



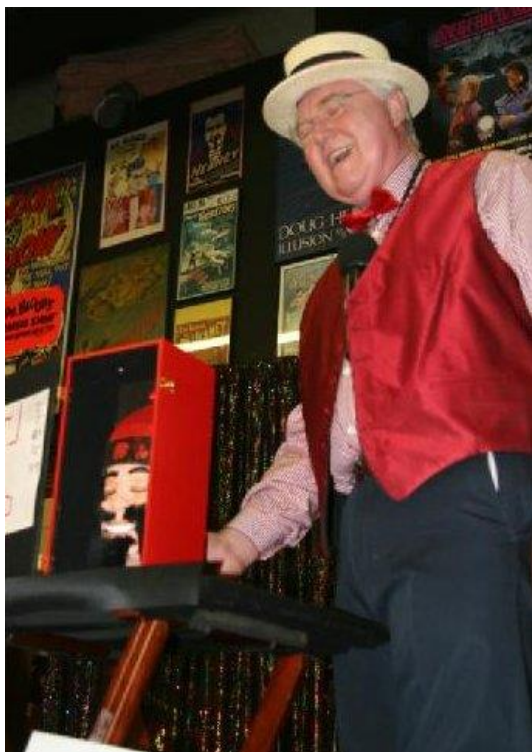
MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 NOVEMBER 2020 VOL. XXXV #11

Late Breaking News

Jack White Passes

As MagiCurrents was going to press, the sad news came of Jack White's passing. A full memorial article will appear in next month's MagiCurrents.



Jack White

Remembering Bob Pozner

The Wizard of Poz

One of Ring 76's most colorful members, Robert "Bob Magic" Pozner, has passed away this week. He had been

Ring 76 2020-21 Calendar

Nov 9 - Larry Hass Lecture
Dec 13 - Dana Daniels Performance
Jan 11 - Magic Videos
Feb 14 - Close Up Contest*

*Opportunity for Members to Perform

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be having physical meetings until further notice. Where possible, we will have virtual meetings on-line. Read this Newsletter and watch your e-mail for

in poor health for many years, but that did not stop him from practicing and performing and writing/posting his blunt opinions on any topic, magic or otherwise, to anyone who would read them. As we all learned the hard way, do not ask Bob Pozner for an opinion unless you REALLY mean it.

According to Ring 76 Icon Jack White, Bob discovered magic at the age of 32 when he visited the Magic Castle and watched Ron Wilson's close-up act. Almost immediately after that, Bob purchased a deck of "Fako" cards and color-changing knives from Chuck Martinez's Magic Shop on El Cajon Blvd. It was there in the shop he met lifetime friends J. C. Wagner, Magic Mike Stillwell, Jeff Marcus, and others. It was Magic Mike who took Bob under his wing and gave Bob a rigorous grounding in magic.

A lifelong San Diegan, Bob was a graduate of SDSU with a BS in Chemistry in 1964. After serving in the

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Bob Pozner

Navy, Bob worked for Rohm & Haas, and Hydronautics as Quality Control and eventually Lab supervisor. Married twice, he has three sons. Bob devoted what spare time he had in the evenings honing his sleight-of-hand and eventually performing professionally with regular gigs at local establishments like Marco's Magic Bar in Coronado, Crystal T's Emporium in Mission Valley, the Magic Lounge on University Ave, and finally a two-year stint at the La Jolla Country Club. He had a reputation for always being dressed to the 9's and performing mostly sleight-of-hand magic flawlessly. Bob was a contributor to Ring 76 in so many ways; former Board of Directors member, Ring librarian, and consistent participant in the "teach-a-trick" nights and close-up competitions, which he won in 2001 and 2007.

When I first met Bob in 2004, he was the irascible old-timer at Ring 76 meetings, where he had been a member since 1973 and achieved Lifetime Member status in 2005. Bob did incredible coin magic and was no slouch with cards. Bob's "Signed Card from Empty Card Box" was particularly dazzling. His delivery was quirky, mostly because he was deaf and shouted to hear himself and he had a raspy voice caused from a lifetime of smoking; his head of thick unruly hair was a built-in distraction, and his smile and twinkling eyes were mesmerizing.

In 2012 I asked Bob if he would be willing to give me lessons in sleight of hand. He responded "Maybe" and asked me to come by his apartment and "show me what you can do." The first lesson cost me \$50, and the very first thing that happened was pure Bob Pozner. He asked to see my coins. I proudly pulled out my eight Kennedy half dollars, and Bob immediately wrinkled up his face and shouted "Jeez those are too small! Get some real coins!"

