



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

AUGUST, 2018

VOL. XXXII #8

## SPECIAL EDITION

I.B.M. RING 76

### 2018 ANNUAL BANQUET AND AWARDS CEREMONY

July is the end of Ring 76's Fiscal Year and our regular Membership Meeting is replaced by our Banquet and Awards Ceremony. The evening is not all business. It is also a time for renewed friendships and the enjoyment of entertainment. It is typically our premium event of the year.

Your MagiCurrents staff is pleased to bring you this issue devoted to the July 15, 2018 festivities.

#### The Location



The location of the event was the San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club where we hold our regular meetings and other special events. Forty-eight Ring members and guests attended this event.

The facility includes plenty of parking, a stage, a galley and a no-host bar available to our members and guests. The Boat Club provides an excellent venue for our activities.

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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## The Banquet



What would a banquet be without food? For the second year in a row, the Board elected to have the food catered by The Olive Garden which provided a pasta bar complete with warming trays and everything needed to serve the meal. The Ring provided water and coffee and the Boat Club no-host bar was open to us. For dessert, President McGrievy provided cookies; the Campbells provided cake.

The buffet was overseen by Joe's wife Cyndie and daughter Mysti.

There were plenty of leftovers for members to take home for a midnight snack.





## Board Installation

The first order of business was recognition of the outgoing Board.



### **President McGrievy recognizes out-going Board**

From left to right: 1st V.P. (Entertainment) Richard Ustick, Member-at-Large Robert Vinson, Treasurer, Bob Meigs, 2nd V.P. (Membership) James Thayer, Sergeant-at-Arms John Hunter, Secretary Ken Intriligator, and Member-at-Large and Newsletter Editor, Malcolm Campbell.

Those who served on the Board for the first time in the past year received a plaque. Those who served previously received a service badge for their plaque.

Due to the absence of Territorial Vice President Jeff Marcus, Out-going President Joe McGrievy introduced and swore in the new Board. All 2017-2018 Board members remained on the Board. Robert Vinson assumed the office of President. Rich Robertson filled the vacant Member-at-Large position.



**Out-going President McGrievy introduces 2018-2019 Board.** (From left to right) President Robert Vinson, 1st V.P. (Entertainment) Richard Ustick, 2nd V.P. (Membership) James Thayer, Secretary Ken Intriligator, Treasurer, Bob Meigs, Sergeant-at-Arms John Hunter, Member-at-Large and Newsletter Editor Malcolm Campbell, Member-at-Large Rich Robertson.

## Awards



**Richard Ustick emcees  
Award Ceremonies**

2nd V.P. (Entertainment), Richard Ustick emceed the Awards Ceremonies. The first awards were for the annual **Stand-Up** and **Close-Up** competitions. The top three contestants in each competition — as determined by vote of the membership — were each awarded a medallion and a cash prize.

This year's Close-Up winners were: First Place, Joe Nespoux; Second Place, Mago Ruly; Third Place, Joe McGrievy.

The Stand-Up winners were: First Place, Greg Wauson; Second Place, Malcolm Campbell; Third Place, Ken Intriligator.

The **Entertainer of the Year Award** is based on the results of competitions held at eight monthly meetings. Votes from the membership are tallied and the totals for the year determine the winner.



**Close-Up Contest winners**



**Stand-Up Contest winners**



**Malcolm Campbell Receives Entertainer of the Year Award**

By vote of the membership, The **Member of the Year Award** is presented to a member who serves the Ring in ways beyond their official duties. It is presented to the recipient by the previous year's winner. Richard Ustick received the award for 2017-2018.



**Malcolm Campbell presents Richard Ustick with the Member of the Year award**

## Entertainment

Our evening was topped off by a program presented by magician **Tim Wise**. After his opening remarks, Tim introduced the very talented belly dancer **Sohallia**, and juggler Nathaniel Allenby. He later gave us a taste of his own magic.



**Tim Wise**



**Sohallia**



**Sohallia initiates our new president**



Teaching the men



The womens' turn



Nathaniel Allenby. Don't try this at home!



