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RING 76



MagiCurrents

President's Message

The **Bob Markwood** lecture was well attended by over 40 people and he did a great job helping us develop a fresh view of performing. I really enjoyed the lecture and Markwood caused me to think about my own issues with performing magic.

I became a member of Ring 76 over seven years ago. Last year was the first time I was willing to perform in front of the Ring. Although I have performed for the Ring since then, I have not performed very often. I wasn't always this reluctant. As a teenager I was more comfortable performing magic than I am now. There were, and still are, several parts to my apprehension. The biggest parts were that I didn't feel comfortable with the group and also did not feel that I would get honest feedback from my peers. I need the honest feedback to know if I am embarrassing myself. Going to several East County Magic Club meetings helped me.

At these meetings there was a small group of people that expected everyone to share and they showed interest in each other and in me. This more relaxed atmosphere helped me get ready to do a trick or two. I don't know if it is semantics or just my attitude, but it helped that it felt more like *doing a trick* than *performing*. I have to admit that I was not happy with my

first two experiences in front of this group. Even though I got positive feedback I don't know if the tricks were well received or not. My problem was that I did not really know what the group thought and I didn't hear how I could be better. So, everyone was nice, but not very helpful. The next time I did a few tricks I asked for constructive criticism, and I got it.

The most interesting part about the honest feed back was that the trick(s) I thought were really good went over okay and the tricks I thought were barely okay were pretty well received. By performing and receiving honest input I felt better about what I was doing and knew how I could become better. I've seen similar reluctance from other people who love magic. That is one of the reasons the Ring 76 Board is now doing a pass-the-mat trick. A good case in point is **Tom La Chance** who really was worried

about his pass-the-mat trick, then he got up there and was outstanding. If he never got up there he would never know how well he performs that trick and the great impact it has on an audience.

Yes, as President I am leading up to getting you to *do a trick* at the November meeting. Since the theme is Turkey Magic you can do a trick that is a turkey. It shouldn't take much practice to do a turkey of a trick so give it a try. If you want honest feedback, go ahead and ask, you'll get it.

Let me know if there is something we can do for you. If you're enjoying the meetings, bring a friend. See you on November 10th.

Gary S

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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, Julie Dale. All Ring 76 members must be members in good standing with the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

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MagiCurrents
10068 Branford Road
San Diego, CA 92129*

Ring 76's October Meeting

A lecture by **Bob Markwood** was our meeting for October and what a delightful treat it was for the 40 members and guests. If you've never had the pleasure of seeing Bob in a seminar-type environment you've missed two hours of valuable tips on performing AND making money with magic. Bob makes it interesting by including everyone in the lecture and at one point or another he had each of us up there in front of the group.

Bob started with a trick he calls My Favorite Card, using his assistant, **Jim Riley**, showing how to distribute your business card or that of your host to your audience. This was followed by the Human Card Deck with **Bill Monroe, Donna Soul, Raam Wong, Betty Armstrong,** and **Chris Lorenzen** as, what else, human cards. **Bonnie Love** participated in the you-do-as-I-do version of Mike Caveney's Linking Coat Hangers and just about everyone else in the audience was part of Bob's Quality Game and the Freeze Game. Suddenly, we all realized we were in for an evening of magic which included us, and that was the point of Bob's lecture. Without giving away too much of his lecture material, it can be said that his use of those attending his lec-

tures will come away learning and retaining much more because of his methods.

For example, he brought out the Magic Coloring Book and set in motion "improv magic." **Lynn Javier** was asked to perform it and she did a bang-up job. In contrast, **Loch David Crane** was invited to improv a mute "Copperfield" presentation of the same trick set to music from Jurassic Park. It proved to be a hilarious show-stopping performance. Next, using the same

(Continued on page 7)

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.

Ring 76 October Board Meeting

The October 27th Ring 76 board meeting took place at Tom Kasner's home. Attending were **Dick** and **Julie Dale**, **Tom La Chance**, **Tom Kasner**, **Gary Schwartzwald**, **Don Soul** and **Greg Wauson**. The meeting opened with a brief review of a February lecturer. Nothing definite has been planned to this point.

