



# MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XIII No.8 August 1999

## Message from the Julie Dale new President

Thanks to the membership for your support and the confidence you have placed in me to serve as President for the upcoming year. We're going to bring some exciting magic into the Millennium.

Your Board and I have planned some fun, great and exciting magic based on your surveys. I strongly support the concept that "The Ring" is the membership and I will organize it to fit your needs for that purpose.

August meeting starts out with a "BANG" with a pre-meeting of "The Healing of Magic", a presentation video to provide a new community relationship magic opportunity and venture for the club. This will be followed by the survey's top choice for meeting themes: Magic With Cups. Dust off the cups and bring on the imagination. Then what more excitement can we want than—Daryl! A Ring 76 fund raiser Wednesday, August 11 at Jack White's place, workshop and lecture. Check out the flyer.

Please help enhance the fellowship and comradery by encouraging each other to grow in our own individual magic by sharing, mentoring, and supporting everyone with a year to remember. Bring back old members, bring in new members and enjoy and share with current members. Let's have fun!!

A quick note of apology: I will be out of town on our first meeting in August. This is something that I didn't anticipate. Have a good meeting, get involved—see ya in September for a great pre-meeting "Teach In" on thumb tips and a meeting theme of "YOUR FAVORITE TRICK"

## President

# From the Editor

Along with the responsibilities that go with the office of Secretary comes the fun job of Newsletter editor. I am not being facetious. This is a fun job. In one sweep I have become a cross between "Citizen Kane" and "Perry White" (Don't call me Chief!!). I bring you not only the news of Ring 76 but I decide how it is to be presented. This is more power than my wife would ever let me have.

Seriously though, let me first express my gratitude for letting me be the "spokesperson" for our chapter. This newsletter is not only read by those of us who attend every meeting, but also by those who have moved away and still want a link to this part of their magical world. Also, thanks to the Internet, this newsletter is posted around the world for any magician who is curious about what those madcapped magicians of southern California are up to. So basically in one election, I have gone from an unknown to the voice of my generation (magically speaking).



The first thing you may have noticed is that I've made some changes. In the next few months, I will be experimenting with different styles, in an effort to bring you the type of newsletter you want to read. I know what I like, but as I tell my students, you put on a show for your audience. I publish the newsletter for the readers, and I will strive to bring you, the members, the product that best serves you.

To that end I also need your help. I would like to hear from you. I would like information and material, your comments, questions, opinions, stories and suggestions. We have a diverse membership in this club and I want to have something that from which all of us will benefit. To do that I need your help.

I look forward to serving you this year, and by the end of it I hope you will have enjoyed having me.

**Your Secretary and Editor,**

**Dick Ustick**

## July Meeting

The July meeting was our annual installation banquet and awards dinner. The time we pay tribute to our past year's officers and swear in the new ones. It is also the time we acknowledge those members who have demonstrated particular skill and accomplishment, as voted on by the membership. The Dinner was held at the Legion Hall and was a catered Hawaiian Luau.

Next came the presentation of awards. Each year Ring 76 holds several competitions as well as our monthly member entertainment. The membership judges the competitions and votes for the winners. This year the Close-Up Magician of the Year is **Jeff Marcus**, the Stand-up Magician of the Year is **Paul Thomey**, and the

Entertainer of the Year, for Ring 76, is **Richard Ustick**.

The final award presented was the prestigious Member of the Year. Each year the membership vote for that member who has, through their efforts, improved the quality of Ring 76. This year that award went to our out-going President, **Gary Schwartzwald**. As usual, it was well deserved.



After a reception and dinner, the award ceremony started. The out-going officers were all presented with plaques as thank you for all of their work for Ring 76 in the previous year. A warm round of applause followed each presentation as the Ring showed its praise for work well done. Next came the installation of the new Board of Directors. **Julie Dale** as President, **Tom La Chance** as Membership Vice President, **Dick Dale** as Entertainment Vice President, **Gary Dismukes**

The first Board meeting of the new officers was held on July 19th at the home of the President, Julie Dale. It included all of the board members with the exception of the Sargent-At-Arms **Ralph Mauzy** and past president **Gary Schwartzwald**.

The responsibility and paperwork, for the office of treasurer was passed from Julie to Gary Dismukes.

As her last act as treasurer, Julie Dale reported that the Installation banquet was a financial success. As her first act as President, Ms. Dale stated that under her administration this would be a club that "services the members."

With membership surveys in hand the Board organized a tentative schedule of

as Treasure, **Richard Ustick** as Secretary, **Ralph Mauzy** as Sergeant-at-Arms, with **Gary Schwartzwald** as Past-President, and **Don Soul** as Member-at-Large.

After the business came the fun and the entertainment for the evening. Opening the show was the "Magical song stylings" of **Richard Ustick**. He regaled us with a ditty about his favorite tricks. Then came the main event, the "Real Live Cartoon,

events, themes, and lectures for the coming year.

