



# MagiCurrents

San Diego



Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XVI No 9 September 2002

## Review of the PCAM Convention in Arizona

**Editor's note: Dr. Joel Moskowitz made the long hot trip to Arizona and the PCAM Convention in early August. Here is his review of that event.**

For the magician seeking an opportunity to increase their publicity credits, the 69th Annual Pacific Coast Association of Magicians Convention in Page, Arizona, was the place to be. If you search for PCAM on the Internet, you will encounter several successful prior contestants who include an award at PCAM as evidence of their proficiency. Even if you elected not to compete, PCAM offered an intimate experience with some illustrious illusionists.

But first, the why and where of Page, Arizona. Set in the Navaho Nation (Did you know there are two million Navajos, which is the largest Native American population?), adjacent to the Glen Canyon Dam, which restrains the Colorado River into becoming Lake Powell with a 2000 mile shoreline, Page is about 4000 feet, 8000 people, and 10 churches, in a main street which loops to intersect with Highway 89 just short of the Utah border in the Northern reaches of Arizona. With a Painted Desert backdrop, Sedona-like red rock carved vistas will tax thememory capacities of even digital cameras. And yes, inAugust, it is hot. The site was chosen by Bill Adams, (World of Magic) Chair who with his ever-hospitable wife, June, live in Utah where they raise melons, watermelons, honeydew and cantaloupe. Truckloads were made available to the



**Magic dealers Rachel Wild and Tom Jones, with Ring 76er, Diane Lane at PCAM**

## Coming Lecturers for September & October

Fall is just around the corner and we have already lined up some great lectures in the coming months. On Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, three legends of kid show magic, David Ginn, Steve Taylor and Sammy Smith, make their final trip across country with "**The Creative Kid Show Conference**," a daylong seminar.

This workshop begins at nine in the morning and will not wrap up until 5:30 in the evening. David Ginn, who has written more than 60-books on magic, will talk about comedy warm-ups and funny magic and will present a series of new tricks and routines.



Sammy Smith will continue the comedy theme with his own brand of humor and magic, teaching more tricks and routines. Steve Taylor, who grew up in San Diego and was a longtime member of Ring 76, will talk about Birthday Party Magic; you will get some great insight on this subject from a person who has been there and done that many times.

These three men are seasoned performers on presenting magic for young audiences. In addition to teaching tricks, they will talk about the business side of what we do. This trio of hard working performers has presented this workshop/seminar for

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## August Meeting Filled with Exciting Magic

Our August meeting began on a hot Monday evening with some "cool magic" from Bob Pozner who began working for those who arrived early at the bar at Jack's Magic Place. Bob worked many years ago behind the bar at the old Magic Lounge Night Club in San Diego, and he is at his best in this environment. He presented some clever coin and card magic that keep the chairs at the bar filled with people watching his tricks.



Bob Pozner working the Bar pre-meeting

Ring President Don Soul called the meeting to order at 7 o'clock and welcomed members and their guests to the meeting and then quickly introduced Chuck Ryan who is also known as "Chuckles the Clown." Ryan had worked for many years with the A.C. Gilbert Toy Company which produced the Mysto Magic Set. It is widely believed that the Mysto Magic Sets of the past launched more magic careers and interest in magic as a hobby than any other single effort.



Chuck Ryan & TV's Ernie Kovac 1952

Ryan has presented his talk on his adventures at the Gilbert Toy Company many times and has honed some very interesting, unique and funny stories from his years with this great institution. He told us about A.C. Gilbert the man and

how he invented the Erector Set; Chemistry Set, Puzzle Sets and of course about Gilbert's interest in magic and the Mysto Magic Set. One of Gilbert's partners in the magic business in the beginning years was John Petrie of the Petrie Lewis or P & L Magic Company. Mr. Ryan presented two Mysto Magic Sets to be added to the collection at Jack's Magic Place. Two truly prize gifts for the collection.

