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MagiCurrents

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President's Message

by Gary Schwartzwald

I hope the holiday season brings you all the things you desire, including rest, relaxation, good times and of course magic. For many people this is a time of year of giving and remembering times past. I hope your old memories are fond, as you're making your new memories. I hope we all take the time to give a gift to someone who needs that certain something we can provide. I hope your time is filled with joy and leisure. Enjoy!!!

It looks as if we will have an outstanding pre-meeting, pot luck, and magic show for our meeting on December 8th. The meeting will be filled with good times, good friends, good food and great magic. Let me know how you're enjoying the meetings. See you December 8th.

Gary S

Ring 76 November Board Meeting

by Don Soul, secretary

The November 24th board meeting was held at the home of **Tom Kasner** and attending were **Dick and Julie Dale, Tom La Chance, Gary Schwartzwald, Don Soul and Greg Wauson**. Gary opened by asking for responses from phone calls made by the board to members regarding the December meeting pot luck dinner. Many of the board had not yet placed their calls owing to the fact that everyone's list was lacking phone numbers. Tom Kasner improved the situation by issuing corrected lists. The board decided to furnish soft drinks, a turkey and a ham.

The January close-up contest sign up was reviewed and determined an appeal should be made to generate more interest in the contest at the time board members place their calls re: Christmas party.

The February lecturer was next discussed as well as themes for March and April. Board reports followed with Julie stating that, after paying Joe Mystic for submitted invoices for three months of newsletter expenses, Ring 76 has \$566 to pay for future lecturers, meeting space rent, Christmas party and July installation banquet costs. It was obvious to all that fund raising for the Ring is imperative. Dick volunteered that both Rick Bruce and Mike Stilwell are interested in promoting a fund raiser for the club and it was suggested that the two work co-operatively, which Dick will pursue.

The board elected not to have a board meeting in December. With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.



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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 November Meeting

by Don Soul, secretary

The members this evening watched a video tape, before the regular meeting, of two card tricks performed by Juan Tamariz in his inimitable style. Everyone can glean something to improve his presentations by learning from Mr. Tamariz. President **Gary Schwartzwald** introduced our six visitors then presented this month's Pass-the-Mat board member/performer, Sergeant-at-arms **Tom Kasner**. Tom invited past-president **Greg Wauson** to assist him as he showed the audience a daily newspaper. Greg was instructed to lie down as Tom poured a cup of water explaining the "El Niño" effect. Directly over Greg, Tom poured the water into a section of the newspaper and it disappeared! After showing the paper unfolded once more, Tom folded it and poured the water back into the cup. Thanks, Greg, for being a brave assistant. The mat was then passed to Entertainment VP **Dick Dale** for a January presentation.

After announcements **Rick Bruce** took the floor to say that **Tom Schmidt** recently appeared on radio to perform magic; Needle-through-arm, no less! How did it go over? He had the radio announcers gasping as they described the effect. Next it was time for **Ken Dear's** audition for membership which, it seems, happens every few years or so. It has become a Ring 76 tradition. Ken gave us Professor's Nightmare and Brainwave. Well, once again, Ken has become a member. Congratulations!

After a break the theme of Turkey Magic was explained. Nine members for the evening performed tricks which they considered to be "turkeys" - those items you wished

you'd never bought. **Dick Dale** started off showing a set of Chinese Linking Rings he sent away for a long time ago. He believed them to be defective since two single rings wouldn't link, two others had been welded together as was a set of three rings and finally the last one was broken. He also exhibited a color changing ball from **John Mendoza**. Hhmmm. Youngster **Gabe Travers** entertained us, with the help of his assistant, visitor **Mike Bennett**. Gabe divined Mike's selected card after it had been sealed in an envelope. **Don Soul** was next as he presented Trevor Lewis' Signature. Assisting him was **Sarah Stevenson**. Greg Wauson performed disappearing knots then **Diane Lane**, with the

