



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

AUGUST 2014

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VP of Entertainment

On July 13th 2014, Alfonso Vasquez was sworn in as the new Vice President of Entertainment. And shortly after he was awarded a Scholarship to earn a Masters degree. Congratulations, Alfonso!!!

Unfortunately, due to conflicting schedules, Alfonso will not be able to fulfill his role as VP of Entertainment and he has resigned his position.

Accordingly, it become necessary to appoint another member of Ring 76 to assume the duties of this office. It gives me great pleasure to announce that Ring 76 has a new Vice President of Entertainment (First VP).

He is a former member of the Long Beach Mystics, past President of Ring 76 and an all around great guy. Ladies and gentlemen I present to you

Greg Wauson



I am looking forward to swearing him in at the August meeting. Until Greg can be sworn in, Salomon Barajas will be Acting VP of Entertainment.

— *Salomon Barajas*

New Trick Night

The next meeting will take place on August 11, 2014, 7pm at the North Park Lions Club.

Is there a new magic effect that you have been working on and would like to share with the Club? Then New Trick Night is the night for you. That trick does not have to be the latest and greatest thing on the market...it just has to be new to YOU. Please share with the Ring a new trick that you've been working on.

If you are interested in performing, contact Sal at salomonbarajas@yahoo.com

— *Salomon Barajas*

Hannon Binder

Ed Estrin sent in this message about Hannon Binder, a long-time member of Ring 76.

"Hannon Binder, a member of ring 76 died on Wed [August 6th]. Not sure if many members knew who he was. Just a guy very interested in magic, a friend of Mike Skinner in the day, and a very nice guy. "

— *Sal Barajas*

Ring Wallflowers

It is only August, and the 2015 Close-Up competition is already on the minds of several Ring 76 Members. Rule of Three! Demonstrate skills with coins, cards,

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER — EDITOR@RING76.COM



President's Message

Happy New Year!!!!!!

This coming August kicks off a new year for Ring 76 and I hope you are all as excited as I am to see what the new Board and I have in store for our fellow members.



- One of the first changes you will notice will be the new seating arrangement for our monthly meetings. We hope that this new lay out will make it easier for our members to enjoy both Close-Up & Stand –Up performances.
- We are also going to be working on ways to increase membership. One such way is by advertising at the new Abney's Magic Shop in Old Town.
- Members can also look forward to "Library Night", where we bring many of our books & DVD's from the Ring 76 so members can check them out to further educate themselves in the art of magic.
- We are also in the works of creating a Junior Magic Club. Details to follow.

If any members have any ideas or just want to help out, please feel free to contact me.

— Sal Barajas

sponges, pretzels! Pretzels? Whoa, wait a minute! How serious do you take this competition? And what about the Stand up competition? Music or not? Mentalism or conjuring? Play it straight or be a comic? Tuxedo or dress in drag?

And in both cases, why would any Ring Member want to **SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO PERFORMING COMPETITIVELY IN FRONT OF ALL THE MAGICIAN MEMBERS?** I mean, these people know everything! I can't fool them. They have seen it all! No wonder the contestants are mostly pros, and ambitious amateurs. You won't see me up there! Too intimidating. Oh and the same goes for performing at regular meetings. There are a few more brave souls who "put it all

out there on the line" at regular meetings, but you and I both know there are Ring members (new and old) who are not comfortable performing in front of the Club. It is too risky and failure is not an option!

So as a member who has experienced all aspects of this sweat-inducing conundrum, allow me to spew some perspective and encouragement directed at the "Ring Wallflowers."

Why perform at the meetings?

You have your favorite material and you blow your lay friends' minds! You are good enough! You don't have to subject yourself to the pressure of performing in front of magical peers, right? Well this is very true. I could cut the aces for friends and family and they would flip! But I got bodacious and I decided to audition for the Close-up Contest (you had to audition in front of SENIOR white-haired board members of grave significance **ON VIDEO**) and the experience was a nightmare. Within 2 sentences into the routine I mis-shuffled the cards and they squirted all over the floor and table. I was so ashamed I picked up my mess and walked out. I was ready to commit Hari-Kiri (with a spring blade) I felt so badly. The next day Bob Ingalls (one of the audition adjudicators) called and told me "Hey everyone has nerves. The trick is to anticipate what happened to you and have an out! Make it look like you meant to do that and start something else. What you did perform started out great! Don't give up."

Bob did two things: 1) He gave me good feedback. 2) He took the time to call me indicating to me I was worth teaching; I wasn't a total failure! I just didn't practice (and rehearse!) enough to take my magic to the next level.

Why perform at meetings? To obtain honest and valuable constructive criticism which is not a sign of how bad you are, it is a sign of how worthy you are of other members concern and support! You joined the club to be a better magician, right?

The first Close-up competition I participated in (2010) was the last one at Jack's Place and I came

(Continued on page 9)

Luna Party



Larry Samuels



Arriving in Style



Socializing in the back yard



Jacques Lord

Luna Party and Installation Banquet



Taco Bar



Let Them Eat Cake!



