

agiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XIV No. 11 November 2000



Biography Issue

Rich Bruce Bids A.C.E.S. **Farewell**

In This Issue

For as long as Rick Bruce can remember he has wanted to be able to do something to mentor a junior magicians group. In the mid-1990's when his See Rick Bruce Page 5 term of office as President of Ring 76 ended he turned to a new challenge, advising teen aged magicians on ways of improving their magic and

themselves. His group of eight young men ranging in age from 14 to 19 named their group "The A.C.E.S., which stands for "Artists Circle of Enchanting Sorcery."

Now after five years of great success Rick Bruce is feeling the pressures of his daily job and must cut back on the time he devotes to the A.C.E.S. In a recent telephone interview Rick said "it breaks my heart to not be there for these young men." But being advisor to teenagers is a demanding and time consuming job. Rick's work as the CIO for a behavior health care company is requiring more and more of his attention so he must cut some of his ties with the A.C.E.S. He fears without strong advisors the group will wither and die.

November Meeting Promises a Harvest of **Bargains**

The November 13 meeting promises to be a harvest of bargains for Ring members. It will be "Dealer Night," and feature Mary Coley from the "Magic Shop" at Seaport of which will be a Hat full of Tenyo products value at Village.

> T. C. and Mary dollar. established The Magic in September of 1988. their experience with magic, and they have had a lot of practice since that

What **Does it**

Take to be **President?**

What does it take to be the President of an IBM Ring? For starters it takes a love of magic, knowing how to deal with a lot of different personalities, and an ability to compromise for the good of the ring. Julie Dale has been doing that for a year and a half as President of Ring 76. One of the things that sets Julie apart from the rest of the past presidents is that she is only the third woman to serve as President in the rings nearly 40-year history. Pat Hannum was the first woman president in (1963 to 1965) Sherry Luft was the second woman president (1992 to 1993) and now Julie (1998 to 2001)

As a young girl growing up in Flint, Michigan, Julie always enjoyed magic even had a some interest in learning a few card tricks as a teenager. Then she met a young man who was a semi-professional magician by the name of Dick Dale. She says she knew she liked magic when she set across the table from Dick while he performed a Slydini routine of making a napkin vanish and reappear. She liked the magic so much she married the magician.

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time. Mary orders every product that is in the store, and brings in new magic all the time. The sales associates at the "Magic Shop" are experience in the demonstrating and teaching of magic, and eager to help any and all customers.

Mary and T.C. are looking forward to Dealer's night at Ring 76. They are offering a 20% discount on the magic and will have some close out items for less. Also, there will be a free gift for each person and a raffle of three items, one \$132.00. There will also be a selection of Magic, books and videos. Also, new coin tricks made from the Sacagawea gold

Herb Zuniga and Channee Somphorn will perform four Shop at Seaport Village of our most popular tricks, and they will have these for sale. The "Magic Shop" will accept cash, check or credit cards. first Ring 76 members are encouraged to come to the meeting and bring their wish lists. Christmas may just have come early.

> Once married, Dick put Julie into his magic act. One of the first shows they put together was a black art act. Julie was never seen but was the most important part of the act, she made the magic happen. Over the years that black art act grew until it had evolved into a very professional program and in the mid-1980's became the opening entertainment at Joe Steven's Desert Magic Seminar in Las Vegas.

> Like all good performers Julie got tired of being the power behind the black art and wanted a more visible part in the show. So Dick created a medicine show pitch act and Julie was featured as the gum chewing, wild gesturing, wise cracking assistant. She became the comedy star of the act and stole the show. Dick said being upstaged by Julie never mattered to him because the act was getting steady bookings the result of her laugh provoking work.

> The Dales have actually produced seven different shows over the years and Julie is the critical element in three of those shows. As an assistant, Julie has been sawed in half more times than she and Dick can count, and she always reminds her husband she is the better half.

> One of Julie's hidden talents is recognizing what an audience wants in good magic and knowing how to give them good entertainment. She has critiqued the work of many professional magicians and given them suggestions for improving troubled areas. Many of those entertainers have told her they have paid a lot of money for that kind of information and her's was some of the best advice they had received.

