



# MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XIV No. 12 December 2000

## Gala Holiday Issue

### San Diego May Get 2002 National Convention

#### IBM Selection Committee to decide this month

Jack K. Greenberg President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians San Diego may be the site of the annual IBM conclave in the summer of 2002. The site of the 2002 Convention will not be announced until December 15, and San Francisco and several other west coast cities are courting the IBM selection committee to hold the convention in their city.

The dates of the 2002 national convention will be July 3, 4, 5 and 6th. Greenberg says he and his staff are still putting the finishing touches on the 2001 convention in Orlando, Florida and the 2002 convention is still in the planning stages.

If the 2002 convention does come to San Diego as Greenberg earlier confirmed it would, this would be the third National IBM Convention held in this city. The first was in 1978, at the Town & Country Convention Center in Mission Valley. That was the 50<sup>th</sup> IBM National Convention.

Other than being the Host City and the host ring San Diego magicians and Ring 76, would have little to do with the planning of the national convention itself.

Greenberg says his staff will take care of all the planning and scheduling. However, some board members of the IBM object to that system and are trying to change the rules so the local host ring has more of a voice in all matters, but at this writing the national committee sets all policy.

Orlando, Florida the site of next summer's national convention has a strong and active ring (Ring 170 the Bev Bergeron Ring) and they were hoping to host several events and offer input to the national staff members. However, the national committee is not sanctioning their proposed efforts over the objections of many of Ring 170's officers and members.

It is expected that between 700 and 900 magicians and their families would attend the 2002 get together if San Diego is the designated city.

The IBM's 2002 Convention will be the 75<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of IBM members. The organization was founded in 1922, by magicians Len Vintus and Gene Gordon.

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# Ring 76 Holiday Banquet

## December

### 17<sup>th</sup>

# November

# Meeting

This month Ring 76 had the pleasure of hosting a dealer night with **T. C.** and **Mary Coley** from "The Magic Shop," at Sea Port Village.

The pre-meeting started promptly at 6:30 in the evening, and featured a review of Tom Mullica's, "An Evening at the Tom Foolery." While there was a slight problem with the sound, the tape received favorable comments from the membership.

The meeting started promptly at 7:00. Treasurer Gary Dismukes sent his regrets, but the rest of the board was present. Over forty members and guests filled the big room at the American Legion hall.

**Julie Dale** introduced four guests who are in the process of becoming IBM members. **Matt Thomas**, of the Colorado Pen company has been interested in magic for some time. **Don E. Holcomb jr.** has been interested in magic since the days when movie houses had stages. He even sat through a show by Harry Blackstone Sr. **Bill Pouge** is a former radiologist with Grossmont hospital whose clown name is "Dr. Pokenose." **Paul Barbarosa** has become interested in magic by watching ring member **Alfonso Vazquez** and his Marine Corps shows. Ring 76 warmly welcomed these guests, and hope they all become members of the IBM.

Speaking of memberships, VP of Membership, **Dick Dale**, presented membership packages to **Robert Matchinske**, **Mort Loeb**, and **Thomas McCarty**. Ring 76 is honored to welcome these new additions to our organization. Afterward Dick presented certificates of appreciation, and declarations of "Magic Week," from the cities of El Cajon, La Mesa, and San Diego. President Julie Dale accepted these with pride.

The next order of business was the audition of new member **Jim Thayer**. Ring 76 requires all those interested in joining to audition at a ring meeting. This is done to insure a genuine interest in the performing art. Jim did a splendid job of levitating a dollar bill between his empty palms. He strung out the routine to an

impressive finish. He was voted in unanimous.

With the business meeting concluded, the floor was turned over to the night's dealer, **Mary Coley**. She, and her staff, brought a large collection of magic paraphernalia, and offered it at a respectable discount. After demonstrations by **Herb Zungia** and **Channee Sonphorn**, Mary auctioned off magic tapes and a large basket filled with an assortment of what her fine shop has to offer. **Dick Dale**, **Matt Thomas**, and **Robert Matchinske** were the winners of the raffle, and the rest of the members and guests were winners with fine magic merchandise at reasonable prices. We thank Mary, T.C., Herb, and Channee for making this a dealer night to remember.

