms, and Kenny Shelton adds "Past-" to his Presidential title. Thank you all for your service.

With our business concluded, we rearranged the furniture a bit, and then enjoyed more than an hour of excellent magical comedy, provided by Dave Cox and the Evil Hypnotist Monkey.

Happy 2012-13 to you all!

## ***MAGIC AT THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR***

Magic plays a bigger role at the San Diego County Fair than most would imagine. Actually, the Fair puts as many magic shows per day as the Magic Castle. Member Terry Godfrey is the Fair's "resident magician," putting on 3 daily shows and entertaining at the main gate prior to opening. Member Bob Meigs performed his own daily show, coordinated the

*(Continued on page 9)*

## *Photos from the July Meeting*



*Raffle Goodies*



*Stage Contest Winners (l-r)  
Toni Perrine( 3rd), Alex Greenbaum (2nd) ,  
Bob Meigs(1st)*



*Close-Up Contest Winners (l-r)  
Alex Greenbaum (3rd), Terry Godfrey (2nd).  
Derek Ostovani (1st)*





## *Photos from the July Meeting*



*Entertainer of the Year—Jeff Marcus (l) with Syd Segal*



*New Life Member — Sherry Luft (l) with Kenny Shelton*



*Member of the Year—Bob Meigs  
And a tip of the bat to Mary Meigs*



## *Photos from the July Meeting*



*The Outgoing Board*



*And the Incoming Board*





## *Photos from the July Meeting*



*Dave Cox*



## *Photos from the July Meeting*



*Dave Cox*







## Gerry McCambridge

*Find this Mentalist - You are sure to be entertained!*

*Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz  
June 22 2012*

On a recent vacation to Las Vegas, we saw Gerry McCambridge's show. He is the highest form of entertainer. The concluding effect left us all in a state of amazement. He distributed about ten foam balls, each adorned with their own two digit numbers. The front row was instructed to throw the balls behind them. Those who caught the balls would throw/pass them to another but closer to the stage. Whereupon Gerry wheeled a horizontal board with mini basketball hoops/nets on the edge of the stage. Those who had the balls were asked to toss the balls into the nets. Should they miss and the balls would bounce down into the audience, whoever picked up the ball would try to net the ball. It didn't matter which net they chose. Remember the balls were numbered. Gerry pointed to an horizontal large envelope which was visible throughout his performance. Inside was a strip of cardboard with the exact numbers in the precise same order. Remember not all the balls were thrown. That was a random choice was above dispute. The entire audience was amazed.

This led me to investigate whether Gerry McCambridge had ever written a book or made a DVD.

I was only able to find "How to Read Anyone's Mind As If You Were Reading an Open Book." This fifty-two page pamphlet diagrams the steps recommended to become a mind reader. He cautions the reader not to use these assets in an unethical way; nor to broadcast your talents lest people be wary and guard themselves. This 'ability', McCambridge boasts, can save your life.

Although he doesn't condemn use of 'tricks' as mental

phenomena when the stage mentalist is seeking to entertain, his focus is purely mental. The author's hope is that the skills he will teach will open the student to appreciate others' moral aspects and with this new sensitivity become moral oneself. When this reviewer was an active member of P.E.A.

(Psychic Entertainers

Association), there was an ongoing debate whether to tell spectators that mind readers could not actually predict the future. The author seems to caution against using talents to scam the public.

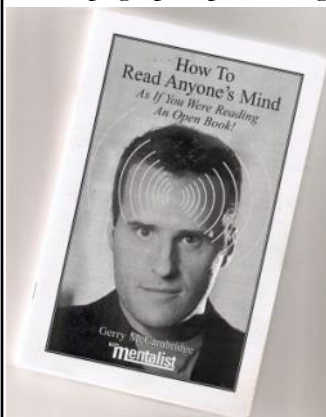
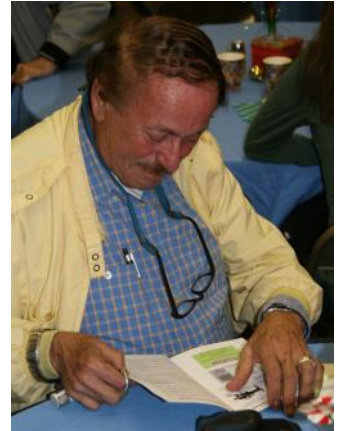
Chapter I is entitled "Thoughts Behind the Face" which includes observing and interpreting 'micro expressions' and the steps which train yourself to observe. He recommends 'emotionsrevealed.com' by the lauded Paul Eckman an expert in translating subtle facial indicators all the way to deception.