I spent over two years meeting with Bob once or twice a month for an hour or two. I can tell you Bob has forgotten more magic than I will ever learn in my lifetime, and he was a demanding teacher who insisted his students share the same passion for magic and daily practice, or the lessons weren't worth his time. We continued to meet and share magic over a Carl's burger or Church's fried chicken occasionally and I would help him do grocery chores as he needed, or we would swap "war stories" about environmental science and lab analytical projects in our pasts, but magic was our mutual love.

Bob was unflinchingly honest and "in the moment." He recounted one night in the Magic Castle:

"Larry Jennings was doing a coins across routine in the Closeup Gallery that had me completely baffled. I got in line right after leaving the show to see him do it over and over. Finally I figured out his method in the middle of his third performance and I shouted 'I GOT IT!' – ruined the show for everyone else in the room, and I learned to keep my mouth shut."

Bob was a great friend and teacher to me because he shared his experiences and thoughts without filter and wanted all of us to learn from his mistakes as well as his triumphs. Bob was uber intelligent and a wonderful scientist, as well as magician. I am a better person and magician for having spent time with The Wizard of Poz, and his enthusiasm for disciplined practice and rehearsed polished sleight-of-hand lives on in many of his Ring member friends' routines. I will always use BIG coins, Bob. I promise.



Bob passed away from a combination of emphysema and diabetes. He was 84.

— Jacques Lord

Larry Hass Lecture

Monday, November 9th

Our next meeting will be a lecture by Larry Haas.

Performing Magic with Impact in the Age of Zoom

Magic performance has undergone significant change in this year of the pandemic. Magicians have had to adapt to new performing circumstances and situations as many in-person performing opportunities either moved online or dissolved.

And yet, people in the world need magic! They need the deep pleasure of astonishment. They need to be reminded that the impossible is possible. They need the experience of joy and hope that magic provides.

In this online lecture, created especially for I.B.M. Ring 76, I will perform and teach at least SIX strong pieces of magic from my professional online repertoire. Each of these routines will allow me to share “practical ideas” about how to perform magic that creates great impact on our audiences, whether we are in person or online.

You will experience and then learn visual magic, mentalism, and highly interactive magic I have created for ZOOM. Along the way, I will share essential insights from the Magic & Mystery School about performing magic that is meaningful.

Bio

Larry Hass, Ph.D., is the Dean of the McBride Magic & Mystery School in Las Vegas.

Larry has performed his astonishing, artistic magic around the world at theaters, universities, magic conventions, public conferences, and corporate events. He performs regularly in Las Vegas and at the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood,



Larry Hass

California. In 2019 he premiered his full-evening theater show to great acclaim: *Magical Life: An Evening with Larry Hass*.

Having authored over fifteen books and videos for magicians, Dr. Hass is considered a world-leading teacher of magic and a pre-eminent philosopher of the art. His celebrated publications include, *Eugene Burger: From Beyond* (2019), *Teaching Magic* (with Eugene Burger, 2017), *Inspirations: Creating Magic Out of Tricks* (2015), *The Show Doctor* (with Jeff McBride, 2012), and *Transformations: Creating Magic Out of Tricks* (2007). These books, and many others, are available from his Theory and Art of Magic Press: www.TheoryandArtofMagic.com.

Larry Hass’s visionary approach to magic has been featured in leading international media, including the *New York Times*, *USAToday*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, on National Public Radio and the Discovery Channel, and in his recent TEDx Talk, “What Is the Art of Magic?”

Praise from Master Magicians

Lance Burton — “I congratulate my friend, Dr. Larry [Hass]! With the publication of *Inspirations* he has made a significant and long-lasting contribution



to our art. This is required reading for the serious student, amateur, and professional.”

Jeff McBride — “Larry Hass has personally helped me become a better magician and a deeper thinker.”

Juan Tamariz — “Thank you, Larry, for doing so much to help raise the intellectual level of our beloved Art of Magic!”

Teller — “Larry Hass is an inspiring teacher and a joyful man to know.”

— *Greg Wauson*

President's Message

Ring 76 has recently lost one of the basic bedrocks of the magical community with the passing of Robert Pozner this last October. There is a fine tribute to this man here in the newsletter so I will not take up my space with another one. We have also lost a number of fine magicians over the last year and while I am not going to call them the “Greatest Generation,” to use a phrase, I will say that this generation had a strong effect on the magic that we see today. They will be missed by all who knew and watched them.

