



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 FEBRUARY 2014 VOL. XXVIII #2

Close-Up Competition Up-Date

As you know, our February meeting is our Close-Up Competition. Please read the following for the latest information about the Competition.

Time Limit:

8 Minutes with a 1-Minute Warning. Once the Contest Chairman Salomon Barajas has called "Time!", the contestant must stop immediately. If a contestant continues to perform after "Time!" has been called, the judges will be instructed to score that contestant with a "0".

Maximum # of Contestants:

Due to time constraints our competition can only allow for "8" contestants total. As of 01/27/2014 we have reached that quota.

Even though our roster is currently full we are accepting alternates just in case a competitor cannot make it. (Which has often happened in the past.)

If you feel that there has been an oversight please let Sal know at salomonbarajas@yahoo.com

Table Set-Up & Contest Format:

There will be 4 separate tables each with an official Judge. The contestant will have an opportunity to perform for each Table/Judge at different times during the course of the event.

This means that contestants will be performing their act 4 times. With there being 8 contestants and only 4 tables available, we must manage our contestants by breaking them up into 2 groups of 4. Which means we

will have Group A & Group B, which will alternate every 8 minutes.

This alternating of time will allow each contestant an 8 Minute reset period between each performance.

Scoring:

Each contestant's performance will be decided by combination of both a Judges Score and Member Votes.



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**HONEST SID GERHART RING 76
EDITOR JAMES THAYER – EDITOR@RING76.COM**



President's Message

Welcome to the month of February, the month of Presidents, Love, and Magic! Thank you to all who participated in ABC Magic, it was a great turnout as usual with a wide variety of Magic (including a failed dove production by your very own Vice President, Sal Barajas). I wanted to mention again, how proud I am of all of you who continue to perform in our meeting nights, are turnout has been a success!



I hope you all enjoyed the featured lecture by Steve Reynolds. It seems that our Sunday night lectures has been a success with triple the amount of people attending. I felt his Magic was very clear, concise, and commercial! I urge you all do them, that is one of the most practical Travelers (cards to pocket) I've seen! If ANY OF YOU have any questions on the material, feel free to ask me. Also, the Zarrow shuffle workshop was very good, it truly was a whole new perspective on a false table Shuffle. In case you missed it, Steve will be coming out with a DVD on it later this year.

So it comes to this, our annual Close-up Competition, perhaps the most competitive, tension building themed nights, where we walk in and wonder who our enemies will be for the night and what is in their arsenal! BUT, of course its light-hearted and were all going to have fun!!! So welcome to the month of February! Well have 8 competitors, 8 minutes, 4 tables, and 4 judges, with one performer on and then immediately after off, to give a chance to reset. All details are found in another portion of the Newsletter. So bring your A game and your game face, and your sleight of hands! See you all there!

DEREK OSTOVANI

Judges Score will be based on the following criteria below (Each on a Scale of 1-10) and counts for 60% of the final score.

- 1) Technical Skill
- 2) Showmanship/Presentation
- 3) Routining
- 4) Entertainment Value

In addition, each Ring 76 Member, in good standing, will get to vote for his or her favorite contestant. Member vote counts for 40% of the final score.

If there any comments or question please contact Sal at salomonbarajas@yahoo.com

— Sal Barajas

Anything But Cards was EVERYTHING But Cards!

January was ABC Night – Anything But Cards. ABC Night is one of the six performance nights that include voting for our Entertainer of the Year. Sal Barajas, Vice-President of Entertainment, introduced the contestants. Though not a contestant, Sal is ever the entertainer, and he launched the evening with a comedy Balloon to Dove.

Bob Meigs, Secretary, went first - which allows him to record minutes for the rest of the evening. Bob performed a routine he called In Search of Demons, using the “1665” principle. Greg Wauson followed with either color changing ropes or a transposition – the magic was performed too well for this observer to determine the underlying methods. Derek Ostovani was our third performer, with a Ring on Rope routine.

