



MAGICCURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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October Meeting

Hello everyone, we are fast approaching our October meeting month and it is none other than Halloween Night! Do you have a freakishly fun routine to share? Something ghoulishly clever? A piece that fits the theme of All Hallows Eve? If so, please come prepared as we gather at the Lions Club on Monday, October 8th. If you are interested in performing, please contact Syd at bt16380@aol.com. As always, we encourage everyone to perform at our monthly meetings, even if it is not theme related. Thank you!

— *Syd Segal*

Just Kidding

The theme of our September meeting was the bread & butter of many magicians – Kids' Magic! New President Derek Ostovani called the meeting to order at 7PM. Jeff Marcus announced that our "sister Ring," Ring 292, meets on the first Thursday of each month in nearby Vista, and he invited our members to attend its meetings. Several joint ventures also are being planned. Donna Greenbaum announced that her magician son (and Ring member) Alex Greenbaum won the New Student Talent Show at University of Redlands.

We had three guests attending the meeting; Mathew Kinseth, Nick Benevento, and Cary Schaffner, all of whom we hope will be joining shortly. Several members brought children to the meeting: Gary Dismukes, daughter and son, Katrina and Nick; Matt King, daughter, Ava; Jeff

Pearson, step-son, Michael Brashier; and James Kellogg, III, niece, Haylie Contreas.

And then, the magic! Bob Meigs opened with two routines from his "Do-It-Yourself Magic Show," with Katrina and Nick Dismukes "doing the magic." - Larry Samuels followed with a magic paint brush routine, called Over the Rainbow, with Donna Greenbaum assisting. Then Donna performed a kid-oriented version of Six-Card Repeat.

Terry Godfrey did a knit-ball manipulation routine, with Jerry Allen assisting, followed by Loch David Crane, performing a spelling mystery with Katrina and Nick Dismukes. Loch also performed a gypsy thread routine. Greg Wauson then did a series of vanishing knot tricks, the last right in the hands of the young Ava King.



Kids of all ages were on hand for our September Meeting!

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER – EDITOR@RING76.COM



President's Message

I am so proud of all of you who performed last month for the kids themed Magic! We had about a dozen of you get up and perform some really great kids Magic stuff! Thank you for all those who brought your children and grand children, it really added to the performances having them right up front participating in the effects! And that is the kind of enthusiasm I would like to see for all future events!

This coming month is October, so I think the theme speaks for itself Halloween, spooky, spiders, bill to pumpkin? Just a thought! But like always, all performances are welcome!

The annual Chargers blood drive is coming up, here on Tuesday November 20th at the Town and Country Convention Center in Fashion Valley, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and perform some walk around Magic during that time, and we may have a booth to represent our club as well. More information will be announced.

Also, the Christmas Banquet will be coming on Monday Dec 10th, it will be a pot luck, so everyone keep your calendars and your kitchens open! And the very next day, Tuesday Dec 11th, get ready for the first Ring Lecturer of the year. Both the Banquet performer and the lecturer will be announced soon!

And a special Thank you to John Hunter for bringing treats for everyone, it is greatly appreciated John!

— *Derek Ostovani*

Derek Ostovani, with the assistance of Haylie Contreas, entertained us with dollar bill magic; and James Kellogg, III, did comedy balloon magic, with help from Nick Dismukes.

Our final performers were two soon-to-be-members, whose routines also served as their membership auditions. Matt King performed a series of kids' routines, including The Vanishing Elephant, Hippity Hop Rabbits, and Run, Cookie Monster, Run. Cary Schaffner closed by performing Paper Balls with Katrina Dismukes, and Timmy Toilet Paper with her brother, Nick. The

membership unanimously welcomed Matt and Terry to the Ring.

Bob Pozner concluded the evening by demonstrating a magnetic pull he has developed and is considering marketing. Then of course, the regular contingent moved on to Rudford's Coffee Show, where the magical evening continued.

— *Bob Meigs*

Ring 76 Returns to Father Joe's Village

On Thursday, May 24 2012, a number of our ring members gave of their talents to entertain a group of homeless families staying at Father Joe's Village. Those of us that were involved weren't paid financially but we all left richer for the experience. Malcomb Campbell was the MC. The show included Bob Meigs, Loch David Crane, Matthew King and myself, Joe Mystic with assistant Arden.