When the automobile industry in Michigan hit an economic glitch in the late 1970's the Dales decided to look around for new area's of the country in which to They narrowed their search to five cities. San Diego was one of those cities, and after some extensive study and a visit to Southern California, they decided this would be their new home. Julie says they have never been sorry about their

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decision.

Dick and Julie Dale have just celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary and they say the magic is still alive in their life together. In addition to being a magician's assistant, holding down a full time job for a medical manufacturing company. Julie, is mom to three daughters, President of their Homeowners Association, a homemaker and President of Ring 76. She doesn't have a lot of what you would call "spare time."

Her biggest challenge as President of Ring 76 she says is "making sure people feel that they get value for their membership." Having been to magic conventions and various magic gatherings all over the country we know she loves magic. Because she married a magician we know she can handle all kinds of personalities. We also know she will compromise her thinking when ever she knows it is for the betterment of the Ring. That is Julie Dale and what it takes to be the President of Ring 76.

This month Ring 76 had the honor of hosting a lecture from noted magician **Martin Lewis**.

The meeting started promptly at 7:00. President Julie Dale sent her regrets, and the meeting was chaired by V.P. Entertainment, **Tom La Chance**. The business meeting started with a problem with the Ring 76 website (www.kasners.com). The site location changes faster than the National IBM website can update it. Those who are looking for Ring 76 through the national site may not always be able to find us. As this is a technical, and complex, issue, **Jeff Marcus** moved to form a committee to address this. Tom La Chance moved that this be handled at the next board meeting. Attending Ring members agreed. **Richard Ustick**, Ring secretary and newsletter editor, reminded members to contact him if they were not receiving the newsletter promptly. Some members had expressed problems with missed issues. Ring 76 also welcomed five new members. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The evening was then turned over to the talents of **Martin Lewis**. The son of noted magician Eric Lewis, Martin has established himself as a premier talent. He opened his lecture with a series of fine small stage items, including his "Prismatic Pencil," "Cheap Cup," and "Torn Cigarette Paper." His style was pleasant, his information complete, and his patter informative. He gave a good critique of the various egg bags on the market with the strengths and weaknesses of each. Mr. Lewis then demonstrated his famous "Cardiographic," used by David Copperfield in his stage and TV specials. After the break Mr. Lewis demonstrated a series of close-up effects including his famous "Side Walk Shuffle."

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October Meeting

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This months meeting was held at the Dales house with Dick & Julie, Ring, and we all learned something from this Don Soul, Gary Dismukes, Ralph Mauzy and Tom La Chance present. First order to Martin Lewis. of business was the agenda for the November meeting, with Tom La Chance reporting that along with special discounts, Mary Coley's "Dealer Night" should be well worth attending. The staff from her shop "The Magic Shop" at Sea Port Village will be on hand to demo some of their stock and Mary also has a few surprises for members attending the meeting. Plans for the pre-meeting event were discussed, and it was decided to show a video, Tom Mullicia's "An Evening At The Tomfoolery". very funny show so be sure to arrive early if you haven't seen it.

Next up was the **December** Holiday Pot Luck banquet. It will be held in the big room at the American Legion Hall and it was decided that the Ring will provide ham and turkey for the main coarse. The Board will be contacting members prior to the dinner to help co-ordinate what other dishes are brought. Tom La Chance reported that he has lined up this year's "Close-up Performer of the Year," Terry Godfrey, to provide the magical entertainment. . The final item on the agenda was the pre-meeting event for the January meeting. The idea of bring in someone with a background in stage directing to share their knowledge was discussed and will be followed up on. next Board meeting will be on Monday, November 27 at the home of Richard Ustick. As always, all members are

Lewis

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welcome to attend.

Along with the demonstrations of fine effects, Martin Lewis was free with the workings and construction of what he showed. Questions were asked and freely answered on all aspects of the effects, including humorous antic dotes on the

problems of mass production with major corporations. For those who wanted to construct many of Mr. Lewis's effects, lecture notes were available at extremely reasonable prices. These notes contained diagrams and presentation suggestions on almost everything in the lecture. If you were not mechanically inclined, many of the effects were on sale in the back of the hall.