The Mysto Magic lecture ended at 7:30, and there was a brief break while Josh London and Kenny Shelton sold raffle tickets. We had some quality prizes to raffle off this month. The grand prize was a giant Card Castle that was mounted into a very nice hardwood frame. A 50-

dollar item. Raffle tickets sell at a dollar a piece or six tickets for five dollars.

Following a very successful raffle, the meeting was turned over to Bob Ingalls, who is in charge of entertainment. Six prospective members hoping to join Ring 76 were auditioning before the membership. To be fair to each performer, Ingalls put numbers in a hat and each performer drew a number that announced where they would appear on the program.

Leading off was the team of Neal and Dina Reed. Neal performed a cut and restored rope using a very sharp and dangerous looking knife. This was followed by a manipulative change of red-backed packet of fives with a blue backed packet of jack's between the two hands. Neal then did a very nice locked card in plastic frame. Five people tried to unlock the case with the card, but the correct key belonged to the person who selected the card and had the matching card.



Comedy Magic of Neal & Dina Reed



Billy Rovzar locates a selected card

Billy Rovzar fooled us all with a mentalist cold match of a card that could not have possibly been forced. Billy asked Sherry Luft to select a card from a well-shuffled deck. Sherry was given a torn corner taken from the selected card while Billy caused the rest of the card to disappear. A paper bag containing a bottle of aspirin was brought out. Sherry opened the sealed bottle, removed the cotton and dumped the aspirin out, and in the bottom of the bottle was the selected card and the torn corner matched perfectly.

Like the pro he is, Phil King presented a well-practiced traditional act with clever patter. Using a piece of pipe from the Titanic, Phil produced a number of multi-colored silks. Then he told the story of the woman who forgot her umbrella, which translated into one of the best-mutilated parasol routines we have ever seen. Phil King has a winning personality and is a welcome addition to Ring 76.

Phil King has over the years done hundreds of Boy Scout shows and has honed his magic for audiences of all ages and it shows in his presentation.



Phil King and his style of stand-up magic

Next Ed Estrin did the "Professor's Nightmare" using a hypnosis motif. This was a different version of this rope effect and very well done. His handling is



Ed Estrin with a different kind of Professor's Nightmare

unbelievable cut and restored string. The "Naughty Ropes" where knots appear and disappear at the ends of the rope followed this. To wrap up his act he then presented a very novel tabloid-size torn and restored newspaper.

something he has worked out over a period of time and is quite effective. Ed then fooled his audience with a clever cut to the aces routine with a kicker at the end.

Following Ed was Glenn Pinto, a rope master; Glenn did more with a single piece of rope than we thought possible. Then as an encore, Glenn did an



Glenn Pinto and his clever rope routine



David Eldridge with some clever and very visual magic

The final performer of the evening was David Eldridge, who manages Brad Burt's Magic Shop and has produced numerous publications and videotapes. David started with four sealed envelopes and a well-shuffled deck. The deck was separated into piles. The envelopes were opened in an order and revealed the color, suit and finally the card's value that had been predicted in advance. A strong effect and

a wow for this audience. Then David made Sherry Luft's selected card separate itself from the deck and float!

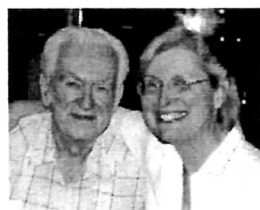
It was a great evening of super magic from a group of magicians auditioning to be members of Ring 76; they were all voted in as members.

After the regular meeting there was a lot of mingling and discussion of magic. The after meeting lasted for more than an hour with many friends from the North County taking time to share a few tricks with those of us from Ring 76.



It's always nice to have guests from other rings visit San Diego. Balloon specialist

Ken Stillman is getting ready for a lecture tour to Japan this fall and joined our meeting.



