



76  
RING 76  
IBM

# MagiCurrents

HONEST SID  
GERHARDT



## President's Message

**A**s of this writing it's been a couple of weeks since the Tom Mullica lecture at our May meeting. That was a lot of fun, laughs and good magic. Please read the meeting report for more details about the lecture. That lecture also brought us many new faces and a meeting attendance of over 80, which, in my seven years with the club, makes it by far the best-attended meeting of IBM Ring 76 I've seen. Those of you who know me know that my desire for our club is to continue to grow in quality; the quantity of members is secondary and will take care of itself. I have to admit, though, that it is really exciting to have so many magic enthusiasts brought together for such a top-quality event.

Special thanks for her work the evening of the lecture go to Mary Brown who arranges for us to meet at the Francis Parker School. I really appreciate her hospitality, even with such a large number of people. Thanks also to Tom and Karen Kasner and Bill Monroe who met people at the door. They had the difficult task of bringing order out of chaos in handling visitors, membership renewals and new-member signups. It was difficult with the large number of attendees to explain that we require all local Ring 76 members to also be members of the international IBM organization. We're looking forward to seeing several new member auditions over the next few months. Please contact one of the officers if you're one of the new additions to our club and we have not yet scheduled a time for your audition.

The current term of officers is rounding the last corner and approaching the finish line. I literally thank the Lord for my privilege of serving as the Ring 76 president. We have so many terrific people in our club who can be depended upon to handle the many unseen details which help to make our events run smoothly. And (here comes

the segue...) several of them will be officers during the next term. They will officially be installed into those positions at the installation dinner at the July 14 meeting. Or should we refer to it as the July 14 feast? Note that this event will be at Van Winkle's restaurant in El Cajon and NOT at the Francis Parker School. Read elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.



*Ring 76 President Greg Wauson delights Frances Parker School magic club*

I promised to inform you when the convention site for the 1998 IBM convention became known. Drumroll please... it's going to be in the Wilshire area of Los Angeles. Some more details remain but this is the latest.

Now let me step away from club talk to a hobby I really enjoy... magic! Performing and watching magic is just plain a lot of fun. I remember going to a barbecue a couple years ago. One of the guests was a thirty-something guy who had just bought a Scotch and soda coin set. For group after group he put the two coins into a clear glass, said, "Watch this!" and when he shook it only one coin came out. This guy brought a lot of fun to the guests, including me, by his enthusiasm for his

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I.B.M. Ring 76

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*SUBSCRIPTIONS to MagiCurrents are \$10 per year for out of the area magicians.*

*MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS should be sent to the club treasurer, Bill Monroe. All Ring 76 members must be members in good standing with the International Brotherhood of Magicians.*

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MagiCurrents  
11007 Red Robin Pl.  
San Diego, CA 92126*

## Ring 76's May Meeting by Gary Schwartzwald

**R**ing 76 President Greg Wauson welcomed our 80 members and guests to our May meeting. He then proceeded to read the officer slate for next years board. **Greg Wauson** will be Past-President, **Big Bill Monroe** will try for Member at Large, **Tom Kasner** would like to stand tall as Sergeant at Arms, **Julie Dale** is on the books for Treasurer, **Don Soul** is running for Secretary, **Tom LaChance** has a shot at V.P. of Membership, while **Dick Dale** will pursue the V.P. of Entertainment, and finally **Gary Schwartzwald** hopes to fit the bill as President. Good luck to all those running for the board. Elections are in June.



Tom Mullica

President Wauson then introduced our guest lecturer

**Tom Mullica**. Mullica opened his lecture with a humorous rendition of his *Number Trick* card trick and then rolled into his *Pantomime Cigarette* trick that was over in a flash. After explaining the workings of these tricks he then performed his *Tom-Foolery Transformation* which is a jumbo-card trick that one at a time changes both the faces and the backs of four jumbo cards. This is a great effect and was very popular with the crowd.

