

## MagiCurrents



#### San Diego

**Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76** 

Volume XIV No 1 January 2002

### **COUNTDOWN TO IBM CONVENTION!**

The push to the 75<sup>h</sup> Annual IBM Convention July 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7th at the Town & Country Hotel in San Diego's Mission Valley has now shifted into high gear. More new names have just been added to the list of those attending.

Carl Ballantine
will make an
appearance as a
performer doing
the act that made
him the star of
hundreds of
variety shows for
five decades.
Omar Pasha who
presents one of the
best black art
programs



**Carl Ballantine** 

anywhere will be part of one of the evening shows at Civic Theater.

Norm Nielsen who 22-years ago performed his floating violin at a San Diego IBM Convention is back again with his flawless act. Close-up workers take note John Carney has been added to the list of performers, as have Steve Dacri, Michael Close and Todd Charles.

As we announced in October, Bev Bergeron will do his one-man show with Rebo the clown. Dale Salwalk who books the talent for the IBM Conventions tells MagiCurrents editors there are more big announcements to come in the next few months so stay tuned..

On January 4<sup>th</sup> about 30-members of the IBM Convention Committee will converge on San Diego for three days of meetings and strategy sessions for the convention. Those meetings will for the most part be at the Town and Country Hotel.

On Saturday evening January 5<sup>th</sup> Ring 76 will host a dinner party for the Convention Committee at Jack's Magic Place. In addition to the dinner and cocktails Ring 76 members will present a show for our guests.

In late December Jerry Schnepp this year's convention chairman on doctor's orders was forced to step aside. Moving into his job just weeks before the convention planning session here in San Diego is Mindy Burden who has had much past experience with IBM Conventions and has quickly picked up where Schnepp was forced to leave off. Mindy Burden is encouraging local IBM members to take part in the many contests that are a feature of this convention. Both Close-up and Stage contests offer top prize money and many opportunities.

For San Diego and Orange County Magicians having the convention in our own backyard means you do not have to transport props, yourself and assistants across the country to compete.

. If you have never attended a major magic convention here is the golden opportunity to be part of one of the best conventions anywhere. In addition to seeing some exciting shows and top names in magic, there are learning opportunities through lectures as well as seeing the latest in magic tricks, props, books, video's and DVD's in the dealers room.

For those of us who live locally we do not have the expense of travel or hotel rooms and dining in restaurants that visitors to the convention must consider. Make your reservations soon.



July 4, 5, 6&7

The above logo was in the December issue of Linking Ring Magazine and will be appearing in other magic publications in the months a head promoting the Convention in San Diego.

# December Meeting includes Potluck Dinner and Show

December is a busy time for everyone but somehow 52members of Ring 76 found time to take part in the potluck dinner and show. The evening began with three

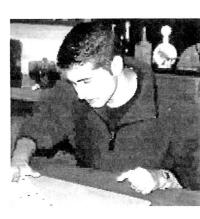
premiere close-up magicians working at the bar.



Tom McCarthy

a sensational version of Kenton Knepper's "Kollosal Killer" card trick. It is an any card called for effect. Tom began at the bar performing then was relived by the talented Sumit Dua, fresh from a series of final exams at college. Sumit always has exciting and interesting card effects to present.

Tom McCarthy does



**Sumit Dua** 

veteran performer Bob Pozner who had his pockets filled with gimmicks and tricks to entertain his audience. The bar stools were all filled as these three performers kicked off the evening in a grand style of performing.

Next came the

Richard Ustick and Donna Soul set up the serving line as members arrived and brought in their contributions to the potluck dinner. Ustick cooked the 20-pound turkey and carved it as the guests moved down the serving line. There was a sumptuous array of food to choose from.

If you have a sweet tooth you should have attended this meeting because there were more than a dozen deserts



**Hungry Magicians** 

including a large sheet cake with a crëme filling. Speaking of cakes the Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting fell on Arlene Moksowitz

birthday so we all sang Happy Birthday because she was such a good sport giving up a birthday party to celebrate with us.

**Following** dinner and desert Sumit Dua and Tom **McCarthy** picked up the plates and cleared the tables as Ring President Don Soul called the meeting to order and made announcements. Don reminded us that Diane Lane is in the process of updating



Don Soul & Ring Cake

phone numbers and e-mail addresses for a new ring directory that will be published after the first of the year.

It was announced that the winners of the Close-up contest to be held in February and the Stand-up contest to take place in April, will receive a 25-dollar gift certificate.