The evening was well attended by the established master. Ring 76 says thank you



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ubscriptions to MagiCurrents are 0 per year for out of area magicians.

membership Questions should be sent to the club treasurer, Gary Dismukes.

Ring 76 members must be members in od standing with the International otherhood of Magicians.

ticles, contributions, and letters should sent to: MagiCurrents

6040 Bob St. La Mesa, CA 91942 rustick@flash.net

October Board Meeting

Magic Notes From Jack White:

Paul Thomey gathers 'em at the Gathering:



The Gathering is a neighborhood restaurant & bar that serves the residents backwards. of Mission Hills, Hillcrest and Little Italy. On certain evenings you will better at working a room than Mike Stillwell. find more magicians at The Gathering than at a Ring 76 meeting. That is because they feature magic at this restaurant. Over the years Mike Stillwell, Terry Lunceford, Curtis Clark, Craig Stone, Doc Blaylock and many others have worked there.

In the past eight months Paul Thomey became the resident magician on Friday and Saturday evenings.



Paul grew up in a small mining town in Arizona. There were no magic shops in his community but he was exposed to magic literature where he first read about Houdini and other magicians.

He really did not discover books about magic tricks until he moved to San Diego and was in his 20's. Then he found magic shops. His first purchase was a coin trick known as "Scotch and Soda."

Those first excursions to a magic shop wet his appetite for more. Then one evening he met Mike Stillwell who was doing magic at the Corvette Diner, a large, noisy and exciting restaurant in the Hillcrest section of the city. Mike asked Paul if he wanted to try out a routine or two on the audience. Paul did his tricks and Mike watched.

After a few minutes Mike took Paul aside and began the process of teaching him how to become a restaurant magician. He taught Paul the importance of having five or six strong tricks to know inside out and

Paul from page 4

Then he taught Paul how to work the room. No one is

About this time Paul joined Ring 76 where he was exposed to even more magic and lectures by visiting magicians. In 1997 Paul was voted the Rings Best Close-up and Best Entertainer of the year award. Then in 1998 he received the award for Best Stand-up Magician of the year.

One evening while doing some table magic at the Gentleman's Choice Restaurant he asked a woman at the table to shuffle a deck of cards. The woman executed perfect faro shuffles. Paul said you must work with cards? The woman said she didn't but her husband did. Paul looked at her husband and recognized close-up legend Mike Rogers looking on and Paul said the next few minutes were especially difficult performing for the Rogers. He got through it and says he learned other magicians like to be entertained too.



Dan Thomas who owns and manages The Gathering is a magician himself and has made a name for his restaurant by bringing in good close-up performers to work the tables on busy nights. Paul has become one of the more popular showmen to work the Gathering.

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Paul works out of this pockets, on most evenings he has five set-ups. That means he has five different acts so that each table he visits sees a different group of tricks. He spends between four and eight minutes at every table

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and tries to leave each table as the audience is scratching their heads in disbelief at his closing effect.

Paul does not like trick decks or gimmicked coins. He tries to work with just everyday items not magic store props. Half of his magic is with cards, the other half with coins, mentalism and color changing knives.

The toughest part of being a restaurant magician is approaching the table and getting the patron's attention. Once you start working a table Paul says it is important to involve everyone at the table with your magic.

Paul is an avid reader of all kinds of books especially magic books and that is where he gets most of his material. Here is a list of his five favorite magic books.

Card Sharks
 Fechter
 Steven Minch
 Steel & Silver
 My Life
 Sonata
 Darwin Ortiz
 Steven Minch
 Paul Gurtner
 Rene Lavand
 Juan Tamariz

Paul loves watching magic videotapes but he says to really learn good magic you need a book.

It's been said if you are really a magician you can do a trick anytime you are asked. On the spur of the moment I asked Paul to do a trick, out of his pockets came a deck of cards and a sticky note pad. He did a super routine with cards and a center tear that was most baffling.

The next time you are hungry for food and magic try The Gathering and try and catch Paul Thomey.

Rick Bruce continued from page 1

He is hoping there might be one or two ring members or interested magicians who would be willing to give him some added support in keeping this organization alive. These co-advisors as Rick calls them would need to be available as magic coaches and sometimes as a big brother or father figure to help with the myriad of problems teenagers face in today's fast moving society.

