



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

APRIL 2014

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## *Farewell Mr. President*

On March 10<sup>th</sup> 2014, Derek Ostovani resigned from his position as President of Ring 76 and passed the reigns to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Entertainment, Salomon Barajas (Sal). The induction ceremony was conducted by Jeff Marcus, Regional Vice President of IBM,



Derek's resignation began with a beautiful speech discussing how he began his path towards magic when he walked into The Magic Shop in Seaport Village, San Diego, CA where he met Sal who was working there at the time and sold him everything he could. Shortly thereafter Derek found out about the Gathering (Magic Restaurant) and Ring 76 where he became a significant member of both institutions.

Derek chose to end his 2<sup>nd</sup> term as President to pursue a career as a structural engineer in San Francisco, CA. We all wish him the best of luck.

—*Salomon Barajas*

## *Teach-A-Trick Night*

Do you have a fun little miracle you would like to share with the club? Then get ready for Teach-A-Trick Night at Ring 76. It's coming up at our next meeting, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Teachers:

- 8 teaching spots available.
- 10-Minute Limit
- 4 Tables Total
- Teachers will alternate from teaching for 10 minutes and then taking a 10 minute break and continuing to alternate in this fashion until each individual has taught at every table.
- Teachers may want to consider teaching tricks that are relatively simple to do. You may also want to bring printed materials for the members if your effects requires multiple phases. This will make it easier for your students to remember how to do the effect.

If you are interested in teaching contact Sal at [salomonbarajas@yahoo.com](mailto:salomonbarajas@yahoo.com)

Members:

If you are attending on this evening here is a list of some items you may want to bring:

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**HONEST SID GERHART RING 76**

**EDITOR JAMES THAYER – [EDITOR@RING76.COM](mailto:EDITOR@RING76.COM)**



## President's Message

Hello fellow members of Ring 76, it is I, Salomon Barajas, better known as "Sal". And I would like to thank you all for welcoming me as your new President.



As President I am looking to:

- Improve the quality of our future lectures and entertainers to better accommodate the needs and wants of the member majority.
- Improve the flow and organization of our meetings (Member & Board).
- Build up our Treasury to better fund our club's activities for years to come.
- Help Ring 76 become the "Standard" for IBM clubs worldwide.

Since my induction many members have been wondering who will be filling in as 1st Vice President of Entertainment. Well wonder no more, because, I will still be acting as 1st Vice President of Entertainment until July 2014. I still some unfinished business I want to take care of.

We are having a great year with member participation in our monthly meetings and I look forward to continuing this trend in our future meetings.

Thanks again for welcoming me as your new President.

— Sal Barajas

- Cards - At least on deck of cards. (Maybe 2 Red Back & Blue Back)
- Coins - At least 4 Half dollars and 2 Copper English Pennies or similar mix of coins.
- Note pad, Pen/Pencil for note taking.
- Video Camera (If you prefer it to Note Taking)
- Other items...Thumb Tip, Silk Hanky, rubber bands..etc

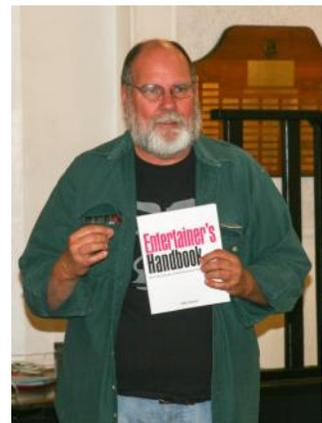
See you there.

— Sal Barajas

## March is for Mentalism.

President Derek Ostovani called the meeting to order. Jeff Marcus announced that member Mike Stillwell has published the Entertainer's Handbook, now available for sale on Amazon. A copy of Mike's book was given to Joel Moskowitz to review, after which it will be raffled to a Ring member.

We had six guests this evening: Dan Thomas, Richard Constantinou, Moe Sepassi, Robert and Jasper Giglis, and Micah Ortiz. Also attending were two prospective members, Conner Breen and Eric Stevens, who auditioned before the membership. Conner performed a clock-face routine, a card divination, and a mini-card sword; and Eric presented a three-part prediction with a very original, but macabre, story line.



Both were welcomed into the Ring with a unanimous vote. Conner and Eric then were sworn into membership, along with two other new members, Leif Ericson and Cary Shaffner.

