



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 OCTOBER, 2018 VOL. XXXII #10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROBERT VINSON



Hello Members,

We are going to have another great meeting in October. I love this time of year because it's time for Spooky Magic. There should be a lot of unusual magic routines presented and I will be giving a short lecture from my personal experiences in the entertainment industry. There are a lot of important considerations that are commonly applied but easily forgotten or just overlooked when we perform for the public.

We have been blessed with more magic that will be sold for a good price at the bi-annual swap meet in November. Let me explain:

I was contacted by a gentleman by the name of Don Holland. He was coming back to San Diego to spend some time with his father and help him empty their storage unit. In the process they came across several boxes of his brother Ron's magic and they both decided that they wanted local magicians to have and use these magic props.

Ron Holland passed away back in the 90s. He worked here in San Diego from the 70s through the 90s and went by the name of "Ron the Magnificent". I hope that some of the members will remember him.

We are going to be offering these magic items at the meeting in November. They include a 6-foot guillotine, two crystal silk cylinders, Hand Choppers and a Dagger Head Chest just to mention a few.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you October 8th and seeing some Spooky Magic.

... Robert

Robert Vinson has been a member of Ring 76 for a short time but served on the Board last year and was elected President for the current year.

When he was 8 years old he attended a magic show at school. Immediately after the show, he went to the library and checked out every book on magic he could find. And there began his love of the art.

He studied and performed magic as a hobby throughout his teens. In his late teens, he joined the military and had a distinguished career. Before an injury ended that career, he'd been fortunate enough to have performed magic shows in Germany, Greece, Spain, France and the United Kingdom.

After his military service, he found himself in Hawaii where he performed numerous shows at the resorts on Oahu, including the grand opening of Planet Hollywood. His next stop was San Antonio, Texas, where he performed bar magic and stage shows on the famous San Antonio River Walk for 4 years.

He then moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he was hired to perform in the VIP Lounge at Studio 54 at the MGM Grand. There he was able to build his skills and his show giving him the opportunity to perform for a variety of resorts on the Las Vegas Strip. He's since come to enjoy retirement in Carlsbad where he lives with his wife, Terri, and their cats Maxx and Kacey.

.... editor

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS
HONEST SID GERHART RING 76
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER - MALCOLM CAMPBELL, EDITOR@RING76.COM
PROOFREADER - SHERRY LUFT, PHOTOGRAPHER - JAMES THAYER



Minutes of Ring 76

September 10, 2018 General Meeting

at the San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club

President **Robert Vinson** called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors – **Joe Mystic** introduced his 2 guests, **Anthony** and **Andrea Bruce Wollitz** introduced his sister-in-Law, **Ione**, whose parents were professional magicians. She showed a *Genii* magazine with their pictures on the front. **Laurie Pearson** introduced **Robert Gordon**. **Winton Gibbons** and son **Iain Gibbons** were returning visitors.

Holcomb magic - **Robert** announced that the Holcomb family brought more magic items from Don's collection. All were for sale to benefit the Ring.

Future meeting highlights - **Richard Ustick** reminded the membership that the October meeting will feature Halloween Magic, November will be a swap meet and December will be our annual Pot Luck and entertainment.

AUDITIONS

Assisted by members of the audience, **Iain Gibbons** did several impressive card tricks.

Winton Gibbons did a rope routine with appearing and disappearing knots.

Both received the approval of the membership for their acceptance into the Ring.

LECTURE

Bob Meigs continued the mini-lecture series on improving your performance. He stressed the need to impress the person who booked you, even if he does not witness your show, he is the person who will most likely recommend you for additional engagements.

Bob elaborated on a list of four common mistakes performers make:

Talking too much – This can take the audience's attention from the effect. Keep the patter to the minimum necessary to support the magic.

Making offensive remarks – Even with the most accepting audience, it is very easy to say something that will be taken as an insult. Search your routine very carefully for anything which can be taken the wrong way by someone.

Packing too large – It is an expensive mistake requiring extra expenses for transporting, handling on stage, etc.

Overlooking details – Some which need attention are: Be on time – not late and not early. Fit your show into the allocated time slot. Dress as your character. Know rules of the venue. Make your performance a coordinated show, not a series of tricks.

Several members commented about their experiences with offensive remarks.

PERFORMANCE

The theme for the night was "Odd Ball Magic."