Jim Swoger spent time talking about his experiences at the recent IBM

Convention. It was a good evening of fellowship and good magic. Joining us from South of the Border was member Armando Torres and puppeteer Rulie from Tijuana; both were on hand for the evening of entertainment. Longtime members from Escondido Fred and Ursula Rohrer joined in the aftermeeting festivities. It is always good to have them at our meeting. Ursula is a Past President of Ring 76 and a longtime officer in the ring.



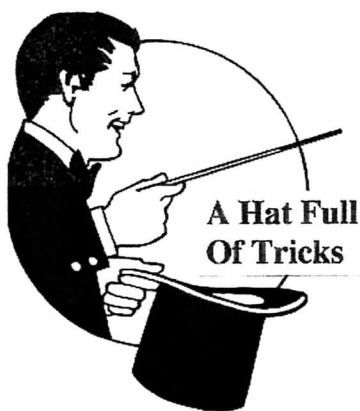
On Tuesday evening, August 13th, Jeff Ezell presented his very, clever lecture as a free attraction to Ring members. Jeff's work was wildly applauded by Ring members.



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By Josh London

## Edward Marlo's Future Reverse

In this issue of MagiCurrents, we will explore one of magic's best card reverses. This card reverse is so great; you can reverse any card in the deck and maintain the entire order of the deck. Here is how the Future Reverse is accomplished: Hold a deck of cards face down in your right hand. You will be dribbling the cards from your right hand to your left hand. As you do this, tell a spectator to tell you to stop whenever he/she wants to. This is done. So now you have about half the cards in your left hand and the other half in your right hand. Raise your right hand to let the audience see the bottom card in the right hand. This card will be the card that will be reversed. As soon as everyone has seen the card, bring your right hand to your left (the left half of the deck is held in standard dealer's grip. As your right hand comes to the left to apparently place its half on the left's half, your left fingers (your left middle, ring and pinky fingers) push the "chosen card" to the right. This will cause the card to come in contact with the right pinky finger. The card will be gripped



between your right pinky and ring fingers. If you lower the left hand pack, this will cause the chosen card to come free of the left hand pack. The top half of the deck (This is the deck that was originally in your right hand.) Place

your left middle, ring, and pinky fingers on the face of the chosen card. Now flex your left fingers and that will cause the card to become reversed in the middle of the deck; drop the top half on the lower half and you

have completed Ed Marlo's Future Reverse! If you are interested in doing this sleight in the context of an effect, try the Invisible Deck theme. All you need is a stacked deck.

Have a card thought of, the spectator tells you the thought of card, you riffle to the right card and do the Future Reverse, and everything is examinable. This is a very hard sleight to perform, but even harder to explain, so hopefully the pictures that Jack has provided will be of help. If you have any questions or comments about this or any other effect/sleight, please feel free to talk with me at the next Ring meeting or email me at: [jkaymagic@yahoo.com](mailto:jkaymagic@yahoo.com).

## Lecturers Cont from page 1

many years across the country and this is the farewell lecture tour.

If you purchase your tickets in advance the cost of the daylong seminar is \$35.00; if you purchase your tickets Saturday morning at the door your ticket is \$45.00. The workshop will be held at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave., San Diego. See Jack White for advanced tickets. If you miss the San Diego Workshop, a second Kid Show Conference will be held the following day in Hollywood at the Hollywood Lutheran Church.

On Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the King of the Street Performers Jim Cellini will do his famous Gypsy Character and do his street act. He will then do his lecture tipping his use of special pouches he wears while performing. He will also demonstrate his Vanishing Silk Sequence, Cups & Balls, The Miser's Dream, The Diminishing Deck, A Multi-Phase Rope Routine, and an absolutely incredible Linking Ring Routine.

Cellini will also discuss color, sound, and movement, as well as working surrounded and working the street. You will also learn the "Pitch," as well as some one-liners to keep the performance moving. If you have never seen Jim Cellini work you have missed a wonderful evening of entertainment. Phil Tuttle of Ring 292 is hosting this lecture. He will be selling tickets at the door at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave, 7 PM., Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. Admission is \$15.00 per person.