## Board Meeting

This month's meeting was held at the home of Richard Ustick. All board members were present.

President Julie Dale called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The first order of business was the Holiday Banquet. It will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Hall in the big room. The Ring will provide a ham and turkey, with all other food provided by those attending. Board members will call the membership for a

This year the annual Holiday Banquet will be held on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, in the big room of the American Legion Hall. It will start at 6:30 with a no-host social hour, followed with a pot luck dinner at 7:15. Entertainment will be by Terry Godfrey, this year's Close-up Performer of the Year.

Ring 76 will provide a ham and turkey, with each attending member bringing there favorite holiday food. Dishes should feed five to eight people. If you have not been contacted yet please call secretary Richard Ustick at (619)463-2407. Tell him what you plan to bring, and whom.

qilQ



head count and to arrange what will be brought. Entertainment will be provided by Close-up Performer of the Year, Terry Godfrey. No host social hour will begin at 6:30 with dinner at 7:15. Terry Godfrey's show will start around 8:00. After the show there will be a voluntary gift exchange. Members are encouraged to bring a gift of no more than \$15.

Dick Dale reported that Mary Coley was pleased with her experience at Ring 76. The member turnout was nice and all were pleased with the wares that Mary had to sell. We look forward to having Mary and her staff back at some future time.

Dick Dale also confirmed that San Diego is one of the leading candidates for the IBM national convention in 2002. Dick said that the Ring should have guarded optimism though nothing is firm at this time. We will strive to keep the membership updated on this news.

Gary Schwartzwald has reported that Falkenstein and Willard are interested in lecturing for Ring 76 this spring. Ron London is also being considered for the next Ring lecture, and a Ring sponsored lecture by Carl Cloutier is also being discussed. Carl Cloutier's lecture would have a separate fee.

The January meeting will feature a pre-meeting discussion on the value of performance and stage craft. The theme of the meeting will be comedy magic. This year's Close-up Competition has been moved to February.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. There will be no Board meeting in December. The January Board meeting will be held at Richard Ustick's home. As always all members are welcome.

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# Holiday Message from the President

Happy Holidays to All.

We all are very lucky to have our family, friends and loved ones for the Holidays. Each year we go out spending, spending, spending for gifts for the ones we care. Got a great idea. What if we didn't have the money to spend, spend? What if we only had our talents to create gifts for our loved ones? Create a magical show. Actually make a magic effect, or combine magical effects producing a new delight. Remember "Gift of the Magi." Give of yourself and give a magical performance to an audience that is disadvantaged. Decorate an old effect with green and red tinsel, and it now has a holiday theme.

Buy a magic trick for your spouse, or significant others. Watch as they first look back at you in a blank stare, confusion, wonderment and what the heck go for it. Surprisingly our intimate audiences may have some hidden talents.

Best of all, we have the camaraderie of each other as members of Ring 76 has given us the friendships and memories forever. Please attend our Holiday Banquet and may you all have the best of the season.

## Julie Dale

**January is  
Comedy Night!**  
The January meeting will feature a discussion on stage craft and principles of performance. The evening theme will be Comedy Magic. Bring your favorite, funniest magic trick and show it to the Ring

## Tis the

# Season of Giving

this festive tradition should bring a wrapped present to place "under the tree." Please limit your generosity to \$10-15.

## Happy Holidays

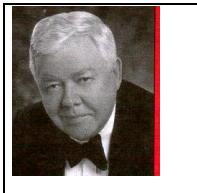
This year we will once again be having a gift exchange at the Holiday Potluck December 11. Those who want to participate in

### ***Magic Notes from Jack White:***

## Booking Your Magic Show For The Holidays:

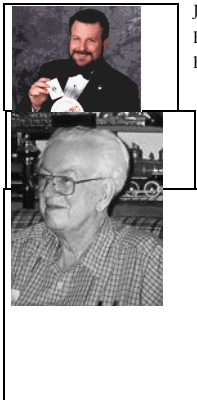
From Halloween until early January the demand for magicians is greater than any other time of the year. Yet during these busy months I have more magicians come up to me and say, "I have a great act but I can't find work, what's my problem?" Its simple, you may be a good magician but are you a good businessperson?