Malcolm Campbell caught those in the audience who were familiar with the usual Zombie Ball presentation off guard by not using the expected gimmick. In fact, he apparently used nothing except the ball and a silk which was examined before and after.

Following the brief performance, Malcolm revealed the secret. It definitely was "Odd Ball Magic."

Bob Meigs enlisted **Iain Gibbons** to attempt to duplicate Bob's ability to blow up a balloon inside a flask. He eventually was able to fit a filled water balloon into the flask through the narrow neck.

Bob revealed the method behind his success.

Alfonso Vasquez had **Iain** attempt to duplicate effects with utensils. (Magnetic spoons, bending

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

fork, knife card deck penetration.) He was unsuccessful, but Alfonso eventually revealed the simple tricks.

Joe “Mystic” McGrievy did an entertaining Pompom Ball routine and a rope routine in which loops in a single rope turned into six separate rings.

Matthew King, assisted by **Iain**, changed the value of a card Iain was standing on to his selection.

Malcolm Campbell, Acting Secretary

Ring 76 2018-19 Calendar

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

November 12 - Bi-annual Swap meet.

December 10 - Holiday Pot-Luck (Program TBA)

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

February 11 - Close-Up Contest*.

March 11 - No Props/Dollar Store 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, October 8 at 7:00 at the Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club, 2606 N. Mission Bay Dr, San Diego

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. Entertainment Richard Ustick,
ru9@ring76.com.

EDITORIAL

Doing Something Right



In the nearly five years I've been putting MagiCurrents together, I've often resisted the temptation to break away from “reporting” to “editorializing” — a distinction that seems to be fading these days, but one my newspaper father never let me forget.

However, after participating in September's meeting, I believe it is not improper to express my observation that Ring 76 is *doing something right*.

The attendance was respectable. We had six visitors, two of which auditioned and became new members. After several years of venue-hopping, we seem to now have a stable, comfortable location for future meetings and events.

For the first time in a long time, the performers were a healthy mix of our hobbyist and pros. It was particularly interesting to see a good number finishing their routine by revealing the methods used.

We had the second in a series of performance-enhancing mini-lectures with good interest and input from the audience.

There was discussion about members participating in community events. I know of at least two members who are tutoring children too young to even be youth members.

There was considerable information being exchanged as members hung around after the gavel fell, then continued at Buddy's Diner

We are in a good financial position and our incorporation is complete. The Board has plans to make the rest of the year educational and entertaining for the membership.

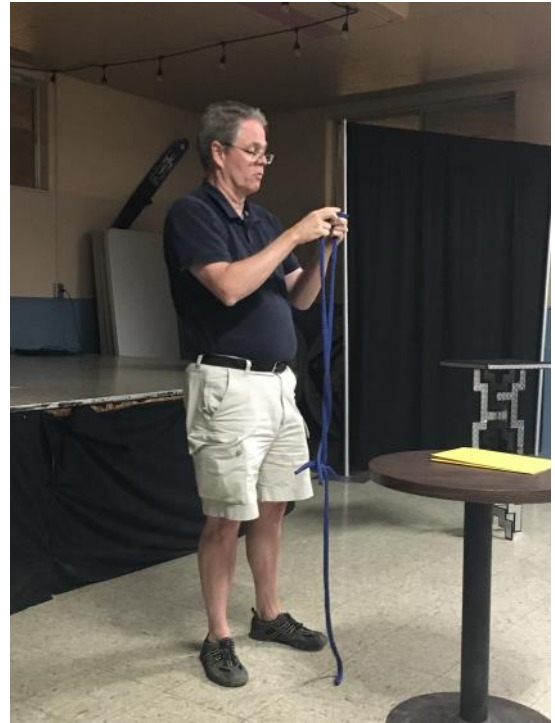
I hope my observations are correct and you feel as positive about the course of Ring 76 as I do.