## Magic Pro-Tips

By Brad Burt

Jack White had a great suggestion: Holiday show time is coming up and he wondered if I might have any booking ideas. The good news is yes, I do. The bad news is that they are not "snazzy," may not be surefire, although....bookings, they don't just work themselves. On the other hand, a couple of good focused methods of booking shows that can be fairly easily worked are a good thing.

Idea number one should be the linchpin of all your magic show marketing: You should have a list of EVERY client you have ever worked for, and you should make a mailing to those clients two-to-four times a year with offers of shows. And, MAKE an offer. Make them a deal. Tell them the truth that the holiday booking season is coming up fast and it IS the busiest time of the year for performers. IF they will book a show NOW, you will give them 'X' deal. Let's say your holiday shows go for \$500.00 or a half hour stand up show. If they book within the next 10 days (or whatever) you will not only give them the show for \$400.00, but toss in 30 minutes (or whatever) of warm-up close-up! Be creative. What you want to do is BOOK a bunch of shows. A full slate of shows. More than you would normally, because of the aggressive marketing you are doing.

Have you read Guerrilla Marketing by Jay Levinson? You should. Cheap book filled with KILLER information for the small businessman.

I think I have said this before, but it really bears repeating this time of the year: LOOK for a relationship with a Party Planner! Find someone who puts together the place, food, etc., but not necessarily the entertainment. Offer them a nice inducement to give you an in with the folks that are putting on the party. You get \$600 for the show give the planner \$200. Let me tell you.....a hot planner with the right performer is a match made in heaven, money wise. REALLY! A planner that clients love and trust can get you a ton of gigs that pay what you want them to! If you up your price, give the planner more. Don't be stingy! BUT....BUT....BUT....you had better have a show that delivers the goods. You better have a show that reflects like gold off the face of the sun on the planner. IF you do, you can be making a very good part-time or full-time living! A good enough contact could give you all the work you need. But, you can also look for multiple contacts. Watch out for a need to be someone's 'exclusive' performer. It very seldom works to the advantage of the performer.

Let me leave you with this idea: If there is anyone in the club who would like some specific question answered, let me know at [bburt@magicshop.com](mailto:bburt@magicshop.com). You know: I do such and suc, what can I do to be better, or what about that Cartesian Dualism or ... whatever! Let me know.

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**Contact Magician Michael E. Johnson**  
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## View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

### *Sympathetic Color Bleed Opener*

**Effect:** A signed chosen card changes its back color **to match the color of ink with which it is signed**, making it the only card in the deck with a mismatched back color. The effect requires no double-lift, includes an unusual "sympathetic action" plot structure, and is truly easy to do. Try it with cards in hand and see!

**Materials for Red-backed Deck Users:**  
 Red deck of cards with matching case;  
 Low-value, red-suited card, say 2D, from BLUE-backed deck; and a  
 BLUE Sharpie (tm) permanent marker

I will explain the effect from the point of view of the red-backed deck user. (If you habitually use a blue deck, use a low-value, red-backed, black-suited card and a red marker.) **Setup:** Place the blue-backed card, the 2D in this example, **second** from the bottom of the red-backed deck. Place a high value club or spade, say the JC, on the bottom of the deck. Optionally, remove the red-backed 2D altogether; the likelihood of its being spotted is extremely low, so I would not worry about it unless you are following this opener with a multiple selection routine where the 2D might be re-selected. Case the deck.

**Performance:** Produce the red case, and remove the red deck from it. Do a hand-to-hand spread, showing most of the red backs as if merely toying with the deck, but do not expose the blue-backed card second from the bottom. Square the spread into the left hand, grasp the deck in right hand Biddle position, and turn the deck face up to flash the JC as you patter a bit and gesture with your empty left hand.

