



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 SEPTEMBER 2012

VOL. XXVI #9

Kids Magic!

What an exciting theme for our September meeting! Get out your Hip-pity Hop Rabbits, dust off your Chinese Sticks, or bring out your polished Wilting Flower routine because it's Kids Magic Month at Ring 76! Any material, suitable specifically for children, is welcome at this month's meeting. We are also encouraging that you bring your children, grand-children, nieces and nephews to partake in the festivities. This should be a fun evening for all and we want it well attended. If you are interested in performing, please contact Syd at bt16380@aol.com.

— *Syd Segal*

Ring 76 Follows in the Path of the Evil Hypnotist Monkey

The theme of our August meeting was something new – mentalism. As a stage performer, I love mentalism – it packs small!

Our 1st VP, Syd Segal, opened the meeting, as new President Derek Ostovani was unable to attend. Joe Mystic announced the second of our semi-annual pro-bono shows at Father Joe's Villages will be October 25, and he asked for volunteer performers. James Kellogg, III announced an upcoming lecture by Mark Mason on October 12 at 3 Generations of Magic. Syd then led a spirited discussion of whether the Ring should have separate classes in competitions for previous winners and other competitors. Instead of separate competition classes, it now appears that we may simply

adopt new judging rules for our close-up and stand-up competitions.

We had six guests attending our August meeting: Nick Benevento, Lou & Estelle Dunz, Janet Harris, Ruben Padilla, and George Rowe. Welcome!

Then, great minds, or at least big heads, took the stage for night of mentalism. Bob Meigs opened with The Muse Within, which included both a spiritualism and a mentalism routine. Malcom Campbell followed with a

word-in-newspaper prediction called Is It Today, or Tomorrow? Chuck Cook then did an advance prediction of a selected card.

Larry Samuels entertained us with a comedy mind-reading routine, followed by one of Richard Ustick's patented singing routines; "Ment-a-lee," to the score of "Stand By Me."



A blindfolded James Kellogg III, then told

us which drinks were being sampled in a beverage taste test, and Joe Mystic treated us to a musical version of Mental Epic. Greg Wausen then produced a preprinted lottery ticket that matched numbers randomly generated by the audience.

Our closers were Alex Greenbaum, with 6-Card Match, and Mago Ruly, who performed something called Crazy Mental.

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER – EDITOR@RING76.COM



President's Message

I am both sorry and ashamed to have missed the first meeting of the new year, for one because I am President, but even the President gets to go on vacation, right?! But mainly because I heard such great things about our August Mentalism meeting! I am so proud of all of you who performed, sometimes Mentalism can be out of our boundaries, but we had some top notch, great mind-blowing effects!

Next month, our themed meeting will be Kids Magic! So I will be attending and I hope to see even more performances from our members! There can definitely be a wide range of effects here, so don't limit yourself to the coloring book, take any effect and place a child's spin on it! Be creative, I look forward to seeing what everyone comes up with. But since it's a kids themed Magic night, we all know what that means, BRING YOUR KIDS, GRAND KIDS, AND GREAT GRAND KIDS, and we promise not to charge them!

So after months of the Board and I discussing competition rules, we have finally come to an agreement. We have thought long and hard how to make our competitions as fair as possible for all members so everyone will be accurately judged. I think we are proud of our conclusion. There will be more information throughout the news letter and well as the upcoming newsletters as they approach our competition dates.

— *Derek Ostovani*

Mentalism night was well received by performers – 10 signed up – and by the audience. I predict it is a keeper that will appear in future calendars!

And for those of you who don't get enough of Ring 76's blend of entertainment at our meetings, I'll remind you that many of us adjourn to Rudford's for another hour or so of coffee, magic, and camaraderie.

— *Bob Meigs*

New Competition Rules

Political infighting, biased reporting, long and pointless speeches, cutthroat maneuvering behind

the scenes. But enough about the last Board meeting, time to move on to some positive news.

At the August Ring Meeting, the membership voted to continue examining our current Contest Rules and Procedures to see if there were adjustments that could be made to raise the standards. Many good ideas were presented during the spirited business portion of the meeting and Board took them all into account.

Salomon A. Barajas, Jose A. Sanchez & Syd Segal came up with changes to the judging system which the Board feels addresses the issues that have arisen in recent years. They presented their proposal at the last Board meeting and that aided the Board in moving forward on the issue. It is a balance between the professional judges that are used in I.B.M. Competitions, and the Membership judging that Ring 76 uses now. It eliminated the need for a two-tiered contest, making judging of the individual's skills and presentation the cornerstone of the competition.

The Board is still working on specific details; however the final policy will be in place, and published, well before the Close-Up Competition in February of next year. Keep watching your newsletter for more details.