..... editor

AUDITIONS



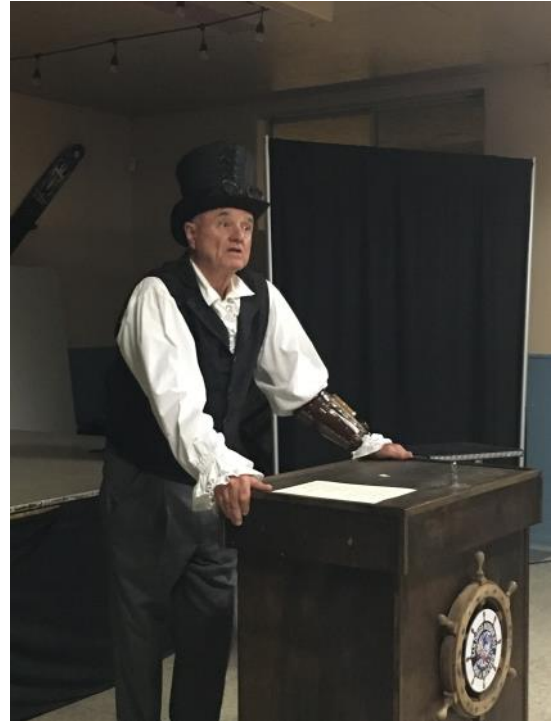
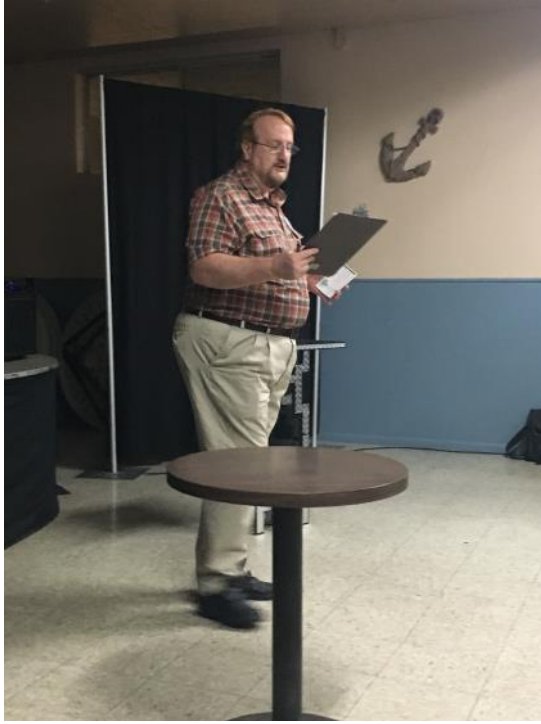
Iain Gibbons



Winton Gibbons



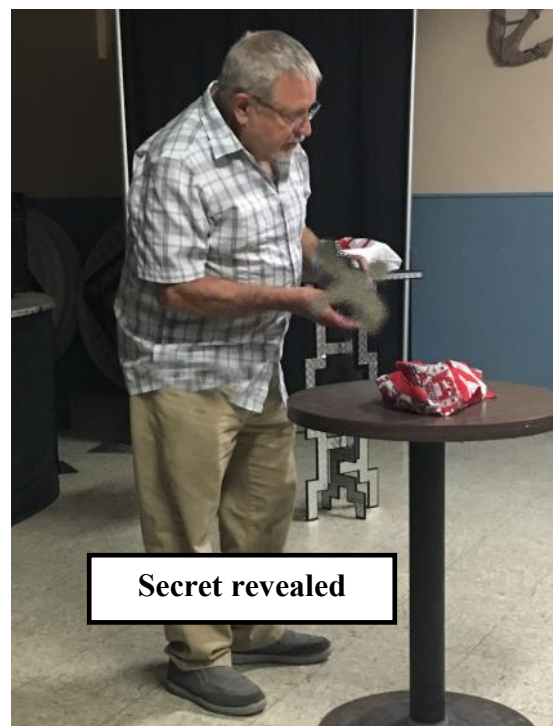
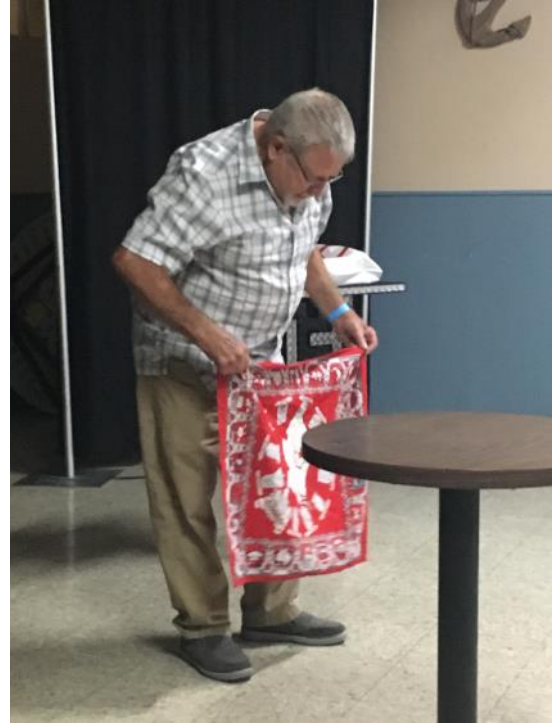
MINI-LECTURE



