



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

JANUARY 2017

VOL. XXXI #1

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE MAGICURRENTS STAFF  
AND RING 76 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## **MEETING LOCATION CHANGE!**

Once again the location of Ring 76's  
"Regular" Monthly Membership Meeting has  
changed. We will meet at Denny's  
**4280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.  
San Diego, 92117**  
at 7:00 pm in the upstairs room.

Please watch your email for  
additional information.

## **SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD**

**There was no Board  
Meeting in December**



## ***Ring 76 2017 Calendar***

Jan	9 New (to me) Tricks* At Denny's
Feb	11 Scott Alexander (Free lecture. Details later)
Feb	13 Close-up Competition
Mar	13 Teach a Trick*
Apr	10 Kids Magic*
May	8 Standup Competition
Jun	12 Elections, Food Magic*
Jul	tbd Installation Banquet
Aug x	14 Magic with Bags*

\*Opportunity for Members to Perform

***San Diego Ring 76 meets the second  
Monday of the month.***

Our next meeting is at Denny's  
**4280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.  
San Diego, 92117**  
7:00 pm  
**Om January 9, 2016**

Direct any questions concerning the  
calendar to VP Entertainment Richard Ustick,  
[ru9@ring76.com](mailto:ru9@ring76.com).

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PROOFREADER - SHERRY LUFT, PHOTOGRAPHER - JAMES THAYER**

## HOLIDAY BANQUET

**The Holiday Banquet held at the San Diego Boat and Ski Club was one of the best we've had in recent years.** The potluck provided plenty of food, the no-host bar was welcomed, the raffle conducted by Sal was a hit with many worthwhile prizes and the table decorations provided by Bob



Meigs were quite festive.

There was plenty of room in the hall for the 44 members and guests and the stage provided a good setting for the entertainment.

This was the first year that the new entertainment policy was applied. The Board passed a resolution in November to give the responsibility for lining up the entertainment for the banquet to the winners of the Close-up and Stage Contests plus the Performer of the year. It just so happened that all three honors went to Terry Lunceford last year. He elected to invite two of the other monthly winners to join him in a show,



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**Malcolm Campbell** started off with his winning original Houdini Séance which convincingly produced a tongue-in-cheek spirit of the great escape artist. It proved that Harry had the ability to open the door between our world and the spirit world and that he still had his sharp sense of humor.



**Joe Mystic**, our resident Sana Claus, followed with a variety of effects including a routine using a deck with each card assigned a person's name. A prediction card carried the name selected by a volunteer. With another volunteer's help, Joe transformed strips of torn red and white tissue paper into a Santa Hat. He then did a Miser's Dream and closed with a card identification over a phone.

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**Terry Luncford**, our Triple-Crown winner last year, did an amusing variation of a Two-Card Monte, a 6-card repeat where he threw away dozens of cards and still maintained a 6-card count.

Then came his rendition of “Bandana/Banana,” Next he performed “Everyone Except the Volunteer Sees It” using wads of toilet paper pulled off a roll using the volunteer’s fingers as the holder.

His infamous “Snake Basket” more than startled his helper, and a rendition of Multiplying Bottles caught the audience’s attention. Terry completed his program with a smooth “Linking Rings” routine and his Japanese Bamboo story.





## THANK YOU PERFORMERS FOR AN ENTERTAINING PROGRAM

### Focus On *THE LINKING RING*



Do you subscribe to the Linking Ring Magazine as part of your I.B.M. membership? Why not? Access to the monthly digital version on line (and all back issues) is four Jumbo Jacks a year. With the printed copy mailed to you, it's one pizza more. With space to fill this month, I thought it would be a good time to tell you a little about what you're missing — content and quality wise.

Each issue has articles about people in magic, events, new products, I.B.M. news and benefits, and a host of other topics. But, of greatest interest to most readers, are the regular columns which present new or revisited magic effects along with instructions on how to perform them, often including building props. Between the various columns, an issue could contain 20 or more effects which you might want to consider adding to your act.

Have you ever picked up a magic magazine or read instructions or watched a DVD for a new effect and given up trying to understand it?

Unfortunately that happens all too often but, generally not with what you'll find in TLR. The high quality of what is published in TLR is no accident and I'd like to tell you a little about the process that leads to that.

Each month, the Parade takes one of several forms; It may be a series of effects by one author, or by a special group such as a Ring, magicians representing a single country or a variety of authors doing a tribute to a fellow magician.

Let's be honest. For the most part, magicians are not accomplished writers (there are some good reasons why which we'll leave for another time.) To further complicate the process, much of what TLR — particularly the Parade section — is originated by contributors whose primary language is not English. Consequently, a rigorous edit is usually called for.

As a result, what eventually appears in print is, to one degree or another, not what was submitted verbatim. Of course the spelling and grammar need to be correct, but our goal is more than that. The article must accurately and

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thoroughly present the reader with what he needs to follow, learn and perform every effect in the column with minimal need to refer to outside help.

The editor can guarantee that only if he can understand what the audience is supposed to experience and how the performer makes that possible. The only way I can do that is to start at the beginning and attempt to follow the routine and reproduce its performance. Of course, I don't have the skills necessary to actually perform all of the moves and sleights, but it is sufficient to be able to keep track of what a skilled performer needs to do every step of the way.