We are returning to Father Joe's on October 25 2012, also a Thursday. We are looking for some more entertainers to add their talents to the show. Malcomb Campbell, Bob Meigs and Chuck Cook have already volunteered but we could use 2 or 3 more magicians. We have 90 minutes to fill and you could do 2 minutes, 10 minutes or ????. Let us know how much time you want to fill. First things first – Volunteer. Give your name to Joe Mystic at the October meeting or email me at joemystic@san.rr.com.

If you have a roof over your head and don't go to bed hungry, you may want to give your time to these great people. Remember, they don't get to go to shows or movies and get to see the things we can do and they make a great and appreciative audience.

— *Joe Mystic*

Photos from the September Meeting



Bob Meigs



Larry Samuels (r)



Donna Greenbaum



Terry Godfrey (c)

Photos from the September Meeting



Loch David Crane



Greg Wanson



Derek Ostovani



James Kellogg III

Photos from the September Meeting



Matt King



Cary Schaffner



Bob Pozner



September Performers



Disambiguation - The deceptive art in comic book form

*Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz MD
September 09, 2012*

This five part series entitled "Smoke and Mirrors" is very aptly entitled. Invention of a comic book that would combine both arts. Along with artist Ryan Browne, Costa and Armstrong launched Smoke and Mirrors, a five-part series that follows a sleight-of-hand magician named Terry Ward, who finds himself in a world where magic is real, tries to fit in as best he can, and ends up mentoring Ethan, a young boy who discovers his secret. Terry Ward is actually the name of Jon Armstrong's prestidigitation mentor.

Ethan's mother is Mrs. Vernon and his deceased father is David Vernon. These inferences will appeal to magicians in the know. Jon Armstrong, in a postscript, reminds the readers that Superman was not the first comic caped crusader. Four years prior, Mandrake the Magician (who wore a cape) led the comic book parade.

The reader, like the star character, learns the premise (that magic is real) and the terminology (anima mundi = magic technical name and is the energy that is ubiquitous in the world). Gestures range from forms of communication like speech commands and the 'trade circle' which defining Gesture (trade marked) increasing the speed of life one movement at a time. An alternate phrase would be 'spells'. The text educates the reader into new terminology which binds reality (science) and magic. Ethan stumbles onto a black cat who secretly speaks. His mischief is cause for concern.

The blend of magic is displayed by a street magician (Jon Armstrong look alike?) who challenges spectators to choose one of five displayed cards. Naturally, he 'discovers' the chosen card. There was a pacing requirement to display the trick. The challenge had to be on one page and the reader would then turn the page and the magician impressed the spectator/reader

with his anticipation of the card thought of. Most knowledgeable conjurers will know the 'secret'. And it is revealed in the commentary. The tap dance to interest the reader but not spill the secrets is artfully achieved.

The miniseries is five issues. Each issue is \$3.90 from the publisher IDW. See www.smokeandmirrors.com. Whip cream essays in issue two written by Shawn McMaster (on the interface between magic and new technology) and Max Maven in issue three on superheros and magic. For we, lovers of magic and comics, the marriage is unique and bound to be appreciated. Jon Armstrong a consultant to Disney imagineering, and Mike Costa, an hobbyist member of Magic Castle together with, Ryan Brone, are to be complimented for a new format literary adventure. Doctor Moskowitz prescribes 5/5 Rx/Rx.

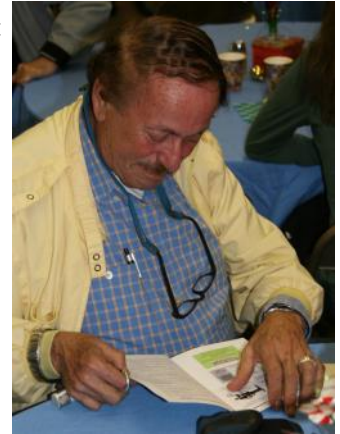


Figure this

*Joel A. Moskowitz M D
September 13, 2012*

"The Great Courses" would probably not be taking space on the five foot library shelf of preferred books in the library of mentalists or magicians. M/M, in the know, would recognize the name of Arthur T. Benjamin who has appeared at the Magic Castle and astounded audiences.