Richard Ustick introduces Bob Meigs



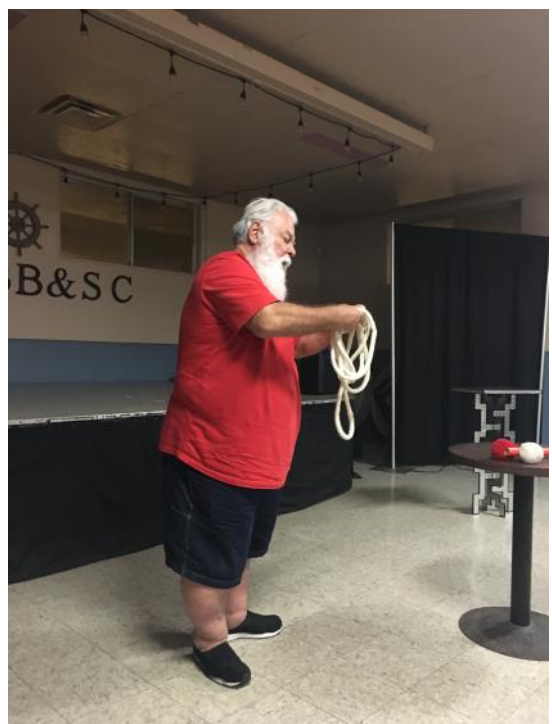
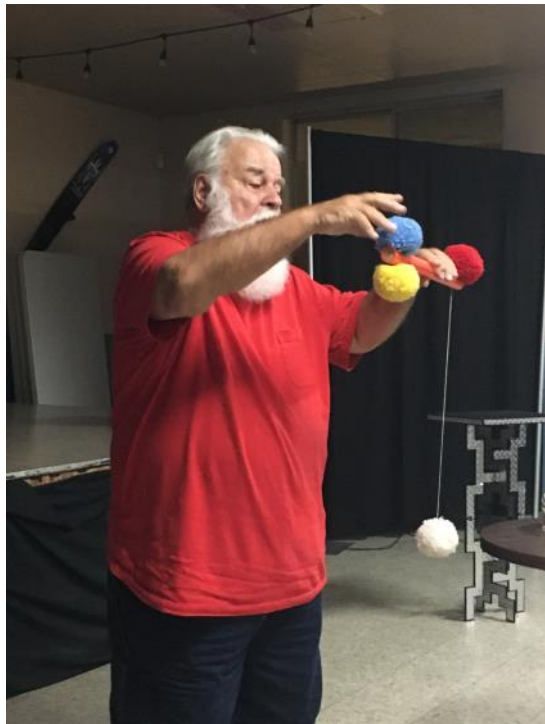
PERFORMANCES