Mullica then did an outstanding version of a *Torn and Restored Card* which he followed with a torn and restored match trick. He then showed us a mind-boggling finale to a dice cup routine. His *Dice Cup Finesse* has the four dice disappearing completely. Looked great. Mullica then shared with the crowd some *Cigarette Sense*

to help us with our productions of cigarettes as well as other objects. Tom then showed us the workings of his *Card Wallet* and then did a comical *Cards Across* routine. Mullica then did a card from the mouth routine before closing with his famous, astonishing and just plain unbelievable ***Cigarettes and Napkins*** routine.

Throughout the lecture Mullica had the audience involved with the tricks and had us howling with laughter but always took his time in explaining the tricks and was very patient answering questions. He entertained us and he taught us. Ring 76 and our guests for the evening had a night to remember thanks to Tom Mullica.



## May Board Meeting

Date: May 20, 1997

Location: Greg Wauson's

Present: Sherry Luft, Bill Monroe, Tom Kasner, Don Soul, Greg Wauson

Issues discussed:

1. Bill opened checking account for Ring 76 at Wells Fargo.
2. As of 5/20/97 we have 53 paid members. Greg will e-mail the current list to Joe Mystic for updating the newsletter mailing list.
3. Still need to collect the \$5 sellers fee from a few of the sellers at the April swap meet. Greg took credit for not collecting from the sellers at the event.
4. Agreement the Mullica lecture was a big success financially as well as enjoyment-wise.
5. Two people are now running for vice-president. Board members unanimously voted to have, at least for the upcoming year's term, a vice-president of entertainment and a vice-president of membership. Details re. the responsibilities of each will be left for the upcoming board. Thanks, Gary. Don will make ballots for the vote at the June general meeting.
6. Bill will call Mary Brown re. if a VCR and TV will be available at the June meeting for a video teach-in. It will be followed by a rotating teach-in, taught by four of Ring 76's own.
7. Rick will get the plaques for the outgoing officers, since he was last year's member of the year. Thanks, Rick. Greg will contact him.
8. Installation dinner will be at Van Winkle's restaurant on July 14. Several potential performers have been contacted but none has been booked. More performers' names were discussed. A vote to give a discount for the tickets for couples was passed so members could bring a spouse or a guest. Before July 1: \$15 for individual tickets and \$25 per couple. After July 1, \$20 for individual tickets and \$30 per couple. Money can be mailed to Tom Kasner, who will also use his many talents to make the tickets. Tom will also contact Van Winkles to verify their capacity.
9. Bill will get more international application forms.

by Greg Wauson, sitting in for Gary Schwartzwald

## Street Magic

**D**id anyone catch the ABC TV special **David Blaine: Street Magic** on May 19<sup>th</sup>? What an astounding performer! It's amazing what you can do with a simple double lift, a folding coin and the ability to snatch a wrist watch. Along the way, viewers were treated to Gypsy Thread, Raven and ashes-on-the-palm but the highlight of the hour-long show (part of a million dollar deal) was something so eerie I, for one, still cannot understand the method involved. The 24 year old levitated himself six or seven inches off the ground in full view of city street passers-by, apparently with no wires or other rigging! Some one clue me in!!

Blaine's talent made a lasting impression on the crowds that gathered. Seemingly tired of special effects from stage magicians, the appreciative audiences reveled in clean, straight-forward (albeit dead-

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## June Teach-in Scheduled

**I**n response to continued interest, Ring 76 presents another valued teach-in at this month's meeting. Among the tips being offered will be the elusive perfect Faro shuffle as explained by **Don Soul**; a must for performing Paul Gertner's clever **Unshuffled**. The teachers will be circulating among various small groups spending approximately six or seven minutes with each.

You wanted it and you got it. Don't miss this informative evening - complete with a video lesson from the vast collection of **Bill Monroe** - and, **hey**, why not get involved yourself by preparing a trick to entertain your fellow members? We'd really appreciate it.

Be sure to show your support for Ring 76 programs by planning to attend this month's meeting Monday, June 16th, beginning at 6:30.



