



RING  
76  
PTA

# MagiCurrents

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## President's Message

by Gary Schwartzwald

I'm writing this in the middle of Magic Week. Although we are not having a Magic Day at the Villa-type event, we are getting Ring 76 recognized by our local community. We have Proclamations from the cities of La Mesa and El Cajon and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Dick Dale arranged for the Proclamations and performed for both the El Cajon City Council and the County Board of Supervisors. Dick deserves the credit and a great deal of gratitude for making time to help Ring 76 receive this recognition.

Along the lines of thank you's... Thank you to Mike Stilwell for connecting Ring 76 with Sweetwater Elementary PTA for our September public show and for this concept that we hope to pursue. It brought pleasure to the audience, helped our treasury, and gave Ring 76 magicians exposure and practice. Also thank you to Paul Thomey for arranging the performers and the show. And of course another thank you to the performers and stage hands that made the show successful.

Our next meeting theme is mentalism and mental magic. If you had a feeling that was the theme, then you should definitely perform. If you weren't sure, you need the practice, so go ahead and let Dick Dale know you'll be performing at the meeting. Also contact Dick if you are interested in performing at the Holiday Potluck Show. Remember the Close-up Contest is January 11th. Last year we had 11 great performers and a night to remember. You know you're tempted, so practice, take a deep breath and sign up. You'll be glad you did. See you (on time) at the November meeting for a rubber band teach-in.

*Gary S*



**MENTALISM AND MENTAL MAGIC IS OUR MEETING THEME FOR NOVEMBER 9TH. IF YOU HAVE AN ABILITY TO READ MINDS (AND WHO DOESN'T?), GET OUT YOUR IMPRESSION PADS, SWAMI GIMMICKS AND TAROT DECKS AND LET'S HAVE SOME FUN.**

**YOU'LL LEARN GREAT WAYS TO PROVIDE IMPROMPTU MAGIC FROM OUR PRE-MEETING TEACH-IN ON RUBBER BANDS STARTING AT 6:30. SO BE THERE! THE AMERICAN LEGION POST IS AT THE CORNER OF SPRING ST. AND UNIVERSITY AVE. IN LA MESA.**

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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 October Meeting

*by Don Soul, secretary*

The pre-meeting this month consisted of collector's magical props brought in by **Roy** and **Betty Armstrong**, **Tom La Chance**, **Dick Dale** and **Jeff Marcus**. Among the assortment of antiques were production boxes, a Humpty Dumpty assembly, a beautifully-made sucker die box, a rare Genii magazine T-shirt, a cut-out silhouette of Dai Vernon, the original Abbott lota vase, Forgetful Freddie (with a pumpkin head), a nice blooming flowers device, Walsh vanishing and appearing canes, the Zanab fan deck, two versions of Coin of the Realm and a large sized add-a-number.

**Ken Dear** was then presented with his official IBM membership certificate and his Ring 76 audition certificate. Vying for the audition cer-

tificate this evening was new member **Jacob Rheuban** who did two interesting card tricks - one of them being a step-by-step instruction list to performing "my dad's magic trick." That was a nice touch.

The rest of the evening was devoted to special guest, **Aldo Columbini**, who headlined our Dealer's Night. With the help of his wife, **Andie**, he proceeded to demonstrate no less than 32 effects currently being produced by his company, Mamma Mia Magic. What a sensational night of useful and performance-tested material which included Orbital, Power Aces, Dice It Up, the Shamrock Cup (a future classic, in my opinion), Ringing Around Too, Brain Sell, The Yellow Rope, Blown Away, Jumbo Coincidence (a great split deck card trick), Fly Cards (created a great many chuckles),

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Ring 76 Board Meeting

*by Don Soul, secretary*

This month's meeting was at the home of **Dick** and **Julie Dale**. Also attending were **Tom La Chance**, **Don Soul**, **Paul Thomey**, **Gary Schwartzwald** and **Ralph Mauzy**. The first item to be discussed was actually a display of certificates which Dick Dale obtained from the El Cajon Chamber of Commerce, The City of San Diego and the County as well - all three commemorating Magic Week in October. Dick's hard work was well received by those governmental officials and truly appreciated by the board.

A review of upcoming meeting themes was next tackled with a focus on the Christmas party. So

*(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.