When the first young men joined this elite group of entertainers they were all well versed in the art of magic. Several of them already had an act and the others had a direction they wanted to go with their magic. Together under the watchful eye of Rick Bruce these young magicians learned the discipline of rehearsal, dress, and choreographing their acts. They learned to be technically perfect in their moves and to com-municate as performers.

For the past five years Rick and his young group of magicians have done hundreds of shows. Some were for non-profit groups and others, paying shows. Each performance was done with respect for the art and as though they were seasoned professionals. Many A.C.E.S. entertainers have gone on to win top honors in local competitions, at National IBM Conventions and at the Desert Magic Seminar in Las Vegas. Two of the many that have shown great promise are Joel Ward and Josh Hall.

Currently there are six members of the A.C.E.S. the ideal size of the group are 8 to 10 members. Sometimes they meet once a week, sometimes its

Diane Lane. a woman of magic, and cable ready

once a month. Their common goal is improving their magic and doing as many shows a possible. What Rick is hoping for is that someone will come along that can help in finding venue's for the A.C.E.S.,to perform. Perhaps a second person can help with advising and working with this young talent.

If this is your calling and you would like to help out even on a limited basis Rick would like to talk with you about what is needed. His phone number is 619-640-1406 or you can reach him by e-mail at mbruce@home.com. Rick Bruce says the future of this successful youth magic program depends on help from fellow magicians who are willing to lend support now. For more information on the A.C.E.S. their web site is http://members.home.net/rmbruce/aces.html

A View from the Cheap Seats

With the retirement of Rick Bruce from the role of mentor for the area young magicians, I am in a thoughtful mood this month. I had my say on mentoring in the November '99 issue of MagiCurrents, but I am going a step further this time.

The local ring is a treasure-trove of knowledge and experience that goes untapped except for the mentoring program and the monthly meetings that feature performances. It is a terrible waste of the members if such assets are not better used. I strongly suggest to Ring 76, and to all local rings who receive copies of this newsletter, that your ring begin a library of the "pet routines" of its members. Each member would write up his favorite trick(s), method and presentation, for posterity. Such a library would be a legacy of each member, especially after an individual "passes away." Local rings are good about mentoring new magicians, and Ring 76 is no exception, but the skills and routines that are uniquely an individual's are lost forever unless they are "set down" in writing for a local library that the ring would maintain.

This is not a light-weight undertaking. Some members will write more lucidly than others, and illustrations will probably be slim to none. Still, with the better writers serving as editors for the others, and someone with a digital camera to catch the essential moves, making a library should be an achievable goal.

And why stop with print media? With a video camera and a decent operator, whole routines could be left for study. The artist could perform for the camera, using volunteers from the ring as subjects for whom the routine is performed, especially for those routines which require audience interaction. Then the artist could detail the method for posterity. The ring could even archive the performances in one library (open to the public?), and the performances with methods in another (open only to ring members).

The sky is the limit! Throw your ring's energy into creating a print and/or video instruction library, and let your magic legacy live long beyond your lifetime. Mentoring from the afterlife... how appropriate for a magician!

Jon Hand, a lifelong hobbyist magician, just turned 48 on Halloween. He thinks that age is the cruelest Halloween trick of all.

Diane is a woman born with determination and the true "survivor" spirit. She has overcome some of life's most difficult "challenges" and lived to tell the story...

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Diane was born and raised in San Diego. Her parents still live in the house she grew up in her whole life.

She did move her family to Lake Tahoe for 10 years. In Tahoe Diane did 'bugs' that go around. Colds and flu can lead to pneumonia for her. She across from the Hyatt in a strip mall, providing the hotel guests and locals anything "From pickles to pampers" (her slogan). Her store was very needed in the area and with Diane's "Ma" image, it was an instant success. Diane has been a true entertainer most all of her life. She started by writing

Diane was very involved in the community. She was the "pet coordinator" for a grassroots organization of local professionals that worked together to save animals from the local shelter and orphaned/homeless pets. Her condo served as the temporary shelter taking in many different kinds of animals. It was not uncommon to find rabbits, ferrets, dogs and cats all living together happily in her home.

was told she had maybe 2 to 5 years to live. The doctors in Reno, NV told

It would be a long wait and a lot of tests and procedures to undertake.