Return the deck to face down, then stand the deck in the left hand for an overhand shuffle. Slip shuffle the bottom and top cards, and then toss packets from

the right hand into the left hand, alternating onto top and bottom (i.e., the first packet goes on top of the slip-shuffled cards, followed by a flip of the left hand fingers to slant the fallen cards to the left; then the second packet goes on the bottom of the previously-fallen cards, followed by a flip of the left thumb to slant the fallen cards back to the right). Shuffle off, continuing to alternate top and bottom, for a total of eight packets, ending with the last packet going to the bottom. The current bottom card is now the blue-backed 2D to be forced, so don't expose its face or back yet. False cut on the table, or in the hands, to end the shuffle routine.

Produce your blue Sharpie, and hand it to your participant. Then, start a standard Hindu Shuffle force, pulling off small packets with the left hand and asking the spectator to say "Stop!" whenever she wishes. At the stop point, rotate the right hand packet clockwise one-quarter turn relative to the left hand packet, and use the right hand packet to square both packets by bumping their narrow ends together perpendicularly (this Hindu Shuffle Glimpse is used here merely to keep both packets square). Immediately rotate the right hand packet one-half turn counterclockwise to show the 2D as the "chosen" card. Ask the spectators to remember this "randomly chosen" card. Meanwhile, openly do a half-pass with the left hand's cards by folding the left forefinger under the half deck and unfolding all of the left fingers, turning the left hand's half of the deck face up. Rotate the right hand one-half turn clockwise to make the 2D face up to the performer. Place the face up right hand half onto the left hand half and square all, leaving the whole deck face up in your left hand. All of this takes only a few seconds, and it looks completely fair and natural.

Ask your participant to use the blue marker to sign her name onto the face of the chosen card (2D) as you steady the card on the deck in your left hand. Blow on the card to dry the blue ink as you ask the participant to cap the pen. With the deck still face up, kick cut half the deck into the left hand, and complete the cut to lose the chosen card in the center of the deck. Flip the squared deck to face down, and either table it, or hold it in your left hand.

Patter a bit about ink "running" or "bleeding" like the dye in clothing. Have the participant wave the blue marker over the deck. If you tabled the deck, do a left-to-right table spread; if you are still holding the cards, do a full pressure fan in the left hand. Either way, a blue card shows in the middle of the red spread. Have the participant remind everyone of the

## Magic Notes from Jack White

# Where did the summer go?

The summer has slipped by all too fast for me this year. Here we are planning events for the fall, and it seems like summer should just be starting.

I had planned on doing a profile on Ring member Jim Riley this month for this column. Jim has been an IBM member for 40-years. I first met him when as a boy he worked behind the counter at the old Fun Shop, the city's only magic shop in those days, in downtown San Diego. In the 1970s, one night each month Jim and several other members of the Ring would meet at my house, and we would in one evening put together the monthly newsletter. I am happy to report that Jim and I still get together once a month as he proofreads this publication, catching my errors in punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Sometimes he even suggests a rewrite on a story or two. I will have an expanded story about Jim Riley, a good friend to Ring 76, in a future issue of MagiCurrents.

Recently in San Marcos, a group of cartoonists got together at the home of Greg Evans, who does the popular syndicated "LuAnn" comic strip in the San Diego Union, and talked shop. It was quite interesting to find so many cartoonists who had an interest in magic or were magicians. Proving you can do a trick with anything, Ring 76 President Don Soul, a cartoonist himself, pulled out his handkerchief and did an impromptu floating fork routine to the amazement of everyone.



Don Soul performing his impromptu "Floating Fork" routine

The one member of Ring 76 who has resisted being pushed into the world of high tech and computers is J.P. Jackson. However, early this summer, J.P., got a computer and then began experimenting with shopping for magic online. Then in August he officially opened an e-mail account and you can now send him e-mail his address which follows:

[jipjacks@adnc.com](mailto:jipjacks@adnc.com) Send him a joke; he loves hearing from friends. And another longtime holdout succumbs to computer magic.