Professor Benjamin (who is a Professor of Harvey Mudd College, in Claremont, CA, since 1989) is a mathemagician. His course, "The Secrets of Mental Math" DVD and Course Guidebook, this reviewer, calculates will stimulate and educate students of magical persuasions.

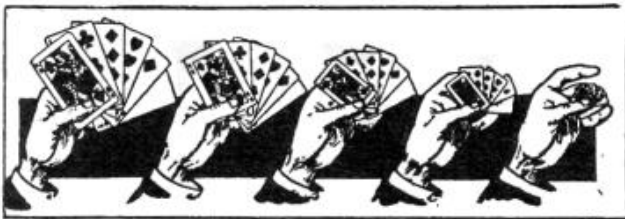
The Speed of Vedic Division (Chapter 8) will turn off
(Continued on page 7)

Chargers Blood Drive

The Chargers Blood Drive is set for Tuesday, November 20, at the Town & Country Convention Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Once again, Ring 76 will be participating. We are looking for people who would like to participate either by doing some walk-around magic or by manning our booth.

You need not participate for the full time. Even just an hour would help. Bring one or two tricks and you'll be set to bring amazement and amusement to the crowds.

(Continued on page 8)



"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



(Moskowitz — Continued from page 6)

all who are number phobic. Even the explanation that it is a sort of subtraction method for multiplication applied to division will not ease the anxiety. I believe Francis Bacon counseled that some books are to be eaten whole and others tasted in part. This Course fits the latter. Even the promise of substantial performance fees (Benjamin's talent (Eagles Talent) agency asks \$5,001-\$7,500, albeit he is traveling from California, would not readily encourage that the M/M to devote lightening calculations as part of his/her act.

Paper may soon be obsolete. What with iPads, iPhones, computers of every capacity. Using your mind sans paper or device will impress most. It may be even therapeutic - keeping one's mind sharp even as we age. A reference source: Benjamin and Shermer, *Secrets of Mental Math: the Mathemagician's Guide to Lightening Calculation and Amazing Math Tricks*.

Chapters such as: 3 Go Forth and Multiply; 4 - Divide and Conquer; 5 The Art of Guesstimation are samples of Benjamin's humorous touch to what many will think of as a dry subject. The Professor writes "Your body is like a walking yardstick, and its worth knowing things like the width of your hand from pinkie to thumb, or the size of your footsteps, or parts of your hand that measure to almost exactly one or two inches or one or two centimeters." The inventive magician will need to tailor the strategy Benjamin's course proposes to his personal style and character of his act. Audiences are familiar with sleight of hand as the wizard's method to cause doves to appear. What about your stumping them with mental masteries amazing them with your cerebral dexterity?

Benjamin's Great Courses is not for the faint of mind. It is for the M/M who desires to impress spectators with all facets of his/her ability to cause wonder, even with mental math.

Dr. Moskowitz prescribes Benjamin's Great Courses for the latter intellects (5/5 Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx).



(Blood Drive— Continued from page 7)

Participants will receive a free Chargers Blood Drive T-Shirt and free entry to the event with free food, Charger Players, Charger Girls and lots of fun. We'll be asking for volunteers at the next meeting or contact your favorite Board Member.

— James Thayer

Magic Notes

Are you aware of the wonderful video Michael E. Johnson posted on "You Tube"? If you haven't seen it, go to youtube.com and search for IBM Ring 76 Photo Scrapbook. Michael did a terrific job of capturing all the fantastic & fun times in Ring 76.



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.



A Magician was doing his stage show in front of a big audience but saw he wasn't getting anywhere. After trying all the 'tricks', in desperation, he called a big, muscular man out of the audience.

"Sir, I'd like you to take this 20 pound sledge hammer and hit me as hard as you can right in the head."

The man refused.

The magician then said, "Sir, I am a professional. This is the Greatest Illusion. Besides, there are hundreds of witnesses, hit me as hard as you can right in the head with the hammer."

The man shrugged, did it, and the Magician went flying across the stage, hit the wall, and immediately fell into a coma. He was rushed to the hospital, and remained in the coma for years.

Ten years later, he came out of the coma, Do you know what his first words were?

"Ta DA!!"

Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar

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