It was also reported that the final draft of the ring constitution and bylaws has just been submitted to the committee for a final reading and corrections then we hope to have them printed and distributed to each member for a vote in January or February. The program was then

turned over to Richard Ustick 1st Vice President in charge of entertainment.



Singing Richard Ustick

Ustick began with one of his magic songs. This time to the tune of the Tennessee Ernie Ford classic "Sixteen Tons". Usticks verson had him owing his sole to the magic store! As always his magic themed song was a sensation and brought a huge round of applause.

Greg Wauson was our next performer and gave us a lesson in making toys. His toy came out of a Nordstrom Department store bag and was that grand old prop the "Pom Pom Stick" and in Greg's hands it was transformed in to a refreshingly new and clever effect. This act was the



**Greg Wauson** 

perfect way to get the show off to a good start. Greg had his wife and two daughters in the audience cheering him on.

Diane Lane presented an act with music featuring the song "The Candy Man Can". She began with a silk to streamers effect then opened a large box wrapped in Christmas paper and produced a giant five foot candy stick followed by a clever Snow Storm in China routine.

Next came Alfredo Fettuccini, who is really Dennis Filangeri who moved to San Diego a year or so ago from New Orleans. He introduced a small brief case and produced a sponge ball and a large ball bearing, cleverly



Alfredo Fettuccini

done. He went into a sponge ball routine and then called four people up on stage to help him with an experiment in ESP that ended with the four spectators all matching up a series of cards after they were fairly shuffled. It was a clever effect with a big round of applause.

Fast talking, smiling, funny David Lopez took over the stage and brought his wife up to help in a clever series of card effects. At one point David had a card selected and signed after some clever by play the card wound up in a cake of ice that was in a small ice chest that had been setting on the stage since the begining of the act. Another clever routine.

Closing the show was our veteran magician the very

funny Bob Ingalls. Bob began with a card trick that featured 8 spoons. After some laughs Bob's Santa hat suddenly began to flop from side to side then stood straight up. He closed his act with Sonny Fontana's

Umbrella Card



**Bob Ingalls** 

Stab. This is a new prop and Bob is still working some of the bugs out of the effect.

December Meeting Story Continued on page 9



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#### FINISH UP THE ACT!

We have looked at how to select an opening effect or routine, but an act is made up of three components: The opening, the middle and the end or closer. Let us assume you are going to follow the old yet useful axiom that you must finish your show leaving our audience wanting just a little bit more. A show that goes beyond that point becomes by definition boring and thus less commercial.

In the process of ending our act look for a routine or effect that sets the audience forward on the edge of their seats. An audience will generally remember the first and last bits of business you present. Your opener will establish you as a magical performer and the closer will hopefully have enough punch to get you more bookings from new clients and repeat shows from those you have already served.

Look for a routine with a big finish of some kind. When I say big I am not necessarily talking about size it is sensation or mystery. Some of the best closers I have witnessed over the years have been mental effects that happened in the minds of the audience. I won't get too specific here because what works for one person may not work for everyone.

In my own case I have used the 8-ring linking ring routine found in Ganson's Routined Manipulation Volume One.



It has everything that you could desire in a closer. It is big, flashy, has movement and audience participation. It ends with all 8-rings linked. It has worked for me for years.

For most magicians, the closer is the fly in the ointment when it comes to routining. It causes the most anxiety and takes the longest time to ferret out. The secret to finding the ending for your act comes only after testing a great deal of material. You will know what works after you try a variety of effects.

Test routines and then test some more. Here is a tip that a magician friend who was a big headliner in the 1930's told me years ago. Look at what you pick as an opener! Many times magicians will select a routine that would be the perfect closer as their opening effect. Many times a performer will become so attached to that opening effect that he fails to see how well it would work as the closing to his act.

#### No Board Meeting!

Because of the Holidays there was no Board of Directors meeting in December. Events for the coming year 2002 are planned see the Presidents Message on page 10 for more information. The next regular board meeting is Monday January 28, 2002 7 P.M.

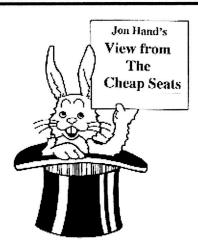
Jack's Magic Place. Meeting is open to all interested members.+

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- 2. 10% donated directly to Ring 76 IBM

Contact Magician Michael E. Johnson (760) 747-4627 or (858) 483-8632



I am a regular participant in a magic bulletin board called Magic Talk (<a href="http://www.magictalk.com">http://www.magictalk.com</a>). On that board, one can open discussions with both pros and knowledgeable amateurs. At best, the result is often a wonderful group collaboration of ideas: at worst, the discussion breaks down into scathing sarcasm. This month's column is the result of one such group brainstorming.