Ring 76's Joe Mystic Zig-Zags another assistant



## What does it take to be a Magician?

### I. The phone rings and you answer. "Can you do magic at my party?"

- A. Yes I Can!
  - 1. You are a Magician
  - 2. Plan your show
- B. No, I don't like to do shows.
  - 1. You don't want to be a Magician
  - 2. Try another hobby



### II. The rules of Magic

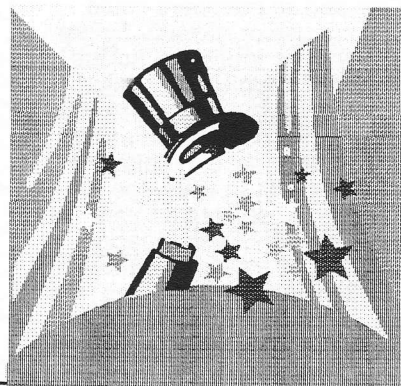
- A. The audience enjoys magic because it is fun. The Magician must be having fun along with them.
- B. The Magician is a special kind of actor. An actor's job is to entertain his audience. A piece of rope cannot entertain an audience, but the Magician holding a rope can!
- C. Use a variety of the "tools of the trade": vanishes, appearances, penetrations, etc. Don't repeat the same kinds of tricks.
- D. Don't try to be mysterious. Nobody will believe you can do magic. Use a lot of comedy in your tricks.
- E. Remember, the show is for the audience. Do tricks they like, not just the ones you like to do.

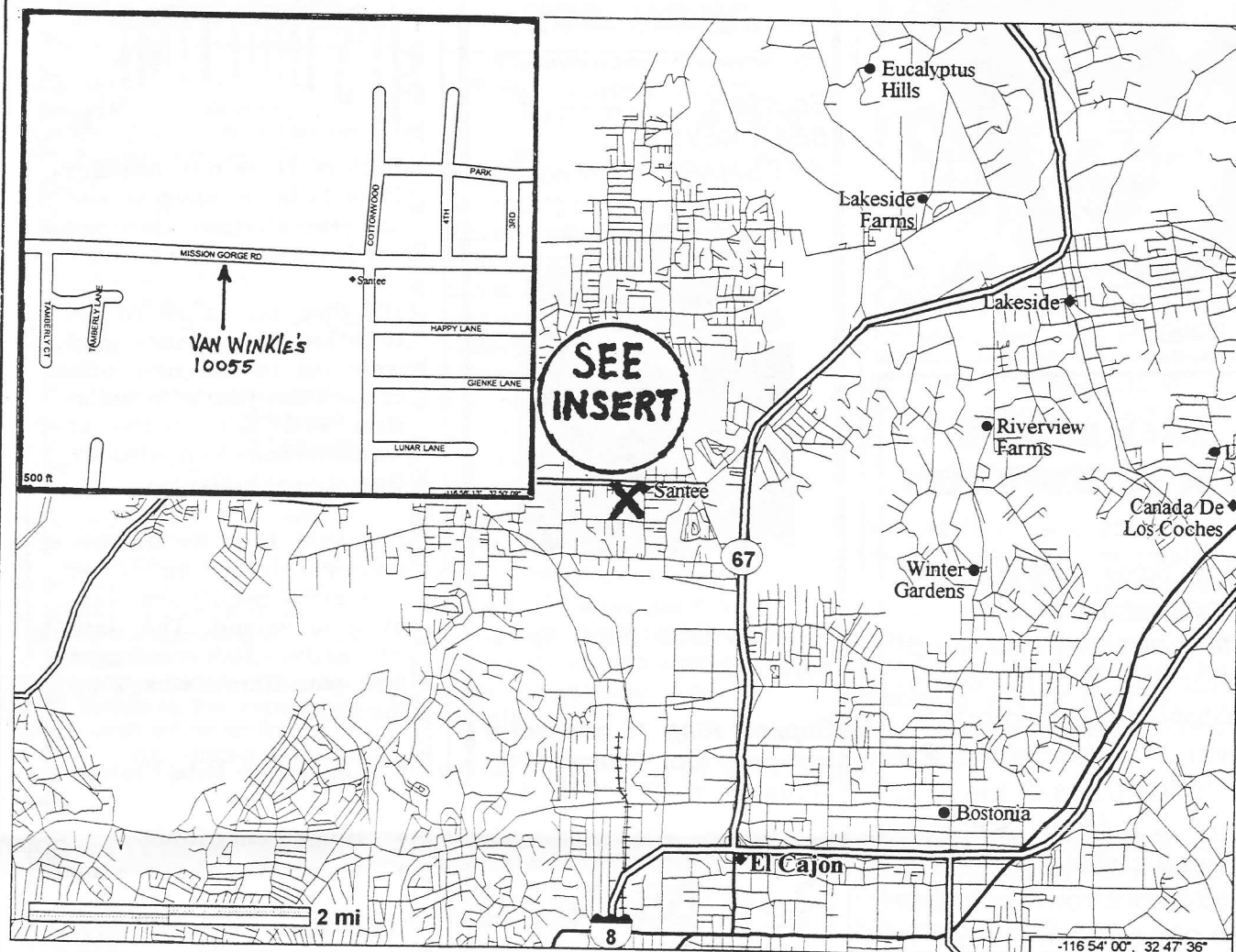
### III. The plan for a good show is as simple as A, B, C, and Go.