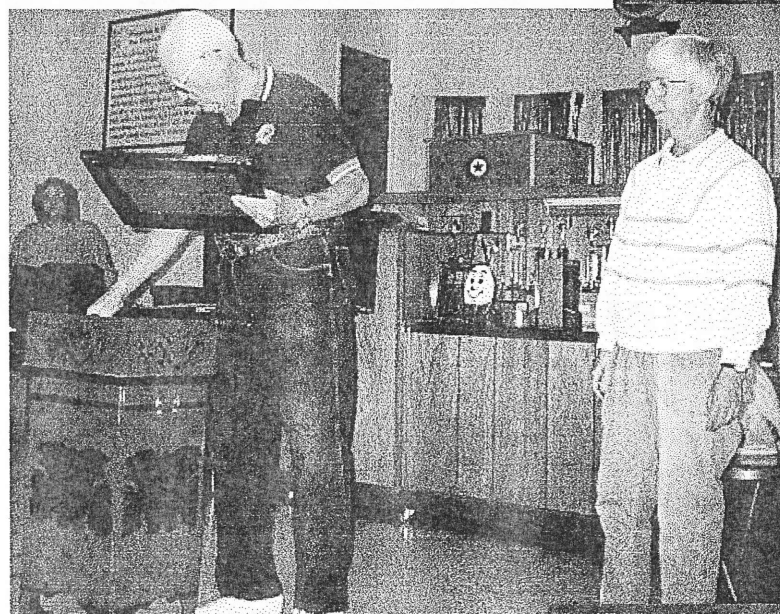




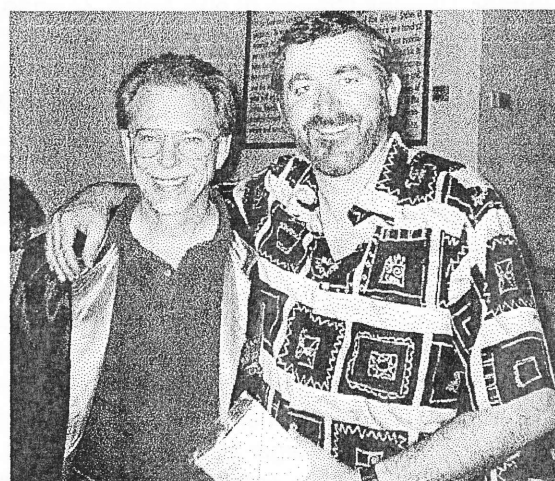
*Jacob Rheuban, right, auditions for membership.*



*Jeff Marcus with a blooming flower bouquet.  
Dick Dale shows us Halloween Forgetful Freddie.*



*Roy and Betty Armstrong display a vintage  
production table and box.*



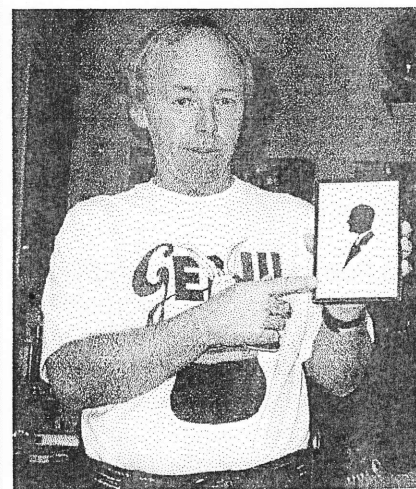
*Terry Lunceford, left, drops by to  
visit Aldo Columbini, our guest  
speaker at Dealer Demo Night.*

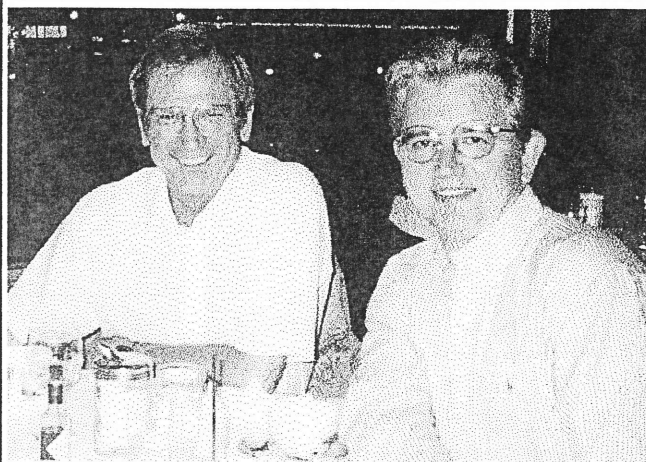


*Andie Columbini levitates Hover Card.*



*Aldo demos Power Aces - Tom La Chance shows his Dai Vernon silhouette.*





*Don Soul, left, chats with Paul Gertner at a Fisherman's Wharf restaurant in San Francisco.*

During a recent trip to San Francisco for the American Academy of Pediatrics convention, your Ring 76 secretary/editor got a chance to visit with Paul Gertner, Charles Greene III and Anton Zellman, all of whom were working in booths at the exhibit hall. Just thought you might like to view a couple of pics taken during that meeting.