In recent weeks I have talked with six locals and one out of state magician who know how to get their acts booked. They have eagerly and kindly given me permission to publish their comments. What they told me is good advice all year round not just during the holidays. If you do what they say you will have more work than you can handle.



We begin with comments from magician Stan Karmien who has written the book on selling your attraction. He says it is important that you be business like, he advises you have a desk, a telephone line used only for your show, a small filing cabinet and a computer if you can afford one. Stan emphasizes this area should be off limits to your children. It is for your magic business only.

The computer can simplify your life in many ways. You can create mailing lists, brochures, business cards, letterheads, post cards and newsletters for your show. It can also customize some of your stock items for special shows.



Jeff Marcus has been producing magic shows for 35-years. He has an office and is all business when you call to book a show. Because he has been in the business for many years he has built up a list of past clients who become his future prospects. Jeff uses a computer and says it saves him a lot of book keeping and filing paper work.

Jeff will tell you very quickly always keep names, addresses and phone numbers of everyone you come in contact with especially past clients. You send them thank you notes after a show and during the year you send out mailings for future bookings.

Marcus also advertises in the Yellow Pages of the phone book under magic and magicians. The Yellow Pages are costly but they pay off in new bookings. Because Jeff has become so well established and has a good working data base of past clients he has cut down on his phone book advertising but still maintains a small ad.

Some performers look for booking agents. In San Diego you will find most booking agents handle bands and disc jockey's and do not specialize in magicians, jugglers, clowns or other variety acts. Jeff



Marcus will tell you local theatrical agents are order takers and do not go out to look for jobs for local talent so don't count too heavily on their services.

Brad Burt's Magic Shop does receive a number of calls during the holiday season for magicians. The shop is not an agency or clearinghouse for talent but they do keep a list of names and phone numbers of local magicians and give them out to potential clients if they know the abilities and skills of the performer.

We remind you the magic shop is very careful about suggesting any magicians for hire. The magic shop is putting their name and reputation on the line by doing so. However, if you are lucky enough to get on their list of magicians to be recommended then be ready to give a quality performance and be business like.



Dick Dale another busy professional during the holiday period operates much like Jeff Marcus, in that he too has a large data base of past clients and gets about 80% of his business from the same people he has worked for in the past.

He says his new business come's in the form of a referrals from someone he has worked for before. He adds that his mailing list is worth its weight in gold and he is constantly keeping it up to date and adding new names and addresses for future contact and mailings.

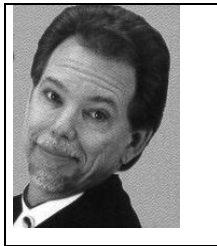
Both Dick Dale and Jeff Marcus send out their advertising package to potential customers in early October and sometimes a reminder post card of their availability in November. Both say their calendars are pretty well filled up by the week before Thanksgiving. Veteran magician James Swoger who has been booking magic shows during the holidays since the late 1930's says even in our modern high tech society the old post card gimmick is the best for generating new interest in your show and he says the cost is still fairly reasonable.

Jim has post cards printed up with his picture and some notes about his show and his phone number. He sends them out in early November and has mailed as many as 500 at a time. He says he gets a 7 to 9% return on his mailing for new shows.

He mails to civic clubs, service clubs, churches, labor unions, hospitals and businesses. Printing of the post cards will cost 12 to 20-dollars, mailing costs will run between 50 and 80 dollars depending on how many you send out?

Jim reminds us it is important to have someone standing by to answer the phone and to be able to sell your show when the phone rings.

See **Booking**, page 5



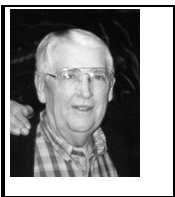
## Booking

continued from page 4

Terry Lunceford has a great system of getting new bookings. Terry by magician says the idea was given to him by Chuck Fayne and Terry insists it will work.