Back at home in her condo, she was awaken one night to find the top 2 stories of her 4 level condo on fire! It was a miracle that the dog, 5 puppies, cat and 3 humans all survived. Within a few months Diane wrapped up business in town and moved back to San Diego to start the process of being accepted for a liver transplant.

Diane became a professional patient, spending her days at the hospital doing testing she found a renewed interest in medicine. She studied everything she could get her hands on regarding the liver. She impressed her doctors with her willingness and knowledge of what she was undertaking. They worked with her to keep her educated on the issues that come up in the process.

After many months of tests and waiting she received her call from Scripps saying a liver had come in and to get to the hospital ASAP! Her mother, father, daughter and son all went to the hospital that night taking Diane to her lifesaving surgery. She survived the 10 hour surgery though 2 hours Magical Moments can be seen every Friday night on channel 16 at 6:30 for of that time her new liver did not work. Her family was told that she the Time Warner viewers. Cox viewers can call to receive show times. probably would not make it through the operation. With many prayers If you want to be on Magical Moments contact: she did survive only to have a heart attack one week later and spent 3 days in a coma. Again the doc's told her family that she probably wouldn't Diane Lane survive. More prayers and 3 days later she woke up. It was a long month 858 278-1669 ahead of her in the hospital. After more "scares" she finally got to go dvlane@san.rr.com and www.magicalN3.net home

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It was a new life of medications to take for the rest of her life. Being immunosuppresed she is susceptible to any

many exciting things. One being opening her "General Store and Deli" had to learn to live in a sterile environment. That would be quite the challenge as Diane has kids and pets and works with kids.

> and acting in numerous school plays to majoring in dramatic arts in college. She worked in Tahoe as a "Murder Mystery" actress and the "Sound Coordinator" and back up vocals with a "Karoke" business.

> Diane created a cute Magical Clown named "Snickerdoodle" in 1990. She was an instant hit in Tahoe entertaining many people at schools, birthdays, weddings and more! She entertained at a birthday party the day before she had her liver transplant. Diane gained strength by entertaining when she was so sick and amazed many people by doing so.

On February 14, 1992 She was told she was dying of liver disease. Diane Diane has always had a liking for magic. As a young girl she played with her dad's linking rings and other misc. tricks that her dad would bring her there was no help for her. Her mother did quick research and found home. She always dreamed of being a "Movie star" and Magician. Scripps Research. Diane was told by them she needed a liver transplant. Diane's realized one of those dreams and is moving in the right direction

> with the other by creating her own TV show "Magical Moments".

> Diane has worked in the TV studio on other shows for over 5 years now. After training she earned her Producers credentials which enabled her to start the show. The first taping was in Dec. of 1999 with the "Krusin Kritters" show.

> Magical Moments is a show dedicated to showcase all of San Diego's local talent. Though the majority of her guests are Magicians she has had animal acts, comedy and a Ventriloquist on her show.

> Diane is the Executive Producer and Host of the show. She has a wonderful crew including her Director Victoria Turner, Asst Director, lighting- Jim Santora, Sound and CG- Mary Lim, Floor Director/cameras/lighting-Michael "Ollie" Oliver, Ken Lanewood, Frank

Hass and Caylee Lambert. Diane supports her show financially. She has a sponsor Mr. Dan Thomas of the "Gathering" Restaurant in Mission Hills, San Diego. Diane's new hairstyles by "Starz Salon" in Mission Gorge.



Magic Newsline

The U.S called off IBM Ma

Department was offering a cultural exchange of U.S. Magicians and Chinese performers. Only Magic Superstar David Copperfield brings his five magicians from the U.S., expressed interest touring magic show to San Diego November 24th in the trip to China and inter-acting with their and 25th. Chinese counterparts. Each person taking part closing illusion in which 13-people from the in the trip was asked to pay his or her own way, audience disappear in smoke and flame. Many said it was simply too expensive.