### Thank You Department:

It was just a year ago that Tom McCarthy noted the Ring should have a banner telling people who we are. He took it upon himself to have such a banner made up and put together. It took a while because everyone had his or her own ideas about what the banner should look like. After much debate Tom, got it all together and presented it to the Ring in time for it to be used at the IBM Convention at our booth. I should tell you the money for the banner came out of McCarthy's own pocket. Tom, Ring 76 is indebted for your efforts in making this happen.



Tom McCarthy and the new Ring 76 Banner

We also have to send a **big thank you** to Jack Evans of the Magic Guild in the North County, who made the two new sparkly drapes we used at the installation banquet in July and the backdrop for the August meeting. Jack spent more than week sewing on the drapes day and night. In addition to the drapes he made the frames that hold them. The Ring is indebted to Jack Evans for his wonderful work in making our magic look better.

Speaking of better magic, if you want to improve your work with children's shows consider attending the "Creative Kids Show Conference" September 21<sup>st</sup>. It is an all day workshop. There is a story elsewhere in this newsletter with details about this event.

I guess the reason summer has gone so quickly for me is because I have been enjoying myself while everyone else has been busy working.

## Book Review

**Final Séance** by Massimo Polidoro  
Reviewed by Joel A. Moskowitz, M.D.

Houdini was never quite able to escape from the box into which he was placed by his learned admirer, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Scholar and author, Massimo Polidoro details the strange friendship between these two luminaries. *Final Séance* (Prometheus Books, Amherst, N.Y., 2001, 275 pp, \$25 cloth) is based on original correspondence and photographs, as well as extensive research by the author.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was so convinced in the magic of spiritualism that no amount of ratiocination nor the protestations of Houdini that his powers were trickery could unlock Doyle's perception. Although each respected the other, the rigid certitude, held firmly by Doyle, would not allow Houdini to break out of Doyle's refusal to accept Houdini's disclaimers.

Massimo Polidoro, Executive Director of the Italian Committee for the Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, weaves the nature of their conflicted but respectful relationship.

Learning of Houdini's untimely death, Doyle stated, "We agreed about everything except Spiritualism." Doyle's persistent view of Houdini's abilities was that although some may have been conjuring tricks, Houdini, Doyle believed, was himself unaware of his own psychic powers. Knowing of Houdini's intense affection for his deceased mother, a séance was held to reach her. This antecedent of the channeling phenomena of today appeared to generate messages from the beyond.

The defect was that the English voice heard at the séance could not have been Houdini's mother, who never spoke English, Yiddish, nor German, French, Spanish, Italian-only Hungarian.

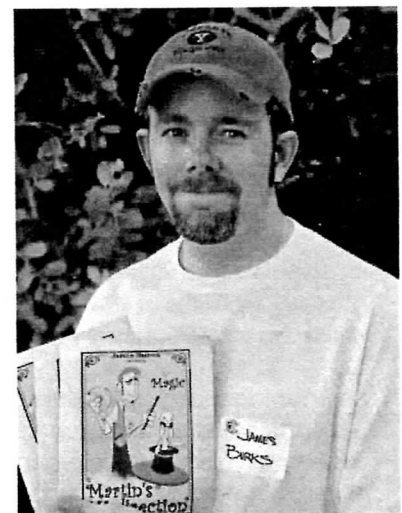
An interesting publication that will not expose any magic tricks but does give us a clearer view of Houdini the man and his true feelings about spiritualism. Recommended reading for any Houdini buff.

## Magician Gives Cartoons to Ring 76

Recently James Burks, a member of the Magic Castle, magician, and cartoonist, had a booth at the San Diego Comic-Con at the Convention Center. Burks was selling a book of his original cartoons titled with most of the cartoons about magic and magicians.