**Tim shows skill with one-hand knots and attempts the linking of two.**



**“Find the lucky envelope”  
inspired by Monte Hall**



**Tim wins the \$100 bill**



**Conclusion of card story**



**A fiery finish**





# THANK YOU !!



**Tim and Company**  
**Ring 76 Board**  
**Volunteers**  
**Caterer**  
**MagiCurrents Staff**

**Our SDMBBSC Host**  
**Donors of Raffle Prizes**  
**Our buffet attendants**  
**Friends and families**  
**... and all others who made this a  
successful event**



# RING

  

# BUSINESS



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**BY ROBERT VINSON**

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you all how honored I am to serve as President of Ring 76, San Diego. Having served as President in two other rings, San Antonio and Las Vegas, I can promise you that I'll do all that I can to make this magic organization the most it can be.

I know I'll be filling some big shoes; Joe Mystic as the last president and, in fact, all the other board members. As this is a 'club', I'll be turning to them as well as all of you for input, suggestions and feedback.

My primary goal as President will be creating a new and greater awareness of the Ring in the San Diego community. Attracting and nurturing new members will be my focus, taking advantage of the countless years of accumulated experience within the Ring to inspire and instill a love of magic in others.

We should all be humbled, yet proud, to be members of The International Brotherhood of Magicians and to help the organization grow larger and stronger in the craft that we all hold so dear in our hearts.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with ideas, suggestions, helpful hints or just plain conversation. [rv75@ring76.com](mailto:rv75@ring76.com).

Again, I look forward to serving the Ring as well as all of our individual members in this coming year.

Respectfully,  
Robert Vinson



## Ring 76 2018-19 Calendar

**August 13** - Open Mic Night\*, auditions. First performance instruction.

**September 10** - Oddball Magic\*. Anything unusual. Performance instruction continued.

**October 8** - Halloween/ Spooky magic\*. Performance instruction continued.

**November 12** - Bi-annual Swap meet.

**December 10** - Holiday Pot-Luck (Entertainer TBA)

**January 14** - Open Mic night\*. Performance instruction continued.

**February 11** - Close-Up Contest\*.

**March 11** - No Props Night\*.

**April 8** - Original effects and/or routines\*.

**May 13** - Stand-Up Contest\*.

**June 10** - Story Magic/ Historical Magic\*. Dues due. Election night.

**July 14** - 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 Monday, August 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).



## SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD



### MINUTES OF RING 76 BOARD MEETING

July 23, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President **Robert Vinson** at 7:35. The other board members present were: First V.P. (entertainment) **Richard Ustick**, Treasurer **Bob Meigs**, Sergeant-at-Arms **John Hunter**, Newsletter Editor and Member-at-large **Malcolm Campbell**, Member-at-Large and Past President **Joe “Mystic” McGrievy**, and Member-at-Large **Rich Robertson**. Absent were Second V.P. (membership) **James Thayer**, and Secretary **Ken Intriligator**. **Richard Ustick** was acting Secretary. Ring member guests were TVP **Jeff Marcus**, **Sherry Luft**, and **Gary Salisbury**.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June Board meeting were approved.

#### REPORTS

**Treasurer’s Report** -Treasurer **Bob Meigs** presented his report to the board. There was a net reduction of the cash balance for the month. The Installation banquet resulted in a higher net loss to the Treasury than previously expected. The reasons are varied and include costs associated with the installation, the cost of the food from Olive Garden, and the comped meals. There were several suggestions to help reduce this loss in the future.

The Treasurer’s Report was approved by the board.

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

**Membership Report** - **James Thayer** was

absent but sent the latest membership report by email. The Ring currently has 43 members who are paid for the 2018 – 2019 year and 10 Life Members for a total of 53.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Installation Banquet critique** - The Installation Banquet was discussed. By all reports, it was seen as successful by both members and the Board. The Meet and Greet time went well, the food arrived on time and was set up by Olive Garden and served by President McGrievy’s wife Cyndie and daughter Mysti. The entertainment by Tim Wise and company was well received also. Newsletter Editor **Malcolm Campbell** will prepare a report for the Linking Ring to include as a “Ring Event”.