- A. Decide what kind of tricks to do.
  - 1. Ask, "How big will the audience be?" Use the right size tricks for the show.
  - 2. Ask, "What will the ages of the audience?"
    - a. If it is a party of twelve year olds, choose the appropriate tricks for them.
    - b. If there are mixed ages, choose something for all ages but slanted toward the youngest members.
  - 3. How long should a show be?
    - a. **NEVER** longer than 1/2 hour. Try 15-20 minutes.
    - b. "Always leave your audience wanting more."
  - 4. Always have a good variety of tricks you are comfortable doing.
- B. Set up your act. Put your tricks in an order that is entertaining.
  - 1. No magic formula for this. Only trial and error.
  - 2. The first trick should be special. "Prove" you are a magician right off.
  - 3. Follow this with a longer, more complex, trick or two.
  - 4. Follow this with a couple of quick tricks with PLENTY of comedy.
  - 5. Alternate long and short tricks. Make them different. Don't do two vanishes in a row.
  - 6. Choose your final trick carefully and leave your audience happy.
    - a. Choose your "best" trick.
    - b. Be prepared to say something so they will know you are through.
  - 7. Keep a record of your shows.
    - a. What worked, what didn't.
    - b. This is a quick way to choose the right show for your audience.
- C. **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE**, your program.
  - 1. Practice daily in front of a mirror.
  - 2. Lay out your entire show, just as you will do it.
    - a. Write your program out on a card.
  - 3. Rehearse the entire show, NOT just the individual tricks, just as you will be doing them in a real show.
  - 4. Practice going from one trick to another.
    - a. You will find many unexpected problems.
    - b. One trick may not flow into another.
    - c. What if the trick does not work?
    - d. Always have an emergency trick ready if needed.
  - 5. Where will your helpers stand? Can they see your secrets?
  - 6. What will you do when you are finished with a trick?
  - 7. Rehearse what you are going to say.
    - a. Talk your show aloud.
    - b. Talk to your audience, NOT above them.
    - c. DO NOT SAY, "Now for my next trick . . ."
  - 8. Timing is important. Practice the right thing to do, and say, at the right time.

GO . . .

- A. On the day of the show . . .
  - 1. ALL materials should be carefully packed in a suitcase.
  - 2. Arrange your tricks in order.
  - 3. When you arrive, have a table set up where you can perform.
    - a. Use a corner of the room to hide your secrets.
  - 4. If possible, set up in private.
  - 5. You will have "Stage-Fright." Everyone Does.
  - 6. Enjoy Your Show!





## President's Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

new magic trick. He had no patter and no practiced showmanship but he made up for those with an extroverted personality and a fascination like a boy with a new Tonka truck. People became involved in the experience. I heard several people say, "Did you see Steve's trick?" This was probably Steve's first magic trick, obtained by plunking down twenty bucks at a magic shop. He had practiced just enough to know how to set the coins into the glass with no fumbling. He made no claims of being a magician, just a guy with a single cool trick who added a lot to the enjoyment of the afternoon.