#### **EASY SPIRIT WRITING:**

paper bag by

Effect: An index card is shown to be blank on both sides, and (in some versions below) signed by a spectator. The index card is placed into a paper bag with a writing instrument, and the spectator chooses a playing card from a proffered deck. The bag is shaken up and down a few times, the index card is removed, and the name of the chosen card is written in a ghostly handwriting (or perhaps in an archaic handwriting style) on the card.

A variety of methods were discussed, and I am sure that there are many more ways to achieve this effect than the three that I will detail here are possible. I should add that the first two methods are mine, and that the last one was from an MT contributor.

Materials for all versions: Deck of playing cards, stack of blank unlined index cards corralled with 2-rubber bands, paper lunch sack/bag, writing implement (see final thoughts for more on this).

Method/Version 1: In this version, the index card is not signed. However it is fully examined on both sides by spectator who will choose the playing card. Setup:
Using two lunch bags, make a double-walled

cutting one long and two short sides off one bag and gluing them into a whole bag (shown clearly in Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic). Choose a playing card to be forced, and place it on top of the deck. Write its name in the handwriting style of your choice on the index card with the with the writing implement of your choice.



Drop the index card into the bag proper, fold the bag flat and in thirds, and place in your breast pocket of magic case. Place the cased deck into the left jacket pocket, and place a stack of rubber banded blank index cards with our writing implement in your right jacket pocket.

Performance: Have index card taken from the stack and shown around by spectator. Take back the index card, unfold the bag, and drop the card into the hidden double wall to dispose of it. Replace the stack of index cards in your jacket, and bring forth the writing implement. Drop the implement into the bag proper. Roll down the top of the bag, and give the bag to a second spectator to hold. Force the playing card. Have the second spectator shake the bag for a few seconds. Retrieve the bag, open it, and tear down the front side to retrieve the spirit-written index card. This move shows the bag otherwise empty. Pass around the index card for all to see while you retrieve the writing implement and dispose of the bag.

Method/Version 2: In this version, the index card is signed, and the spirit writing appears on it. Setup: Use an ungaffed bag. Write the name of the force card on one side of the index card, as before. Put this prepared index card on the top of the stack of index cards (writing side DOWN.) and corral the stack with rubber bands. All pocket setup is as in method 1.

Performance: Remove top index card from the stack, and do a Francis Carlyle turnover move (a paddle move with a card) to show both sides. This move is described in Bruce Elliott's "Classic Secrets of Magic" in the paddle move chapter, where it is used as magical printing of a business card. Do only the first part of the move, as the second version of the move would veer dangerously into over proving; you do not want to arouse the audience's intelligence when you can merely take a common index card from a stack, flash "both sides", and lay the card on a table top writing side down. Have the index card signed on the blank side and drop it into the ungaffed bag. Add the writing implement, and roll down the top of the bag as in version one. Force the playing card, and have the second spectator shake the bag as before. However, in

this version, he can remove the spirit-written index card himself, matching the index card to the playing card held by first spectator. All can be examined if necessary.

Method/Version 3. In this version, the index card is signed on BOTH sides, and yet the spirit writing still appears on the signatured index card: Setup: Use an ungaffed bag. Write the name of the force card on one side of the index card, as before. Put this prepared index card on the top of the stack of index cards, face UP this time. Then, take an index card, and carefully (and Squarely!) cut about 1.5 inches off one end. Center this short card over the writing on the face up second card, and use a wide rubber band to encircle the stack, hiding the ends of the shorter top card with the bands. This principle, dates back to the early 1920's and is commonly called the "Out to Lunch" trick.

All pocket set up is as in method above. Bring out writing implement, and have the first spectator initial the top index card of the stack on its corner (which is really the top of the second index card of the stack). Raise the stack of index cards toward your chest, and slide the initialed card from underneath the rubber bands, laying it on the table on its blank side and requesting the spectator to also initial this side of the card as well. Put the stack of index cards in your pocket out of sight out of mind. Force your card, dump the pencil and index card into the bag and you have a miracle. Presentation is the key in all three versions of this trick. The most important thing is make the trick interesting.