In late September at San Diego County's only on BRAVO a cable network. five star hotel "The Four Seasons" a major titled "The Magic of it All". corporate trade show took place. San Diego magicians Monty Stratton, Ken Deary, Michael Johnson and Paul Thomey all performed close-up magic.

online weekly sletter you maybe interested called Soda Pop's Newslett and is compared. Richard Struve in Iowa stories and material come from all corners of the Marcus Day made a whirlwind trip to New U.S. They discuss everything from make-up to Oxford, Pennsylvania for the sale of vintage visitors are interested in learning new tricks. If magic props. The e-mail address to get on the magic books, posters and props from David you have not visited the site it is mailing list is rickstruve@home.com A new Price's famed Egyptian Hall Museum in late cardmagician.com issue arrives in your e-mail every Thursday.

Brad Burt's Magic Shop last spring, has just Thaver effects and several old magic books with The Pacific Coast Association of Magicians released a new video tape "Ouarterly Returns" which is a torn and restored card trick. This is one of those effects you will begin seeing in various said the warehouse full of old magic memorabilia August 2nd to the 5th. close-up performances because it is good. David takes you through the steps of learning the magic sale took in \$400,000 not bad for a bunch too long when they decided that one! Palm effect in his video. For Christmas longtime San Diego close-up Wizard J.C. Wagner will

The Board of Directors for Ring 76 wishes to send its condolences to Jeff and Peggy Marcus over the loss of Peggy's mother, Millie Hayes. Ms. Hayes passed away Friday, October Our thoughts and prayers are with the Marcus' at this difficult time.

Burt's Video NoteBook series.

Earlier in the month, Nov 6th Copperfield's first new elevision special in five years will appear Kevin will also present a series of magic shows at

Later in the health problems and has been in and out of the kid? evening the grees performer was NBC Tonight Show start, lay Leno. he is on the mend. A note or card of cheer and encouragement would go a long way to help in covery. His address is Philip Stagg, 5841 Box Canyon Road, La Jolla, Ca., 92037

an Diego magic collectors J.P. Jackson and Redgill Evans magic book for his collection. published magician. David Eldridge, who took over as manager of J.P. Jackson came away with some rare P&L and for sale was mind boggling. of old magic stuff!

> Stan Allen, editor and publisher of MAGIC for his publication that will last four days (August. August 19 to 22nd) in Las Vegas. Stan says the 2001 event is not a convention but it will feature lectures, dealers, contests and magic shows. The party will be open to all subscribers of the magazine. Allen says details of all the

elease a new magic videotape. It will be part of activities and which hotel/casino it will be held at will be forthcoming.

Magician Kevin Barnes, who is better His new show has a spectacular known as Dr. Wilderness, will present his science and magic show at 200 San Diego County schools beginning in January. The San Diego Water Authority will sponsor those shows. The show is the Zoo in Balboa Park and the Wild Animal Park in the San Pascal Valley in April and May of next year. He features stage magic, songs and Magic enthusiast Phil Stagg better known as computer operated audio-animatronic robots. "Phil the Magnificent" has been plagued with Why didn't they have these shows when I was a

he is on the mend. A note or card of cheer and Do you have a favorite card trick or routine you would like to share with fellow magicians? Sumit Dua's local magic web page is continuing to gather interest from magicians around the world. During the first week of October, 915-hits were recorded on his site. From the information he has gathered, Sumit says most Check it out but more September. Marcus found a very rare Henry importantly submit a trick and become a

Egyptian Hall book plates for his collection. (PCAM) has announced that their convention for Both men are old hands at magic collecting but 2001, will be held in Palm Springs, California, The Saturday committee must have been standing in the sun Springs in August is 103 to 105 and it only cools down to 99 at night. October would have been perfect for Palm Springs but never August. Magazine is planning a Tenth Anniversary Party Better still they should come to San Diego in



Upcoming Events

Nov. 13 Dealer Night with Mary Coley

Dec. 11 Holiday Pot Luck Banquet
American Legion Hall
No Host Happy Hour 6:30
Dinner at 7:00
Entertainment by
Terry Godfrey

Christmas Romes et ally to Ring 76!

Dealer Night November 13

20% discount on Magic items

More on some close out items!

Doors open at 6:30

American Legion Hall, La Mesa CA



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