Get the names and addresses of a large group of local doctors and dentists. Put their name and address on a bunch of envelopes then insert just your business card in the envelope.

On the back of the business card write the following: "I think you will find this guy really interesting." Then make an illegible signature and send it to the doctor. Most doctors think another doctor sent them the card and will book the magician for an upcoming party on the recommendation of an alleged fellow doctor. Terry says its amazing how many responses you get from this one mailing.



Bob Ingalls, does a lot of shows every year both paying and non-paying. Bob, believes in giving out business cards to attract new business.

Bob likes to do a trick with his or someone else's business card. He says that gets their attention and when the trick is over they walk away with his card. Never leave home without a stack of business cards is Bob's motto.

Bob also says to be sure the word "Magician" is in big letters on your card along with your phone number and e-mail address. Make sure people can easily read the phone number.

One final word about business cards. It is not necessary to use the word "professional", has a doctor ever given you a card that says professional doctor? The most offensive card Bob has ever seen was handed to him by a Christian magician who had a cross coming out of a top hat. Make your business card tasteful. If you do it will get you work.

One area we have not discussed is ethics. If you accept a booking then be sure to put it on your calendar. Find out where you will perform and what the client expects from you.

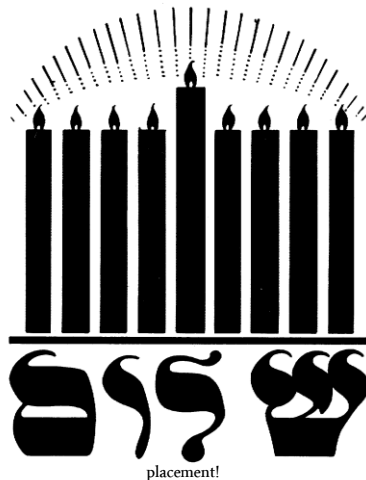
If you receive an offer for another show at a higher fee for the same date don't blow off the first engagement or sell it to another performer. If a client books you they want you not someone else. Be loyal to your commitment it will pay off with future bookings.

Start building your own database of names and addresses. Send out thank you notes. Give the best performance you possibly can and you will be asked back again. Make up some business cards and hand them out to everyone.

## Christmas Theme

Continued from page 5

Cut a design into TWO adjacent sides to serve as front panels, such as the outline of a Christmas tree. Refasten the open sides with unbleached muslin and white all-purpose glue; allow to dry overnight. Topcoat the inside box's exterior with green (to represent the tree when the cutouts allow the audience to see in), and topcoat the outside box's exterior with red or yellow for contrast. Setup the base ON THE DIAGONAL, and set the three components on the base, also on the diagonal; your SC has two Christmas tree cutout designs and a new look due to diagonal



placement!

Very involved way: Make a large base using casters as feet and 5/4" plywood. Use Washing Machine and

# View from the Cheap Seats

Theming your Magic Show for the Christmas Season

The holidays are upon us again, and you working magicians probably have more shows between December 1 and January 2 than in any other month of the year. Many magicians seek out new gear and equipment to theme their shows to the Christmas season, when they can merely redress their patter and their existing gear to fit the season!

For example, why not use red sponge balls as "Rudolph's nose?" Or pick D-lites off the Christmas tree as Magic Ornaments? Try setting up your 20th century silks using a red silk and two green silks, or a silk-screened Christmas nylon scarf between two green silks. With some searching, you can find candy canes which are pure white, with no red stripes; get matching size striped ones, and you can magically "drain off" the red stripes with a change bag and hold them in your hand (red ribbon fragments, or a different use for the D-lite). Your linking rings can be metallic wreaths if you hang a red bow on the bottom of each, and do a simple 3 ring routine (such as the fine routine in Lewis Ganson's "Art of Closeup Magic, Vol. 1"). Look in Sam's Club or Costco stores for Bicycle Christmas Playing Cards in two-deck tins; they come with matching DARK RED and GREEN backs.

