



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 NOVEMBER 2017 VOL. XXXI #11

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By  
Joe (Mystic) McGrievy



➔ PLEASE NOTE ←

The day and venue for our Annual Holiday Pot Luck and Entertainment have yet to be determined.

It will be held either on December 10th at 5:00 or on the 11th at 7:00.

Watch for an eMail with the details within the next few days.

## **Ring 76 2017-18 Calendar**

- Nov 13 Auction
  - Dec 10 Holiday Party, potluck  
(Date and location subject to change.)
  - Jan 8 New to Me\*
  - Feb 12 Close-Up Competition
  - Mar 12 No Theme\*
  - Apr 9 Teach-a-Trick
  - May 14 Stage Competition
  - Jun 11 No Theme\*
  - Jul 8 Installation Banquet
- \*Opportunity for Members to Perform

*Our regular monthly meetings are at 7:00 pm  
on the second Monday of the month.*

*The next meeting is on November 13 at 7:00  
at the Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club*

**2606 N. Mission Bay Dr, San Diego,  
CA 92109**

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

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## Minutes of Ring 76 October 9, 2017, Monthly Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by **President Joe “Mystic” McGrievy**, at The San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club.

There were 22 members and 8 guests in attendance.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Joe** noted that there were several guests or relatively new members, and called to them to introduce themselves. Those who introduced, or re-introduced, themselves included: **Bruce Wollitz**, who is a new member of the Ring; **Matt King**, who is a professional magician in the San Diego area, and a past member of Ring 76 who plans to return to the Ring; **Ava** who accompanied **Matt**; **Tim Wise**, who together with **Matt King** started the Mystic Playground (see the September Newsletter for more info), a monthly magic experience that opens in October in San Diego; **John Hunter’s** wife sister, **Lynn**; **Victor** who has a background in costumes and fundraising and who is considering joining the Ring; **Judy Whitehead** and **Liz Holcomb**, the daughter and wife of Ring member **Don Holcomb** (recently deceased); and **Bernie Kleinker** who had been a Ring member.

**Richard Ustick** (V.P. of Entertainment) announced that the November meeting would be the Ring Auction, and reviewed the details:

The maximum number of lots is 5 per person. Minimum bids may be specified.

Non-member buyers (no sellers) are invited and encouraged to bid (but no outside sellers allowed.)

The Ring will take a 10% commission on all sales.

Buyers are asked to bring change and small denomination bills to use for payment.

See the newsletter for more details.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Jeff Marcus** conducted a Broken Wand Ceremony for Ring member **Don Holcomb** and presented the wand to **Don’s** wife, **Liz**.

### PROGRAM (Warm Up)

**Richard Ustick** introduced **Bob Meigs** who gave an excellent presentation on some key aspects of performing and putting on a show. He discussed the importance of the performer’s enthusiasm, developing a character, having a theme, scripting, and having some sort of trademark or aspect that is unique. “**H.G. Wells’**, **Time Traveler**”, whose magical effects came from technology of the future.

He performed a Transportation trick with the help of volunteers **Ava** and **Judy**. A signed bill placed in an alligator clip on the top of a mysterious box. It disappeared in a flash of fire and smoke and was found in a real egg held across the room.

Both spectators received a copy of **H.G. Wells’** *Time Machine* as a thank you. The summary of **Bob’s** presentation is: “Prepare to be Amazing!”.

### PROGRAM (Performances)

**Richard** next announced the start of the performing part of the meeting, with the suggested theme of Halloween Magic.

**Malcolm Campbell** performed a highly-original version of the cups and balls / shell game, using large orange Home Depot buckets for the cups. Some orange sponge balls appeared, and then they transformed into small orange pumpkins under one bucket, larger pumpkins under another and a life-size skull under the last.

**Dr Jeff Pearson** performed to the music of “*Yes, we have no bananas!*” with a banana repeatedly splitting into two.

**Joe Mystic** with volunteer **Ava**, performed a tissue paper tearing effect where **Joe’s** torn tissues

*(Continued on page 3)*



(Continued from page 2)

became a witch's hat for Ava. Ava's torn tissues went into Joe's mouth and, upon coming back out, became a ribbon that looked to be around 20 feet long. Next, Joe asked volunteer **Victor** to think of a card, and Joe would name it. Joe named it "Harry" and then revealed that Victor's card indeed had that name on the back.