Derek introduced Dan Thomas, magician and owner of The Gathering, a restaurant where many of our Ring members have performed. Dan gave a talk on what restaurant

owners want to see from in-house magicians. Derek followed Dan's talk with a surprise announcement: he is resigning as President of the Ring, effective immediately, as he is

(Continued on page 7)





## *Photos from the March Meeting*



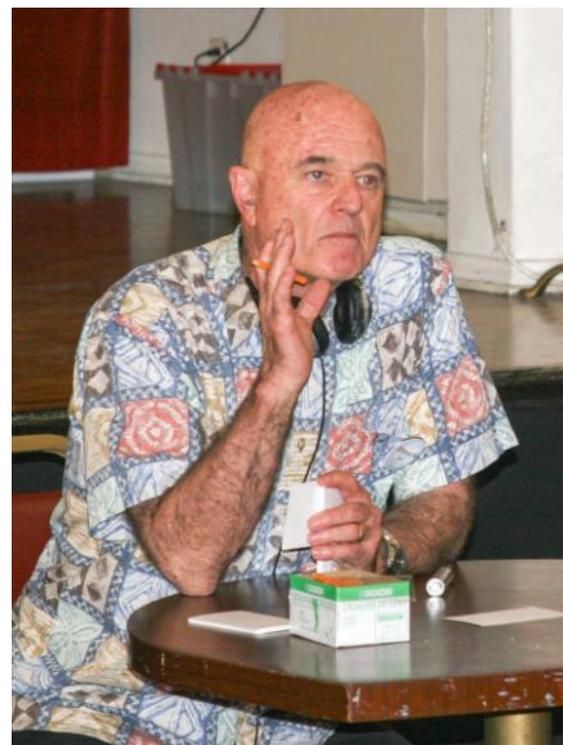
*Conner Breen*



*Eric Stevens*



*Sal Barajas*



*Bob Meigs*

## *Photos from the March Meeting*



*Malcolm Campbell*



*Joe Mystic*



*Charlie Gott*



*Chuck Cook (r)*



*Bob Posner*

## *Photos from the March Meeting*



*Greg Wauson*



*Alfonso Vasquez (r)*



*Jeff Marcus*



*Kenny Shelton*



*Cary Schaffner*

## *Folding Money and Pinching Pennies*

### *"Rasmus Magic Real Coin Bend" Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D April 05, 2014*

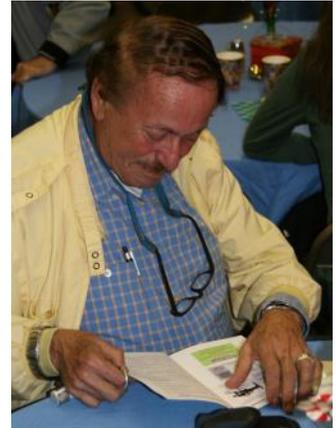
Connoisseurs of coin magic/mental phenomena should get acquainted with Rasmus, a Swiss Zauberer (Magician/Creator of much lauded effects). His Real Coin Bend has been praised by Richard Osterlind, Wayne Houchin and others. Sixty minutes DVD featuring Luke Jermay, master mentalist and Dee Christopher with Rasmus are detailed, display of how to mystify audiences using this technical marvel of the art of coin bending. With only this coin in your hands spectators will be astounded. Included are three hand crafted gimmick coins.

Missing is the personality of the performer - that is left to the mental magician. I have been a member of Psychics Entertainers Association and in my experience the mentalist who tells a convincing and entertaining story is the most admired.

The cost is pricey \$159.00. When one compares the basic wizardry the purchaser will be astounded at the asking price for this effect. YouTube offers a revelation which it may be said to duplicate the miracle. Or you can order the secret for ninety nine cents. John T. Sheets offer his version Quantum Bender for a jaw dropping \$500.00. Nathan Kranzo a fan of Quantum Bender 2.0 praises that "It is worth thousands of dollars...to the professional." A recent search reveals, at least at Penguin Magic, it is out of stock and they don't know when it will be available. Gregory Wilson lauds Quantum Bender 2.0 in the ability to change a magic geek to a world class performer. The original initialed coin, held at the fingertips, with the magician making a circular motion around the coin induces the coin to visibly bend, and the bent coin is dropped into the spectators hand for complete examination and for a souvenir (which is

permanent advertisement as he/she shares their astonishment with friends).

