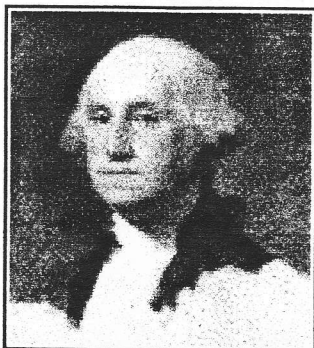




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MagiCurrents

HONESTY
MAGIC



President's Message

By Gary Schwartzwald

For the second year in a row we had a close-up contest and it was a great night of magic. Word-of-mouth brought out a lot of audience members who really showed the performers their well-deserved appreciation. The participants' preparation time was evident by the quality of their presentations.

I'm really looking forward to the stand-up contest (start practicing) and to the installation event in July. There we will honor

the participants and winners.

I encourage you to participate in the next two meetings. Perform your favorite trick in February and shop 'til you drop at the March swap-meet and auction. Both meetings should be fun and full of magic.

April will be our membership renewal month. I hope each of you will renew your membership. If for any reason you are not planning to continue as a Ring 76 member, please contact me.

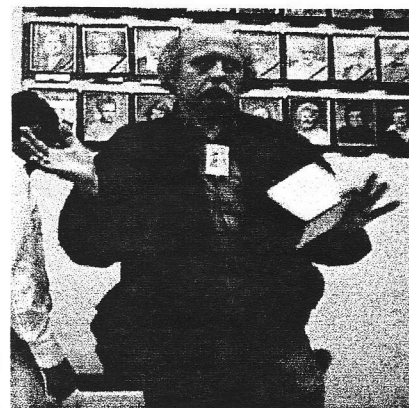
I'd also like each of you to bring us one new member who is interested in magic and would enjoy and benefit from being associated with Ring 76. I know someone who would fit well into the ring and I bet you do too.

Brush up on that favorite trick; I'll see you in February.

Gary S.

Review of Our January Meeting

The magic fans at the Ring 76 January meeting enjoyed some great performances from the contestants in our second annual close-up contest. Dick Dale emceed the event and did a fine job as he kept the show moving between contestants.



Emcee Dick Dale

Leading off was veteran magician **Loch David Crane**, who was performing in character as Bafflin' Bill Cody. He showed us two rubber band penetrations followed by a terrific four-step ladder illusion. This was followed by **Dream Catcher**, a novel routine describing how

Indians use their "third eye" to make predictions. Three cards from three stacks held by one spectator matched Loch's prediction cards. He finished with a card-stab-thru- napkin routine.



**Bafflin' Bill Cody
Baffles**

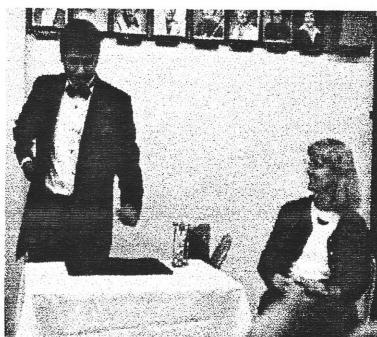
The next performer was **Paul Thomey** who gave us effects from the Twilight Zone. Paul's catch phrase is "Reality With a Twist" and he didn't disappoint. He did an astounding bullet catch (tossed it into the air then caught it in a paper bag) then produced a "cannonball"! He went on to show us "nothing" cards (blank faces) used in a four-stack card assembly. A



**Paul Thomey shares a laugh
with Peg Marcus**

color-changing knives routine followed and Paul closed with the Paradox Deck which, unfortunately, is indescribable.

Sumit Dua then took center stage and, using **Ann Schwartzwald's** wedding ring, vowed to levitate it to an incredible height (more on that later). He then used four aces to show us a coin assembly which resulted in more and more coins appearing from nowhere. For his next illusion, he made his deck of cards - including a card signed by Ann - appear inside a balloon. Somehow he managed to have her card penetrate the balloon! To close, he opened the ring box in which he placed Ann's ring previously and, indeed, had managed to levitate the ring right out of existence for it had disappeared. He then directed us to the hourglass he placed on the table at the beginning of his segment. Lo and behold, there was Ann's ring between the two glass bulbs!



Sumit Dua entertains Ann

Dick Ustick was next up. As "Sheriff Golden" he guided us into the power of our own minds. Displaying two stacks of five cards each - one stack

face up, one face down, he invited one of our 11 guests to tell him when to change packs. Each time, he rotated cards as he spelled out each word of the phrase "will the jacks match?" and placed the top cards together in pairs. When all was said and done, each pair consisted of indifferent cards *except* the pair of jacks! Throughout his act, Golden kept trying to convince us to attend his incredibly high-priced seminar (but includes a free continental breakfast) where we could learn to use our minds as he does.