**Ken Intriligator** with volunteers **Ava** and **Matt King**, performed an effect where Matt thought of a famous person from history, and what card they would pick as their favorite. He wrote it down - not showing Ken, Ava, or their half of the room. The paper was passed around to show the other half of the room Matt's thoughts.

Yes-or-no questions were asked of a deck of cards (with a Halloween theme), and Ava turned over the cards to answer "yes" for red cards or "no" for black cards. The cards and questions led to Eva and the deck correctly determining that the person Matt thought of was Elvis Presley.

Next, cards were counted off spelling "Elvis Presley", and Ava was asked to think of a number, counting off that many more. The next card was the King of Diamonds, which was indeed the card that Matt had thought of as Elvis' favorite.

**Joe Nespoux** performed an effect with volunteer assistant **Sherry Luft**. He had four cards, shown to be four jokers, placing two on Sherry's palms. Suddenly, all four cards were shown to have changed from the jokers to the four aces.

Visitor **Matt King** asked for a fearless volunteer, and chose **Ken Intriligator** to come to the stage. Matt stepped outside and returned with a large and rather dangerous looking guillotine. Ken was blindfolded with a "blood"-stained cloth and his neck placed in the guillotine. There was a lot of laughter and funny / suspenseful buildup. Then the blade came down, magically going through Ken's neck with minimal consequences.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. Then a large group (including Magic Mike Stilwell) went

to Buddy's Diner in Pacific Beach for dinner, dessert, and camaraderie.

..... Ken Intriligator, Secretary

### *Focus On*

## **THE LINKING RING**



What do you know about 278 W. 113th St in New York City?

In a comprehensive article in the October issue, John Cox takes us on a rare tour of this Brown Stone residence of Harry and Bess Houdini. You'll find it very interesting.

..... Editor

## **Penn and Teller "Fool Me" Returns to T.V.**

Mark your calendar: The ever-entertaining show will be on the CW channel at 8 pm starting July 6.



## **SPECIAL THANKS**

**TO**

**SHERRY LUFT**

this month for helping to pull the issue together during my inconvenient heart attack on the publication date.

..... Editor



## TERRITORIAL V.P. JEFF MARCUS CONDUCTS BROKEN WAND CEREMONY FOR DON HOLCOMB



## INSTRUCTIONAL TIME



Richard Ustick introduces program



Bob Meigs presents his plan for a successful stage show



Bob illustrates his point with an illusion

## HALLOWEEN MAGIC



Malcolm Campbell perform his original Buckets and Balls Halloween routine



**Jeff Pierson multiplies bananas**



**Joe Mystic impresses Ava with paper and streamers**



Joe finds “Named” Card



Ken Intriligator identifies thought-of celebrity and their favorite card



Joe Nespoux changes 4 jokers to the four aces



## AUCTION TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER

The semi-annual Ring 76 auction will be held during the General Meeting on November 11.

Members are encouraged to clean out their closets and cases and bring their magic-related treasures to the auction block.



This year's auction rules are simple. Each seller may have up to five lots to auction. A "Lot" may consist of one item, like a prop or a book, or it may consist of any number of items, like a book set or collection of packet tricks. There is no limit on how many items are in a lot, however, the lot will be auctioned as one item at one price for the entire lot. Lots may not be split once put up for auction. The opening bid for each lot will be set by the member and the auctioneer will not lower the asking price below the minimum bid. As usual, the Ring will

receive 10% of the final auction price.



Guests buyers are welcome to this event and, in fact, are encouraged. The more buyers we have, the greater chance you will have of selling those items you no longer use. It is a great opportunity for new magicians to add to their collections at very reasonable prices. Credit

cards will be accepted for all winning bids.