Work out a concept for the effect, such as the ghost that lives in your home, or a full-light mini shance, or the ghost of some famous gambler who still likes playing cards.

If you are unsure of the Carlyle move I spoke of earlier email me and I will send you my revised version of the Carlyle move gratis.

Jon Hand can be contacted online at jonhand@hotmail.com

The Editors of MagiCurrents thank him for this excellent

series of effects .



## **Animal Rights** groups attack performers using birds & animals!

Animal Rights activists have passed many new laws nationally and in California this year and those new laws will make it more difficult for performers to work with animals and birds in their acts.

As this story is being written a trial in San Jose is going on that could put a famous animal trainer with Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey Circus in jail for 6-months if convicted of abusing an elephant. Animal rights activists have accused Mark Oliver Gebel, of poking an elephant with a stick used to lead the animal around the ring. Mark Oliver Gebel, is the 31-year old son of legendary animal trainer Gunther Gebel Williams who died earlier this year of cancer. The charges are in all likelihood not valid but will bring more publicity to animal rights activists and their movement to force the circus to take all exotic animals out of their shows, says the attorney for the Ringling Bros. Circus.

There have already been reports in this state by magicians and clowns who claim animal rights activists have taken steps to close their act down because they used doves and rabbits as part of their show. According to the PETA organizers magicians can expect more harassment from their group in the year ahead. PETA is a private watchdog group that believes animals should not be a part of any entertainment.

PETA Chapters throughout the country ask for donations to help protect the rights of unwanted and abused animals. Most people who give the organization money have no idea that their dollars are being used to put an end to performing animals not to wage a war on abuse.

Recently at a prominent Orange County amusement park an organ grinder was sited for having a monkey on a leash. Animal Rights activists said the organ grinder choked the animal when he brought it back to the music device after the monkey picked up a coin from a spectator. The organ grinder was fined and told he could no longer use a monkey in his presentation.

Using animals in your act could become a major issue in the year ahead warn show producers and agents. There are efforts to fight the animal rights groups but they have organized well and have politicians behind their efforts.

#### MAGIC NOTES FROM JACK WHITE

#### THE MAGIC OF ART HANNUM

Last month in the News Briefs section of MagiCurrents we reported that Art Hannum a veteran member of Ring 76 had suffered a ruptured aorta and had spent 14-days in the hospital in very serious condition. We were also able to report that his condition was improving and he was well on the road to recovery the result of good doctors and excellent care from his wife Pat.

Since that information appeared I have had several members ask about the Hannums, who are they and are they still active in magic? The answer to the last question is "once a magician always a magician". Yes, the Hannums still keep their interest alive in magic.

At one time Art Hannum was "Mr. Magic of San Diego". A Past President of Ring 76, and active member of the IBM, he was also Secretary of the San Diego Chapter of the International Guild of Prestidigitators, member of the Board of Directors of

SAM Assembly



Art Hannum 1963

40, Vice President of the PCAM and a Charter Member of the Hollywood Magic Castle. His wife Pat was active in all of the above and the Secretary of the Magigals International. Art Hannum was an officer with all of those magic organizations and on active duty in the U.S. Navy.

During the summer of 1963 Art Hannum was one of the shakers and movers of bringing the PCAM Convention to San Diego. Genii Magazine did a cover story on Art and the convention.

Art was stricken with magic fever in the late 1950's and with his wife Pat put together an act that had a finale featuring hundreds of feather flowers. When they finished the entire stage was filled with flowers. Art's

smile and warm personality made him a huge success



Art Hannum on the cover of Genii 1963

with an audience.

When he retired from the U.S. Navy Art became a member of the Shrine Clowns. Incorporating his ability to entertain and wanting to help children which is the creed of the Shriners, his work in magic took on a new direction and passion. For nearly 20-years there was not a parade or event with the Shriners that Art Hannum was not a part.

Today he looks back over his scrap books filled with pictures and notices about his work as a performer and smiles with pride at a rich past of entertaining as a magician and clown.

When he visits a new city he always knows where the magic shops are located and probably drops by to pay them a visit. Though not as active in performing and magic organizations as he once was he will quickly tell you the love of magic is still there.

## Lecture Schedule for Jan, Feb and March:

An exciting series of lecturers are currently booked for the first three months of the New Year. This series features some of the top names in magic.

January 17<sup>th</sup> **Tim Ellis and Sue-Anne Webster** the Wizards of Australia bring their award winning style of magic to Jack's Magic Place.