**Future entertainment** - One of the largest expenses the Ring faces with its two main events is entertainment. It was suggested by **Bob Meigs** that instead of hiring outside performers, the Ring should look at utilizing its in-house talent. Perhaps the winners of the previous year’s Ring Contests could organize the Banquet and Pot-Luck entertainment for the next year. **Jeff Marcus** suggested that outside entertainers are more of a draw to these Ring events. Both he and Robert Vinson stated that they will explore new talent at upcoming events and report back to the Board.

**Incorporation update** - **Malcolm Campbell** announced the Ring 76 is now officially a 501C6 Non-Profit corporation for the purposes of taxes and securing buildings for future shows. This has been a lengthy process that Malcolm has taken on singlehandedly and the Ring is grateful for his successful efforts. There are a few issues that have to be addressed to bring the State and Federal status up to date and Malcolm will be taking care of that soon.

#### NEW BUSINESS

*(Continued on page 13)*



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**Membership increase** - President Vinson stated that the Ring should continue to explore increasing membership and doing more to let the community know of our existence. To that end, he is looking into starting a Ring at Camp Pendleton there for service members and Junior Magicians. He has been in contact with The I.B.M. to make sure there are no issues in pursuing this course of action.

**Library issues** - Although the Ring Library is extensive, it is little used and has not been a solid activity of members for quite a few years.

The possibility of disposing of the library was discussed by the Board and Ring members but no solid conclusions were reached. **Malcolm Campbell** will contact The I.B.M. to see if they have any suggestions. In the meantime, an effort will be made to increase the Ring's awareness of the library.

**Accountability in Board minutes** - **Malcolm Campbell** requested that Board meeting minutes identify the Board members who are assigned to the projects the Board pursues. It is often agreed that an action be taken but the specific person or persons who are assigned those actions are not specified. This will be corrected in future Board Minutes.

**New series of lectures and instruction proposed** - **Bob Meigs** has suggested that in order to increase the number of members who perform at Ring meetings, a series of short instructional events be held at every meeting, where this is possible, over the next few months. The purpose of these instructional episodes is to develop the performing skills of the members. It is not only important to know how to do tricks, but a magician must also know how to present them to an audience. The first of these will be done by **Richard Ustick** at the August meeting. Any member is welcome to do a presentation on this

and the Ring will be informed of the project through the newsletter and at Ring meetings.

**Public show at the Olivenhain Haunted Hotel** - **Bob Meigs** will be organizing a Ring 76 show at this year's Olivenhain Haunted Hotel. He will be organizing the event, the times, and the entertainers. This will be a way for the Ring to get public attention and possibly attract new members and spread interest in Magic.

**Themes for monthly competitions** - After the better part of an hour discussing whether contestants should be required to adhere to a specific theme, nothing was decided.

#### SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING RING YEAR:

August 13: Open Mic Night, auditions. First performance instruction.  
September 10: Oddball Magic – Anything unusual. Performance instruction.  
October 8: Halloween/ Spooky magic. Performance Instruction.  
November 12: Bi-annual Swap meet.  
December 10: Holiday Pot-Luck (entertainer TBA)  
January 14: Open Mic night. Performance instruction.  
February 11: Close-Up Contest  
March 11: No Props Night  
April 8: Original effects and/or routines  
May 13: Stand-Up Contest  
June 10: Story Magic/ Historical Magic. Dues due. Election night  
July 14: Installation Banquet (date not fixed)  
August 12: Kid's Magic

#### NEWSLETTER

**Malcolm Campbell** presented what would be needed for the Newsletter including a President's Message, a reminder that dues are still due and congratulations to the New Board of Directors.

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**Richard Ustick** will prepare the Board Minutes, the new schedule for the upcoming year, information on the theme of the next meeting, and the goals for the new instructional program proposed at the Board meeting.

**Bob Meigs** will submit his ideas on the Halloween public show in Olivenhain in October.

The board meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Richard Ustick, Acting Secretary

## PRO EXPERIENCES\*

By Joe Mystic

Last month I talked about a bad experience with an online magic supplier, **The Magic Depot**. This month, I would like to talk about an online magic supplier that I have had nothing but good experiences with: **Hocus-Pocus.com**.