The point here is to examine your regular show for ways to convert it to the holidays. Once you get started thinking in this manner, you become quite adept at it rather quickly. As a parting example, I will describe in more detail a Christmas Square Circle.

Easiest way: Take your existing SC and wrap the square like a Christmas gift in colorful wrapping paper. Wrap the inside tube or second square in a contrasting solid, such as a bright green, so that it shows through the opening. Add ribbons taped around the perimeter horizontally and up the front vertically, ending in a stick-on bow, and you have a Christmas SC.

More involved way: Remove the two outer tubes, keeping only the load chamber. Get two cardboard cartons from the local supermarket or Wal-Mart. Make a new base from plywood to fit the boxes, using wooden drawer pulls or small blocks of 1"x2"s to make feet; prime and paint as desired. Cut apart one corner of each box so that the boxes will lie flat, and prime the outside with a brush and ceiling white paint (for top coating light colors) or flat black (for top coating dark colors, including red). The cardboard will warp or curl, but don't worry; just let it dry for an hour or so. Turn them over, and prime the inside with flat black; the warp will then drop out as the second side dries.

see **Christmas Theme**, page 6

Dryer shipping boxes as the tubes; finding these in three different sizes is easy, due to the varying capacities of the appliances. Cut apart, prime, and paint as in the previous paragraph, leaving the innermost tube flat black to match the interior of the two outer tubes. Decide whether or not you want to work on the diagonal, and cut opening(s) as appropriate; however, so little magic equipment is done on the diagonal that I would not miss this opportunity to make a fresh-looking piece of apparatus.

You have just made a Christmas SC large enough to produce your assistant! To work the illusion, pull off the outside tube, look through it, fold it flat, reopen it, and place it back on the base. Repeat with the inner tube; clap hands, or say the magic words, and the assistant pops up. Help her out of the boxes, swirling her around in the process and setting her on the floor to take her bow. Dress her in black Danskin (TM) bodice and tights, and put red fake fur Santa Jacket (short and tight?) and Santa Hat over it all; or do her as an elf with green shortie jacket and elf shoes over the black Danskin.

I hope that you have found some ideas you can use; so audience members (chosen by bouncing a bunch of large silver more importantly, I hope that you will examine your existing beach balls into the orchestra seating) and vanishing all of them at equipment with a new-found respect and creativity. May your Christmas be a fine one, and may your Square Circle always be full!

once from a platform covered by a huge translucent sheet, with the volunteers waving their flashlights until the last second when they vanished in a flash (so to speak), whereupon the vanishes reappeared in one of the aisles, still waving their lights. A stunning finish indeed to a lively and entertaining show that seemed too short at an hour and a half. How did he do it? Must have been through the use of that "Unknown Dimension"!

## Jon A. Hand

### Copperfield enters "Unknown Dimension"

A review by Gary Dismukes

On Thanksgiving weekend San Diego was treated to a visit from the world's highest-paid magical entertainer. The stage setting was minimal in style, with arriving audiences finding open curtains with a bare stage and an enormous white shroud, strikingly draped and illuminated, hanging above center stage like a giant abstract dove. Not surprisingly, this was to serve as the focal point for the illusionist's dramatic appearance. Following his flashy arrival, David proceeded to perform his version of the disembodied girl, separating the lovely head of one of his female assistants (covered by a box, then slid along a track away from her body) and carrying it to the other side of the stage to set it on an open and obviously empty wooden crate where he restores her head intact.

Intermixed with his stylish theatrical illusions, Copperfield did some smaller-scale presentations. Personally I think this is where he shines the best, getting away from his somewhat impersonal aura as the lofty illusionist, letting down his hair, joking around and playing with his audience (although still tightly orchestrated).