— D. S.

## Roaming The Streets of San Francisco



*Paul Gertner chains straight-jacketed San Francisco street performer Marcus Raymond in front of a large crowd.*

## So HE'S the Masked Magician!

*Editorial Opinion by Don Soul*

Open the pages of any monthly magic magazine for the past year and you'll find more than one mention of the Masked Magician's exploits on Fox-TV. They range from extremely irate outcries from magicians, both professional and amateur, to somewhat mild responses from other contributors. Boycotts are demanded of Fox and its Masked Magician sponsors and encouragement of letter writing campaigns fill column after column of publications like Linking Ring, M-U-M, Genii and the Magic Castle newsletter.

The Fox special which aired Thursday night, October 29th, provided yet more fuel to the fire, I'm sure, but I'm beginning to side with the camp that believes we should let this dilemma run its course and move on. (Obviously, I'll never be part of Ken Starr's team).

At last month's meeting Aldo Columbini hit the nail on the head when he discussed his personal views about the Masked Magician, pointing out that here in America anyone can walk into a magic shop and buy material on any facet of magical entertainment - unlike Italy, for example, where magic shops for the public do not exist.

The secrets Valentino has exposed thus far in four shows are, for the most part, antiquated and/or impractical methods of performing stage illusions. Is attendance dropping off for Sigfried and Roy, David Copperfield or Lance Burton as a result? I doubt it. What he may have done, though, is to peak interest in magic again, as he declared, **unmasked**, at the end of the show.

The complaint has always been "He's not destroying the Copperfields or Burtons but the local magician, who invests heavily in stage

props only to have them exposed by the Masked Magician thus ruining future bookings." Although I am on the amateur level, I really can't see that happening - if it is, let me know. My question is, when local magicians like Joe Mystic, Monty Stratton, Michael Veinbergs, the A.C.E.S. and others get bookings to perform illusions at large events, are the audiences going to walk out because they've seen the Fox specials? Are *any* magicians going to be turned down by a prospective client because the client "knows how it's done?" I don't think so. It's still entertainment. That's what we do and that's what **everyone** is looking for, isn't it?

Quoting from a letter sent to M-U-M magazine in March, '98 by Kerry Hartjen "...there is a lesson to be learned out of this: that of adaptation and survival. Now they know how to make a duck disappear. So what do we do about it? Are we just going to complain and moan and whine? Or, do we adapt, renew, and rethink old ways of doing what we do?" Amen.



## October Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

Shenanigan, Over the Rainbow, the Swiss Pack, Blinder, Cone-tact, Knots Knots, Tubes of Kioma (a clever use of the old imp bottle principle), a great Psychic Mystery Watch (very reasonably priced), the old stand by Troublewit and Draw a Blank.

Aldo also showed us a few effects from his books and videos: What's Up Deck?, On the Ropes, Direct Hits, Tight Rope, Impact, React, Three Ring Circus video and the Mamma Mia Rope video. Once again, Mr. Columbini proved you can't go wrong buying a product with his name on it. Oh yes, and Andie closed the evening with Dan

Harlan's Hover Card. Fortunately for Ring 76 members this night, all we had to do was pick out our favorites and lay down some cash. The rest of you will have to run out to your nearest magic shop and grab a few of these goodies. With that, Aldo and Andie, bags in hand, were preparing to make a dash for the airport to board a plane bound for Italy the next day. See you soon, Aldo.



## October Board Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

far, only **Roy and Betty Armstrong** are on the entertainers list and it is hoped that other members will desire to participate. It was also decided that once again board members will donate and prepare an entree meat such as ham or turkey. Pot luck food category designations will be gathered by the board members as they make calls nearer to party time.

Names of suggested magicians for a Ring-sponsored lecture or two next year were tossed out. Paul, Don and Dick will pursue their contacts.