Next came Richard Ustick, our 2013 Entertainer of the Year, with one of his patented “Magic to Song” routines. This one was a Zombie Ball, performed to custom verses for the score, House of the Rising Sun. It should be noted that this performance resulted in Richard being a requested performer at an upcoming Lions Club fund raiser. Mago Ruly then performed

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Photos from the January Meeting



Sal Barajas



Derek Ostovani



Greg Wauson



Bob Meigs



Photos from the January Meeting



Richard Ustick



Mago Ruly



Malcolm Campbell (center)



Alfonso Vasquez

Photos from the January Meeting



Jeff Marcus



Larry Samuels (center)



Gary Schaffner



Anything But Cardicians

INDEX terity

*a revolutionary tool - dual meaning
for the word revolutionary in title*

Reviewed by

*Joel A Moskowitz MD FAPA FAAP
November 09, 2013*

To quote philosopher and designer William Morris (1834-1901), is: "Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." To apply this advice to the magicians craft — Have nothing in your performances that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful. Artisan magicians will make use of a variety of crafts, skills, techniques - the hallmark of a mature conjurer, rather than a narrow specialist. The book *INDEX-terity* by George Parker with Lawrence Hass PhD (whose *Theory and Art of Magic Press* published this powerful tool).

Sophisticates will recognize the name George Parker. A Dutchman, a pro, an innovative, creative, educational, successful - in demand, Parker has a unique method which he shares with magicians eager to enhance their skill. The title uses the word revolutionary and that is the secret. Mentalists will be likely familiar with the Index device so as to amaze spectators with finding the exact card that was chosen. But it was mostly clumsy. How about inverted the Index? Similarly to a coin dropper.

George Parker writes about his early aversive thinking to the card index seemed to be a clumsy aluminum christmas tree. Necessity is the mother of invention. While performing his Fifth Element, he yearned for a method which was completely astonishing and would allow for eleven outs. Voilà ...the George Parker revolutionary Index.

A simple homemade index is described in detail for the reader. What is more: Parker/Hass gives, along with the text, ingredients to prepare three indexes and an additional supplies to make two more. Parker has

described five of her performance winners with scripts...etc etc.

The diligent reader will, in addition, have access to video vignettes (the code words e.g. what is the third word on page forty five are entrance to the online videos) No DVD necessary.

Diet Bowling is an inventive use of a balloon disguised as a bowling ball which turns out to contain a message. What number of pins the spectator knocked over. Actually, the billet stolen/palmed from the Index is dramatically correct.

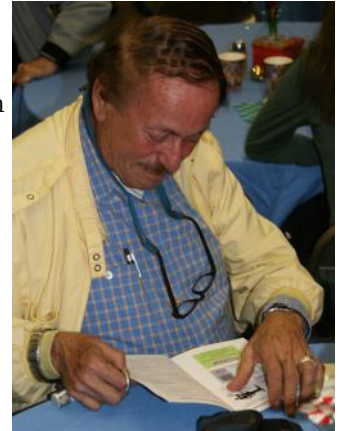
Tattoo includes Parkers thinking of how to deepen the one-ahead principal. Spectator decides where a mystical tattoo is on his/her body. The three aspects: the symbol, the basic colors, and the location are all discovered by the magician.

Tattoo Two is a further amazement.

One Blink: The experience. Props. Method. The index and the photo.

The Parker Marked Deck. My System. George Parker is so thorough: he even gives his thinking where you are performing with a table and where not. He discusses Robert Smiths Psypher impression device (does Parker have Smiths ok?) He credited Bob Falmer's One Face South as his inspiration.

Win-Win utilizes a manufactured die. George Parker's mentoring will be of use to some who don't want to construct his tools. Scissors and scotch tape and an open mind are all you need. And yes, you will need \$39.95 for this ninety five page well written well crafted well thought tome and another of the *Theory and Art of Magic Press* PhD quality productions. Dr. Moskowitz prescribes this for any thinking magician Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5)





(ABC — Continued from page 2)

one of his trademark mime routines, this one a Fish-to-Water Bottle.