Lecture begins at 7 p.m., with tickets sold at the door \$15 per person. Tim and Sue-Ann are coming to San Diego, between the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas and their appearance at the Ohio MagiFest in Columbus. You will learn some very different effects at this lecture. This couple is much in demand and we look forward to having

them in Southern California.

Rich Marotta takes over the lecture stage on February 12<sup>th</sup> at Jack's Magic Place. Program begins at 7 p.m., admission is **free** to all Ring 76 members. This will be a ring sponsored lecturer.

For many years Rich Marotta was a teacher of Psychology and Child Development, then in 1977, he changed professions and became an entertainer. His lecture will cover comedy, close-up, walk around and stand-up magic. He has lectured to more than 500-groups of magicians over the years and offers new material to each group he appears before.

Ron London brings his lecture to Jack's Magic Place on March 13th again a 7 p.m. start time. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10-dollars per-person. Ron will present some great tips on doing every kind of magic you might be called upon to perform. He is the man they brought in as a consultant on David Copperfield's Alcatraz TV Special. His act has opened for Bob Hope, Louise Mandrell, Pat Paulsen and the Smothers Brothers. He will offer some new and original material to San Diego Magi.

#### December meeting continued from page 3

As a closer to the show Ingalls, Andrew Sabat and Jack White joined in with a miss-made flag to the music of Ray Charles singing "America". The show ended, There was a second round of desert and the final Ring 76 meeting of 2001 came to an end.

## Jan 7th Meeting is Card Magic:

The first Ring 76 meeting of the New Year is "Card Magic". Dust off your favorite routine or trick and be prepared to present it as Entertainment Vice President Richard Ustick makes his way around the room looking for those ready to do their card effect.

As an added attraction for this evening Terry Godfrey will present a mini-lecture on cards showing some moves and sleights that have helped him win big shows during an audition.

Recently Terry gave this writer a look at his "invisible pass" while doing a card trick. It was as good as I have ever seen because I did not see it. We promise if you just stay for Terry's mini lecture it will be worth your time to come to this meeting.



**Terry Godfrey** 

The stage will be in place and we are rigging a table so everyone can see what is going on with each performer. This is going to be a very exciting evening of learning and presenting magic. Everyone knows at least one card trick so bring a deck of cards and plan to enjoy a fun evening of magic.

Meeting begins at 7pm at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue Monday January 7<sup>th</sup>.

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Thanks to everyone who turned out on a rainy night for the holiday party last month and particularly the entertainers. It was so hard to decide who should be chosen to perform at the January 5<sup>th</sup> presentation that the decision was made that all performers that took part should be invited to that special night. Congratulations!

This month brings "Magic With Cards" as the theme plus a special pre-meeting teach-in by Terry Godfrey, you won't want to miss. Let's run down the highlights of this New Year. Tom McCarthy's donated Ring 76 banner should be ready for the January conclave of I.B.M. officers as they meet January 4th through the 6th to finalize the plans for the 2002 convention here in San Diego in July. Peg Marcus is preparing Ring 76 "host vests" for the convention volunteers. If you're not one of those volunteers, please give it a thought.

### Terry Lunceford

Magician

Supports Ring 76 and The International Brotherhood of Magicians Upcoming lectures include Ellis & Webster in January, Rich Marotta in February, Ron London in March and hopefully, Paul Gertner later in the year, we are on his list. The Close-Up contest looms ahead in February and an exchange show with the North county Guild in March. The Stand-Up contest in April and a reminder dues are being deferred to June and another round-robin teach-in is scheduled for May.

Of course, none of the meetings will be successful unless YOU participate, be it contests, talent shows, attending lectures or just showing up.

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting it will be a good one and if you can't make it to the "World Magic Seminar" in Las Vegas in January, Jack White will offer his review of the festivities (without critiquing the food, we hope) in the

February Newsletter.

Don Soul, Ring 76 President

### **Ricky Jay Show:**

Ricky Jay plans new show that will be different from his popular "52 Assistants".

The show with all new material will open in March at the Second Stage Theater, New York City. Again directed by David Mamet.

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#### **News**

In early November Bob Pozner read in the Washington Post that Dulles Airport had hired clowns to entertain passengers who were waiting in long check in lines. Pozner reasoned that clowns are fine but magicians would be better so he contacted Mike Stilwell with the idea of booking magicians into Lindbergh Field, San Diego's airport to entertain. Stilwell ran with the idea and has contacted the Port District the people who operate Lindbergh Field and they are interested but have not budget. Stilwell is now working with the airlines to pay for the magicians. Stay tuned for more information.