With this passing the Ring has had the benefits of inheriting many lives worth of magic props, books, routine and instruction manuals, and memorabilia. Your Board, and other volunteers, have worked to sort, catalog, and reconstruct a lot of these treasures and present them to the Ring for further enjoyment. It has been an honor, a pleasure, and a responsibility they all take very seriously and will continue to do so. They all deserve our thanks.

We are all given a measured span of time on this earth and it will come to an end for all of us. I do not mean to be morbid or even seasonal with this revelation, it is just a fact. We will have treasures of our own to donate one day and for the benefit of the Ring members then who must take possession of them, I would like to make a request of all of you now. With the time we have now because of the continuing quarantine, it may be the best time to

do our own cataloging and assemblage of our magic inventory so that at the proper time the next generation will have an easier time assessing the value of our collections. I would like to urge you to take an hour or two every week to find the instructions for that prop you use (or have not used in years) so that when the box is opened someone will know what it is and what it is supposed to do. Help them see the box of treasures and not the box of unrelated pieces of an unknown puzzle. We are the luckiest generation to date in that we can find the instructions for props we bought and used a half-century ago. We can even start an online request site asking for the original routines for Temple Screens, and Symphony of Silks. We can take pictures of the props as they should look and not how future “archaeologists” can only imagine them. We can help the next generation of Ring members remember this generation's fondest memories.

As I said, I am not trying to be morbid or anything, I am just saying that we should take time to preserve our treasures. It will be the difference between passing them along and tossing them out.

Happy Thanksgiving,

— *Richard Ustick*

Coming Up !

November

Our November meeting will feature none other than Larry Hass, the dean of Jeff McBride's Magic and Mystery School in Las Vegas. He'll present a lecture of tightly scripted magic, fine-tuned with hundreds of performances. We'll learn magic we can do and the secrets which make it entertaining. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

December

We're in for a treat at our December meeting. We have just booked the one and only Dana Daniels! He's well known as a comedy magician who performs an act with a psychic parrot. Born and raised in Long Beach, he's been called one the funniest comedy magic acts working today. In fact, he was the very



first magician to receive the Comedy Magician of the year award from the Magic Castle.

Corporations such as McDonalds and Lincoln Financial both have had him perform all over the country for their top sales people, management and store owners. Dana keeps the laughs going at a speedy clip using his trusty side kick Luigi the psychic parrot. Yes, you read correctly -- a psychic parrot! In-between Dana's outrageously funny sight gags and poking fun at magicians, he sets out to prove that his little green friend is truly clairvoyant.

Together, they perform such miracles as finding chosen cards, reading the mind of somebody on a cell phone and turning a member of the audience's \$100 bill into bird food only to have it reappear inside an egg laid by Luigi. (Tough trick for a male bird.)

Dana's many television appearances include Evening at the Improv, CBS Morning Program, Masters of Illusions, Lance Burton's Taking it to the Streets. He has also opened for such stars as Jan & Dean, Charo, Amy Grant & Vince Gill.

January – (yep, 2021 already!)

This will be our first-ever video night. We'll show classic – as well as some little-known - videos of terrific magic performances. If you have some favorite videos you'd like us to consider, send them to [Greg Wauson](#).

— Greg Wauson

Ring76 Meeting

Monday October 12, 2020

In Cyberspace

The Ring 76 October meeting was our traditional evening of spooky magic. And, as a performance night, the votes counted toward the performer of the month and performer of the year.

President **Richard Ustick** called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There were 24 members

online. **Richard** suggested we continue with the newsletter challenge, and he reminded members about the **Larry Hass** lecture next month, called for any suggestions for the December meeting, and asked for any announcements. **Matthew King** announced the success of his first in-studio corporate show and looking forward to opening his magic shop.

First VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson, congratulated **Sherry Luft** as the winner of the newsletter challenge and was awarded an Amazon gift card. Greg reminded members about the Larry Hass lecture. Greg explained the voting process for the performer of the month, and the Amazon gift card award. Greg told us about a story he read in The Linking Ring which he felt was inspirational, and he reminded us about the brotherhood of magic.



Bob Meigs

Our first performer was **Bob Meigs**, who told a great story about a levitation performed by Maskelyne. Bob spoke about making a light bulb float, and then demonstrated it, while showing that there was nothing connected to it! He explained his science magic using reverse magnetism for a levitation. Then, with the flick of the wand, the lightbulb lit up.