One example of this was the use of his duck Webster, who served as comic relief in a couple of spots, waddling on in an apparent attempt to upstage the star. The show was structured to build up to David's well-publicized feature effect of transporting someone to the destination of their dreams. For months leading up to his current tour, he had been soliciting people around the country to submit their names and imagined dream spot in a bid to be selected for the opportunity to be teleported to that location live during one of David's shows. A short video was played showing some of the more ardent (and wackier) of his fans pleading their case, sometimes with song and dance, to be one of the lucky few to be selected for this honor. Near the start of the show, a "live video hook-up" was established with assistants at the remote location, such as a deserted island beach. Several spectators were randomly chosen, by throwing flying discs into the audience, to aid in setting up several aspects of "proof" to be used later. For instance, one audience member named two letters of the alphabet which they wrote with a marker on David's arm. There was also a Polaroid photo taken of various of the volunteers. This photo was placed in the pocket of the person to be transported.

David and the lucky "transportee" (in the case of one show, a young woman whose dream destination was Hawaii) stood atop a thin platform projected over the heads of the front rows of the audience. Covered briefly, they vanished in a flash and reappeared from under cloth cover on the remote beach, shown on the "live feed" video screen. The chosen letters were displayed on the magician's forearm, the woman pulled the self-same audience photo out of her pocket, and she was then greeted with open arms by her father. David is then transported back across the world to suddenly appear with a handful of sand as a memento of the. Hmm, now where is that disclaimer about camera tricks when you need it?

So, how was he going to top that teleportation act with the upcoming finale of his show? Well, by selecting a set of a dozen or

# MAGIC NeWSLiNe

Close-up magician **Paul Thomey** spent time at Sharp show with dealers exhibits, evening magic shows, contests and will Memorial Hospital in November undergoing knee surgery. The include the Magic Castle Awards Banquet. The dates are still being operation will put him out of commission during the busiest time of determined but the event will take place on a Friday, Saturday and the year for working magicians. A note of good cheer and Sunday. encouragement would be appreciated.

San Diego magician and former Ring 76 member **Steve Wheeler** is starring in "Magic on Ice" at the Genting International Show Room broken leg while jogging on a bike trail a few days before in Genting, Malaysia. Steve began putting his magic on ice show Thanksgiving. **Rob Soul** has just recently developed an interest in together at the LaJolla Towne Center Ice Rink in 1982. Since then magic and was scheduled to work with his dad in several shows for he has appeared as a featured act in numerous ice shows in the United upcoming Christmas Parties. Rob is a member of Ring 76 and has States and Europe. In the early 1990's Steve began working on his attended many ring meetings and functions. He is at Scripps full evening magic show on Ice and has turned it into a magic Hospital spending a lot of time with Robuto Giobbi's "Card College" extravaganza. We all wish Steve much success with his new show. Volumn one, book.

San Diego Magi **Terry Lunceford** will be making his 40<sup>th</sup> appearance Ring 76 magician/clown **Diane Lane** made her 7<sup>th</sup> appearance at the Magic Castle in Hollywood in late January. He is also busy Chargers Blood Drive at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley November 21<sup>st</sup>. Diane appeared as her clown character planning a lecture tour that will take him to the land down-under "Snickerdoodle" and entertained those waiting to donate blood. Australia; his tour is set to begin in early 2001. You should also Diane also recently appeared in a theatrical motion picture titled "El start seeing lots of ads for Terry's online magic show. The webcast **Campo**" a mystery-drama that is being filmed in San Diego's North County. Diane has a speaking role and plays the girlfriend of the show will air on February 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be a first. bad guy in the movie. It will be in theaters in Spring of 2001.

On Halloween night **Ring 76er Michael Feldman** dropped by Jack White's house to trick or treat and say hello. When Jack suddenly **Loch David Crane**, better known to his audiences as "**Baffin' Bill Cody**" will be doing his full magic act during the holidays at Bazaar ran out of treats, Michael wound up performing a series of card tricks Del Mundo in Oldtown December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12-noon and 1 PM. for a large group of excited trick or treaters standing at Jack's front door. Everyone left satisfied they had their magic treat for the This is Loch's third year at this historic Oldtown location during the evening at that house. Christmas season.