McCambridge advises that there may be a negative outcome of interpreting 'true' non-verbal signs. The person who has been 'read' may resent the exposure and scorn may result. Be discrete. A smile and sensing the subtle facial signs and reacting positively is on the road to popularity.

McCambridge asserts that emotions trump intellectual reasoning. He describes his thinking about the psychological makeup of sociopaths and psychopaths and how their inability to empathize and their heightened ability to play on the emotions of others is to be avoided. In the section entitled "Gaming", he describes the hints, clues, and tells at the gaming table.

Chapter II is about "Reading the Body" i.e. body language. How much information is telegraphed by posture and gestures is estimated as between 65 percent and 93 percent! Communications include a secret handshake; glancing at the groin telling other gay men what your sexual preference is, are a few.

*(Continued on page 9)*





(Aaron Fisher — Continued from page 2)

daily 24-Minute Magic Show, and hosted the Abra-KID-Abra Magic Camp twelve times during the Fair. Non-members Mark Yuzuik and Calamity Joe added another five shows each day, and non-member Jim Burns operated a magic shop in the Exhibition Hall.

The 24-Minute Magic Show was a new feature of the 2012 San Diego County Fair, scheduled on the Showcase Stage every evening at 6:15. All of the performers in this family show were members of Ring 76. In order of performance, they were Joe Mystic, Terry Lunceford, Bob Meigs, Jeff Marcus, Kenny Shelton, Michael E. Johnson, and Derek Ostovani. Kenny also returned for our closing night performance on July 4.

Alex Greenbaum and Greg Wason were guest performers in Bob's Do-It-Yourself Magic Show, and Alex helped out on several occasions at the Abra-KID-Abra Magic Camp.

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Oh, alright, here's the remote!"

(Gerry McCambridge's — Continued from page 8)

Study of the elements which allow one to read this 'language' is an advantage in human interactions; others will be clueless. Knowledge of the indexes of body talk will allow the sophisticated to simulate and deceive others.

Detection of lying, sexual signals is explored and explained. In Western cultures admonitions to not stare makes eye 'diagnosis' fleeting and little used. Descriptions of the meaning of 'bowing and shaking hands', 'chin jutting', keeping one's distance, and signs which portend danger are further topics. "Fear and blushing" are well recognized by most but the meaning may be complex. Conversations on the phone may offer an alert student of non-verbal clues to alterations in pitch, tempo which in the context of words expressed may enable one to 'read between the lines'.

Gerry McCambridge, a master mentalist, does not teach how he specifically employs the tricks of sensing the other person's thoughts in his powerful act. His father was a detective specializing in interrogation and likely Gerry is emulating him in another venue, the stage. Perhaps in his proposal for a show portraying a Mentalist who solves crimes he blends his father's talents as a detective with his talents as a performer. This popular TV drama is an ongoing testimony to the public's appreciation for these themes.

He has been the recipient of the Merlin Award for Mentalist of the Decade from the International Magicians Society. This pamphlet published by The World Marketing Group is a gem Fifty two pages devoted to give the public insight of many aspects of human relationships. It is an educational thesis and not to be assumed for diagnosis, therapy. Nor will it suffice to enable the reader, by this alone, to become a stage mentalist but it is valuable nevertheless. Dr. Moskowitz recommends for all persons and especially for those who will pursue the path to become a magician or a mentalist. (4/5) Rx Rx Rx Rx . Gerry McCambridge's show is currently in Las Vegas. I predict you will agree, is an entertaining wonder (5/5) Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx.



*(Del Mar Fair — Continued from page 9)*

at the Fairgrounds, where he coordinates car shows and much of the magic. He very much appreciates the enthusiastic participation of Ring 76 – you’ve made his life easier, and the Fair more fun!