North County Magician *Jack Evans* says the slow economy is not affecting his holiday shows. He reports that his bookings are on a par with last year at this same time and he has a busy holiday season scheduled through early January 2002. Jack has many repeat bookings.

Magic Castle Magician *Bruce Cervon* has been appearing in San
Diego as one of the three characters
in the hit comedy show "*Triple Espresso*" at the Cosmopolitan
Theater in the Gaslamp District. In
the show Cervon's character is a
magician and of course does a brief
magic act. Several different
magicians have been rotated into this
role from time to time. Bruce
Cervon is the latest, Chris Hart
appeared in the role during the spring
and summer months of the shows
run.

Jim Swoger longtime magic manufacturer is still inventing new magic tricks at 83. Recently Ken Stillman, magician and clown who does some very interesting things with balloons stopped by Jim's Oceanside home to get some feedback on a new lecture that Stillman will be giving in the spring.



Stillman runs a company in the North County called *Awesome Balloons*. Ken says he can always count on Swoger to solve some technical problem or come up with an idea of how to create a different look to an old trick.

Congratulations to *Belinda Kaesler* the new incoming President of *Ring 313* in the Orange County community of Irvine. Their Holiday Banquet and Installation dinner was held December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Phil and Tony Dunn have come up with the slogan to be used by the IBM to promote the coming convention. It will be; "
Experienced the Magic & Beauty of San Diego". That will be the line used as the theme of all advertising for the convention.



Al & Lida Knox

Veteran Ring 76 member *Al Knox* now living in North Carolina sent a check so he can receive MagiCurrents on a monthly basis. Says he will be 83 in February and is still doing an occasional show. Though Al and his wife Lida left San Diego 12-years ago he says he still has warm feelings for Ring 76 and

#### **Briefs**

thinks about his friends in Southern California. Al your name is often mentioned by oldtime members here as well and your brand of wholesome magic is missed in San Diego.

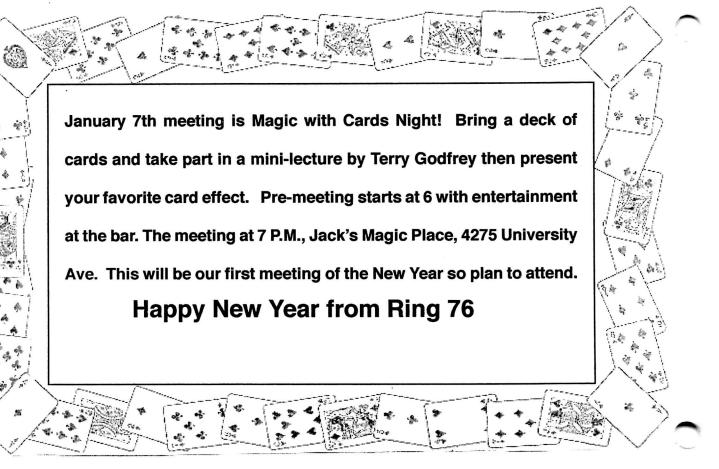
No more staples! You will note with this issue that MagiCurrents is folded and sealed with a paper sticker rather than a staple. We are doing this in an effort to make it easier to open our monthly newsletter.

Diane Lane has found a web site that sells discounted air fare to Las Vegas. Round trip for \$60-dollars, she has booked her flight through them for the World Magic Seminar January 13th. The web site is http://www.southwest.com/jp/hotfares2.shtml#social Long address but you can save some money. Diane has also booked with them for Sacramento and the A1 Magical Media Convention in February.

Bob Sheets in San Diego visiting family during the Thanksgiving holiday he was seen around town with friends and fellow magicians. J.C. Wagner was one of those Sheets spent time with. Hopefully that means we might see Wagner back on the magic scene again? That would be a real bonus for local magi.

Guests at our December meeting included *Tom West* a past President of the Joplin, MO Ring, *John Fistere*, *John Mosley*, and Jeff and Peg Marcus' daughter *Shelley*. We hope you will all return and become part of Ring 76.

January 2nd 2002 is the 39th Birthday for the *Magic Castle* in Hollywood. It opened January 2 1963, about 200 people coughed up \$35-dollars each for the first years membership. Most people thought it would fade and die in a couple of years. Sur prise!



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