Longtime Ring 76 member **Jim Whiting** who teaches English to Magician **Jeff Smith** is the subject of a major article on corporate magic and magicians in the San Diego Business Journal, October 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition to some very nice copy the article included a color photograph of Jeff in action. Jeff lives in Rancho Bernardo and to use only English in his magic act but when the students appear to earns his living full time as a magician. When he is not on the road performing Jeff is an active member of Ring 76. By the way switches to Spanish language to help them better understand. Jim Jeff and **Bryan McDaniel** taped an appearance on **the Diane Lane show** on the Time-Warner Cable Channel in November, it will air in December. says it can sometimes be quite a challenge to do his act in a bi-lingual mode, but he has become quite good at it and says magic is a great teaching aid.

A three day **Stage Hypnosis Workshop** and Certification will be Custom electronics designer and magic inventor **Tom Kasner** says his conducted by **Barry Jones** here in San Diego, January 20, 21, & 22, **"Lie Detector Helmet"** has become an unqualified success selling more than 160 copies to date. Another of Tom's exciting effects 2001. Barry is a respected performer who works about 200-dates a **"Haunted Brief Case"** has become an international success with 26 of year all around the country. If you have wanted to get in on the the units now shipped to dealers out of this country. very lucrative stage hypnosis game this is a golden opportunity. We should tell you the three-day seminar will cost \$850 bucks. If **Jeff Marcus** longtime Ring 76er recently appeared at **the Paris Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas** and **Casino in Las Vegas** at the convention of Credit Card Fraud Detectives who attended from around the nation. Jeff made the credit card of the chief investigator for the group disappear. But at the end of his performance he brought the card back. Jeff knew if he didn't make the card reappear he might disappear!

\*A new Southern California magic convention is slated for April 2001. Its called **"The Magicians World's Fair"** to take place in Hollywood. The conclave will include magic lectures, a large trade

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Subscriptions to MagiCurrents are \$10 per year for out of area magicians.

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

All Ring 76 members must be members in good standing with the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

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## IBM & Ring 76 Welcome New Members

Congratulations to Jim Thayer on becoming a new member of Ring 76. Jim auditioned at the November meeting and was voted in as a

new member by an overwhelming voice vote. Standing before the Ring 76 membership Jim borrowed a dollar bill from a member of the audience and then caused it to float in a very mysterious and eerie manner. Prior to beginning the performance portion of his audition he told the ring about himself. He is a distant relative of the famous Floyd Thayer who manufactured and sold some of the finest magic appraise ever made and today are very collectable props. Jim says he has always had an interest in magic and magicians but only recently has he begun to enjoy the craft as a hobby. Welcome to Ring 76, Jim, we look forward to having you as an active member.

Also set to perform an audition routine at the November gathering was former Ring 76 member Bob Pozner. Because of his past association and longtime interest in magic the Ring President decided to reinstate Bob's membership without any further discussion or performance. Good to have you back on the roster of Ring 76 Bob Pozner.

Ring 76 has grown a lot in the past few years, boasting over 75 active members. With the new year dawning we look forward to continued magic fellowship.

Thanksgiving Weekend  
Magic  
by Gary Schwartzwald

Friday November 24, 2000

our tickets, Ann and I walked around Magicopolis staring at Steve Spill's beautiful, magic themed, stained glass windows, while Julie and Jacob "morphed" in front of the fun house mirror. Yes, the children did force us to pose in front of the mirror, but I swear, we didn't laugh. Dave and Denise Hamner came out front and visited with what appeared to be friends and family. There was no close-up show that night, so Steve Spill entertained at the bar. A few minutes before show time they let us in and we Ann, Julie, Jacob, and I got great second row center drove from Hollywood, to seats. Remember, every see The Hamners perform seat in Magicopolis is a at Magicopolis in Santa great seat. The Hamners Monica. After a nice meal came out to a nearly full at Matisse, we went around house consisting mostly of the block to pick up our families. Dave Hamner show tickets. After we got opened with a bird