Then **Matthew King** indicated he would perform a signed card to mouth routine since germs are “spooky.” A signed card vanished from the deck. He



Matt King

then pulled a pumpkin out of a briefcase, and a card was folded up in the pumpkin’s mouth, but it was incorrect. He reached back in the briefcase and pulled out a severed head, with the signed card folded up in its mouth!

Next up was **Laurie Pearson**, who presented a video of her performance. Her sleight of hand involved unbelievable morphing of a \$2 bill. She folded it up, made a magical gesture and turned it into two \$1 bills! Next, she folded them back up, blew on them, and they turned back into a \$2 bill, which she showed on both sides.

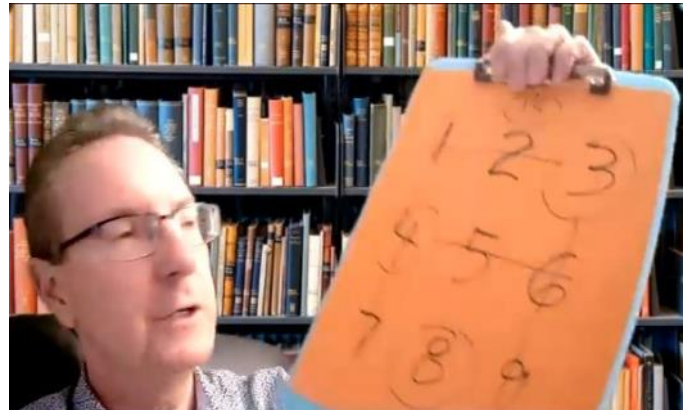
Greg Wauson then introduced a special guest Jerry Langford, a DJ and magician from Orange County. Jerry shared a video of his performance of



Jerry Langford

Jim Pace’s “The Web,” the world’s scariest card trick, in which a spider appears on the back of the volunteer’s hand. He scared a woman with it, to all of our delight!

Greg Wauson was next up and showed a prediction and an orange paper printed with numbers 1 through 9. Volunteer **Mike Stilwell** chose three of the numbers, added them and the sum matched the prediction. Greg revealed the secret to this number



Greg Wauson

force which can be used as a utility item or an impromptu effect.

Following Greg was **Craig Blackwood**, who showed an empty picture frame. He had **Greg Wauson** think of a card and Craig revealed a “52 on 1” gag card. He then asked Greg to name another magician present, and he named **Jeff Marcus**. Then he asked Jeff to think of something that repulses him. Craig amazed



Craig Blackwood

everyone when he turned around the frame and there was a photograph of Jeff Marcus as a child, wearing a cowboy hat, and a picture of melons, which repulses Jeff!



Mike Stilwell

Next up was **Mike Stilwell**, who spoke about meeting magician Peter Chu in Hong Kong at his magic shop. He performed a Peter Chu jumbo card effect involving three aces, which he placed face down, removed two of them and asked which ace remained. When people guessed the ace of diamonds, he revealed the remaining card said “STUNG” and when asked to turn it over, the other side said “STUNG AGAIN.”



Mark Booth

The next performer was **Mark Booth**. He showed two Rubik's cubes, mixed one up without looking and Greg told him when to stop. Mark then mixed the other without looking and Greg said to stop. Then Mark gave Greg the option of which cube for him to solve. Mark put it above his head and, without looking, he solved it! He then put on a blindfold, mixed up the cube, tossed it around to lose track of it, and then had Greg tell him when to stop. Again, Greg had a free choice of which cube to solve. Mark put the selected cube over his head and twisted it around until he felt he was done. However, even more miraculously, it turned out that the two still-mixed cubes matched perfectly on all sides!



Jeff Marcus then shared a PowerPoint presentation about his recent trip to Colon, Michigan. He told about the history of the town and his trip to Abbotts Magic Company, known to magicians around the world. Jeff shared the photos he took of the town, including stars in the sidewalk similar to the Walk of Fame in Hollywood. He also showed photos of Fab Magic Co., and Sterlini Magic shop and the small theater located inside. Then he showed the cemetery and various headstones of famous magicians who are laid to rest there. This very nice tour put into perspective a quaint town we've all heard of but few of us have visited.

Greg recapped the performers of the evening and asked for people to email their votes for the performer of the month.



As a bonus, **Mark Booth** shared his screen and showed the Facebook group Magic Collectors Corner. He highly recommended it to members, as it is filled with historical magic. There are tons of great tidbits in the group and the previous episodes are available to watch online.