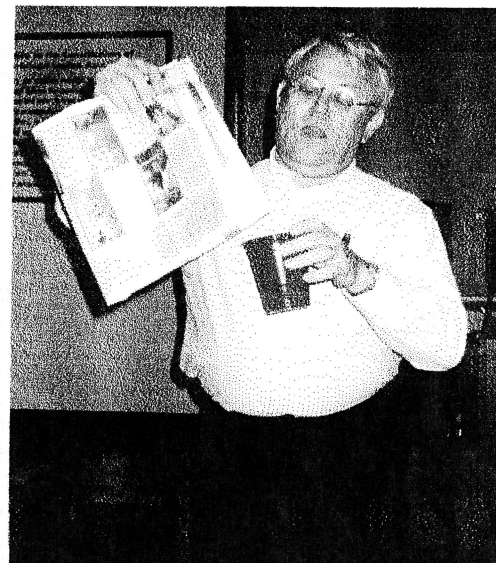
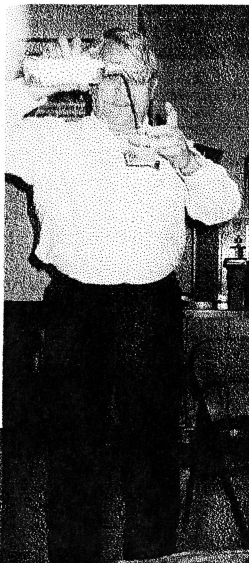
(Continued on page 5)

About Ring 76...

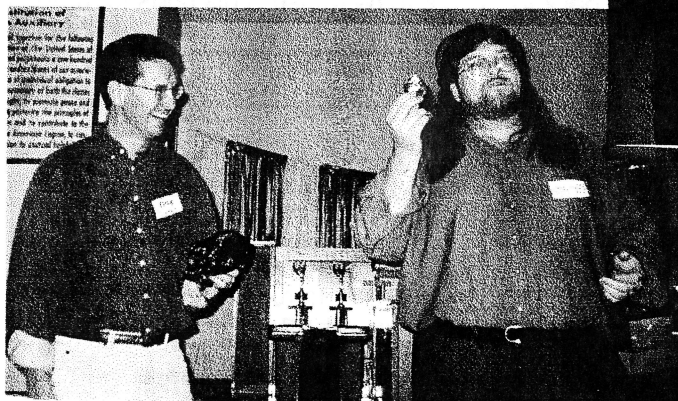
- Members must be at least 12 years old
- Non-members may attend three Ring 76 meetings at no charge (except for special events)
- Local dues are \$20 per year (under 18 years is \$10)
- Membership in the IBM international organization is required. IBM dues are \$40 the first year. You will then receive "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.

Ring 76's November Meeting

"Turkey Magic"



Tom Kasner stuns the crowd by pouring water into a folded newspaper then making it reappear!



Rick Bruce, winner of Ring 76's impromptu Golden Turkey award, displays the Lydia March medallion to Greg Wauson.

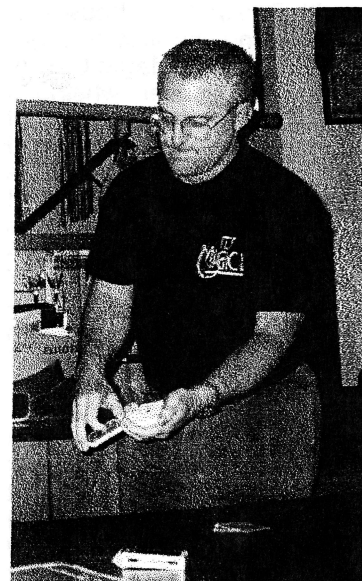
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Greg Wauson apprehensively awaits Tom's water suspension trick to conclude.



What a mess! Gabe Travers, left, and Marcia Bruce, right, pose with Paul Thomey amid a table full of chicken stuffing after Marcia's signed card is found.



Jim Jolly performs the double-lift.

Scott's Thoughts

by Scott Wells, A.I.M.C.



And The Winner Is . . .

. . . You! Isn't that a thrilling sound? The thrill of victory is yours while the rest suffer the agony. Everyone likes to win contests, awards, and drawings. Sometimes our motivation is for the money, sometimes it's for the trophy, award, or plaque, and other times it's for the recognition. We love it all, but for most magicians with our big egos, it's mostly for the latter.

