

MagicCurrents

IBM RING
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GERHART

President's Message

Magic! The stuff our Ring is supposed to be made of. I'd like to thank all the performers and participants at our recent meetings. In December, Ring 76 members put on a great show for our potluck holiday celebration. January was a great evening of magic as Ring members competed for the title of 1999 Close-up Contest. Last month we had an impromptu pre-meeting that was lead by Tom La Chance and Dick Dale. They did a great job giving us ideas and an even better job by getting the membership to get up and share some of their impromptu tricks. Unplanned, as it would need to be, the pre-meeting really had a lot of participation. The regular meeting theme also brought out some great performances. The quality of presentation seems to be going up and more importantly to me, the number and variety of people performing is going up. Thank you for getting up there and it giving it a shot. You're doing great, keep up the good work.

Magic Paraphernalia; the stuff our closets, drawers and garages are supposed to be filled with. Come join us at the Swap Meet and Auction at the next meeting. Bring your goodies and go home with even more. Please help support the Ring as the auction is partly a fundraiser. If you can, donate an item to the Auction for the Ring and bid, bid, bid. Seriously, last year we had high quality items (okay, mostly) good participation, a good time (absolutely) and raised nearly \$300. Please join the fun and support your Ring.

I hope all is well and that your life is filled with magic, of all types. Let me know what we can do better and I'll see you on March 8th. Have fun.

Gary S

TIME TO CLEAN OUT THE CLOSET!

It's time for our annual swap meet...a chance to find treasures at bargain prices or unload treasures you don't need anymore. If you want to set up a table, get with Dick or Julie Dale NOW to avoid the \$5 extra charge for late table set-up fee on the night of the event.

There will also be a fund-raising auction again this year to benefit the Ring 76 treasury. At last year's auction, our kitty was sweetened by \$300! To assure ourselves another great pot-fattener this year, we're asking you all to bring at least one magic prop, trick, book or video tape worth \$15 or more and donate it. It will be sold to the highest bidder.

The meeting starts at 6:30 with the swap meet on Monday night, March 8th.

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February Meeting

by Don Soul, secretary

With six visitors and one new member - **Werner Von Bergen** - attending this month's get-together, our pre-meeting of impromptu magic tips started with VP **Tom La Chance** showing a trick or two from Michael Weber's *Life Savers* which included splitting a spoon into two at a restaurant and how to make an impromptu Devil's Napkin from a paper one. Our other VP, **Dick Dale**, explained how a burnt match disappears then mysteriously reappears in a book of matches. President **Gary Schwartzwald** revealed the mystery of the invisible bouncing ball catch in paper bag and taught coin thru hank. Member-at-large **Paul Thomey** showed how to locate a spectator-marked dollar bill from a thoroughly mixed batch of bills. Visitor **Dennis Cates** performed an impressive bare-hand quarter vanish and one which will be filed away in many of our mental libraries. **Roy Armstrong** showed what you can do with a cloth table napkin as he proceeded to create a mouse from one. Our last teacher was **Tom Kasner** who did an impromptu dollar bill tear called "Deface Dollar".

Paul Thomey returned to the stage to perform his Pass-the-Mat trick - one in which a card selected by an assistant becomes invisible only to turn face up in a tabled deck. Paul passed the mat to Tom La Chance. The evening's theme was My Favorite Trick and eight people presented their favorites. First, **Sherry Luft** prepared us all for spring and the coming flower bloom with a bag full of (what else?) spring flowers. Next, **Dick Ustick** started his tape player as he showed us not one favorite trick but more like a dozen. As he sang his own lyrics to "My Favorite Things" (from The Sound of Music), he went from Squared Circle to Linking Rings to Chinese Sticks and more providing us with a humorous, fast-paced and unexpected extravaganza production number! **Diane Lane** humbly followed Dick's routine with funny patter as she performed Ring-from-Rope. This was followed by Ring>Returns-to-Rope as demonstrated by **Charlie Norris**. And, as most of us know, Charlie's favorite trick is tying several knots on a rope which is never released from either hand as he holds the ends.

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Board Meeting

by Don Soul, secretary

The board meeting was held February 22nd at **Tom La Chance's** home with Tom, **Gary Schwartzwald**, **Ralph Mauzy**, **Don Soul**, **Paul Thomey** and **Dick** and **Julie Dale** attending. A table count was asked for the March swap meet and auction meeting. Only two tables had been reserved thus far. It was decided the auctioneer will be Dick Dale.

Developing negotiations for an April guest lecturer are continuing but it looks as though Whit Haydn is our strongest possibility. In an effort to pull in the curious during our annual membership renewal

at that meeting, a fee for non-IBM members who are not Ring 76 members will be \$15 to attend. The North County Guild members as well as Ring 76 members will, of course attend the lecture free and (for Ring 76ers) be ready to pay dues that evening.

The May meeting will highlight magic using coins and paper money and the pre-meeting will offer Jack Evans and Chris Portillo presenting the History of Cards. During the May meeting a nominating committee, as volunteered from the April meeting, will announce candidates for Ring offices with the election to be held at the June meeting. With no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.



1998-99 Board of Directors

Gary Schwartzwald - President
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Tom La Chance - Membership VP
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7432 Caminito Carlotta
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(619) 582-5790

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

My Favorite Tricks*

(Can be sung to "Favorite Things")

By Richard B. Ustick

Cutting a rope and then making it whole

Using Square Circles or a Lotus Bowl

Bright Linking Rings and long Chinese Sticks

These are a few of my favorite tricks

Finding four aces in cards that are stripped

Hot Rods and Paddles,

the famous thumb tips

Broken wands that all at once appear fixed

These are some more of my favorite tricks

White fluffy bunnies that jump out of hats

Wearing tuxedos and black shoes with spats

Leggy assistants with clothes next to none

These are the things that make stage magic fun!