President Richard Ustick adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

— *Greg Wauson and Matt King*

Shavings from the Board

October 26, 2020



The meeting was via Zoom and it was called to order by President **Richard Ustick** at 7:05 pm. First V.P. (entertainment) **Greg Wauson**, Second V.P. (membership) **James Thayer**, Treasurer **Joe “Mystic” McGrievy**, Sergeant-at-arms **David Chiu**, Secretary **Matthew King**, Member-at-Large **Mike Stilwell**. Also present were IBM Regional Representative **Jeff Marcus**, and Social Media rep. **Mark Booth**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September and October meeting minutes were approved.

REPORTS

President Richard Ustick: Welcomed all in attends. Informed of member **Bob Pozner’s** passing, **James Randi’s** passing, **Ken**

Klosterman’s passing. Discussed Broken Wand article in The Linking Ring.

Secretary Report, Matthew King: Preparation of the minutes and necessary details were discussed.

First VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson: We had a record number of sign-ups for performances, and two cancellations during the meeting. **Greg** thanked **Jeff Marcus** for his presentation on Colon, Michigan, and we had a tie on the monthly performances between **Matthew King** and **Craig Blackwood**.

Second VP (Membership), James Thayer: We have dropped to 56 members due to the unfortunate passing of member **Bob Pozner**.

Treasurer Report, Joe “Mystic” McGrievy: Joe shared his excel spreadsheet regarding expenses and status. Our current balance is \$1,581.58. We paid for the Kozmo lecture, purchased three (3) Amazon gift cards totalling at \$10 each, and also paid \$14.00 for 1and1 internet hosting. **Joe** indicated that the balances match in the bank with the records.

Sargent at Arms Report, David Chiu: David indicated we had 24 members at the last meeting, including 1 special guest attending from Orange County.

Library Report and Discussion, Gary Salisbury: Gary Salisbury was not present.

OLD BUSINESS

Richard Ustick indicated the necessary tax forms were completed and filed. **James Thayer** mentioned we needed to file a form with the California Secretary of State, as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Richard Ustick and **Greg Wauson** discussed limiting the recording of Zoom meetings. Not all magicians are comfortable with being recorded. We



discussed the possibility of recording only the performers who would like it, or structuring the performances with the non-camera performances at the end of the evening.

Greg Wauson indicated we're all set for a 45 minute performance/lecture from magician **Larry Hass** for the November meeting, and **Larry** is also very excited.

December holiday meeting ideas were discussed. **Greg Wauson** recommended a Zoom magic show, and mentioned **Dana Daniels** had a more reasonable price for the club. All voted in favor of **Dana Daniels**.

Richard Ustick informed the board that we just received a large amount of magic from **Bob Meigs**. It was taken to **Robert Vinson's** house to document. **Jeff Marcus** mentioned it may be in the best interest of the club to list items on eBay, as there are quite a few collectibles.

Joe "Mystic" McGrievy asked about plans for the January and his previous idea of sharing great YouTube videos featuring magic, which board members liked. **Joe** mentioned asking members to send in their favorite magic clips, or **Penn & Teller** clips, and we can discuss how we believe they accomplished them. **Greg** mentioned allowing members to perform at times following lectures, YouTube, etc., time permitting.

Newsletter Requirements
Due Saturday October 31. James mentioned Sunday the 1st at the latest.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

— *Matt King*

Newsletter challenge question

The famous Ring 76 newsletter challenge is your

opportunity to win fame and fortune (well, at least a little bit). Simply be the first eagle-eyed reader to sleuth out the answer to our question and send it in an email to [VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson](#). You will win bragging rights, your name in a winner's email sent to all members and, last but not least, a \$10 Amazon gift card! Please put "Newsletter challenge" in the subject line of the email. All Ring 76 members are eligible, except board members and the previous month's winner.

Congratulations to October's winner, Sherry Luft!

Here's our November challenge: Mike Stilwell was a volunteer for a magic trick at our October meeting. How many numbers did he choose? The answer is somewhere in this newsletter.

— *Greg Wauson*



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



Don't forget that Ring 76 has a private area just for members called [Arcanum](#). There you can find contact information for other Ring 76 members and numerous magical documents are available for download. Contact [James Thayer](#) for instructions on how to log in for the first time.



Ring 76 is still looking for a new editor for MagiCurrents. It's a great opportunity to put your stamp on this organization. If interested, contact [James Thayer](#).