It's bigger on the inside.



Sal Barajas and Jeff Sargent

Luna Party and Installation Banquet



Raffle Prizes



Alfonso Vasquez



The Shaffner's have their portrait taken by Sal Barajas

Luna Party and Installation Banquet



Sherry Luft and Richard Ustick



Cary Shaffner



Jeff Pearson



Luna Party and Installation Banquet



Master of Ceremonies, Sal Barajas



Sal gets a Tip of the Hat!



*The Outgoing Board of Directors
Richard Ustick, Joe Mystic, Jeff Sargent, Bob Meigs, James Thayer, Sherry Luft, Sal Barajas*

*The Incoming Board of Directors
Kenny Shelton (not present), Malcolm Campbell, Joy Mystic, Bob Meigs, Jeff Sargent, Jacques Lord, James Thayer, Alfonso Vasquez, Sal Barajas with TVP Jeff Marcus*





Luna Party and Installation Banquet



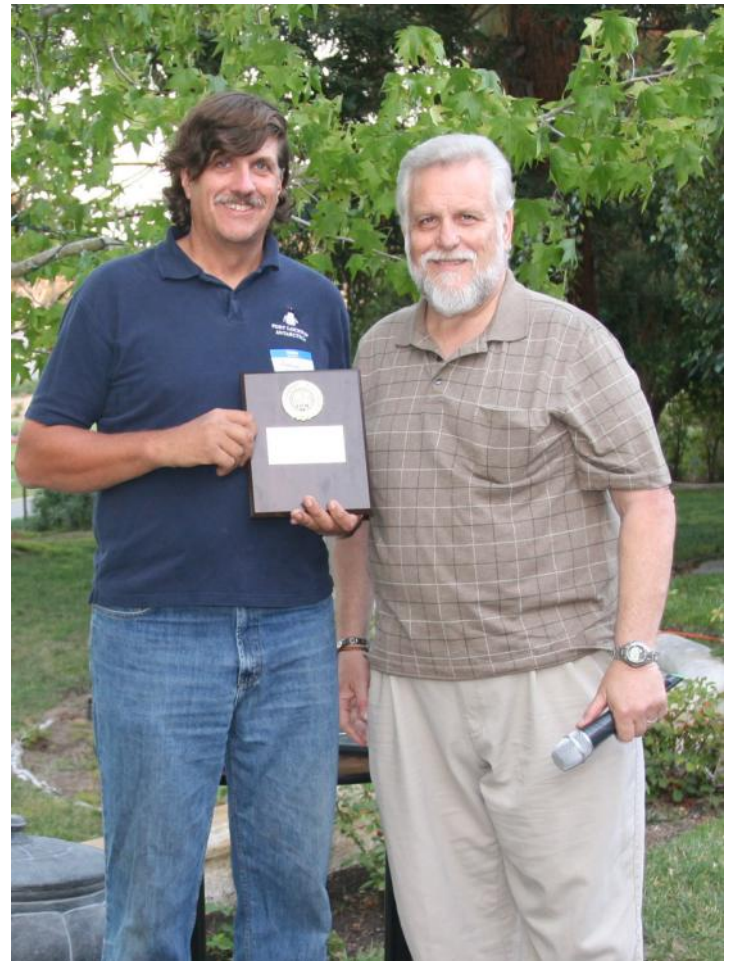
*Close-Up Contest Winners
Alfonso Vasquez (left) and Terry Godfrey (center, 1st Place)*



*Standup Contest Winners
Alfonso Vasquez and Mago Ruly (1st Place)*



Entertainer of the Year, Alfonso Vasquez



Member of the Year, James Thayer



(Wallflower — Continued from page 2)

out the winner! Surprised the heck out of me because I did the same Cutting the Aces trick and out of four tables I still squirted the cards all over the place at half of them. But here is a big difference. I had a back-up card trick and I knew I could do it in the allotted time. I focused on entertaining and telling a story with foreign accents and the magic was part of the bigger picture. On two of the tables I did my act near flawlessly; the other two I bobbled but got through. Why? The two tables full of members intimidated me; I perspired so heavily it was almost raining off my forehead onto the cards. I remember the cards started to swell. The other two tables were mostly guests and I had no such nerves at all. Had the members been more evenly distributed over the four tables, would I have been the winner? Maybe, maybe not.

Why perform at meetings? Performing in front of the members is intimidating compared to a lay audience, that is true. But that is a challenge to be met with

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"He stays fit by lifting Tarbells every day."

increased (daily) practice and rehearsal (they are different), and focusing more on being an entertainer rather than a perfect technician only. The increased confidence and enjoyment you get out of performing, once you get relaxed and comfortable performing for your peers, is huge!