production act, which rolled and then as he enlarges the sincere people who put on a into a standard box, the horns get bigger, good family magic show. manipulation act. He did until they are huge. He blew We stayed after to gather a a good job and paced the each horn, but not the trick. few autographs and then show fairly well. Denise Dave showed he could sing headed back to Hollywood. now has a fairly small role and also blow a note or two in their show. Some of the fairly well. Highlighting Saturday November 25, typical routines they his musical ability would 2000 performed included, enhance their show. Dave Origami, the Drill of Death, did a very good cups and Metamorphosis, and the (base) balls routine. Professor's Nightmare. A Throughout th show he was few of the highlights were a able to get many people in cigarette (don't smoke) the audience to participate, illusion, where Denise's including our son Jacob, head and legs stay intact who helped him out with while she visibly gets a the Misers Dream. Jake twisted torso. Dave also had also assisted Jeff did a very nice production McBride with this trick last act producing horns. He time we were at first produced a miniature Magicopolis. Overall the cornet out of a small box, Hamners seemed like nice

Saturday evening after eating Uzbekistan food, we ventured to North Hollywood to see Glenn Falkenstein and Frances Willard perform at the Actors Forum Theater. As soon as I read in Magic Magazine that they were performing there, I wanted to go. We got to the theater very early, but Ruth was kind enough to let us in. Ruth is my new friend. The Actors Forum Theater seats about 40 people and is truly, small theater. We waited in the Green Room while they were setting up some extra seats and getting ready for the show. I saw Frances when she came out front, and spotted Glenn when I helped bring extra chairs back to help seat the overflow crowd. I chatted a bit with Ruth, who made sure we would end up in the front row. Falkenstein and Willard opened their Fire Flies show with Glenn reading the thoughts of the crowd. He then performed a Numerical Prediction, adding numbers before they were even written. He had Julie help him with a book test, and then the very lovely Frances came out and they performed their Second Sight act. It was dynamite. They concluded the first half with a Gypsy Mystery, where a rope tied Frances, (under cover) removes a spectator's sports jacket and has it under her tightly bound ropes within about nine seconds. During the intermission Ruth showed me two publicity photos that she said I could have autographed after the show. Told you she was my friend. The second act started with a key test for a \$1,000 bill. Although Ann helped, she didn't get the money. They did a few more mentalism effects and then went into spiritualism.

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### Thanksgiving

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Glenn started that with a story and a Floating Spirit Test. Frances then told a bit about the Willard Magic Tent. I'd love to hear more about it. She said her father, and magicians like him, were Fire Flies that traveled the country bringing magic to the people. Falkenstein and Willard then closed the show with their excellent version of the Willard Spirit Cabinet. We then went out front to gather photos from Ruth and collect autographs. Jake and Julie each had one of the photos signed, lucky kids, and I had a playing card and program signed. Ann then had another program signed. I spoke to both Glenn and Frances about a show and lecture in San Diego.

They both reacted positively. We spoke to Frances about West Coast Wizards where Julie and Jake had met her, and her daughter Hannah and, son-in-law Michael Ammar. She was very warm and friendly and told us a little bit more about the tent show and her life in magic. She is quite a woman. I thanked Ruth, again, and we headed back to Hollywood.

# Closeup Contest

This Year's Closeup Contest will be held during the February Meeting. All members in good standing are encouraged to get in touch with Tom La Chance and tell him that you will be performing this year.

The winner of the competition is determined by a vote of the attending members, so if you do not plan to perform (and why not?) Then show up, enjoy the show, and cast your vote.

Are you planning on coming to the Holiday  
Potluck? Have you been called by a Board member?  
If not please call Secretary Richard Ustick  
at 619-463-2407 and tell him who you are bringing  
and what you plan to bring to eat.

## Upcoming Events

- December 11      6:30 No host social hour, American Legion Hall - La Mesa  
Theme: Holiday Potluck Dinner  
After Dinner Entertainment by Terry Godfrey  
Gift Exchange (bring a gift of no more than \$15)
- January 8      6:30 Pre-meeting: Principles of Performance and Stage Craft  
Theme: Comedy Magic  
Bring your favorite Comedy trick and perform for the members
- February 12      6:30 Pre-meeting: Close-up  
Meeting Theme: Closeup Competition

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