



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 DECEMBER 2012 VOL. XXVI #12

## *Holiday Potluck*

Complements of the season to all the members of Ring 76.

Our December meeting will be our annual Holiday Pot Luck. Members are encouraged to bring family or friends to the Lion's Club of North Park to enjoy comradeship, magic, and to feast of the Yuletide (or what you celebrate) dishes of your fellow Ring members.



*Kevin Viner*

This year the Board will be providing the drinks and desserts, so we ask the membership to bring their favorite main dish, side dish, or salad, enough to feed 12 people. Warming pans will be provided to keep hot dishes warm so we can accommodate whatever you choose to provide.

The hours are a little different from our regular meeting times. The doors for the Lion's Club will open at 5:00 pm to allow time for set up. Meet and greet will be from 5:45 to 6:30 pm with dinner starting at 6:30 prompt. This will allow everyone the chance to eat and catch up before the festivities w the Board has planned for you.

The entertainment will be provided by Kevin Viner. Kevin Viner is a unique force in the entertainment world, presenting a compelling blend of magic, mentalism, and comedy. He has appeared multiple times on the network television program Masters of Illusion, holds a degree in mathematics from UC Irvine, and is an award winning performer at the world famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, CA.

Ring members are encouraged to bring spouses or friends, but seating is somewhat limited so please do not be overly generous with your invitations (sorry). This is usually one of the best attended meetings of the year and we want to be sure everyone has a place to sit. So if you want to invite a big crowd, please contact me first.

If you have any questions on what to bring please contact me, Richard Ustick, at [rustick@flash.net](mailto:rustick@flash.net). Just remember that any dish will be appreciated, as long as it feeds 12.

Happy Holidays and see you there.

— *Richard Ustick*

**PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS**

**HONEST SID GERHART RING 76  
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## *President's Message*

Hi all!!! Happy Holidays! I'm sorry I was unable to attend the November meeting, however; I heard nothing but GREAT things about our November Music-themed meeting! Apparently no one other than Mr. Ustick gave a song but then how can you really compare with Richard! I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with loved ones relaxation and of course a lot of food!



Speaking of Holidays, this coming Monday, December 10th will be our annual Christmas Banquet. And as always, it will be a pot luck, so bring your favorite dishes as well as your friends and family! Doors open at 5:30 PM for set-up and the fun and dinner begins at 6:30 PM and go till 9:00 PM. We will be having our very own Mago Ruly playing delightful music on the piano, a stunning local Magician, Kevin Viner; a personal friend of mine, who won the Magic Castle Strolling Magic as well as The World Magic Seminar Close-up competition! We also have a special surprise for you which will be disclosed at the Banquet.

But don't go too far, because the very next day, Tuesday, December 11, we will have our Ring lecture done by our July Installation Banquet performer, Dave Cox! He will lecture on a variety of effects that will be good for close-up, parlor, cards, mentalism, and much more! So I will see you all there!

January will be our first meeting of the 2013 year, and we will kick that off with a theme non-other than classic Magic! But NO cards (wink-wink). Also, we will have our Swearing-in Ceremony to celebrate all our new members; its so nice to see all the new members we have had join Ring 76! Hopefully we can all make them feel welcome in our club and take them under our wings to become the most confident and knowledgeable of Magicians! So I look forward to seeing all of you for both our banquet as well as the lecture!

DEREK OSTOVANI

## *Dave Cox Returns*

Just around the corner is one of our two free lectures (for members in good standing) presented at Ring 76 annually. We are bringing back the very talented and entertaining Dave Cox!

Dave was our performer at our banquet last July and he (and his evil hypnotist monkey) were a smash hit. Dave will be at the Ring presenting his unique lecture on December 11th, starting 7:00pm. The lecture will consist of 3 stage routines filled with comedy and magic directly from his working repertoire. He will also be covering information with how to deal with the audience, handling volunteers, injecting comedy, and the proper way to do the baby gag. It will be a great time, so please come out and enjoy. Remember, this lecture is free to all Ring 76 members in good standing. Any guests will have to pay \$10 to enter.

— Syd Segal



*Dave Cpx*

## *Photos from the November Meeting*



*Bob Meigs*



*Terry Lunceford*



*Chuck Cook*



*Richard Ustick*

## *Photos from the November Meeting*



*Larry Samuels*



*Greg Wanson*



*Jacques Lord*



*Mago Ruby*

## *Photos from the November Meeting*



*Jeff Marcus*



*Joe Mystic*



*Musical Magicians*

## Illusionology

*Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D  
November 18, 2012*

This is the season of gift giving. Treat yourself to a beautiful, spectacular book of magic. Only 30 pages but I venture you will treasure it and keep it for yourself. I predict that out of your open gaping mouth, you will say “Wish this was around when I started in magic”. In case you didn’t have an uncle who would pluck coins out of your ears and inoculate you with the addiction to conjuring, this book would do it.