Malcolm Campbell performed a three-person skit, complete with costumes, which he called Crooked Travelers. Jeff Pearson and Tom Owen-Towle assisted, each playing multiple roles. Alfonso Vasquez followed with an original routine involving cups of liquid, combining the effects of Any Drink and Sands of the Desert. Jeff Marcus then treated us to a version of Professor's Nightmare, that left all of us who thought we knew that trick scratching our heads.

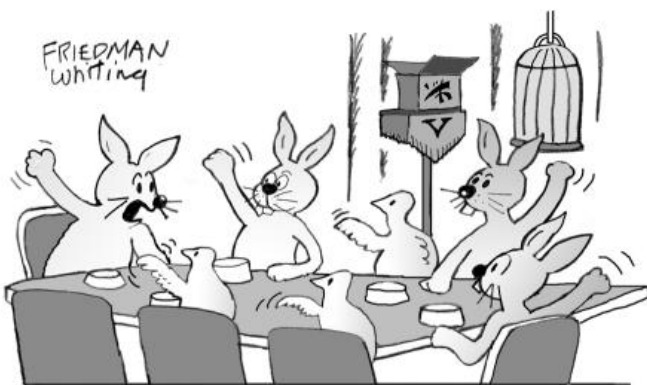
Everyone crowded in close to watch Cary Schaffner perform a mystifying version of Poker Chip Polka (this observer could swear Cary was showing both sides of each chip). Larry Samuels then concluded our evening's entertainment portraying a carnie performing Whit Haydn's Fast and Loose hustle.

Imagine! Ten performers and no card tricks! And, I might add, some pretty creative entertainment. But when we moved to Denny's for our after-meeting assembly, where cards - those "magicians' pacifiers" - came out in abundance.

— Bob Meigs

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Who's in favor of joining PETA?"

If You Are Not Up to Par

Editor's Note: The following is a preview of an article that will appear in an upcoming issue of The Linking Ring.

Magicians may at times seem to possess supernatural powers and we may tend to believe that once in a while. But the truth is, we are all just human beings. What sets us apart from the rest of the pack is our ability to sharpen and apply some of the skills that most humans also have to some extent. That's where the illusion originates.

However, that doesn't go too far towards exempting us from the day-to-day hazards of life itself. We have accidents and health issues, self-inflicted limitations and other impairments which at least temporarily get in our way of being a magician – or, more specifically, a successful magician.

Impairments come in different forms. I played in a band with a pianist who was really not very good until he was "impaired" by the consumption of a few drinks. After that, he was fantastic. There may be some magicians who endorse that scenario but not this one.

I recently saw my preparations for one of Ring 76's regular performance nights be for naught.

I'm always anxious to perform and my goal is to come up with something they haven't seen before or at least a new twist on an established effect. I found an effect in the October, 2013, issue of *The Linking Ring* by Steve Schlanger. In his "Covert Travelers", the destinations of two covert travelers are randomly selected from a stack of 28 cards, each with a different city name printed on it. In Sherlock Holmes style, the performer accurately determines the two destinations after the cards are thoroughly mixed.

I worked the principle (which originally came from Juan Tamariz's "TNT") into a different story which resulted into a 15-minute routine involving two spectators playing different parts by changing hats. My version used 20 instead of 28 different possible destinations. I successfully performed the effect in

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front of an audience twice before the meeting and had no doubts that it would go well.

A week or so before the Ring meeting, I came down with a bronchial infection, but five days of rest, antibiotics, inhalers and cough suppressants left me with only an annoying cough which I was confident I could control sufficiently with the medication to get through the performance. So, the show went on.

Everything went very well. Although I narrated for nearly 15 minutes, my cough was subdued, the volunteers did a great job and the audience was responsive. Then came time to reveal the two destinations as the order of the shuffled pack was read to me. At that instant, the drugs that were controlling my cough also took over my ability to make a few simple mental decisions. I asked that the list of 20 be read again but it was too late. The effect failed. I was basically unable to recognize a name with a specific tag out of a list of ten.