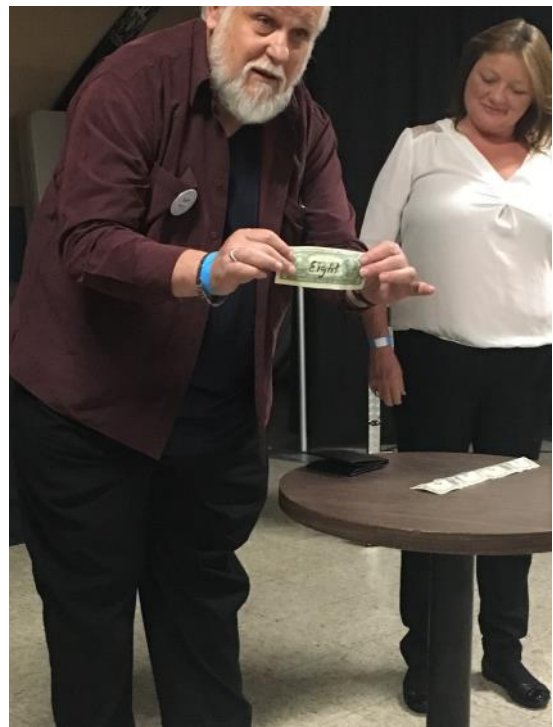
Malcolm Campbell



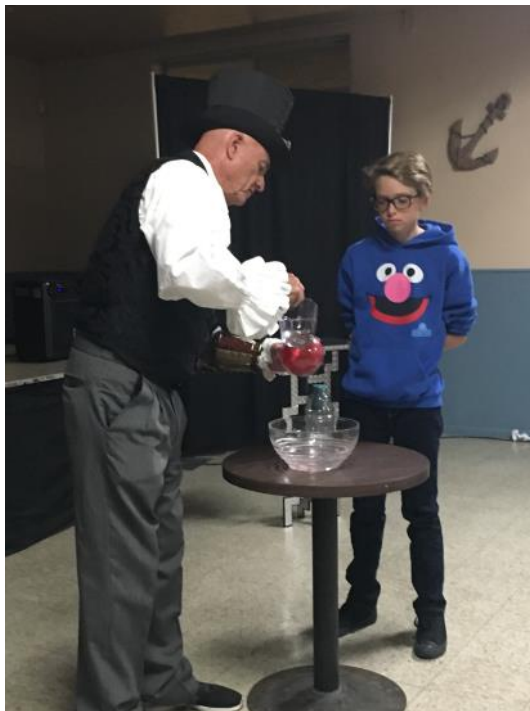
Alfonso Vasquez with help from Iain Gibbons



Joe "Mystic" McGrievy



Jeff Marcus with help from Andrea and Ione



Bob Meigs with help from Iain Gibbons



Matt King assisted by Iain Gibbons



COMING UP

October's theme is Halloween or seasonal magic. Members are encouraged to dress up and present tricks and routines in keeping with the season.

November is our bi-annual swap meet where members can sell their wares and make room for their Christmas wish list. Great deals on fabulous magic is always available at this event.

December is the annual Holiday Pot-Luck and this year the Board has a very seasonal evening planned. Families and friends are welcome and this is often the best meeting of the year.

In **January**, the Ring will be presenting its own version of "Stump the Magician." More on that to follow.

As always, this is YOUR Ring and the Board is always eager to hear what YOU want to see at a Ring Meeting.

See you there!

Richard Ustick

HEADS UP — THE SWAP MEET IS COMING

This November Ring 76 will hold its Bi-Annual Swap Meet at the Boat Club at the usual time.

Members are encouraged to sell their magic they no longer use. Members may also sell non-magic items. Whether or not you sell, you may take advantage of the bargains you will find at any of the tables.

Members are also encouraged to bring friends, relatives or neighbors who might be interested in magic and are looking for a good, but affordable, effect.

Table space will rent for \$5 for a half table and \$10 for a full spread to members, \$15 for a half and \$20 for a full table to non-members. Non-members may not sell non-magic items. Space is limited, so make sure that if you plan on selling, contact **Richard Ustick at Ring76ibm@yahoo.com**.

Remember, the Ring welcomes all visitors to this event. The more people who attend, the more who will buy.

See you in November!

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.



I know, I know, I also hate it when the Holiday displays go up in August.

Don't worry, the Ring is not moving up the holiday; We just want to give you a heads up on our plans for the annual Holiday Pot-luck in December.

This year, the Board has a festive event planned and we know all of our members will enjoy the evening. As always, the families and friends are welcome and we particularly want to welcome children to this event. We guarantee they will be delighted at what the Board has planned.