Supposedly crafted in 1915 by Albert D. Schafer a magician and member of the Illusionists Guild recorded the tricks contained in this choice book. On a Publisher’s Note we read that this text was delivered to their offices by an ‘unknown source’. The mystery was that the ‘author’ Schafer was not known to definitely exist. On the other hand, the magicians, illusionists described in this book all did. As are the ‘Scribe’ Emily Hawkins a writer and editor whose New York Times bestseller *Oceanology*. Visionary/illustrator David Wyatt with Levi Pinfold another award winning artist combined with Tomislav Tomic “The Draftsman” whose combined efforts crafted this latest in the ‘Ology series. Other ‘Ology are Wisardology and Monsterology.

This awesome hard cover book starts right off on the front cover with a lenticular picture of a rabbit whose eye is red jewel and tilting the cover allows you to view the entrails of the rabbit! A lenticular image is a preceding version of holographs.

Novice aficionados of conjuring will have a glimpse of the stars of the 19th and 20th century: Houdini, Robert-Houdin, Davenport, Keller, Alexander. With approximately thirty effects to excite the budding magician - including coin, playing cards, plastic gimmicks hidden behind flaps, folders, and envelopes. At the same time, the reader will be treated to a starting effect called “The Paradoxical Hole” -

several rotations of pieces of a square result in production of a hole. The alternate title of the book “The Secret Science of Magic” are remembered that once the telephone, the lightbulb were thought of as impossible. Tricks of the eye/ science of seeing/ deceptions - taunts the text is seeing believing?



The Cradle of Illusionology is traced to Ancient Egypt. Types of magic tricks are described. The Learned Pig is a phenomenon of amazing animals. Blaise Manfre turns water into wine. Indoculis Privata Logui ‘not apt to disclose secrets’ the motto of the Magic Circle which inspired the Illusionists Guild (1905 vs 1915)

Coaching the beginner are the 3Ps, Practice, Performance, Patter. A section is devoted to Find the Ace routine by Hofzinsler - the cards are provided.

Misdirection is both verbal and physical, mental and psychological. Keller is featured with his The Rose Tree.

Lafayette The Great is pictured with a graphic Lion in a Cage. The Science of Levitation - Princess Karnac is revealed. Disappearing section is devoted to the New and Marvelous Sphinx; the Mascot Moth working; the Proteus

Cabinet. Devotees and longstanding students of magic will be familiar. Magic and new technologies i.e. Tesla’s electricity and Robert-Houdin’s light and heavy box (which Ken Klosterman has and he shared it when we visited his fantastic museum) How magicians defy physical laws: escapology; fire walking; bed of nails and others.

Follows are the secrets of Houdini -needle swallowing, straightjacket escapes. Second sight, hypnosis, mind reading, number telepathy is not forgotten.

*(Continued on page 7)*



## *The Sound of Music*

The November was right up Richard's alley - Musical Magic. No one (except Richard) knew exactly what that meant, so routines varied from magic about music, to magic accompanied by music, to magic confused by music. Nonetheless, it was fun, and there were lots of participants!

First Vice President Syd Segal called the meeting to order at 7PM. Bob Meigs announced the Charger Blood Drive on Tuesday, Nov. 20, and requested volunteers for strolling and manning a booth. He also announced two pro-bono stage shows at the Blood Drive, but those were already staffed. Jeff Marcus read an email from "Perfesser Howard" Robinson, who recently moved to Springfield, Oregon. Howard briefed us on his new job and said he misses us already. Richard Ustick announced the details of our Holiday Banquet on Dec. 10, and a plan for the potluck format that (hopefully) will result in a balanced meal.

We had a number of guests attending. Patty Ross and Fred Housand came with Nick Benevito; Dave Yaeger was a guest of Jeff Marcus, Robert Vincent

brought Thomas and Anna Machusa; and Happy Elliott was accompanied by Bill, whose last name, unfortunately, was not recorded.

Bob Meigs began he Musical Magic, producing music from an empty card box – a commercial routine called Ideck. Terry Lunceford then mimed a Miser's Dream routine, and Chuck Cook did a comedy wine routine with an "inexhaustible glass." Chuck not only invented the routine, but also made the props.

As anticipated, Richard Ustick did one of his patented hit-tunes-made-magical, singing and performing "Fountain of Silk" to the tune of Mountain of Love. Larry Samuels, followed with an excellent Sidewalk Shuffle/Tonte routine; and Greg Wauson performed a torn bill to an impossible location.

Jacques Lord displayed both his musical and magical talents with Vanishing Harmonicas and an Invisible Harmonica. Mago Ruly performed a variety of silk routines, capped by the production of a parrot in a cage. Jeff Marcus did a dated Color Changing CDs routine – made more interesting because his version uses 45s, which only Jeff and I remember what those are (I even remember 78s). Joe Mystic closed the

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## *"MagiToon"*

*by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman*



**"Golly, sir! This is more than I ever dreamed of!"**

*(Illusionology— Continued from page 6)*

Tongue in cheek (perhaps with a view to not being sued), the publishers advise that although methods are presented to astound audiences, the reader should refrain from aerial straightjacket escapes or the decapitation of an ox (maybe better tried at home they suggest.)