When my reel sticks, and the crowd boos,

when it's look'n sad,

I simply perform one of my favorite tricks,

and then the show don't feel so bad.

(Verbal interlude)

"Most of us learned our favorite trick early in our careers.

Either the first trick we learned or the first one to get a *BAFO* audience response.

And some times it was a trick taught to us by a master of magic or someone we respected . . .

For me . . ."

First there was Al, wore a hat with a tassel

Then came Bill Bixby, he lived at the Castle,

Professor's Nightmare and all of those chicks,

That's when I started to learn magic tricks.

Then came the cane with which I would dance,

spongballs and Billiards,

and thimbles on hands

Bright red silk handkerchiefs from ropes appear,

I once thought this was the trick of the year

Showing an audience your mental skills

reading their minds, and giving them chills

Comedy and drama in just the right mix,

blended together in my favorite tricks

When the phone rings, someone's party,

and they want a show

I simply remember my favorite tricks

and then I pack up and go!

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

Find out what Ring 76 is
all about by

getting on the web now!

Links to many

magical sites are also

listed.

February Meeting

Continued from page 2

Gary Dismukes' favorite trick is one in which a panel of the president's portrait is cut on three sides and held by a spectator. He then folds the remainder of the bill, unfolds it and the bill has flipped sides. Visitor and IBM member **Bryan McDaniel** took center stage to show us his favorite trick. He explained it was the very first trick he ever tried to learn... one called Paul Harris' Reset. Ouch! Mastering that trick for starters is a feat in itself. His presentation was excellent. Let's hope he becomes a member of the Ring real soon. Paul Thomey returned for the third time this evening as he borrowed a deck of cards, had one signed and returned to the deck by visitor **Al Vasquez**, then observed how much pain Al could withstand as he fanned a lighter under Al's hand which held the deck of cards. While Al bravely succeeded, Paul then showed Al's signed card, and no other,

had been burned approximately one-third of its surface. Our last performer was **Jeff Marcus** who flawlessly manipulated three pieces of rope, each a different length, and made them all the same length. Yes, Professor's Nightmare is his favorite trick - it said so in the headline from an old ad which he showed us.

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.

at the Magic Castle

March 15-21	March 22-28	March 29 - April 4
CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <u>Alfonso</u> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <u>Alba</u> PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <u>Woody Pittman</u> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <u>Bob Jardine</u> PALACE of MYSTERY 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <u>Whit Haydn</u> <u>Adam Williams</u> <u>John Shryock</u> SUNDAY BRUNCH PARLOUR Children's Shows 12:15 - 1:15 - 2:15 <u>Doug Hoover</u>	CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <u>Dusty Miller</u> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <u>Larry Clark</u> PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <u>Alba</u> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <u>John Carney</u> PALACE of MYSTERY 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <u>The Pendragons</u> SUNDAY BRUNCH PARLOUR Children's Shows 12:15 - 1:15 - 2:15 <u>Jeanine Anderson</u>	CLOSE-UP GALLERY Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <u>Jason Alexander</u> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <u>Johnny Ace Palmer</u> PARLOUR Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <u>Terry Lunceford</u> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <u>David Avadon</u> PALACE of MYSTERY 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <u>T.C. Fahge</u> <u>Danny Cole</u> <u>Yonkany & Anabel</u> SUNDAY BRUNCH PARLOUR Children's Shows 12:15 - 1:15 - 2:15 Closed - Easter Sunday

Lecture Schedule for magician members only

Lectures are normally held at 3:00 P.M. on Sundays, in the Parlour

Feb 28 Monique Monique will be lecturing on two subjects seldom explained. They are the methods for creating quick costume changes and the use of black art. She will also demonstrate how to work with different shaped objects for zombie routines.

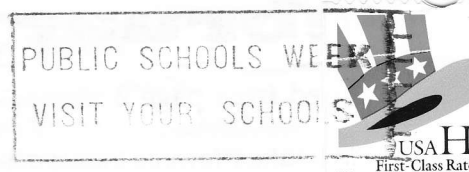
Mar 7 Chuck Fayne Chuck re-located his family to Melbourne, Australia in 1997. The subject of his lecture will be "Performance & Presentation," covering the art of routines; patter as an alternative to babble, with a few tricks thrown in for good measure.

Mar 14 Dick Koornwinder Dick Koornwinder is a full-time pro from Holland who specializes in close-up and trade show magic. He is perhaps best known as the originator of the famous "Koornwinder Kar." If requested, he'll also show his "Squirmlie Routine" and how to pitch it.

Mar 21 Daniel Raley Daniel comes to us from Argentina. His specialty is close-up card magic and he has a wonderful reputation for creating new effects using the ever-popular packet tricks with gimmicked cards. He will demonstrate and sell them after his lecture.

Mar 28 Larry Clark Larry has performed in literally all venues, from cruise ships to motion pictures. He will present original stage and close-up ideas as well as the philosophy of a professional magic entertainer. He will take questions on any subject pertaining to the art.

Magic Currents
10068 Branford Road
San Diego, CA 92129



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8th American Legion Hall-La Mesa 6:30 pm
Theme: Swap Meet and Auction

March 22nd Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Don Soul's home

April 12th American Legion Hall-La Mesa 6:30 pm
Dues Night and free-to-members lecture by
Whit Haydn

April 26th Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Don Soul's home

Richard Ustick
6040 Bob St.
La Mesa, CA 91942-2564

Forwarding and address correction requested