The charm that this holds for the coin afficianados for the better bender. What is sought is a device expertly precisely crafted from the highest quality stainless steel enduring to last a lifetime. This is the ultimate award winning device.

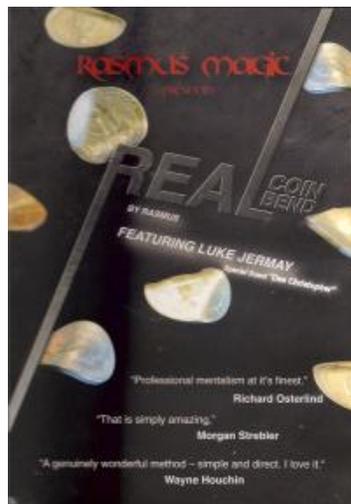


Additional competition for the BEST coin bender: David Penn inventor of Coinvexed Third generation offers two precision made gimmicks, DVD HD featuring a double coin bend routine; single coin bend; psychology explained with Marc Lavelle and Amit Badiani as special guests. James R. L. Clark has manufactured his version Sharpie Bender and he lowers his price from \$599 to \$300.

Which brings the review of Rasmus REAL COIN BEND and the competing products to the end (doubtless there will be many more by the time this review sees publication.) Congratulations to Rasmus for inventing/crafting/manufacturing a REAL coin bend. Master Mentalist Luke Jermay is Rasmus choice for explaining the manipulation/

handling. Jermay is obsessive/ repetitive in his redundant description of how to convince spectators that this is a truly psychic event. He describes himself as mainly a standup performer not a close up one. He is also a lover of tattoos which adorn on virtually every visible skin surface. Even the digits. That may distract viewers. The background music intrudes on the narrative and doesn't relate to the instruction. Jermay apologies for the bagpipe music because the DVD was filmed in Scotland. Viewers would wonder how

*(Continued on page 7)*



*(Mentalism— Continued from page 2)*

moving to San Francisco to accept a job as a structural engineer. Sal Barajas, our First Vice-President, will assume the duties of President for the remainder of Derek's term, as is spelled out Ring 76's Constitution.

Then, we ventured into the macabre world of mentalism. Bob Meigs opened with his version of Richard Osterlind's Radio Sum Total. Malcomb Campbell followed with a routine he calls Thought Sender, and Joe Mystic performed a customized version of a Phil Deck.

Next, Charles Cook successfully performed a Stop routine using a freshly shuffled deck; Charlie Gott enabled volunteers to divine the combination to a combination lock, and Bob Pozner did a signed card to impossible location.

Greg Wauson followed with a routine he calls Napkins and Cups, and Kenny Shelton performed a double prediction of selected cards. Alfonso Vasquez also did a card prediction, but with a great deal of comedy.

Jeff Marcus did one of his inexplicable, trademark book tests; and Cary Shaffner closed the evening with

## "MagiToon"

*by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman*



*(Rasmus — Continued from page 6)*

Jermy's stage presence is welcomed. Personally, I got fatigued by his kind of microscopic teaching which I believe could have been condensed in half the time or less. Mel Kientzs Web Notes Magicians Life features an article from Inside Magic.com by Tim Quinlin subject being Luke Jeramy and Champions of Magic in Hastings. Quinlin asserts that Jeramy is the inspiration for The Mentalist TV series. When my wife and I viewed the Gerry McCainbridge mentalism show in Las Vegas, he proudly said that HE was the inspiration for The Mentalist TV shows. Beware you can be out of your mind detecting which mentalist is the inspiration for the shows/ maybe both. Luke Jeramy has a steller career, authored 34 books, and has traveled the world doing mentalism but in this DVD he ...?

Critical omission from the teaching DVD is any attention to the what. How does Jermy introduce his wanting to have some coin. He makes a reference to a donation for psychical research. Many audiences will shun a call for money on top of the ticket for admission. Some might offer bills or checks instead of the desired coins. In 60 minutes of DVD, I noticed two sleights or magicians maneuvers: magicians choice and shuttle pass. The attention to the care of the gimmicks was appropriate if excessively long. How to extract the gimmick from the plastic wrap; use water that has been boiled (N.B. Jermy cautions DO NOT BURN YOURSELF) Maybe a legal dodge but I think somebody who has \$150.00 to buy two gimmicks would know how to responsibly boil water. I believe Jermy's contribution diluted some of the value of what is an excellent product. In the right hands, mentalism entertainment, you will take out of your pocket your FOLDING MONEY and PINCH PENNIES (or whatever coin is available.)