Dick Ustick and a helper

Jeff "J.J." Smith followed Dick with a routine he called chase the ace. He chased it all the way out the door, unfortunately. His next trick was a dollar bill production from a wallet which ended in the "printing" of three \$3 bills with, of course, Bill Clinton's face on them. He closed with a die-loading hat trick, with each die becoming larger than the one before. (Sorry Jeff - the gremlins ate your picture!)

Rick Bruce was up next. Compatible with his bizarre magick style, he showed us an interesting and very unusual cups and balls routine. It used, among other things, alchemy to produce a gold coin from a borrowed quarter and ended with a pyrotechnic coin production from one of the cups.



Rick Bruce makes a point – and some magic

Our final scheduled contestant was **Jeff Marcus**, whose timing has developed from thousands of performances. He gave us a great show which included sponge ball productions, a watch steal (in



Jeff Marcus addresses the crowd

which the watch wound up on the hind leg of a live rabbit (he produced from a hat), color changing knives, his own nifty-50 bill change routine and an absorbing display of card manipulation as a signed card repeatedly came to the top of the deck.

Visitor veteran **Jack Evans**, from the North County Guild and who gave us a brilliant magic act at our potluck holiday party last month, took the spotlight briefly and showed us a quickie die color-changing bit using his "close-up" mat prop - a serving tray.



Jack Evans strikes a pose

Boy, at this year's competition it was much harder to declare a winner than it was at the last one. Everyone did a terrific job. We were all "judges" this night but one must remember; before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, you'll be a mile away and have his shoes.

Ring 76 Board Meeting January 25, 1999

Attendees: Dick Dale, Julie Dale, Tom La Chance, Ralph Mauzy, Paul Thomey and Gary Schwartzwald

The board discussed the close-up contest featured at our January ring meeting. The board members agreed each of the contestants did a great job, the audience of approximately 65 people was supportive of the performers and the evening was a great success. Paul Thomey repeatedly asked the board who won, who won, who won... The winner will be announced at the July installation event.

The board decided that the February pre-meeting will be an 'impromptu magic' teach-in led by Dick Dale and several other board members. Ring members are encouraged to share their ideas on how to be prepared for impromptu magic. The meeting theme is 'My Favorite Trick' and the pass-the-mat trick will be presented by Paul Thomey.

The March meeting will be a swap-meet from 6:30 to 7:30 followed by a brief business meeting and an auction. Swap-meet tables will be \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door. Julie Dale will collect the fees. Ring members are encouraged to donate a \$10 (or more) item to the ring to be used as a ring fundraiser. Thanks to the generosity of ring members, last year these events netted the ring nearly \$300.

Julie Dale presented the treasurer's report which looks pretty darn poor at this point. With the swap-meet and auction in March and membership renewals due in April the board was confident that we will do well financially.

Ralph Mauzy presented several membership card ideas. The board will try to settle on one design at the next meeting.

The rest of the board's discussions are unsuitable for print.

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What's Happening...

- February 8**
6:30 pm **Ring 76 meeting**
American Legion Hall - La Mesa
Theme: My favorite trick
Pre-meeting: Teach-in
- February 22**
7:00 pm **Board meeting**
Tom La Chance's home
447 Nila Lane
El Cajon
- March 8**
6:30 pm **Ring 76 meeting**
American Legion Hall - La Mesa
Theme: Auction
Pre-meeting: Swap meet
- March 22**
7:00 pm **Board meeting**
Don Soul's home
10068 Branford Rd.
San Diego
- April 12**
6:30 pm **Ring 76 meeting**
American Legion Hall - La Mesa
Theme: Lecture TBA
Pre-meeting: dues night

... and outside Ring 76...

DID YOU KNOW...

...some tickets are still available for the Academy of Magical Arts awards show and banquet in Beverly Hills on April 17? Johnny Ace Palmer and Jeff McBride are slated to perform.

Call Yvonne Smith at (323)851-3313 x301

...the 1999 IBM convention will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, from June 30 through July 3? See the Linking Ring for details.

...the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians 1999 convention is August 6-9 in Anaheim? Some of the entertainment booked so far: Aldo Colombini, Shawn and Felicity Farquhar, Mr. Electric, Dale Salwak and the Wilsons' Alakazam Show. Contact Ray Bright at (714)498-4500

...this is a great time to become a member of the Magic Castle (Academy of Magical Arts)?

Join anytime in 1999 and your initial membership fee will be reduced by \$50. Talk to any of the Castle members in Ring 76 for details.

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February, -99

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