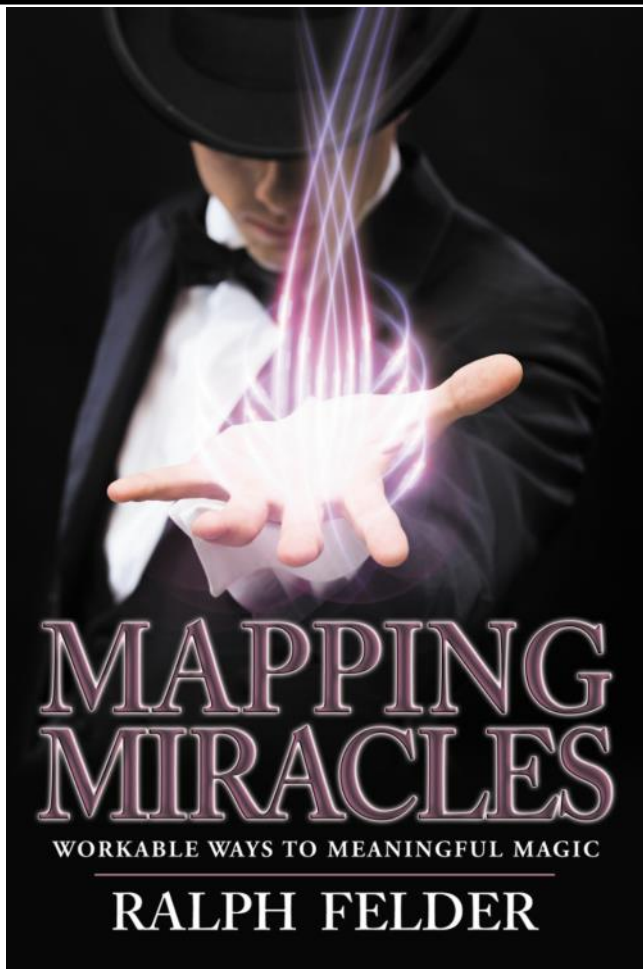
The event will be on Monday, December 10th at the Boat Club at 6:00.

The Ring will supply turkey and ham and utensils, etc. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert, enough for 15 - 20 servings for every two persons in your party.

Watch your email and MagiCurrents for additional information as the time approaches.


Please contact Richard Ustick at Ring76ibm@yahoo.com with any questions.

NEW BOOK ON HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR MAGIC SHOW



"Ralph Felder has created a meaningful read for those interested in all aspects of magic...."
—Magician Randall Eller

"Ralph has created a great system for beginners and semi-professional magicians to evaluate their performances and improve on their craft. This book truly shines for those looking to make the transition into magic with the goal of becoming a professional...."
—Maxwell Blade, *The Maxwell Blade Theatre of Magic*




Author **Ralph Felder**, a Certified Quality Engineer, utilizes a scientific approach to magic which facilitates:

- ✓ Application of creative and critical thinking concepts which can help you invent magic and assemble routines into successful magic acts.
- ✓ Evaluation and adjustment of your show's content to identify and correct issues before you next engagement.
- ✓ Use of the Quality Control concept Outcome-Based Evaluation which employs custom spread sheets to house and manipulate the information necessary to maximize your personal satisfaction and audience enjoyment of each performance.

Twenty fully-scripted routines with eighty-four total effects (tricks) written by the author are used to teach the various concepts.

"...While Mr. Felder ably offers the nuts and bolts about how to be a successful magician, this is really a book about life. As a seasoned speaker of many years, I especially profited from the discussion about relating to the audience....The Outcome-Based Evaluation approach concerns not just effective magic but serves as a guide for any successful endeavor."
—Dr. Jon M. Stubblefield



MAGIC & ILLUSION
ISBN 978-1-66111-258-9
9 781681 112589
www.mappingmiracles.com

Three years ago, Author Ralph Felder, who is a retired Certified Quality Engineer and a magician, began to see a magic performance as a product which needs to be designed, tested and improved before it is presented to the customer. But it doesn't stop there. Only after it has been performed in front of audiences, can the ability of the show to satisfy both the audience and the performer be assessed and improved.

Two years ago, he and I linked up to develop the concept and, eventually, put it in a form useable by even the novice with minimal experience. Mapping Miracles is the result. The book starts with background information aimed at the novice such as basic show-building techniques and sources of knowledge about fundamentals that must be given special attention. Twenty-five routines involving eighty effects are used to illustrate the various principles. Borrowed from Quality Engineering, **Outcome-Based Evaluation** (O.B.E.) is the means by which feedback is utilized to recognize deficiencies and correct them.

Excel spreadsheets - never before seen in a magic reference - are the tools employed to apply O.B.E. to build shows and log and analyze the results. A set of digital spreadsheets is included with the book.