Winning magic contests certainly has its rewards that can get you bookings which can lead to other opportunities. Winning contests should be an end to a means that helps get your name recognized by your peers and could lead to more significant work, that is, if you want to pursue magic for profit; however, except for working magic conventions, giving lectures, and selling books and gimmicks, magicians are probably not going to be your primary source of income. And some magicians could care less whether or not you won any contest. For example, I remember talking with Bob Jardine, house bar magician, during my first engagement at Hollywood's Magic Castle. He asked, with a sneer, whether I was some hot-shot kid who had just won a magic contest. When I replied no, he smiled, stuck out his hand, and said it was great to meet me. There are lots of magicians who are competent, financially secure, and have some degree of fame who have never won contests. They may have never even competed or they may have just never won.

Preparation for the competition could be more important to your growth than the actual contest. It prepares you by first making you establish a plan. You have to know what you're going to do before you do it. The preparation process also helps you develop a discipline for practicing. It helps you to set your

mind on a task, to maintain focus, and to be ready for the unexpected. When it comes time for the actual competition, you should be so well rehearsed that nothing should keep you from winning. If your execution and timing were perfect and you still didn't win, then it could be because there were others who were judged (another subject for another time) to be better at that time in that place before that audience or it could be that your routining was poor. In this latter case you need to go back to the drawing board and start from scratch. Hopefully the judges will give you some direction in this during your feedback session following the announcement of the winners. Organized magic conventions provide this feedback time.

"Being recognized and appreciated by your peers is an essential human need."

Tommy Wonder said in The Books of Wonder Volume 1, that if fame and fortune are your goals, then you're never going to achieve them. These are actually by-products of hard work and dedication. I suggest that you read his short monograph *The Paradox of Money and Success* (page 300) before going after the prize. Some performers have turned their hard work and achievements into very profitable careers.

Paul Gertner has judiciously used his first place award from FISM to separate him from the rest of the trade show performers in promotional material directed to his corporate clients. He has proclaimed himself the only professional trade show performer to have won such an award and to be recognized for his talents not only by his peers but also his corporate clients. Some magicians fabricate winning awards just for publicity reasons. I recall a magician in West Texas who was booked to front a professional wrestling match. He advertised himself on the poster as the winner of a national magic contest from some fictitious magic organization. I'm certain that this was not an isolated case.

Winning something for the mere thrill of it is all right, too. Many times I have seen a winning act

that was finely tuned and the obvious result of hours of practice; however, I don't believe that some of these acts were practical for "real world" working conditions. As a result, they had nowhere they could work after winning the contest. Moreover, I don't think the intention was to take their show on the road. Therefore, they must have developed the act for personal gratification, recognition from their peers, and perhaps for proving to the magic fraternity that they could be fooled. This goes for both close-up and stage, but sometimes the contestant has the last laugh.

Giovanni won the 1991 IBM Gold Cups with a close-up act that many said was not practical for "real world" conditions. His act included quite a bit of set-up and the production of several large items. It was cumbersome to haul the stuff from room to room plus he needed a table with a curtain to hide his loads. The "after hour debate" was whether he should have won a close-up show with such an act. In reality, Giovanni did use some of the material in his restaurant magic work but the act was used in its entirety in his trade show work. As another example, look at Del Ray's act. Without his special table, he'd just be another extremely competent magician. But his close-up act can't be done without his table with all of its electronic features so he hauls it all over the world. He makes his act practical.

Being recognized and appreciated by your peers is an essential human need after we have satisfied some of our lesser needs. Maslow pointed this out in his Hierarchy of Needs, but at the pinnacle of his pyramid is self-actualization where one no longer needs such recognition. Most people cannot get there without having first achieved those accolades. In a few cases, some can actually skirt this need and be satisfied with themselves without such acclaim.

Decide what it is that you want, where you want to go, and when you want to be there . . . then go for it!



November Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

help of **Loch David Crane**, magically found the four aces after having Loch sort the deck into four piles. **Sumit Dua** was in rare form and, indeed, performed a series of card tricks in keeping with the theme. Greg Wauson helped as Rick Bruce took center stage with his genuine turkey entry, Portrait of Lydia March. **Jim Jolly** jumped ship (the Kittyhawk) long enough to perform "That's It!", a smooth double-lift move with Sarah Stevenson as his helper.