In this instance, it was a lesson learned. All the practice in the world cannot make up for an impairment, rather it be physical or mental. I didn't consider that beforehand because I was anxious to do it and wouldn't have another opportunity to perform it in the near future. In retrospect, my course of action should have been to just pull out of the competition – no harm, no foul.

But what if you have a contracted performance and suddenly find yourself ill? If it's something which limits your physical activity in a certain area, you can certainly revise your act to eliminate the conflict or add an assistant to carry part of the load. Your repertoire should be able to support that. However, if the problem is more serious, that's not a solution.

Although it is one option, most venues (celebrations, corporate and theatre events) can't easily change dates. Going on anyway is not much of an option, either. If you perform poorly or don't finish your show, you've damaged your reputation and, at the least, have lost a customer and their referrals. Returning the customer's deposit and walking away is no better.

Ring 76 2013-14 Calendar

Feb	10	Close-Up Competition*
Mar	10	Mentalism*
Apr	14	Teach-A-Trick Night
May	12	Stand-Up Competition*
Jun	9	Money Magic*
Jul	TBD	Installation Banquet
Aug	11	TBD

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

The option for maximum damage control is to provide a substitute performer. As a member of your local Ring, you've, hopefully, formed some good friendships and know who will be able to deliver to the customer what they are expecting from you. However, there may be an issue with compensation. If you've contracted to be paid less than your substitute would normally ask, it would behoove you to pay the difference out of your pocket. In fact, paying a bonus for the favor – particularly if it's on short notice – would be called for. The fair treatment will come back to you someday.

If your income depends mainly on what you receive for performing, then you should consider purchasing Disability Insurance such as that offered by The IBM through Association Health Programs. <http://www.associationpros.com/>

—Malcolm Campbell

Mentalism Night

March 10th, 2014

Have you ever wanted to read somebody's mind...or at least pretend to? If you answered "YES" or even "Maybe", then get ready for Mentalism Night at Ring 76. Here are some ideas of the many feats you may want to attempt at this upcoming evenings event.

- ♠ Mind Reading
- ♠ Mind Control
- ♠ Thought Transference
- ♠ ESP



- ♣ Telekinesis
- ♣ Second Sight
- ♣ Prediction
- ♣ Clairvoyance
- ♣ Metal Bending
- ♣ Hellstromism
- ♣ etc.....

To sign up please contact
salomonbarajas@yahoo.com

Please let me know what type of effect you are doing to make sure that no two acts are the same.

—Salomon Barajas

It's Not Too Early...

With the Holiday Season behind us, and Spring just around the corner, it is time for all good members of Ring 76 to look to the near future, and upcoming elections to the Board of Directors.

We are one of the largest I.B.M. Rings in the world with a consistent membership of over 75 active members. Each year we hold a close-up contest, a stage competition, two lectures, a holiday potluck and an installation banquet. In between, we have many opportunities for members to learn their craft and display their talents. We also produce one of the best monthly newsletters in realm of the I.B.M.

All of this takes a membership willing to work, but also takes a Board of Directors to organize and coordinate these myriad activities. A Board elected by and from the membership of Ring 76. The next election is in June, but it is not too early for each member to think about serving on the Board in one of its many positions. From President, to Vice-Presidents of Membership and Entertainment, from Sargent-at-arms, to Member-at-Large, each position on the Board is vital to the health and activity of the Ring. It is important that members serve, as well as benefit, from all that Ring Membership has to offer.

If you think you might be interested in running for a Board office, talk to a Board member at the next meeting. Ask about the various offices, what they entail, and how you could leave your mark on Ring 76. Ring 76's vitality comes from its membership.

New ideas help that happen. Your ideas can shape the Ring, but only if you serve.

— Richard Ustick

Magic Notes

Syd Segal has announced the Magic-Con will be returning in 2014. This conference, organized by Syd and Dan and Dave Buck, seeks to be different than the traditional magic convention by exploring the art, business, science and technology of magic. This year, Magic-Con will take place from April 10th-13th at the Mission Valley Double Tree Hotel. More information about the conference will be released as it becomes available on the website: <http://magic-con.org/>. Contact Syd at btl6380@aol.com for information about a special rate for local magicians.