When he is not working out gags for his cartoons or working on this magic act for restaurants you will find James Burks busy at the Walt Disney studios, working as an animator for movies and television shows.

He is quick to tell you that most of his cartoon ideas come from real life experiences while table hopping in Los Angeles restaurants. We purchased one of his books of cartoons and, with the book, the right to publish some of his cartoons. You will be seeing them in coming editions of *MagiCurrents*. If you would like to see some of his work first hand, he has a web page at [WWW.MARTINSMISDIRECTION.COM](http://WWW.MARTINSMISDIRECTION.COM)



**James Burks, magician,  
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## Message from the President

Often the question is asked, "What are the benefits of joining a Ring?" For years I've been stumped for an answer. Sure, you get a newsletter and attend meetings but what leads up to the decision to join? For that matter, why does one become a magician?

Think back and you'll probably come up with the same answers I did. First comes curiosity. Having seen a TV show, a live performance, or a friend do magic, the curious get interested and want to find out more. They switch from merely wondering how a trick was done to finding out the secret behind what they witnessed. The need to know hooks them and from that point on a person will either be satisfied and step back or continue on to a new plateau, that of learning magic and becoming more involved.

Along the way, a third component is explored - examination and appreciation of how magic is presented. After one has acquired knowledge and presentational skills - fashioning a trick to suit one's personality and technical skills - the final transition to magician involves performing with passion, be it on stage or for friends. Am I close?

There is no better place to explore the four parts of magic - curiosity, secrets, presentation and performance - than at a Ring meeting amongst fellow enthusiasts and THAT'S what the benefit of joining a Ring is all about. If your goal is to learn and get better at magic, then a Ring is the place to be. And this month's meeting is your chance to

step up and perform. I encourage everyone to prep a short trick and entertain the rest of us. I hope to see a long list of performers as we explore "What I Learned At The IBM Convention." Don't let the title hold you back. While it would be nice to keep on topic, but feel free to show us whatever you'd care to do. We'll all appreciate it. Thanks.

Don Soul Ring 76 President

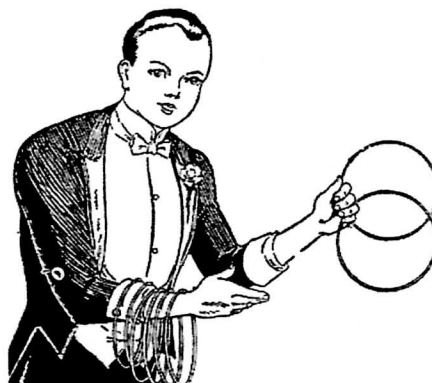
## Brian Ross Flora Dies of Heart Attack

As we go to press with this news letter, we learned that Brian Ross Flora died of a massive heart attack in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Flora was a longtime friend of many San Diego magicians, having produced numerous video & audio tapes and books on magic. His work with gospel magicians was greatly admired.

He worked under the name of Professor Flora. Brian was 52-years old far, too young to be taken.

Members of Ring 76 send their deepest sympathy to Brian's wife and children.

## Ring 76



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## News

**Craig Stone** informs us that card mechanic **Martin Nash**, now living on Vancouver Island, in British Columbia in Canada, is continuing to have serious health problems. The latest word is that a recent bout with pneumonia has left Nash with a fungus in his lungs that can not be treated. Doctors say Nash may have only a few months to live.

**Diane Lane** drove to Page, Arizona, and the **PCAM Convention** in early August. She left San Diego at 4:08 a.m. August 5<sup>th</sup>, and arrived in Las Vegas for the first evening, then on to Page Arizona the next day.. Page is in the high country of Arizona and is somewhat cooler than the rest of the state with afternoon temperatures in August at 98-plus-degrees. Diane, video taped some of the performers at the convention for upcoming segments on her television program "**Magical Moments.**"

For the August 8<sup>th</sup>, opening of the new **Harrah's Rincon Casino** north of Valley Center, magician **Fielding West** was one of the performers brought over from Las Vegas to entertain the opening week audiences. Fielding did his act in the new Oasis Lounge showroom at the casino. He has recently closed his show at the Bourbon Street Casino in Vegas but is working with his manager to offer an expanded daytime show at a new casino on the Vegas Strip in the near future. West always enjoys working the San Diego area because his mother and father live here and he can spend time with them.