**Some members will be auctioning off valuable collectible items with starting bids higher than usual. If you plan on being one of those members we encourage you to send Magiccurrents ([editor@ring76.com](mailto:editor@ring76.com)) a picture and description of your item and the starting bid you are expecting. This will help generate interest and allow buyers to adjust their budgets appropriately.**





## Shavings from the Board



### Minutes of Ring 76 Board Meeting Oct 23, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President **Joe "Mystic" McGrievy** at 7:30 pm (dinner started at 7:00pm). The other board members present were: First V.P. (Entertainment) **Richard Ustick**, Second V.P. (Membership) **James Thayer**, Secretary **Ken Intriligator**, Treasurer **Bob Meigs**, Sergeant-at-Arms **John Hunter**, Member-at-Large **Robert Vinson**, and Newsletter Editor and Member-at-Large **Malcolm Campbell**. Member-at-Large Loch David Crane and Member-at-Large (Past President and current Librarian) **Kenny Shelton** were absent.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September Board meeting were approved.

#### REPORTS

**Treasurer's report** - Treasurer **Bob Meigs** presented his report to the board. There was a small expense for the monthly use of the Boat and Ski Club. There is a projected shortfall by the end of the year, based on rough estimates of upcoming expenditures.

**Malcolm** reported receiving money for a paid ad by a nonmember. Having more raffles at upcoming meetings was discussed. The report was approved by the Board.

**Library report** - **Kenny Shelton** was absent, so there was no library report.

**Membership report** - There were four renewing members, bringing the membership to 60.

**October meeting report** - All agreed that the meeting went well, with many performances and an entertaining and informative presentation by **Bob Meigs**.

The Board plans to have more presentations at upcoming meetings, starting in January.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Ring incorporation** - **Malcolm** updated us on the progress on getting the Ring incorporated as a 501c6. The Ring could have an answer from the IRS within 90 days of the filing, which is November 16.

**Holiday Banquet** - The Board will bring a ham and two turkeys. The rest will be potluck by the members who attend. **Richard** will organize the potluck.

**Joe** will entertain us with his Children's Show. The Board is trying to find a venue – such as a church – where we can invite their members with children to participate in the pot-luck and be entertained by **Joe's** show.

It was decided that the event could be held on either Sunday or Monday.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**November Auction** - The mechanics of running the upcoming auction were discussed, **Richard** will be the auctioneer. Treasurer **Bob Meigs** with the help of **Sherry Luft**, will handle collecting and disbursing the receipts.

**Rules or restrictions against flames or flashes in performance?** - A member raised the question of restrictions on the use of flame. It is not clear if there is such a rule at the Boat Club and that will be clarified. The Board has no objection to the safe use of flames if the venue allows it.

**Is the no-theme, no contest model working?** - There was expression of disappointment from several Board members that we are no longer having the monthly contest and the winner-of-the-month announcement. It would be good to continue the conversation with the Ring members who suggested this new format, to see if they still prefer it. It remains to be seen if it is enticing more Ring members to perform.

#### NEWSLETTER

**Malcolm** reviewed the newsletter assignments.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

**Ken Intriligator**, Secretary



## ***EDITORIAL COMMENT***

Several months ago, the use of themes and the awarding of “Performer of the Month” for our monthly performances were discussed. The purpose was to structure the program to encourage more members to participate.

The Board interpreted the comments from the membership as indicating that a formal “competition” was intimidating and that adherence to a theme was restrictive, thus limiting participation. Thus, they were eliminated.

As is the case in many magic “clubs” it seems that we have two broad classes of members: those who enjoy seeing magic performed and being part of the magic community, but who do not regularly perform in public, and those who do perform and see the Ring as a chance to show their talents and to improve their knowledge and skills.

There is no incompatibility there. Those who perform have a receptive audience and those who don’t are entertained by some fine amateur and professional magicians.

But I don’t believe we’ve seen an increase in the number of performers and that we are missing opportunities to do that as well as to increase the quality of the magic of those who are learning to perform.

First of all is the issue of a competition with no theme and no winner. To me, that’s like what has happened in our schools with participation without grading in various activities so that kids aren’t embarrassed by their lack of skills. How do you learn and progress if you aren’t challenged?

If you really want to be a performing magician, then you have to hone your ability to deal with challenges. Fitting your act to a theme is not just a bother; It is a valuable exercise. One of the primary principles for being a successful magician is to know and adapt to the venue and the expectations of your audience. I believe we should keep adherence to the theme a requirement to be part of the competition, but encourage members to perform outside of the competition after those adhering to the theme have finished and members have voted so that there is a distinct separation.

As it now stands, votes from the membership each month are still allied at the end of the year to determine the Performer of the Year. But eliminating the Performer of the Month award eliminates the opportunity for a participant to judge his performance against the audience’s expectations.