So what's my point? That a likable

enough personality will make up for a lack of practice? Or that it's okay to neglect putting some real thought and entertainment value into a magic performance? Or that if the trick we buy is clever enough that it can carry the show? Nope on all counts. Simply, if someone like Steve can generate as much fun and interest in one trick as I saw, we who call ourselves magicians can really, as Michael Ammar would say, press the wonder buttons of our audiences. Starting with a baffling trick, think how powerful it can become when we surround it with smooth, non-fumbling handling, a well-thought-out presentation and an effective story which involves the spectators! Such is our goal. Let's have fun presenting our magical wonders and keep our standards high.

Until next time,  
Greg

**The magical arts lost one of its greatest showmen last month. On May 14th, 1997 Harry Blackstone, Jr. died of pancreatic cancer.**

**The magic club of Francis Parker School wishes to thank the members of IBM Ring 76 for their kind support and wonderful lessons.**

**We especially appreciate the magnificent magic of Rick Bruce, Dick Bush, Joe Mystic, Loch David Crane, Jeff Smith and Greg Wauson.**

— Thanks!



Frances Parker School magic club welcomes Loch David Crane

## SAN DIEGO'S YOUNG MAGICIANS

Mary Brown's after-school magic club for 5th and 6th graders is in full swing! Attendance at the every-other-Thursday group is over 20. A few of the kids entertained us at the Ring 76 meeting in March. Please call Mary at (619) 560-5099 if you would like to check it out or teach the kids a trick. Thanks to Rick Bruce for his recent visit.

\*\*\*\*\*

Also, call Rick Bruce at (619) 299-1875 for more information about a new magic club for San Diego youth. This club is also experiencing excellent attendance by enthusiastic young magicians. Ring 76 was privileged at our April meeting to have several of them magish for us.

Ring 76 Online

<http://www.websmart.com/ring76>

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**Ring 76 Web Page Sponsors Sought.**

**Support Ring 76 and get a web page too. Contact Greg Wauson at (619)566-5654**

## Rep Needed

The 69th annual I.B.M. convention will take place in Minneapolis July 2 - 5 with stars like Mark & Nani Wilson, Milt Larsen, Aldo Columbini and Mike Close.

Are you planning to attend? If so, we **need** you to represent Ring 76. The Brotherhood would like to see as many formal reps from Rings around the world as possible. There's not much to it and we crave attention. Even though we hosted a party during the I.B.M. executive board meeting in January, this gesture would go a long way towards impressing them.

Contact, as soon as possible, any Ring 76 officer with your offer to personify our group.

## IT'S THAT TIME...

Believe it or not, another Ring 76 board election and the Installation Banquet are just around the corner.

It's time for us all to get together once more and welcome in the new officers. This year's installation will take place at world-famous Van Winkle's Restaurant in Santee.

It would help us tremendously if we had an idea of how many people are planning to attend. The date will be July 14th starting at 6:00 pm. Here's what's on the menu:

- Chicken & Ribs Platter
- Baked Ham dinner
- Roast Beef dinner
- Vegetarian plate

Make your advanced reservations now. The night's entertainment will cost:

**\$15 per person  
or  
\$25 per couple**

**After July 1st the price increases to:**

**\$20 per person  
or  
\$30 per couple**

Send your reservations (and desired entrée) to **Tom Kasner**. His address is on page 2. And, if you need a map to find Van Winkle's, turn to page 5.



## About Ring 76...

- Members must be at least 12 years old
- Non-members may attend three Ring 76 meetings at no charge (except for special events)
- Local dues are \$20 per year (under 18 years is \$10)
- Membership in the IBM international organization is required. IBM dues are \$40 the first year. You will then receive "The Linking Ring" magazine, one of magic's best publications.
- Prospective members are required to perform a five-minute magic audition at a Ring 76 meeting.

Ring 76 members receive the monthly Magicurrents newsletter and may attend all monthly meetings at no charge.

## Street Magic

*(Continued from page 3)*

pan) presentations without the gitz and glamour. Such acknowledgment should spark enthusiasm into our own quest to entertain.

If you think elaborate or store-bought tricks are all you need for your routine, consider simplicity, too. What David Blaine did with forces and duplicate cards didn't require manipulation as much as it did creativity. The guy's very clever. Keep on the lookout for him. He may be in your neighborhood soon.