## ***Changes Proposed for Ring Competitions***

On December 6, 1948 authority to operate as I.B.M. Ring 76 was given by C. James McLemore, Supervisor of Rings, I.B.M. Since then, we have grown and changed and become one of the largest Rings in the country. Anything that stagnates tends to wither away and die. Ring 76 has demonstrated time and again that is a living, breathing entity that meets any challenge foisted its way. It seems like there is a time for change coming yet again.

In 1998, it was decided, in an effort to raise the standards of Ring magic and provide an incentive for Ring Members to improve their skills, to hold competitions annually. Later a financial prize was added to further entice more members. With money involved, standards were expected to be higher. Trophies, medals, and plaques have been established to award achievement and professionalism in the magical arts as seen by member of Ring 76.

Lately, the Board of Directors have discussed whether or not it is time to make a change for the competitions in the Ring. Should we break the competition into two levels and create a Champions Category for the Stand Up and Close Up competitions.

Needless to say, this basic idea has spawned many hours of heated discussion. Even the simplest of points, like who could qualify for the Champions category and what do we mean by “Champions,” has generated heated exchanges. If there is this much discussion among the Board, we can imagine what sort of exchange it would generate among the membership at large.

### ***Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar***

Aug 13	Mentalism*
Sept. 10	Kid Magic*
Oct 8	Halloween Magic*
Nov 12	Music Magic*
Dec. 10	Christmas Pot-Luck*
Dec 11	Lecture (tentative)
Jan. 14	Classic Magic (no card tricks)*
Feb. 11	Close-Up Competition*
Mar. 11	Swap Meet
Apr. 8	Teach-A-Trick Night
May 13	Stand Up Competition*
June 10	Money Magic*
July TBD	Installation Banquet
Aug 12	TBD*

\* Opportunity for Members to Perform

Nevertheless, it is the membership that should have the ultimate say in a monumental change in Ring policy like this. This is not just a simple order of business that the Board was elected to handle. A genuine need has been seen by a number of members, but in this case the Board has seen fit to shepherd the issue rather than impose it.

The basic idea is that we would have a competition for the general membership, and a separate competition for those that attained a higher level of standing in the Ring. This higher level, Champions, for example, would consist of those who have won First Place in past competitions. The Champions competition would not be limited to “professional” magicians, as we have a host of talented performers of various standings. It would be a contest among those who have, through their past performances, demonstrated a higher level of skill that the Ring has recognized.

The motivation for this change is that while we are driving improvement in the top-end, we have heard from a number of members who would like to

*(Continued on page 11)*



*(Competition — Continued from page 10)*

compete but are reluctant to do so because of the caliber of the top performers. By offering two levels of competition, we would provide an opportunity for those not at the Champions level to compete.

As stated before, the Ring is a living and growing entity. It is no longer the small group who use to meet in diners and living rooms. We have over seventy-five active members of various levels of skill and interests. As the Ring has grown so have its responsibilities to the Art of Magic. The Board sees this as the next response to that growth; however, it is up to the Ring itself to determine what directions it wants to go. This is a subject that needs to be actively discussed by all members and the Board welcomes all civilized input before any changes can occur. Open debate is encouraged and input and experience is also needed to address this issue. That is one of things that being a member of Ring 76 is about.