The organization of the Ring library was the next topic. Tom Kasner did a wonderful job of cataloging the material complete with a detailed list in booklet form as well as bar coding of all publications. It was established that in order to borrow library information, each person shall be limited to three books at a time with a deposit of \$5 for soft-cover and \$10 for hardbound books, refundable upon the return of the items. Tom will lug the two tubs of double-layered books to each meeting.

Our permanent meeting place has been established at the American Legion Hall, thanks to Dick's negotiating. They are very excited for having us and have welcomed us back with open arms. The Legion Hall will be the site of our annual pot luck Christmas party December 8th. It is hoped that Santa Claus' sister, Clara Claus (**Peg Marcus**), will be in attendance, barring a scheduling conflict. The party will include an anonymous gift exchange of items costing no more than \$5. Bring a gift, you get a gift. The pre-meeting Collector's Corner will be handled by **J.P. Jackson**. Entertainment will consist of member performances.

Previous December board meetings have been skipped due to prior commitments, both professional and personal. If a board meeting is held in December, it will be at the home of Tom La Chance.

Board reports: Tom Kasner stated we have 61 members and Julie reported a treasury sum of \$872.22. It was agreed by the board that **Joe Mystic's** efforts in publishing *MagiCurrents* during the prior administration should be reimbursed only with respect to his submitted copies of invoices from copy shops, paper dealers and postage. The receipts submitted thus far total \$126.

The I.B.M. Ring Quality Program was next discussed. Examination of the program showed the period of evaluation to be not less than one year but not more than two. Based on that span, the board decided to include Ring 76 activities from October, '96 through April, '97. Tom La Chance and Don will gather the necessary info.

The Linking Ring One-Man Parade feature was next to be considered. The board needs to solicit *original* effects or presentations by the membership in order to submit to LR magazine. A call for interested parties will be put forth at the next few meetings in the hopes that Ring 76 can send it to I.B.M. by the February meeting.

The need for a Ring 76 historical document has been pursued, off and on, by **Dick Bush**, **Jim Riley** and **Fred Rohrer** in the past. It still needs to be pursued. An announcement by Dick was made that **Roy Armstrong** was kind enough to contribute many years worth of *MagiCurrents* for such efforts and special board thanks go to him. Tom Kasner shall be custodian of those newsletters.

With no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

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Get Your Act Together!

Wanna be a star?

Then you've got to prepare NOW for the January Close-Up Contest.

Better yet, enter the contest today then start putting your close-up performance together.

You, too, can be famous! Our contest winner will receive a special recognition award in July so be sure to notify Dick Dale ASAP that you'll be one of the entertainers.

The I.B.M Ring Quality Program

Ring 76 has a chance to be recognized by the International Brotherhood of Magicians for its achievements. Be sure to read the monthly board minutes for future developments and progress.

MONDAY NIGHT MAGIC AT THE BIG APPLE

by Scott Wells

Imagine yourself 30,000 feet in the air on your way to New York City. You're thumbing through the airline magazine and thinking about what you're going to do when you arrive in the Big Apple. As you page through the magazine, you flip to an article about a magic show in New York. What could this be? You wonder where it is and when they have the shows. Well, the second question is answered easily enough by the title, but you read on for more details . . .

What does the 37 year old hit musical "The Fantasticks" have to do with magic and magicians? Well, on Monday nights the venerable Sullivan Street Playhouse in Greenwich Village, New York is dark, that is, it was dark. Now it plays host to a different trio of parlor magicians and a close-up duo who display their feats of legerdemain for appreciative crowds who are continually looking for unique entertainment. Hence the name of the show, Monday Night Magic (MNM).

And these tricks are not just for kids. On the September night I visited, Todd Robbins amazed the packed house with tricks not suitable for the squeamish. He walked on glass, ate a 60 watt light bulb, and drove a nail into his nose. Not your typical sleight of hand faire. During intermission, the audience was treated to true "close-up" magic by two magicians in the upstairs Fantasticks Museum. J.B. Benn and Frank Brents were separated by about 20 feet and 50 years but equally matched at their proficiency of pasteboard prestidigitation as playing cards danced at their fingertips.