As to my prescription rating, I would compliment Rasmus on an excellent product Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5). The part Jermy offered was Rx Rx Rx (3/5).



a card prediction routine. Counting our two auditions, that was 13 performers; but with mentalism being the theme for the evening, you must of seen that coming.

— Bob Meigs

### ***Stand-Up Competition***

Get ready ladies and gentleman for the Ring 76 magic event of the year. That’s right, the Ring 76 Stand-Up Competition is just around the corner (May 12th, 2014) and we are excited to see our members showcase their Showmanship and Magical skills.

For rules and details please visit <http://www.ring76.com/html/contest>

If you would like to compete please contact Sal at [salomonbarajas@yahoo.com](mailto:salomonbarajas@yahoo.com)

— Sal Barajas

### ***Election Update***

The Nominating committee, consisting of Jeff Marcus, Greg Wauson, and Richard Ustick has received the recommendations of Candidates for the offices on the Board of Directors. This list shall be presented to the Membership at the next meeting in April.

Any member in good standing can nominate another member in good standing at the May or June

### ***Ring 76 2013-14 Calendar***

- 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

meeting. The Nominating committee is open to all members who are interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors

If you have a question, contact any current Board member or any member of the Nominating Committee.

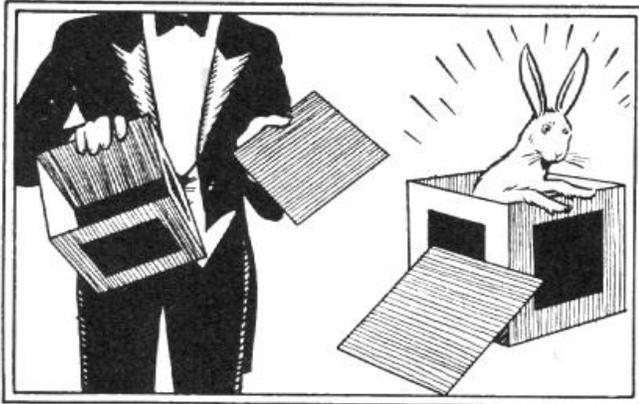
A reminder that Elections will be in June. Ring 76 does not run itself and to keep all of the contests, events, lectures, raffles, and performance nights going, we need the efforts of the Rings' Board of Directors. That Board is made up of members like you. From President to Member at Large, the Ring is organized by this dedicated group of magicians. A group not unlike yourself.

— Richard Ustick

### ***New Membership Year***

The new membership years is coming up in June. In order to participate in meetings; vote for your favorite magicians in the Close-Up and Stand-Up contests; attend Ring lectures for free, elect officers, and receive MagiCurrents, you will need to pay your dues. Dues this year remain at \$25 in spite of the fact that our expenses have increased over the last few years.

One important thing to keep in mind is that to be a member of Ring 76, you need to also be a paid up member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Your Ring dues do not cover this. In most cases, we know who is a member of I.B.M, but there may be some cases, where we will need ask for evidence of membership in the I.B.M before we will



be able to accept your dues for membership in Ring 76.

— James Thayer

## *To Entertain, Or Be Entertained. . .*

### *That is the Question*

Our Installation and Awards Banquet this year is going to be a different type of party – perhaps one of the most entertaining you will ever attend!

The entertainment will be varied and non-stop, with a variety of things going on at the same time! Of course, there also will be quiet places where you can chat with friends and enjoy an adult beverage.

Who will provide this extraordinary exhibition of entertainment? You – our extraordinary entourage of extraverts! In essence, we will draw from within!

Some of the entertainment will be pre-planned, but much more will impromptu. There also will be videos, photo-ops, exhibits, demonstrations, contests, and a few surprises planned by the your hosts, the outgoing Board. And if you come in costume – any costume – so much the better! Or course, there will also be munchies, drinks, dinner, and the perfunctory awards and office installations.