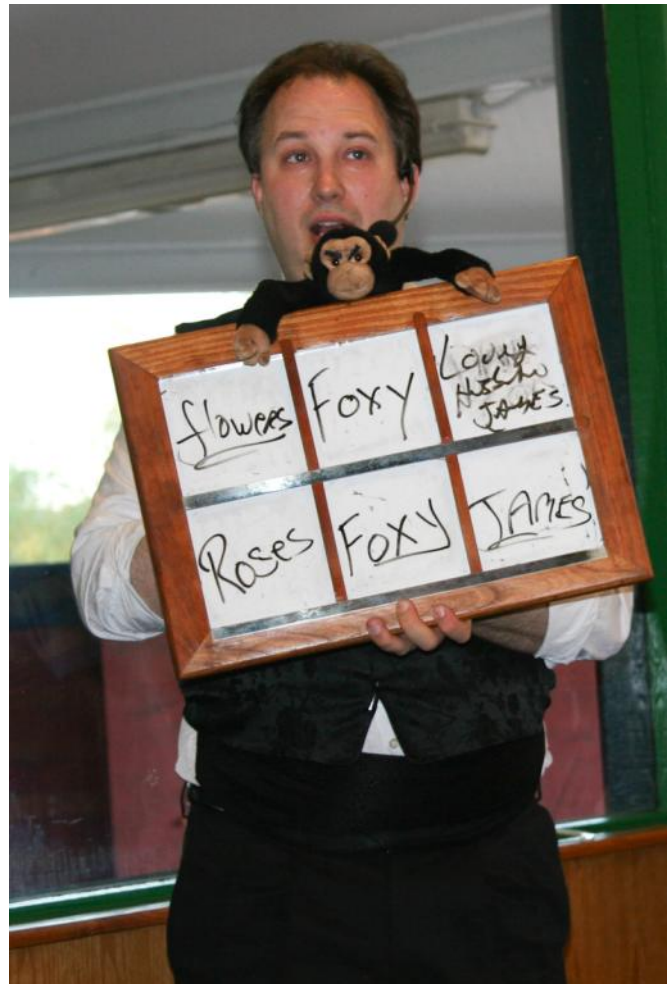
This will be a prime topic for the next few months and you will be kept up to date on the issue through meetings, the Newsletter, and emails as necessary.

## *Editorial*

*Note: From time to time, MagiCurrents will publish an opinion piece. This one comes from Jeff Marcus, TVP.*

I feel it necessary to bring up something that has bothered me for quite a while. Each year members make commitments and then don't fulfill those commitments. Most recently, a case in point:

The newsletter made it very clear that we were very limited on space for the Installation Banquet. The room could only hold 70 people and we had to limit the reservations to members and one other (spouse or guest) until the cutoff date when [if there was still availability] other guests could fill in the rest of the seats. This year it ended up not mattering that much it could have been a very big disappointment for some people that wanted to bring an extra guest or two. The fact is that we did reach capacity on reservations. If someone wanted to bring an extra guest they would have been told that we couldn't let



them in. They would have been turned down on the request! I guess it doesn't pay to trust their promise to attend because without a deposit some people just don't care.

Seven people who had committed to coming didn't show up which could have allowed seven others admittance. They weren't even willing to take a few seconds to let Richard know they wouldn't make it. I realize things come up but it really only takes a minute at most to pick up a phone and let someone know if you have to cancel, thus opening up reservations for those who wanted to come.

Now that doesn't mean that you shouldn't make reservations. That's another thing that "sticks in my craw" People DON'T make the reservations at all (before the cutoff date) and then, on the day of the event (or a couple of days before), they call to say



*(Ecuadorean Magic — Continued from page 11)*

they want to come to the party. Thus again, they don't follow the rules that the board has set up. The board spends a lot of time planning these events and a lot of time working out the details so that things will run smoothly for everyone. Then a choice few members (you know who you are) continually don't bother to follow the guidelines that the board has set up and make it difficult on all the others.

Come on gang, if you are coming, make the reservations on time. if you aren't going to make it to something you've committed to let someone know you're cancelling as soon as possible. It's the "right and decent" thing to do.

— *Jeff Marcus*

## ***Rent a Table***

Ring 76 is still renting tables for all members in good standing who have something to sell. Tables are \$10 each and are set up before the meeting in the back of the hall. You can sell whatever you want (as long as it is legal of course) and members are encouraged to check out the great deals that await them.

We are limited in the number of tables we can have, so get your reservations in early. Just contact the Treasurer, Richard Ustick, at [rustick@flash.net](mailto:rustick@flash.net) and tell him you want a table before the next meeting.

— *Richard Ustick*

## ***Magic Notes***

Catalina Preskill (the president of the Gaslamp Historical foundation) has asked if there is a magician who might be interested in volunteering to perform magic at one of her events. They could use another walk around magician and they are also looking for a magician that would like to perform on their stage. She said they can provide a very generous tax deductible donation letter. Contact David Lane if you are interested <[lanes-email@cox.net](mailto:lanes-email@cox.net)>



Come by for what might be your very last opportunity to meet John Calvert. This event will be held at 3 Generations of Magic, Saturday, August 11th, 2012 at 2pm. The location is 741 Olive Ave. Vista CA 92083 Please rsvp because we might need to split up into two meet and greet sessions. 760-843-1552 This event will be Free!