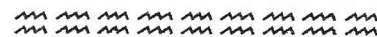
Dick then suggested the Ring create its own Precedure and Policy Manual for current as well as future board members to use as a guide. Don was given the task of scanning and doing OCR of the IBM manual Dick has obtained from Ring One and to edit/customize it to our Ring. Dick will also find out if such manual is available on a computer file to make editing easier.

Ralph stated he is currently developing new badges and went over a few layout ideas. Once his designs are roughed out, he'll show the board and ask for opinions.

The treasurer's report indicates Ring funds at \$791. The Ring agreed to reimburse Tom Kasner \$38.60 for his submitted receipts with regards to printing expenses prior to July's banquet. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Are you ready for the Christmas party? No, no...not the dinner...the entertainment. Ring 76 needs some volunteers to perform December 14th at Jack White's Magic Place. Who'll it be? YOU? Let's hope so. Let Dick Dale know you're interested.

## Close-Up!



In two months our Close-Up competition takes place. Last year's challenge showed off eleven Ring members and their efforts were outstanding. Can we count on **YOU** to be a contestant this year? If so, touch base with Dick Dale and get on the list for January 11th.

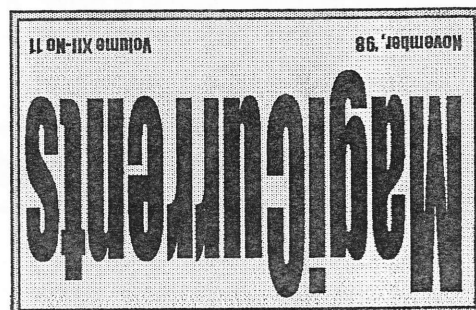
The Ring 76 website is online. Want to see plenty of pics and a great promo for our group? Want to find out what's in our library? Then visit

[CMSS.LIMAX.COM/  
RING76 / RING76.HTM](http://CMSS.LIMAX.COM/RING76/RING76.HTM)

Thanks to the diligence of Tom Kasner, you're in for a treat when you visit our site.

Find out what Ring 76 is all about by getting on the web now! Links to many magical sites are also listed.

92129  
San Diego, CA  
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## AT THE CASTLE

November 16 - 22	November 23 - 29	Nov 30 - Dec 6
<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>T.C. Tahoe</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Joe Monti</b>	<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Jim Starr</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Lou Serrano</b>	<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Harry Monti</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Jerry Andrus</b>
<b>PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Earl Nelson</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>Howard Jay</b>	<b>PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Danny Scott</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>Alfonso</b>	<b>PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Mark Edward</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>George Tovar</b>
<b>PALACE of MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Mike Caveney</b> <b>Tina Lenert</b>	<b>PALACE of MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Larry Clark</b> <b>Amos Levkovitch</b> <b>Pete Jensen</b>	<b>PALACE of MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Doug Malloy</b> <b>Randy Pryor</b> <b>Craig Dickens</b>
<b>SUNDAY BRUNCH</b> <b>PARLOUR</b> <b>Children's Shows</b> 12:15 - 1:15 - 2:15 <b>Bob Markwood</b>	<b>SUNDAY BRUNCH</b> <b>PARLOUR</b> <b>Children's Shows</b> 12:15 - 1:15 - 2:15 <b>Bob Stone</b>	<b>SUNDAY BRUNCH</b> <b>PARLOUR</b> <b>Children's Shows</b> 12:15 - 1:15 - 2:15 <b>Bob Hoover</b>

## Lectures

(for magician members only)

- Nov 15 **Doc Eason** Reflecting Doc's 20+ years at the Tower Bar, his lecture is full of commercial items, tips and bits of business. Everyone, from the seasoned pro to the absolute beginner, will walk away with something.
- Nov 22 **Vito Lupo** Vito is well-known around the world as a master of sleight of hand and will present a lecture on all forms of the art with many interesting twists and tips on the classics of magic.
- Nov 29 **Mitch Ness** Mitch is the Producer of the Canadian TV series "Grand Illusions" consisting of 50 half-hour shows. He will discuss and show the 4-year project and present the Magic Castle with the entire set of video tapes.

## What's Happening

- November 2 7:00 pm Board meeting  
Dick & Julie Dale's home
- November 9 6:30 pm American Legion Hall - La Mesa  
theme: Mentalism/mental magic  
pre-meeting: Rubber band teach-in
- November 23 7:00 pm Board meeting  
Dick & Julie Dale's home
- December 14 6:30 pm Christmas pot-luck Dinner  
Jack's Magic Place