



MagiCurrents



President's Message

Thank you for an outstanding Holiday Potluck in December. We had a great turn out, excellent magic and terrific food. What more could we ask for. Special thank you to **J. P. Jackson, Marcus Day, Dick Dale, Roy and Betty Armstrong, Craig Stone and Peg Marcus** for entertaining us. Also thank you to all who did extra to help us prepare. Everyone was great.

In mid December I was in Las Vegas for four nights and tried to see as much magic as I could stand. For those of you considering going to Las Vegas here is a brief synopsis of what I saw. First was **Dixie Dooley** at the Holiday Boardwalk. There was almost no cost for the 25 minute show. Dooley did mostly close-up magic with one bigger illusion. Considering the cost and length of show I would mildly recommend it. My second magic stop was **Rick Thomas** at the Tropicana. The cost was very affordable and he performs various stage illusions for an hour. He does a very good job on-stage and is friendly off stage. I would definitely suggest you give his show a try. I then went to the very expensive **Ceasars Magical Empire**. It is expensive but the food is great, the drink is plenty and it is a great evening. I saw and spoke with **Bram Charles** and the **Pendragons**. My recommendation is, go. I attended the show **Spellbound** at Harrahs. It is a very good revue highlighting the magic of **Ayala** and his assistant **Lilia**. Good show give it a try. I planned my last magical stop to be seeing **Nick Lewin** at the **Maxim**. Lewin had the day off so I ended up seeing **Fielding West** in his place. At a very affordable price West did very good magic with great humor for a hour. Give him a try if you get a chance. If you would like more detail on any of these acts please let me know, I would be happy to tell you all about it.

See you on January 12th for the close-up contest. Good Luck..

Gary S

Ring 76 Fundraiser Badly Needed

December 8th, 1997

TO: Honest Sid Gerhart Ring Members
FR: Rick Bruce
RE: Fund Raiser

As many of you know, our Ring's funds have been hit pretty hard over the last many months. Spending Ring funds is a part of conducting our business, but it doesn't take an economist to know that when our bank account's gazintas fall short of the gazoutas that we need to make some changes. Your board is well aware of this situation, and I feel confident that they have the situation well in hand. I believe that it is incumbent upon us, the general membership, to give them the tools to strengthen our Ring. Currently, a tool which would lend considerable strength to our organization is money. Short of ponying up extra dough from our pockets, the best (and most fun) way for a group of magicians to get money is to make it appear by magic. With that magic (er.. I mean money) we can host lectures, pay our rent, buy nice extras like the holiday ham and turkey, and

maybe even put on a show or two in the future.

I know that many of you have participated in our Magic Heritage Days. Some of you attended the A.C.E.S.'s show at the Lamp-lighter's theater in La Mesa. It has been rewarding, fun, and profitable to host shows in the past. We can do it with minimal or no risk. Some of your fellow members have expressed interest in helping put together such a show. Can we count you in? (ed. note: please use Rick's sample response form below and RSVP this urgent request.)

Name:

Phone #:

Will you perform:

If yes, what kind of Act? (Close-up, Stand-up. Please briefly describe)

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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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Ring 76 December Meeting



Many thanks go to Membership VP **Tom La Chance** for providing the turkey we enjoyed at this month's meeting - the annual pot luck Christmas party. This was one of the best holiday parties we've had and the thoughtfulness of those who attended and brought our servings is to be commended.

J.P. Jackson and **Marcus Day** started the evening off with a display of many historic (and operable) magic props and books. After dinner we were treated to the lively magic of **Roy and Betty Armstrong**, **Dick Dale** and **Craig Stone** plus a special visit from **Clara Claus (Peg Marcus)** with her assistant who showed us a few exotic animals like a monitor lizard, an iguana and others. It was an evening filled with warmth and friendship and that's what the Honest Sid Gerhart Ring is all about.

Photos: Top left, J.P. Jackson. Top right, Roy and Betty Armstrong. Bottom left, Dick Dale and Gary Schwartzwald. Bottom right, Clara Claus, iguana and helper. Center, Craig Stone.

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.

Magic Gets Insulted on Fox

by Misha Osinovskiy
Student Writer

Recently, the Fox television network aired a show called "Magician's Greatest Secrets." A master magician danced around (for some reason he assumed he could dance) and exposed some of magic's greatest secrets. This person's identity was not revealed for reasons such as, other magicians might come over to his house and watch him die a slow and painful death while they all took turns drinking his blood. There was not a single bit of talent in the one hour program. The show was in bad taste and insulting to magic in general. It should have never been aired on national television.