Back for the second half, Jamy Ian

Swiss provided us with a delightful cup and ball routine from the streets of India, he showed us a little black bag that allowed a little white egg to continually vanish then reappear, and he finished with a heart warming story about the first magician he ever saw perform at Radio City Music Hall. During the story, Jamy recreated the trick he saw that magician do as he tore apart a cigarette paper then miraculously put it back together.

What makes this all the more entertaining is the intimacy of this venue. The theatre only seats 148 people with people seated at a 180 degree angle around the magicians. Spectators on the wings watch in hopes of learning how it was done, but these magicians are not your common tricksters. Try as you might, you can't see how they do it. You could say that the closer you watch, the less you see! Professional magicians from around the country and across the globe vie for a treasured spot on the small stage.

The opening act that evening was Michael Chaut who changed the color of a small hanky and surreptitiously stole a spectator's watch only to have it reappear inside a locked box which was held by the gentleman's wife throughout the performance. Michael was filling in that night for an act that was under the weather. But that's only part of his job. Michael is the creator and producer behind MNM. He puts on the show and works with a committee to find the right blend of talent each week.

"MNM started as an idea to bring intimate parlor and close-up magic to New York," said Chaut. "Los Angeles has the famed Magic Cas-

tle (a private nightclub for both magicians and non-magicians) and Houston has its elite Magic Island (a public nightclub), but since Mostly Magic (another public nightclub) closed in New York four years ago, quality magic has been missing from the New York night life. I just wanted to bring it back." London started the ball rolling in 1995 with a similar idea also entitled MNM. The creative idea apparently struck Chaut without his knowledge that London's MNM was already up and successfully running. Since their "unofficial" opening earlier this year, Michael has had the co-founders of London's MNM perform on the Sullivan Street stage. As a result of their friendship and exchange of creative ideas, the two are now affiliated.

Another similar venue opened in the Boston area nearly two years ago and offers locals and visitors something different each Tuesday night. That same evening I was there, Jon Stetson, producer of Boston's "Magicians and Spirits" was there to exchange some ideas with Michael Chaut. With the popularity of magic on television and in Las Vegas, perhaps this idea might catch on across the nation. In the meantime, you can catch the magic in Greenwich Village every Monday night. It's "Fantastick!"

Monday Night Magic - New York
8:00 p.m. every Monday
The Sullivan Street Playhouse
181 Sullivan Street
2 blocks east of Sixth Avenue and 1 ½ blocks
south of West 3rd Street
Greenwich Village, NY
ticket information: Circuit Tix 1-800-429-3433

Scott Wells is a American Airlines Platinum Frequent Flyer and often frequents New York haunts. He is also a part time professional magician himself.



Chris Markwood and Anne White attended the lecture.



Our guest of the evening, Bob Markwood.

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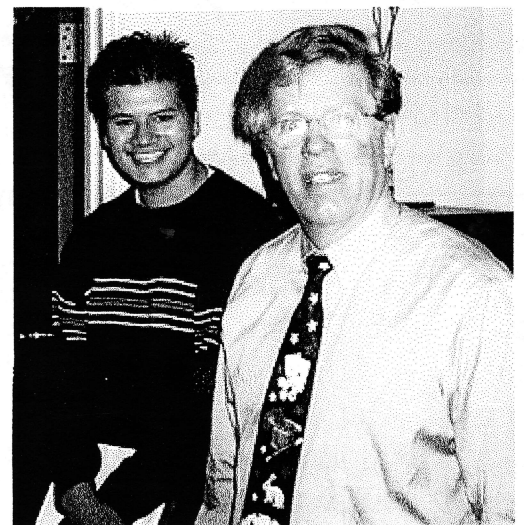


Loch David Copperfield and the Magic Coloring Book.

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Was this the American Legion Hall or the YMCA?



West Coast Wizard Raam Wong with Bob.



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Skipper Frank Herman
710 Anchor Way
Calsbad, CA 92008
September 30, 1997

Dear Skipper Frank,

As secretary of the board of the Academy of Magical Arts I am writing you on behalf of the board. It is my great pleasure to tell you that last night (9/29/97) the board voted unanimously to make you a Life Member of the Academy of Magical Arts.