If you have a talent you'd like to share, bring it! It doesn't have to be magical - it might be mirth, or musical, mystical, or even something that doesn't

start with “m.” Maybe you're Bar-B-Q maestro, or a mixologist who makes martinis to match eye color.

If you'd like to be part of the planned entertainment, please contact Bob Meigs, at (619)742-1499, or [igor@ring76.com](mailto:igor@ring76.com). He'll see that whatever you need is ready to go! No one is going to put on a half-hour show. Planned performances might be a couple minutes, or perhaps longer, such as background music.

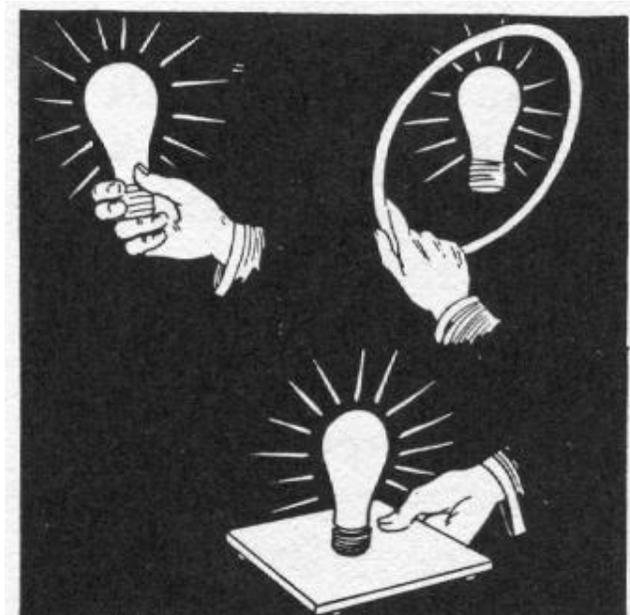
Or, you can just bring it and wing it! Perform as much or as little as you'd like on an impromptu basis. There will be tables set up for close-up magic and teach-a-trick. You can do 1 minute, or 1 hour! And, of course, strolling is more than welcome!

But there is no requirement to perform! The only requirement is that you come - and be prepared to be entertained!

The not-to-be missed Ring meeting will be in July, but the date (probably the 13th or 14th) has yet to be determined. It will be at Bob Meigs home in Solana Beach, starting at 5PM, and running to 8:30 or 9.

Hope to see you there!

— Bob Meigs



## *Two Not-To-Miss Magic Shows*

### *Magic of Polynesia Show*

In January, my wife Brenda and I went to Hawaii with her mom, sister and brother-in-law. The last few days of the trip we stayed on Oahu in a Waikiki hotel. It was a nice surprise when we saw an advertising video for a magic show in town. I wisely downplayed my interest and excitement. It was an even nicer surprise when Brenda and her mom said



they'd like to see it with me! We bought tickets for the "Magic of Polynesia Show" over the phone and the next night walked a block to the Waikiki Beachcomber Hotel.

We were led through a cave-like hallway into a specially built showroom with a grotto motif. The decor was a little cheesy, but, along with the music and lighting, it did help set the mood of a tropical environment and mystery. A magician performed table magic before the show started but he didn't make it to our area, so I don't know if he's also the stage performer. Most people were eating dinner as part of a dining/performance package but some of us were there just for the show. The seats were virtually all filled by the advertised starting time.

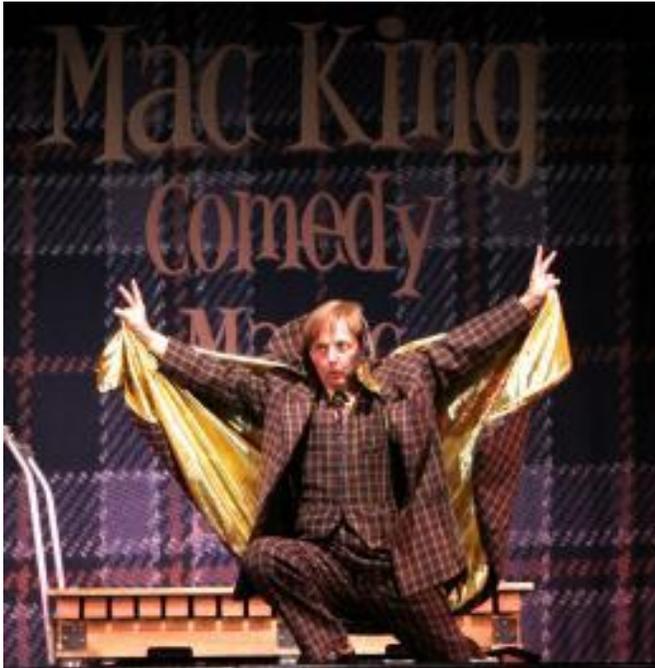
Several Polynesian dancers kicked things off and, shortly, magician John Hirokawa made his magical entrance. He has a friendly, upbeat personality and a