The August issue of **Lifestyles** news-magazine for seniors carries two nice stories by **Jo'el Roth** about local magicians. The first story features, **Fred Kaplan** and **Phil Tuttle**. Jo'el caught up with both of these men at



the **IBM Convention** earlier this summer. The article features a photograph of both men in their Ring 76 IBM T-Shirts. **Fred Kaplan**, a member of Ring 76, takes the opportunity of promoting his youth program. **Phil Tuttle**, from the Guild Ring 292 in the North County, talks about the importance of putting a little magic into other people's lives. A nice article about two super guys! There is a second article in the same publication about **Jim Swoger** and his lifetime in magic. In this article, Swoger talks about doing a magic trick for Houdini in 1925; Jim was only a boy of eight at the time. By the way, Jo'el is the niece of prominent San Diego magician **Benny Roth**.

**72-Hours**; The ultimate Mentalism gathering is the latest in a growing number of specialized magic conventions being held around the country. Organized by **Andy Leviss** and **Quinn Pearl**, it will take place in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, October 11 to 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in presenting a better mind reading act, the e-mail address for more information on this weekend of mental magic is [72hours@andy-1.com](mailto:72hours@andy-1.com)

Magician and restaurant operator **Dan Thomas** will have a special dinner for Ring 76 members and their guests Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at his Mission Hills Restaurant **The Gathering**. The dinner is a salute to some of the many magicians who

## Briefs

have worked the tables at the restaurant. For this one-evening only event, Ring 76 members will take over the dining room as many of the past and current performers at the restaurant return and entertain with their favorite routines. The dinner is limited to 35-people who will have their choice of soup or salad, beef, chicken or fish entr  e, dessert and entertainment by a group of top restaurant magicians for only \$20-dollars per-person. Make your reservations with Ring Secretary Jack White.

In Las Vegas, one magic show closes and another one opens. **Melinda the First Lady of Magic** will close her full evening show at the Venetian Hotel and Casino Show Room on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Melinda has been working in various shows in Las Vegas since she was 18-years old. **Dirk Arthur**, who for many years was a featured act at Bally's Hotel & Casino, has opened his own show titled "**New Art of Magic**" at the Silverton Hotel & Casino. Arthur says the show is filled with original tricks and illusions that you will not see in other shows. He adds that his new show has no dance numbers and fillers, just magic. I'll drink to that change.

Two San Diego magic enthusiasts were recently seen at the **Magic Castle** in Hollywood. **Bob Ingalls** and **Josef Rennleitner**. While these two often make the trip north to the Castle, both said this was the first time they had attended the famous magic club and everyone performing there was new to them. Ingalls said it was very refreshing to see all new and different acts.



## **Monday, September 9th, Meeting of Ring 76**

**Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue.**

**Pre-meeting at 6:30 Meeting at 7:00 pm.**

The theme for our September meeting is: "What I learned at the IBM Convention this summer." Bring along a trick you may have learned or purchased at the convention and present it for the audience. It can be close-up or stand-up. If you purchased a trick and need some help in routining it, bring it along and the Ring members will help you come up with some ideas.

Coming in October: Magic for Halloween, A special show featuring spooky effects. Gary Salisbury has promised a look at the "Demon's Head Illusion." There will be some surprises. Let Bob Ingalls know you want to be part of the October program.

Reminder: Next board meeting September 23rd, Jack's Magic Place

Please return Ring 76 library books that are currently on loan. Check out our library for new additions.

Return Address:  
4275 University Ave  
San Diego, CA 92105

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