The publication is available from Ralph at rfelder2@yahoo.com. ... Malcolm Campbell



OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM

HAUNTED HOTEL OPENINGS AVAILABLE

Ring 76 is doing *twelve* 15-20 minute shows at the *Haunted Hotel*, a haunted house in Olivenhain. Don't *YOU* want to do at least one?

The *Haunted Hotel* is a combination haunted house and carnival, going into its 20th consecutive year, hosted by *Scout Troop 2000*.

The shows will be at 7 and 8pm, on the three Friday and Saturday nights before Halloween (Oct 12&13, 19&20, and 26&27). Joe Mystic is doing the 7pm shows on the 12th and 13th, but both 8pm shows are open. Malcolm Campbell is doing both shows on Sat., Oct 20, but all other shows are open.

Bob Meigs will cover any “leftover” shows, or will partner with you if you don't want to do a whole 15-20 minute show. He will be on hand every evening, so he can also introduce you, or assist.

We have a performing table, prop table, and wireless sound system on site.

The Haunted Hotel is located at 423 Rancho Santa Fe Rd. (corner of Ranch Santa Fe Rd. & 7th Street) in Olivenhain. Olivenhain is a neighborhood in the east side of Encinitas.

You can do any type of magic you want, keeping in mind that it is a “family” audience. Malcolm is doing a séance, Bob has a combination of STEM & M routines and magic that kids can do with household items. Joe hasn't told us what he has in store, but he's a pro with a good understanding of what does (and doesn't) belong in a “family show.”

If you're interested, call Bob at (619)742-1499.



FOCUS ON THE LINKING RING

The September issue has an interesting article by Spanish magician Carlos Adriano. He talks about “breaking the Fourth Wall” to establish the critical interaction between you and your audience, particularly during kids' shows. It's a technique long used by actors to create a comfortable avenue for audience participation. If you do kids' shows, it's something to consider.

..... editor



Shavings from the Board

MINUTES OF RING 76 BOARD MEETING September 24, 2018



The meeting was called to order by **President Robert Vinson** at 6:55 pm. All the board members were present: First V.P. (entertainment) **Richard Ustick**, Second V.P. (membership) **James Thayer**, Treasurer **Bob Meigs**, Sergeant-at-arms **John Hunter**, Secretary **Ken Intriligator**, Newsletter Editor and Member-at-large **Malcolm Campbell**, Member-at-large and Past President **Joe "Mystic" McGrievy**, and Member-at-Large **Rich Robertson**. Former President **Sherry Luft** was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August Board meeting were approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer's report - Treasurer **Bob Meigs** presented his report to the Board. There was a small increase in the balance thanks to the July auction, which more than offset the fee for the monthly Ring meeting.

Library report - Librarian **Kenny Shelton** was absent. **Robert Vinson** reported that there are a number of fairly rare books in the collection which need to be identified and set aside. **Malcolm Campbell** reported that he has received no reply from the I.B.M. concerning means for disposing of the bulk of our collection.

Membership report - **James Thayer** reported there are currently 55 members in good standing (including two new members).

OLD BUSINESS

August meeting recap - The meeting was seen as a success. The new member auditions went very well.

There were some generous, and much appreciated, donations to the Ring from **Don Holcomb's wife, Liz**. The items are to be sold with the proceeds going to the Ring.

Bob Meigs' lecture was much appreciated.

There was a concern that the Ring stayed past 9pm, which might sometime be an issue with our Boat Club hosts.

Incorporation Update: Malcolm Campbell confirmed that it is done and the first of the annual Information Returns have been filed.

NEW BUSINESS

October Ring Meeting Lecture - **Robert Vinson** will give a lecture on performing tips.

November Ring Swap Meet - The table cost and the importance of bring in non-member guests for the shopping were discussed.

Public Shows at the Olivenhain Haunted Hotel for the Boy Scouts in October - The performances will be on Friday and Saturday nights (starting Oct 12) every weekend leading up to Halloween. Bob Meigs is organizing this, and is looking for performer volunteers.

December 10 Holiday Potluck: Possibilities for entertainment were discussed including **Joe McGrievy** doing his Family Visit Christmas stories. A band - which includes Board Member **Malcolm Campbell** - will play music familiar to our age group prior to and into dinner. The Board encourages members to bring kids who will enjoy the program.

NEWSLETTER:

Malcolm reviewed Board assignments for the Newsletter.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

..... **Ken Intriligator, Secretary**



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. 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!!