Not only would I encourage re-instating the award, but I would suggest more information be available to the contestants, such as providing each with the number of votes they received out of the total. (Their score only.)

Giving members the opportunity to perform outside of the competition will relieve the perceived intimidation of competing, but we need to do more to get more members to perform. We need to have more instructional sessions with some demonstrating how to properly do basic tricks and some centered around the mechanics of working in front of and with an audience. The goal would be to have non-performing members say to themselves, “I can do that.” Perhaps another theme could be used in place of “Teach-a-Trick” and instructional session before meetings used in its place.

Your thoughts? Express them at the next meeting or email [editor@ring76.com](mailto:editor@ring76.com).

..... Editor



## HOLIDAY POTLUCK DECEMBER 10

(Tentative)

The Holidays are right around the corner and it is time to mark your magic calendar.

December will be our annual potluck dinner and show. Members are encouraged to bring family, friends, and their favorite holiday dish. The Ring will provide a turkey or two, a ham and drinks, but we rely on you to complete the holiday feast. We need main courses, side dishes, bread, salads, and desserts.

We will have warming trays and serving utensils so you need not worry about keeping your items warm.

The entertainment will be our own Joe Mystic performing his Holiday Children's Show so children are especially welcome. Bring your neighbor and their kids if you can.

The tentative date is a Sunday evening which is a departure from our usual Monday evening. This will allow us to start earlier to accommodate the families with children. Location and time will be announced soon.

Contact me if you have any questions. Look for more information coming your way soon.

Richard Ustick ,V.P. Entertainment, IBM Ring 76

Ring76ibm@yahoo.com

Paid Advertisement

# MAPPING MIRACLES

## *Workable Ways to Meaningful Magic*

Authored by Ralph Felder  
Edited by Malcolm Campbell  
Illustrated by Tony Dunn  
Published by Mapping Miracles Inspirations  
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**MAGIC!** The Pied-Piper of inquisitive minds. The door to a world of mysteries, illusions, and unconventional skills.

For thousands of years, the uninitiated have marveled at what unfolds in front of their eyes when a magician performs, and wonder what the “secrets” behind what they’ve witnessed are. A simple card trick, successfully executed in front of family and friends, can elevate the 8-year-old novice to Super Hero status.

But, those who *are* experienced magicians are aware that just knowing a few “secrets” does not, by itself, guarantee an entertaining, flawless performance. There are many elements that need to be dealt with in creating and executing a magic show, whether it be a single effect or an hour-long routine. Seasoned magicians often seem to reach a limit in the quality of their performances. Novices find it frustrating not to be able to do something that “feels good.”

Author Ralph Felder, a Certified Quality Engineer (retired) and an accomplished magician, recognizes that the process of performing magic has many parallels in industry. Drawing on this knowledge he introduces the engineering approach of Outcome-Based Evaluation to help the performer meet the goal of achieving audience and personal satisfaction, which are the desired outcome of any magic performance. The 213 pages of the book describe his methods for planning, executing, critiquing and adjusting a performance. The text is illustrated with 165 original sketches. 20 routines including 80 effects are used as examples of the application of the methods. Although not necessary to apply the contents of the book, a simple Excel spreadsheet which simplifies the process is available with the download.

In the magic world, failures are a way of life. Although the magician uses his resources to select the elements of a show for a specific purpose, then assemble, customize and perfect individual effects, the outcome is not always desirable. Ralph’s ways can help the magician achieve their potential to perform with satisfactory outcomes in difficult situations by applying methods to properly assemble the performance and to build in options and work-arounds, adjusting for the unexpected.

“**Mapping Miracles: *Workable Ways to Meaningful Magic***” includes Ralph’s fully-explained menus plus his scripted effects from the book as working examples to help you improve the effectiveness of your own performance.

A free download of a preview of **Mapping Miracles**, including the full Table of Contents and an example of the 20 routines used as illustrations, is available on line at [mappingmiracles.com](http://mappingmiracles.com). The full download with the spreadsheet is **\$19.95** at your dealer.



## NOTES AND REMINDERS



**MagiCurrents offers paid advertising for magic-related items from non-members. The rate is \$60.00 per page per issue.**

**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 or service 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