To close the evening, **Paul Thomey** brought us true turkey magic. He had Don Soul pick, at random, one box of chicken stuffing mix from a selection of four identical boxes. **Marcia Bruce** was then asked to sign a freely-selected playing card and replace it into the deck. Soon it was gone from the deck. Don was asked to give Marcia the box of stuffing which she opened and spilled the contents upon the table. Inside was also a packet of dried gravy mix. Marcia opened the packet and, believe it or not, her signed card was inside the packet. At the end of the

This Month's Meeting

The annual Ring 76 Pot Luck Christmas dinner is our December 8th meeting. It will be held in the downstairs area of the La Mesa American Legion Hall beginning at 6:30 and family members are invited. If you haven't already been contacted by a board member, please make sure to give Dick Dale a call and let him know what you intend to bring as a dinner contribution. It could be a salad, a side dish, casserole, dessert or what have you. Ring 76 will provide soft drinks as well as the big bird and ham. There will also be an anonymous gift exchange, the value of which should be inexpensive... around \$5. Bring a wrapped gift, get a gift. Magical entertainment has been scheduled.

evening, and by a round of applause for each performer, Gary determined that this night's outstanding turkey trick and performer was Rick Bruce, for which he received a surprise gift: a 3-pound frozen turkey breast. The joke was on us. Rick is a vegetarian.



Ring 76 Online

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

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

I NEED HELP By Vic Lee



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IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER THE JANUARY CLOSE-UP CONTEST

* * *

Call Dick Dale and be sure you're in on the competition. Don't feel intimidated. You have just as good of a chance as anyone else so go for it! Read Scott Well's article on page 4 and you'll be inspired. Come on. What have you got to lose?

St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Festival is appealing to any magicians desiring to spread some holiday cheer.

The Festival will occur December 14th at the St. Vincent de Paul warehouse from 10 am until 2 pm.

Interested performers should call Mary at (619) 453-3395

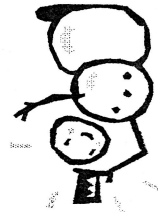
December 8 6:30 pm American Legion Hall - La Mesa
 theme: Pot luck Christmas dinner
 pre-meeting: Collector's corner

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

February 9 6:30 pm American Legion Hall - La Mesa
 theme: Lecturer TBA

What's Happening



SEASONS GREETINGS FROM RING 976

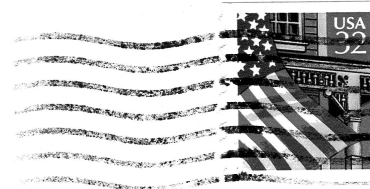
At the Magic Castle

December, '87

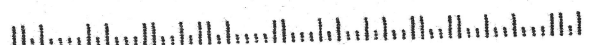
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 San Diego, CA 92129-3223



MagiCurrents



<p>December 15 - 21</p> <p>CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Barry Price Dylas Sardo</p> <p>PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Arthur Benjamin Terry Lundford</p> <p>PALACE of MYSTERY Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Peter Pit Jamal Keyes Charles & Bobbi Peters</p>	<p>December 22 - 28</p> <p>CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Alfonso David Malik</p> <p>PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 T.C. Taboe Ken Smith</p> <p>PALACE of MYSTERY Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Larry Cole Danny Cole Enrico De La Vega</p>	<p>December 29 - Jan 4</p> <p>CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Steve Valentine David Malik</p> <p>PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 T.C. Taboe Alfonso</p> <p>PALACE of MYSTERY Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Larry Clark Eric Buss Enrico De La Vega</p>
<p>November 24 - 30</p> <p>CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Jeff Seand Laven C. Michaels</p> <p>PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Brandon Scott Howard Jay</p> <p>PALACE of MYSTERY Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Tina Lencert Billy McComb Goldfinger & Dove</p>	<p>December 1 - 7</p> <p>CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Chris Gorgora Larry Clark</p> <p>PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Earl Nelson Michael Black</p> <p>PALACE of MYSTERY Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Martin Lewis Jamie Taylor Luna Sheemada</p>	<p>December 8 - 14</p> <p>CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Fred Catlier George Millward</p> <p>PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Lee Bayless Bob Markwood</p> <p>PALACE of MYSTERY Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Rich Bloch Dale Hindman Dale Safwak</p>