— DS

*Ring 76 encourages all members to attend every Ring meeting each second Monday of the month. Without your support there would be no meetings!*

## A Magic Joke

(This joke was given to me by someone who attended the Mullica lecture on 5/12/97, but I don't recall who it was.)

A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience would be different each week, so the magician allowed himself to do the same tricks over and over again. There was only one problem: The captain's parrot saw the shows each week and began to understand how the magician did every trick. One he understood he started shouting in the middle of the show, "Look, it's not the same hat," or "Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table," or "Hey, why are all the cards the ace of spades?"

The magician was furious but couldn't do anything; it was, after all, the captain's parrot. One day the ship had an accident and sank. The magician found himself on a piece of wood in the middle of the ocean with the parrot, of course. They stared at each other with hate, but did not utter a word. This went on for a day and another and another. After a week the parrot said, "OK, I give up. Where's the boat?"

— GW

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# JOHN FEDKO LECTURE

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 7:00 PM

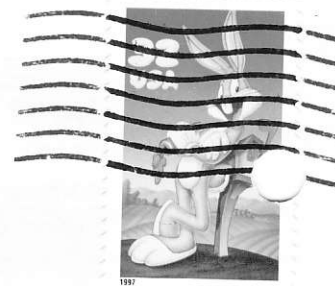
\$10 IN ADVANCE     \$13 AT THE DOOR

Greg Wauson's home:

11007 Red Robin Pl., San Diego

(619)566-5654

John Fedko will be presenting his recent Magic Castle lecture. Refreshments will be served.



**MagiCurrents**  
**11007 Red Robin Place**  
**San Diego, CA**  
**92126**

Roy & Betty Armstrong  
 2548 Littleton Road  
 El Cajon, CA 92020

# What's Happening

**Monday, June 9, 6:30 pm:**  
**Regular meeting. Annual elec-**  
**tion will be held. There will be a**  
**hands-on teach-in**

**Tuesday, June 17, 7:00 pm:**  
**Board meeting at TBD.**

**Monday, July 14, 6:30 pm:**  
**Ring 76 installation event.**  
**Van Winkle's Restaurant**  
**10055 Mission Gorge Rd.**  
**Santee**  
**Details are now being arranged.**  
**Dinner and entertainment are**  
**planned**

## Now Playing at the Magic Castle

May 27 - June 1	June 2 - 8	June 9 - 15
<b>Close-Up Gallery</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Bob Markwood</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>David Avadon</b>  <b>Parlour</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Aldo Colombini</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>John Carney</b>  <b>Palace of Mystery</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>T.C. Tahoe</b> <b>Sylvester the Jester</b> <b>Amos Levkovitch</b>	<b>Close-Up Gallery</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Guy Bavli</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Larry Clark</b>  <b>Parlour</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>James Chantler Brown</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>Michael Forbes</b>  <b>Palace of Mystery</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Rich Bloch</b> <b>Eric Buss</b> <b>Peter Gossamer</b>	<b>Close-Up Gallery</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Terry Lunceford</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Jim Starr</b>  <b>Parlour</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Guy Bavli</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>Loren Michaels</b>  <b>Palace of Mystery</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Terry Seabrooke</b> <b>Danny Cole</b> <b>Cameron &amp; Co</b>
June 16 - 22	June 23 - 29	June 30 - July 6
<b>Close-Up Gallery</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Len Reid</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Johnny Ace Palmer</b>  <b>Parlour</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Howard Flint</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>David Groves</b>  <b>Palace of Mystery</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Mike Elkan</b> <b>Glenn Falkenstein</b> <b>Frances Willard</b>	<b>Close-Up Gallery</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Mark Matsumoto</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Whit Haydn</b>  <b>Parlour</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Arthur Benjamin</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>Mitch Williams</b>  <b>Palace of Mystery</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Raymond Crowe</b> <b>The Wilsons</b>	<b>Close-Up Gallery</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Jason Tong</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Jeff Bornstein</b>  <b>Parlour</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Bruce Cervon</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>Joe Monti</b>  <b>Palace of Mystery</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Jonathan Neal</b> <b>T.C. Tahoe &amp; Lesley</b> <b>Dan Birch</b>