great combination of humor and wit. He presented over 20 effects, split up by Polynesian and hula (how they do that is a trick in itself) dancers and a terrific fire act. The show featured several large stage illusions, including the appearance of a 30-foot tall tiki statue (this really fooled me), a floating car, appearing helicopter, and close-up sleight of hand using a video camera and large onstage screen. I thought the brief version of Kevin James' floating rose should have been longer but that was about the only suggestion I would make. He even pulled off a very nice version of Snowstorm in China. How in the heck do you come up with a motivating story for that effect when you're in Hawaii? He did a good job pulling it off.

He took a raised-hand survey of everyone's home country. That was a diverse crowd, with a lot of people from Japan and Korea. The biggest laugh of the show was when he selected a senior lady from Japan to assist with a do-as-I-do paper hat tear. Her English wasn't the best and it was very funny watching her do as well as she could. It surprised everyone, including the magician, when she suddenly tore up the paper she was holding and threw it in the air.

At the end of the show, and apparently after the last effect had been performed, John went onto the stage ostensibly to give some closing remarks and bid the audience a good night. I'm glad I didn't look away. He performed a stunning dematerialization effect that I had never seen. His body disappeared gradually, continually, completely and quickly, starting from his feet and going up. That was really a wow moment.

This is a big show; think Las Vegas. John Hirokawa has been the headliner since it opened at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Dome 23 years ago. It moved to the present location in 1998, where it's drawn a steady audience. Roberts Hawaii, a tour company which produces the show, and John Hirokawa say they are committed to keeping the show fresh and lively and, from the show we saw, they've accomplished that well. You can check it out other reviews on Yelp at: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/magic-of-polynesia-honolulu>



### *Mac King in Las Vegas*

Brenda and I went to a timeshare presentation in Las Vegas in February. She surprised me by suggesting we go to the Mac King magic show, which we'd seen several years ago. How could I be so lucky to have a wife who wants to see (selected) magic shows? Well, we didn't buy a timeshare but did buy tickets to the show. To her, if a magic show is funny, it's good. Given that definition, Mac King again performed a very good show.

The best single word to describe this show is "hilarious." There were lots of great lines and a very high caliber of magic effects. He's not a big illusion type of performer. His simple country boy persona can lull you into thinking there's no way he can do anything you won't understand but he fooled me badly several times during the show. I was anticipating his cut and restored rope routine, a staple of his show, which he again performed and I still have no idea how he did it.

The biggest surprise and one of the biggest laughs came when he invited a poised and confident nine-year old girl from the audience up on stage to help with a camping-themed story. He dragged a small dome tent onto the stage, gave her a flashlight and

they both shined their lights inside the tent so the audience could see it was empty. They got out of the tent and he zipped up the front cover. Here's how their conversation then went:

"Are you scared?"

"No."

"You will be!"

Literally one second later something very funny and frightening happened. You understand, of course, I can't divulge what that was, but I will say the girl immediately screamed and started crying. Mac and a female stagehand went into comfort mode. They handed her a box of kleenex and after a couple minutes she had calmed down. It helped that he then gave her a Mac King magic set and invited her back up to help with the next effect.

In the animal department, he did something very humorous and memorable with a guinea pig. To protect the guinea pig's privacy, naturally this needs to remain a secret. Mac also demonstrated how to catch goldfish from the air. This also was very well done.

The Mac King Magic show is one of the best deals in Las Vegas and it's the show I always recommend. If you go there, don't miss it.

— Greg Wauson

*Editors Note: Have you seen show that you would like to share with the members of the Ring? Have you bought a great trick lately? Why not tell us about it? Have a magical story or idea? MagiCurrents is your newsletter. Content from members of the Ring is most welcome — just sent it to [editor@ring76.com](mailto:editor@ring76.com).*