I have made a hundred or more purchases from them over the years. This is a magic supplier that stands behind their sales. One of the things I like about them is their product reviews.

Yesterday I was looking for a review on a Rubik's Cube effect. Hocus Pocus had an online video review that compared the most current six Rubik's Cube effects. They gave the pros and cons of each effect and talked about how difficult or easy each one was. When you buy online, you need these reviews to make a good decision on whether to buy.

The number of items they have for sale is incredible. They also deal in gently used magic. Sometimes you can find effects that aren't made or sold anymore. They have a section of estate items like all the magic from Daryl and Dean Dill. These are items that have been collected from years past.

I recommend dealing with Paul Gross and his helpers at Hocus Pocus Magic. Join their free member's club for great discounts. I get daily emails with the newest of magic and new offerings. Occasionally we get an email with 33% off for any discountable items. That is a great time to buy needed supplies.

..... Joe

*\*Reviews and ratings of the products, services and vendors mentioned in this column are the opinion of the author and not necessarily those of the Ring 76 officers or membership, or the MagiCurrents staff. You may address the author's comments by sending them to Editor Malcolm Campbell [timeformagic@att.net](mailto:timeformagic@att.net).*

## WHO *DARES* COME TO THE *HAUNTED HOTEL?*

To make our meetings a bit more unusual, your Board considered moving the October meeting to a commercially-operating *Haunted House*, giving members an opportunity to perform *Halloween Magic* for the families who come to see the ghosts and goblins.

The *Haunted Hotel* is a haunted house and carnival, put on by BSA Troop 2,000. It is located at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> St. and Ranch Santa Fe Road in Olivenhain, a neighborhood just



east of Encinitas. The event has run successfully for 18 years, drawing over 1,500 people on four-night runs, and over 2,000 in years when it's open for six nights.

The *Haunted Hotel* would like us to provide free entertainment (who wouldn't?) on the six Friday and Saturday nights of October 12 & 13, 19 & 20, and 26 & 27. We will have two show times every evening, 7 and 8PM, and shows will be from 15 minutes to ½ hour in length. We will have sound, capacity for music, and prop and performing tables on site. This would not replace our regular meeting and Halloween Magic competition in October. This would be an *an additional "Ring Event"* for members who want to perform.

The audiences are families, usually with lots of kids from 5 to 15 years of age. In addition to the *Haunted Hotel*, there will be a carnival with games, food, and drink; a maze; Scooby-Doo movies; a separate building for costuming and retreating from the crowd; and *us!* (Did I mention that costumes appropriate for your routine are *welcome?!)*

Bob Meigs will perform a short version of his *Time Traveler's Magic Show & Séance* as the "default" show. He is very willing to share stage time, or turn the whole time over to other performers. (Just tell me what you plan to perform – He can easily modify his routines to avoid similarities.)

If you'd like to perform, *all dates and show times currently are available* (Oct. 12&13, 19&20, and 27&27; 7 and 8PM). You can do anything from one routine to a show that fills the available time. However, shows must be short — 15 to 30 minutes — because we compete with money-making

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attractions. The audience should grow from perhaps 30-40 on the first weekend, to over 100 by the 27<sup>th</sup>. Small open flames (like candles) are permitted, and **judgment**, not arcane rules, determine acceptable props.

We will also encourage scouts to perform as a means of developing confidence and public speaking skills, but this will not conflict with Ring members

If you're interested in doing a little Halloween magic in front of a receptive family audience, contact Bob Meigs at (619)742-1499, or [thehauntedhotel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thehauntedhotel@sbcglobal.net).

***And be prepared to have a good time!!***

## PROGRAM NOTES

### ***A look at the next few Ring 76 Meetings and what to expect***

While I am a big fan of impromptu entertainment, in reality, more often than not, it does not work. Like the old saying goes, "I love spontaneity, as long as I can plan ahead."

That said, here is a look at the next few Ring meetings and opportunities you have to dazzle the crowd with your magical skills.