August will feature "Cups" as the theme of the regular meeting. The pre-meeting will feature the David Copperfield program, "Healing of Magic."

September's pre-meeting will be a teach in on Thumb Tips presented by Dick Dale. The theme of the regular meeting will be, "My Favorite Trick."

August 11th will feature a Hands on Workshop and lecture by Daryl. This is a fund raising lecture, so all attending will pay the admission price of \$20 for the lecture and \$25 for the additional workshop.

Tom La Chance put the Ring membership at 68. Dick Ustick reported a small problem of returned newsletters due to incorrect address.

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**Sylvester the Jester.**" Doing things previously seen only on Saturday morning cartoons, he amazed the audience of kids and adults alike. The following evening **Sylvester, A.K.A. Dan Sylvester**, lectured on presentation to the Ring membership. A good time was had by all.

Members will be asked to keep their addressees current with the Membership VP.

The next meeting will be August 23, at Tom La Chance's. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

\$10 per year for out of area magicians.

Membership Questions should be sent to the club treasure, Gary Dismukes. All Ring 76 members must be members in good standing with the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

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*MagiCurrents will always be pleased to offer opinions and information from its readers and other members of the IBM.*

Recent talks in the Internet chat rooms have brought up the subject of "Women in Magic." The question being, "where are they?" Yes, we have women in our Ring, and yes, we have all seen female magicians perform. However in a time when women have made inroads in all other aspects of life, why aren't there **more** women in magic? The pat answers, that it is an "Old Boys Club," women are actively excluded, there is not enough outreach to young girls, etc. may have held water twenty-five years ago, but today, I don't think that is the case. If it is not the problem, what is? I decided to talk with a woman who had posted her concerns on this subject.

Margaret LeClair is a professional magician known as Margareta A. Magician. She reports a lifelong love of magic (but who hasn't?). She has been performing professionally as a magician for about two years, and left a career in construction to pursue one in magic. Ms. LeClair performs all types of magic, but is concentrating efforts on becoming an escape artist. She is a member of IBM and IBM Ring 29 (the host ring for the recent IBM Convention), as well as the Fellowship of Christian Magicians.

It is her opinion that the general public has a difficult time accepting a female magician.

**Support Ring 76  
and learn magic  
as well!**  
On August 11, Daryl, the magician's magician will be giving a lecture and special "hands on" workshop at Jack Weiss Magic Place, 4275 University Ave., San Diego.

The cost for the lecture is \$20 per person and may be paid in advance, or at the door. The **Hands on Workshop** is an additional \$25 per person and reservations are required.

For more information and to reserve your spot, please call Tom at 441-3747

This may be adding to the problem of the lack of female magicians. She has actually had someone tell her, when they called to book her for a party, that they had to "settle for a female magician since all the male magicians were booked."

"Now, what do you think that did to my self esteem?", she asked me.

## Guest Editorial

Margaret went on to say that she accepted the party, and went in with the attitude that I'll show them female magicians are every bit as good as male magicians. By attitude, she did not mean that she went in there with a chip on her shoulder and an "I'll show you!" attitude. Margaret told me she meant that she would do her best to inform them on the competence of female magicians.

"But," Margaret went on to say, "I do run into this all the time, people assuming I'm a clown. I have to reaffirm the fact that I'm a **MAGICIAN**, not a **CLOWN**. If they insist on a clown, I refer them to someone else, although I hate to lose out on the business."

While the talk was active that day, Margaret was the only woman who responded. The Internet is democratic but not always representative. The problem was not solved there nor will all the answers be found here. It is an issue worth discussing though, and I would like to hear from our membership on this or any other topic of importance.

*Please send comments and contributions to: MagiCurrents, 6040 Bob St. La Mesa, CA. 91942. Or e-mail to [rustick@flash.net](mailto:rustick@flash.net).*

*All comments sent are subject to editing for space in future issues.*

## Upcoming Events

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| August 9     | 6:30 pm American Legion Hall- La Mesa<br>pre-meeting: "Healing of Magic"<br>Theme: Cups                               |
| August 11    | 7:00 pm Jack White's Magic Place-San Diego<br>Daryl Lecture and Workshop<br>441-3747 for reservations and information |
| August 23    | 7:00 pm Board Meeting<br>Tom La Chance's home   |
| September 13 | 6:30 pm American Legion Hall- La Mesa<br>pre-meeting: Teach in on Thumb Tips<br>Theme: My Favorite Trick              |
| September 27 | 7:00pm Board Meeting<br>Tom La Chance's home  |
| October 11   | 6:30pm American Legion Hall- La Mesa<br>pre-meeting: Collectors<br>Theme: Lecture by Tom Allen                        |

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October 25

7:00pm Board Meeting  
Richard Ustick's home

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