Finally, I offer this encouragement. I have bombed, I have won contests, I have done OK, and I have had rousing applause. I am still alive. I know who my friends are because they are genuine with their feedback ("Keep your day job!") and they take the time to pay attention to my performance ("That was a good joke! I'm totally stealing it!"). Yeah I put up with snarky comments but we all know he can't help it. The point is, if I had not put myself out there on the stage to perform for members AND FAILED a time or two, I would not be as competent and confident as I am today. Putting me out there in front of everyone is a risk to be sure, but life is full of risks and what I learned about being prepared, being clear on my objectives, and about respecting my audience while performing for the Ring, has been a lesson for me that applies to more than Magic. To improve I have to work and risk failure. And if I am risking failure, I might as well do it in front of my colleagues and peers who will help me do better the next time.

Why perform at meetings? Performing in front of the Ring is the most fundamental magic we can experience. With patience, generosity, perspective, and tolerance, we shape each other's ability and potential to be better magicians. We become more magical! And we have a stronger respect for those who help us get there. Finally we, in turn, learn to be the coaches and mentors and reviewers of the next round of performers who seek what we have gained.

— Jacques Lord

Why The I.B.M.?

The International Brotherhood of Magicians is the parent of our local Ring 76 and 275 other Rings in 88 countries. The Brotherhood has many resources to promote magic and to help Rings form and prosper. But, foremost, it focuses on services for the



individual members, many of which are not taken advantage of.

For example, did you know that, as a member, you can set up a Personal Profile Web Page complete with photos, description of your services, references, etc, to which you can refer prospective clients (and show your grandkids)? The cost? Zero, zilch, nada

Did you know that “Masters of Illusions” returns to network TV on August 1? You would know this and other magic news if you had recently read the on-line Magic Events Blog accessible from the web site.

How’s your insurance? How about \$1 million/\$2 million liability for as low as \$111.00 a year? Need Medical, Disability, Long-Term Care? – All available to I.B.M. members, as are a rewards Visa card and car rental discounts.

If you don’t have Roberto Giobbi’s “Introduction to Card Magic” it’s there on the web site waiting to be downloaded free. You’ll find demonstration and instructional videos as well.

The I.B.M. offers basic membership for \$30 a year with an optional additional \$20 fee which includes 12 issues of the Linking Ring magazine. Many members forego the magazine but what you receive for the \$1.66 a month is unequalled in the magic community.

July, 2014 Linking Ring Content

- ♣ News about nationwide magic conferences & shows
- ♣ History of Magic articles
- ♣ Interviews with celebrity magicians
- ♣ Youth Trivia Contest
- ♣ Ring Events
- ♣ Directory of Ring locations. Find one on your next vacation.
- ♣ Ring Reports
- ♣ *How to Work Festivals* – Kyle Peron
- ♣ *Experiments in Magic Theatre* – John Tudor
- ♣ *Tall Tales* – Robin Dawes
- ♣ *Cutting up Jackpots*– Berv Bergeron (Rebo the Clown). Highlights of 70 years of magic.
- ♣ *Polishing the Rings* -- Skip Way. Youth super hero magic program development.

Ring 76 2014-15 Calendar

Aug 11	New Magic*
Sep 8	Silent Magic*
Oct 13	Halloween Magic*
Nov 10	Swap Meet
Dec TBD	Holiday Banquet
Jan 12	Mentalism*
Feb 9	Close-up Competition
Mar 9	Ice-Breakers & Business Cards*
Apr 13	Teach-A-Trick
May 11	Stand-up Competition
Jun 8	Kids Magic
Jul TBD	Installation Banquet
Aug 10	Classic Magic

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

- ♣ *Business of the Show* – Scott Humston. Developing a business mission.
- ♣ *London Eyes* – Peter Scarlett. News from across the pond.
- ♣ *Hocus Pocus Parade* – Paul Lelekis. 20 pages, 8 effects you can master.
- ♣ *Card Corner* -- Mike Powers. Ace Assembly routine with a kick.
- ♣ *Ways and Means* – Joe Turner. Great tea bag routine anyone can do.
- ♣ *Story Telling Magic* – Ed Solomon
- ♣ *Hocus in Focus* – Honest reviews of books, tricks and videos. Know before you buy.

Each month, just what it would cost to purchase a DVD with content similar to the Parade section far exceeds the cost of the entire 160-page magazine for the whole year. If you’re not receiving The Linking Ring, you’re passing up one of the best bargains in magic. Linking Ring issues from 1922 to 2008 are digitally available on line to members. The Linking Ring also offers members an opportunity to publish their own material, either as a description of a single effect or a full Parade.

For information on how you can start receiving the magazine or take advantage of any other membership benefits, please contact me.

— *Malcolm Campbell,*

Editors Note: Malcolm is the editor and general proofreader for the Linking Ring Parade

Ring Library

Selections from our Book & DVD Library will be available from 6pm to 7pm for check out to active members. Members may also choose to reserve a book and/or DVD in advance. Visit Ring76.com to view the contents of the Ring76 Library.