I try to draw a reasonable line as to which sleights, for example, are described and which are assumed to be reasonably well known. If at all, I error in the "describe" direction.

To illustrate various steps in performing effects, the authors often submit photos of details such as hand positions, but you will never see a photo in a Parade. Every illustration is drawn by TLS's graphic artist Tony Dunn to correspond to what the text is describing.

This month's Parade is a tribute to Fernand Ridel who established 5 French Rings. French was the primary language of most of the 12 authors and, as is the norm, the English was often as entertaining as it was difficult to make sense of. Idioms (*a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words (e.g., rain cats and dogs)*) literally translated can really send you down the wrong path.

We were especially pleased to have a submission by the great Bebel who shared his incredible "Invisible Palm" routine. The routine was a complex card routine where the positions of both hands, all 10 fingers and the cards in use were all critical to the outcome. Unfortunately, the English text received seemed to have little relationship to the photos.

My first few attempts to follow and reproduce it were complete failures. In the past few years with case such as this, I have resorted to asking for a video of segments of the routine so that I can track

the moves frame by frame. This solves the language barriers (and once kept me from jumping into my paper shredder when I couldn't track the performers 10 fingers from one frame to the next until I accidentally discovered that he had only 9!) But there were too many rapid moves even for a video so I broke the routine down into brief segments of 5 or 6 photos which I could associate with a block of text. Realizing that photos were missing here and there made it possible to connect blocks with other blocks. A few from Bebel helped complete the picture and I was eventually able to construct text that accurately described the method illustrated by over 40 illustrations of hands and cards.

To complete that portion of the column, I added descriptions of what I felt were missing illustrations and Tony was able to construct them along with his renditions of the photographs.

Most of the sleights were not described in detail due to the long list and the assumed experience level of the performer who would want to attempt such a routine. For the other readers, it should still be interesting to see the complexity of the method for such a routine.

The price of perfection was high — over 20 man hours on my end and input from I.B.M. Past President Joan Caesar and Jean-Emmanuel Franzis — but the result was a Parade meeting the LR goals. You might not be able to perform some of the effects due to not having the skills, but you should be able to follow and understand the performance of each, and you might be tempted to work on polishing your skills so that a masterful routine such as "Invisible Palm" might be your entry in the next close-up contest.

..... editor



## NEW COMPETITION THEME FOR JANUARY

If you have hesitated in the past to compete in the monthly contests because you don't have a trick you're comfortable with that fits the category, now is the time for you to show what you can do.

The competition theme for the January Meeting will be ***“HEY, IT'S NEW TO ME!”*** The trick can fall into any category. It does not have to be new or innovative, though that is always a plus. It just has to be something you have recently learned and have not done in front of the Ring before. Did you get something interesting for Christmas this year and would like to show it to the Ring? Just found and learned something out of a new book? — Bring it on!

Due to scheduling conflicts at the Boat Club, the meeting will be once again held at

**Denny's**  
**4280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.**  
**San Diego, 92117**

### BOOK PREVIEW

Ralph Felder who has had two Parades in TLR in the past two years, is writing a book, which I am editing, directed at the beginning and intermediate hobbyist.

“Mapping Miracles” offers an organized, engineering approach to increasing skills and the quality of performances. Two of the most valuable suggestions in the book are: ***“Be involved in the magic community”*** There are many resources in our ring, The I.B.M. and other organizations. There are seminars and conventions where you can learn from some of the best, and publications and online materials.

***“Don't practice in front of a mirror.”*** Your audience doesn't see your reflection and you can't focus on the audience if you're watching yourself in a mirror. Instead, practice in front of a video camera. Do the effect over and over again and review the video. If you have problems with a viewing angle or exposing a sleight, set the camera to specifically cover those.

The book should be out in the next couple of months. I think you'll find it very interesting.

..... editor



## NOTES AND REMINDERS



**Remember**, we are looking for product reviews. It doesn't matter if you liked what you paid for or not, we want your opinion for the benefit of the rest of the members. If you're not a writer, we can arrange a short sit-down to gather the facts and write the review.

Have magic to sell, stage equipment to rent? Looking for something to buy or rent? Need a ride or have room for a passenger to an out of town event such as the Magic Castle?

Have a special skill another member might use? Need a temporary assistant?

**Advertise it at no cost to Ring 76 members in MagiCurrents**

### LIBRARY REMINDER

Ring 76 has a large library of books DVD's, even VHS tapes covering every phase of magic. All of the Materials are available for members to check out and use at home.

Kenny Shelton, our Librarian, regularly brings a sampling to our meetings and those are available for immediate check out. You may not know that the "Library" link on our website leads you to a complete list. If you find something there that you would like to use, contact Kenny at [magicjugglerks@gmail.com](mailto:magicjugglerks@gmail.com). Tell him what you want and he will bring it to the next meeting.

The intended publication date of each issue of MagiCurrents is the Friday 9 days before the monthly meeting. Submissions from officers, reporters and other members are due the Wednesday before the publication date. If you want *your* newsletter on time, please be prompt!!



**Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of MagiCurrents!**

..... editor