The reader of this review may have been overdosed on superlatives but I wanted to communicate my enthusiasm. If you have a budding conjurer that you want to give a holiday gift search no more. You can find a bargain on Amazon. Dr. Moskowitz prescribes "Illusionology" for young and old (caution parts are removable and can be swallowed by curious children) excepting that warning: Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx 5/5.



*(Musical Magic — Continued from page 7)*

evening by discussing how music augments his act, and demonstrated by performing a Canes and Silks routine carefully co-ordinated to his music.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15, which was quite early for us. But this inspired large attendance at hour “after meeting” meeting at Rudford’s Coffee Shop.

— Bob Meigs

## ***Ring 76 Goes for Blood***

On Tuesday, November 20, Ring 76 donated time and talent to the annual Chargers’ Blood Drive. We had a booth, did strolling magic, and put on two excellent stage shows. The stage performers were the Kellogg father and son team (James, Jr., and James, III) for the first show, and Joe Mystic and Terry Lunceford for the second. Technically, Joe Mystic’s show wasn’t a “Ring Event;” he was invited separately from the Ring, as he used to work with the Chargers organization, and they wanted him specifically.

Magic Mike Stillwell and Victor Ballesteros were the first 76ers to volunteer, and did walk-around in the morning. Kenny Shelton and Loch David Crane were our real troopers, with Kenny spending the whole day there doing walk-around, and Loch manning the booth for almost 5 straight hours. Bob Meigs and Jim Whiting also put in time at the booth. So our thanks to all these volunteers – not only for



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

Dec. 10	Christmas Pot-Luck*
Dec 11	Dave Cox Lecture
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

helping with a very worthwhile cause, but also for showing the Ring’s colors in our community.

Ring 76’s Pro-Bono Program has really taken shape this year. We’ve had four “Ring Events,” each with at least four performers, and numerous Ring members have undertaken pro-bono shows on their own. This is a “win-win” situation, which benefits the community, the Ring, and the individuals who get involved. I urge all you to both bring possible pro-bono events to the Board’s attention, and also to participate in the events as they come up. It really is a grand experience!

— Bob Meigs

## ***Magic for Marching Bands***

Here is a link to youtube the Club may enjoy.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRyhhRkylAE>

This is the video of the Rancho Bernardo HS Marching Band performing their 2012 show called Cleopatra. I helped build a 12-foot tall pyramid on wheels for the show that laid flat as the panel sides were hinged. Cleopatra would enter the pyramid at

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(Band — Continued from page 8)

the end of the show and be "entombed for eternity." I mentioned to the music director I could make her vanish.....and he said OK, do it! So if you want to skip the music and marching, go to the last 80 seconds and watch "Cleopatra" go to her eternal rest, or does she?

After pulling off an illusion like this in a football stadium full of people and supported by 216 musicians and 14 dancing girls and 1 dancing guy.....card tricks just don't do it for me any more, ya know?

— Jacques Lord

## ***New Book Features Ring 76 Members***

The most famous magicians today, including several Ring 76 members, are featured in a new book by Michael E. Johnson, titled "Playing Cards Autographed By Magicians: A Collector's Guide" (ISBN 9780988534704).

This 82-page book, now selling on Amazon for \$19.99, provides an in-depth look at magic autographs on playing cards. More than 150 magicians are highlighted, with 192 autograph examples and 109 website links. There are special chapters on which magicians to collect, where to find them, and how to get their autographs either in-person, or by writing letters. As Johnson notes, "If you want to collect autographs, don't be a punk. Buy a ticket or buy a product. Support them, and they support you!"

Produced in full-color, "Playing Cards Autographed by Magicians" is packed with photos of autographs, playing cards, playing card decks, and famous Magicians. The issue of authenticity is addressed, from a suspected forged Doug Henning autograph selling on eBay in 2012, to the fake secretarial signature that was used by Houdini a century earlier. There is also an interesting chapter on

forgeries and fakes from "The Magician" television series with Bill Bixby.

Serious collectors will appreciate the price information provided, as Johnson describes actual prices realized on eBay for this type of merchandise, even dissecting the origins of his collection which sold on eBay a few years ago for a record price. There are special sections on popular Magicians like Copperfield, Angel, Blaine, Burton, Siegfried & Roy, Penn & Teller, and Jay. Everything is cross-referenced with a 414-subject index.

The book is available from Amazon, or direct from [www.createspace.com/4036021](http://www.createspace.com/4036021). For more information, contact Johnson at 760-703-9661, or e-mail [mjohns341@cox.net](mailto:mjohns341@cox.net).

— Michael E. Johnson

## ***Magic Notes***

David Stone will be lecturing on Friday, Dec 14th at 7pm. The location is 3 Generations of Magic; 741-B Olive Ave. Vista CA; 92083. The cost will be \$25. For more information, contact [James@3GenerationsofMagic.com](mailto:James@3GenerationsofMagic.com)