A major goal of the Board this year is to afford members chances to improve their magic skills and encourage them to perform. To that end, throughout the year the Board, as well as some of our more accomplished members, will be presenting a series of brief lectures on the entertainment side of magic. While most of us got into magic through watching magicians, buying tricks at the local dime store, or getting them free in cereal boxes, few of us ever been trained in the art of being a magician. While we have had a number of great lecturers who have shown us even more tricks, we have had few instructors on the stage with the intent of teaching the skills needed to sell even the most spectacular of effects.

This year we are going to change that.

Starting in August, in addition to the competitions and other business, Ring 76 will have a series of short, interactive, and informational presentations of the art of Magic, not just the mechanics. We hope to show you that, although the audience may appreciate your manipulation skills, above all, it wants to be entertained.

We hope to show you how to develop the confidence needed to stand before an audience of any size, with almost any effect and make them smile.

Of course the Board should not have to do this alone. If you have some pearls of wisdom on this subject, either positive OR negative, and would like to speak on it, or even a suggestion on what our focus should be, contact Richard Ustick, V.P. of Entertainment, at [Ring76ibm@yahoo.com](mailto:Ring76ibm@yahoo.com).

Our August meeting will not be Kids' Magic as previously listed. We are working on a bigger project that will involve more kids in the audience. There will be more details later.

We will have our first Performance Instruction as well as **Open Mic Night** in August. Open Mic is a chance for you to do whatever you feel like doing. This includes any Kids Magic you were working on. If

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you plan to perform, please contact Richard Ustick at [Ring76ibm@yahoo.com](mailto:Ring76ibm@yahoo.com). Anything you want to show is open game, and that includes any effects you are working on but may not have perfected yet. Our Ring is inclusive and we are always there to provide feedback.

We will also have auditions of new members in August.

In September we will continue the Performance Instructions and the competition theme will be **Oddball Magic**. This is anything unusual or out of the realm of a normal “magical repertoire.” Think of it as comedy magic with a twist. For example, take that trick or effect you usually do and turn it into a “Back to School” commercial for some store or product. Be a pitchman (or woman) for the new Fall Line-Up of any product, service, or series you can think of. Fresh patter can heighten an old effect.

In October we will have our third session of Performance Instruction and the performance theme will be our traditional Spooky or **Halloween magic** time - a time when the ghosts and ghouls of your magic collection can come out and entertain us to the bone.

Just to help you plan ahead, this year we will hold our **Bi-Annual Swap Meet**, a time for you to go through your closet, garage, or rental storage room and bring in all those illusions that just do not fit your current performing style. It is also the time to bring a little cash and pick up some great bargains.

The schedule for the full year is on Page 11. As usual, these themes are suggestions for meeting performances. If you have something else you want to do please feel free. And if you have anything you are more interested in seeing or doing, let your Board know. It is, after all, your Ring.

Richard Ustick, VP Entertainment, at [Ring76ibm@yahoo.com](mailto:Ring76ibm@yahoo.com).



### Focus on the I.B.M.

Following is a copy of the email sent from The I.B.M. announcing heavily-discounted early registration for the 2019 convention in Scottsdale, AZ on July 10 - 13, 2019.

Early bird prices will not last long for the 2019 I.B.M. Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. There will never be a cheaper time to register than **NOW!** After August 25th, registration prices will increase substantially. (A link is included in the email to register for the best deal available.)

The activities will take place at the beautiful Talking Stick Resort—just minutes from the famous Scottsdale shopping and dining. You don't have to leave the resort if you don't want to. Shows will be right there in the resort, and there are six restaurants including a buffet on the

property. One of the restaurants is even open 24/7.

The hotel room rate is lower than we have had in years, and the sleeping rooms are each about 500 square feet. Free wi-fi is included, as well as in-room safes. There is also 24-hour room service available, a 24-hour fitness center, and a beautiful pool with cabanas.

On top of all of this, we are going to have an amazing line-up again in International President Michael Finney's own backyard.

Our 2019 Convention Chair, Ken Scott, says to expect some major changes and innovative programming this year. Already booked is Paul Kozak. It's been five and a half years since he stepped foot off the island, and he is appearing at the I.B.M. Convention in Scottsdale.

**DON'T WAIT—BOOK SOON!** ... editor



## 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 submitted photos of this month's meeting in James' absence