— *Richard Ustick*

Reserve Your Table

Just a reminder that if you have treasures to sell, Ring 76 meetings are the place to sell them. Any member in good standing can reserve a table for pre-meeting sales. The cost is only \$10 for a full table and you can set up as early as 6:00.

All selling has to stop when the meeting gets underway, you have plenty of time before the meetings to browse and sell magical wares.

Table space is limited so contact Richard Ustick early at rustick@flash.net to reserve your place.

— *Richard Ustick*



Photos from the August Meeting



Bob Meigs



Malcolm Campbell



Chuck Cook



Larry Samuels

Photos from the August Meeting



Richard Ustick



James Kellogg III



Joe Mystic (I)



Greg Wanson



Photos from the August Meeting



Alex Greenbaum



Mago Ruby



August Mentalists



The Gimmick is elusive but desirable

*Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D
January 28, 2012*

The Gimmick Magizette, in this reviewer's opinion, is quaint, nostalgic, personal but is not faithful to the title. That being said, it is also precious, informative, entertaining, and, it is recommended. Magicians all over the world should subscribe.

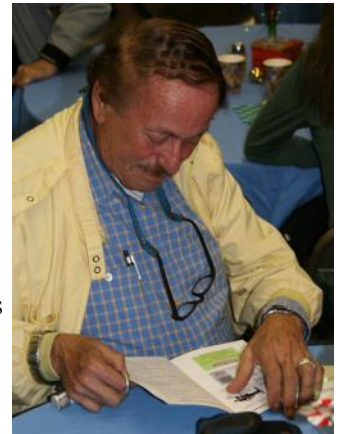
If we understand 'gimmick' to mean a special feature which 'stands out' from its contemporaries, that may mean what Solyl, the Editor and Publisher, intended. His publication is different. But magicians think of 'gimmick' as a device to manipulate appearances so that what the audience sees is different from reality. The origin seems to have been conning via a gaming wheel gadget which was favorable to the 'house'.

Instead the Gimmick Magizette is a charming, often exotic, collection of wisdom, personal favorites (maybe having seen the light of publication previously) and in these days of climbing prices for one trick DVDs it is a bargain. Somewhere around \$2.00 per issue (a downloadable PDF) ordered from www.lyberry.com is easy and available.

"The Gimmick Magizette" by Solyl Kundu (\$2 PDF) Go to <http://www.lybrary.com> and search on "The Gimmick". Or write to thegimmickmagizette@gmail.com to reach the Editor, Producer and general factotum Solyl Kundu.

With over five decades of experience "Solyl" Kundu is a much admired magician's magician. He has been active in the International Brotherhood of Magicians as Territorial Vice President for India, judging magic acts at conventions. He brought 'Table Hopping' to India. His style is 'humorous' and is at ease at children's parties and his preference on the stage where he amazes audiences with classic effects as well as original illusions. Author of several books dealing with magic, he began writing and editing a two page photocopied publication years ago which has since morphed, happily, to this, his latest effort: Gimmick

MagiZette - an exclusive Indian publication. Gimmick MagiZette was greeted by magicians world wide and his subscribership quickly to rose to 200. Nicknamed a 'Dovician' which refers to his contributions to Ian Adair's Encyclopedia of Dove Magic. On the wing, he has performed around Solyl's wide experience in the magical arts puts him in a strong position for knowing what magician's thirst for in written material. Take a bow, Solyl, for a fascinating series: Gimmick MagiZette from India!



What follows are some abstracts of the first few issues so that interested magicians may taste the flavor of the texts.

An early issue of Gimmick MagiZette begins with advice from Grandpa Chet (?) on the dos and don'ts of performing magic. In fact, the changing styles of performers is encompassed in an era where it is was good fun to make a monkey out of a spectator, and use spectators as unpaid assistants to hold your linking rings or other apparatus to a style which respects the spectator more.

I would have thought the MagiZette would have been devoted to 'gimmicks' or gimmickry but in large part it is not. In fact, in this issue I didn't discover any gimmicks. If you consider the mechanism behind Slydini's torn and restored newspaper a 'gimmick', you have what you paid for.

On the other hand, if you are in to nostalgia, you will have the opportunity to read an offering from Aldo Colombini and for Ring 76 San Diego older members who were around in the days of the brick and mortar magic emporia Brad Burt writes a column.

Guy M. Townsend writes 'Some Thoughts on 'Wild Deluxe' by Aldo Colombini. Unless one is familiar or has access to this effect, Townsend's advice will be

(Continued on page 7)



(The Gimmick— Continued from page 6)

diminished by unfamiliarity. A summary describing Colombini's effect would have been helpful as well as a reference to where one might review the original article. Guy Townsend takes pains in describing the Elmsley and the Jordan Count but his referring back to the photos which accompany his submission are confusing. The Editor, Soly Kundu, in an afterwards commentary observes that while he himself, Soly, is not passionate about 'finger flicking' he didn't apply the editor's pen to Townsend's article and printed it as written adding his, the Editor's, hope that it was useful to the readers.