Misha

Those of you who saw the program finally found out how to saw a lady in half. Or did you? Somehow, every other box used to saw a lady in half looked about four sizes smaller than the box our talented master magician used. He not only explained how to do the trick but also added very intellectual comments such as:

"You can see that the lady is not really being sawed in half because, if she were, we would have one dead assistant."

Of course, any person using only one-fourth of the left side of their brain could have figured this out, but we should still thank Fox for clearing this up. The show was in very bad taste, making it seem like after a magician performs a magic trick he goes to one of his underground clubs and laughs with all his magician friends at you. This is not true! Except for the case of the master magician, who doesn't yet realize that he tells you how the trick is done. This is what the conversation of the master magician and his only friend would sound like:

Master magician: "I did a card trick for an old lady, she was amazed!"
Imaginary friend: "Hahahahaha-hahahahahahahahahah."

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting features our long-anticipated Close-Up Contest. At least seven entrants will be ready to vie for the honors. This is one meeting you will not want to miss. Come out and give our fellow Ring members their due support.

Prior to the contest Paper Magic will be taught at the pre-meeting warmup. Money, napkins, newspapers and other paper products will become magical props in your hands once you get the low down on how to use paper to entertain. It all starts at 6:30 at the American Legion Hall in La Mesa, Monday January 12th. Be there!

This goes on for hours until everybody (two people) all get tired and go home. The truth is, to real magicians magic is something special, sometimes done in a personal way to one person or a whole audience. It's not done to fool the audience, but to make them feel that they are doing the magic with the performer.

In his 15 seconds of fame the master magician tries to make you believe that:

1. There is no other way to do the trick that he exposes.
2. "He" is a woman.
3. Magic is more fun when you know how it is done.

The show stated the a forklift is used to levitate a lady. Oh, well now when you see David Copperfield fly across the stage through a set of hoops and then circle the stage about 50 more times, you can tell him you know that he is using a forklift. Then you should demand money from him so that you don't expose his secret. He is likely to give you more money to keep your mouth shut than our master magician got for going on national television! (This would be any amount greater than 50 cents.)

There will always be people who care about nothing more than the secret. They have probably never seen true magic at work. A true performer of magic attempts to make a bond with the audience - who he doesn't know - in the time span of about two hours. Then the magic becomes a two way street, going back and forth between the performer and the audience, creating a bond somewhere in the middle. This is real magic.



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.

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\$250 or best offer

(619) 270-6935

Fundraiser

(Continued from page 1)

Will you help in other ways?

What special skills do you have that would be useful? (Good leader, Musician, exotic dancer, etc.)

Would you be willing to commit to being at the performance(s)?

Would you be willing to dedicate some time to the show for the week or so preceding?

Can you suggest any venues which might be appropriate?

Can you suggest a group or charity with which we could affiliate ourselves for both of our benefits?

Any additional input at all?

Don & Donna Soul
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At the Magic Castle

January 12 - 18	January 19 - 25	Jan 26 - Feb 1
CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 George Tovar Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Earl Nelson	CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Bruce Cervon Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Whit Haydn	CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Paul Green Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Gregory Wilson
PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Mike Elkan Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Sylvester the Jester	PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 John Lovick Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Michael Forbes	PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Woody Pittman Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Gary Norsigian
PALACE of MYSTERY 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Jonathan Neal Myстина The Hamners	PALACE of MYSTERY 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 David Zirbel Glenn Falkenstein Frances Willard	PALACE of MYSTERY 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Mark Haslam Margaret Steele Ice McDonald

What's Happening

- 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 Paul Green
- February 24 7:00 pm Board meeting

Lectures

(for magician members only)

- Jan 4 Eugene Burger From Chicago comes this legendary wizard to amaze and amuse you with his tales and unusual effects. Eugene has written many books on the art and will be performing all the shows the following week in the Close-up Gallery.
- 11 Richard Hughes All you ever wanted to know about buying, handling and presenting magical effects with feather flower bouquets. Richard is in the business of their manufacture and will have some very interesting information for everyone.
- 18 Aldo Colombini Set some new close-up miracles performed by Aldo. His fertile mind is constantly coming up with new ideas. Aldo and Andie will have many new items to sell from their company, Mama Mia Magic.