You will be receiving a new plastic membership card in the mail and we would like to present you with the companion "Gold" Life Membership card at the Academy General Meeting on Feb. 1, 1998. This will be held in the Palace of Mystery at approximately 3:00 PM. Please let us know if you cannot make it.

This is the boards way of saying thank you for being the great guy that you are, hope to see you at the club soon.

Sincerely,

Bruce Cervon
Secretary of The Academy of Magical Arts

A Non-Profit Social Order Devoted to the Advancement of the Art of Magic.

October Meeting

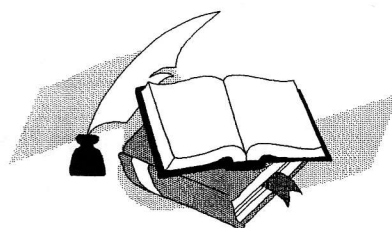
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prop, Raam Wong became a prosecuting attorney in a court case claiming the coloring book was useless, now that it had been colored. **Don Soul** came up next and acted as the defense attorney proving that the case had no foundation; the book had nothing but empty pages. **Richard Ustick** got his turn to adlib with Chinese Sticks while two guests to Ring 76, **Marc** and **Jolene**, were put on the spot to improvise Peanut Butter and Jelly transposition as an evangelist and a sister in an all-boy's school, respectively. We also got to see the timely Mr. Bob Halloween greeting card pumpkin production, Bob's invention called the Pizza Oven Surprise starring **Bernard Kleinke** as the cook and the evening ended with Raam, Donna, **Ken Dear** and **Gary Dismukes** reprising Linking Coat Hangers as the Village People doing YMCA. It was a lively meeting full of useful information and entertaining twists on "breaking out of the box," as Bob puts it. We need more meetings like this one, don't you think?



The Ring 76 Magic Library

The Ring 76 library is back! After many years we once again have a book library which is available to our members. This is not just a few books, but a total of 117 of them plus more soft-bound pamphlets than Evelyn Wood could read in a year. Many of these books are classics of magic which you have at least heard of. The library will be at the November meeting and if you can show us your current Ring 76 membership card and pony up a few bucks as a deposit you can check out some of these gems. (See board minutes on page 3.)



Many thanks to our sergeant-at-arms, **Tom Kasner**, for cataloging, bar-coding and organizing the books and booklets. Tom has done a substantial amount of work on the library so give him an "attaboy" for the club when you see him.

Ring 76 Online

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

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Ring 76 Web Page sponsors needed.

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

This month's meeting

The November meeting theme is aptly named "Turkey Magic." You don't need to center your magical performance around our great Thanksgiving bird. Instead, what we're referring to is that lowly trick you bought thinking it would be a knock-out effect only to realize it is one of your prime dust collectors. This trick is so rotten you wished you'd have saved your money and gone to Vegas instead. You must have such trick at the bottom of your drawer so bring it!

Our pre-meeting will include a video teach-in featuring a tape by **Juan Tamariz**. Be sure to **bring a deck of cards** so as to learn from the tape.

Mailing
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What's Happening

November 10	6:30 pm American Legion Hall - La Mesa theme: Turkey magic pre-meeting: Video teach-in
November 24	7:00 pm Board Meeting Tom Kasner's home
December 8	6:30 pm American Legion Hall - La Mesa theme: Pot luck Christmas dinner pre-meeting: Collector's corner
December 22	7:00 pm Board meeting Tom La Chance's home
January 12	6:30 pm American Legion Hall - La Mesa theme: Close-Up contest pre-meeting: Paper magic
January 26	7:00 pm Board meeting Tom La Chance's home

At the Magic Castle

November 17 - 23	November 24 - 30	December 1 - 7
CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Jim Kreaz Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Peter Studebaker	CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Jeff Semel Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Bob Kohler	CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Bruce Cervon Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Larry Clark
PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 David Groves Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Brian Gillis	PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Brandon Scott Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Howard Jay	PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Earl Nelson Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Michael Hack
PALACE of MYSTERY 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Chuck Fayne Kevin James	PALACE of MYSTERY 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Billy McComb Tina Lenert Goldfinger & Dove	PALACE of MYSTERY 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Martin Lewis Janita Taylor Lana Shemada