Other luminaries e.g. Sam Dalal a famous Indian magician flavor this publication. As well as bits of history i.e. the creation of Pakistan by the British.

In this issue, the editor offers several card effects (alas the lack of illustrations is a negative feature and where there are illustrations they are small and unrevealing.

The third in the series begins with an article featuring IBM Ring 76's Loch David Crane Reference is made to his book 'Captain Kirk and Star Tricks' Loch shares his zest for creativity and originality. For example, as his audition for membership in The Magic Castle (back in the 1960s) the admission committee applauded his originality when he performed The Professors Nightmare with dog leashes instead of rope.

A section is devoted to the 'Grand Old Gentleman of Magic - Asok Roy'. For those who base their conjuring presentations on the Orient, this might be a nidus of patter.

Tony Brook a sage international showman urges magicians to study Audience Psychology, Theater and Philosophy.

Keeping Slim to Ian Adair means not walking on stage with pockets bulging.

Magic from Spain written with benefit of Google translation is offered by Iurgi Sarasa. He refers to Juan Tamariz who is familiar to American magicians.

Gorra Datta another Indian magish writes about a 'New Balloon Penetration'.

Clever. 'Clear Prediction' utilizes business cars (Sukesh Patnaik.

'Aces-Anwich' is a punny offering of Aldo Colombini.

'In writing' by Karl Fulves, a favorite writer of mine, describes a trick with three coins. The Colombini and Fulves have been 'lifted' from those authors previous published articles with blessings.

Comedy Newspaper Restoration (another Indian contribution) Kakinada Sreenivas.

Not being familiar with Indian names is daunting. This does have a gimmick - a concealed magnet.

Then there is a column where current, authentic and inspiring notices may be conveyed to magicdom. There are many many colorful photos of Indian magicians at play and invitations to diverse conventions (being only English speaking might be a problem but it would also be an adventure).

Although this reviewer has a slight problem with the deceptive title of Gimmick MagiZette, it is of little moment. After all isn't that what magicians are all about 'deception'. The content is certainly not exclusively about and the utilization of gimmicks in magic, but readers will appreciate the casual style, the illustrations (especially the colorful photos of Indian magicians and events) and the opportunity to see how magic is performed in one of the most exotic places in the world, India. On one of this reviewers trip to India, he chanced upon a young boy, circa seven, who in the street and at our feet spread out a somewhat the worse for wear a towel on which he proceeded to perform an excellent Matrix followed by a superb Cups and Balls. One cannot beat the friendliness of the Indian folk and their ability despite poverty, disease and other hardships.

Dr. Moskowitz recommends The Gimmick MagiZette (Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx) 5/5.

Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar

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

Magic Notes

Mark Mason will be lecturing at 3 Generations of Magic on Friday October 12th at 7pm. The address is: 741-B Olive Ave; Vista CA, 92083. The cost of the lecture is \$20.



Happy Elliott will again be taking part in the Walk To End Alzheimer's on October 6, 2012. She writes "I couldn't control what this disease did to my husband Bob. No one should have to bear this burden and see their loved one fade away." If you would like to contribute in Bob Elliott's memory, you can contact Happy at happy_elliott@cox.net.

Magical Wordsearch

Locate the following items used by Close-up Magicians: CARDS, COINS, CUPSANDBALLS, DICE, POCKETKNIFE, RING, ROPE. RUBBERBAND, SILK, WATCH

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Too bad dust bunnies don't vanish like magic rabbits."

J	B	Y	I	E	S	U	A	M	P	X	S	G	I	R
D	J	C	R	X	H	H	R	C	Q	L	F	O	I	L
P	S	C	Y	I	V	M	K	P	N	F	F	O	B	O
C	X	D	Z	H	N	V	E	V	X	Z	Z	Z	U	O
G	U	O	Y	R	Z	G	W	V	C	E	H	L	O	S
P	P	Y	K	M	N	R	Y	L	A	I	R	Q	R	C
K	J	G	D	J	T	S	F	Y	O	F	S	J	O	Q
E	J	J	B	Z	W	L	S	C	K	X	W	X	J	D
F	T	V	V	C	I	L	C	Q	L	X	V	S	B	N
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N	S	L	H	V	Z	B	S	D	S	I	L	F	D	B
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T	N	V	O	T	R	N	W	C	P	D	G	U	N	E
E	P	L	G	A	Q	A	B	E	B	X	N	G	S	B
K	W	C	C	X	T	S	U	M	F	L	K	B	C	B
C	V	D	B	C	K	P	H	C	Z	R	T	E	B	U
O	R	P	H	N	Z	U	U	V	C	Q	W	V	V	R
P	O	R	O	P	E	C	U	T	G	S	K	Z	S	V