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# MagiCurrents



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## Ring 76 Announces names of 3 New Honorary Members

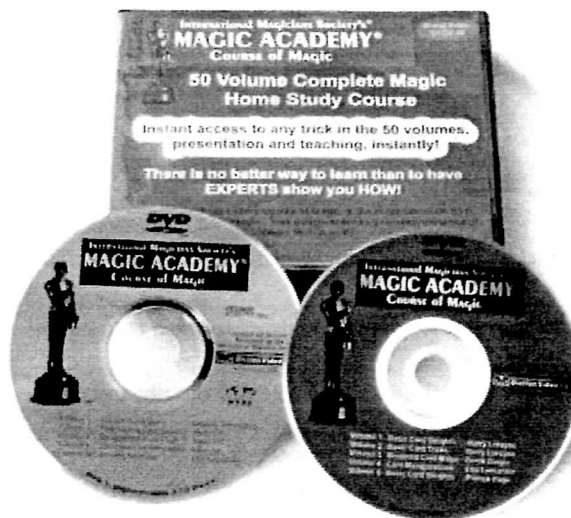
The Board of Directors has voted to present Al Knox, Olive Edwards, and Jim Swoger with Lifetime Honorary Memberships in Ring 76. These three names will be added to the Ring honor roll, that also includes Pat & Art Hannum, and Roy & Betty Armstrong, who were presented with their lifetime honor in July 2002.

Al Knox, our first honoree for 2003, was a past president of Ring 76 and a longtime member and supporter of the magical arts in San Diego. Knox moved to North Carolina 12 years ago but continues to maintain friendships and contact with Ring members in San Diego. His efforts in entertaining young people and encouraging them to learn more about magic, as well as his gospel magic, with a message has earned him the respect and admiration of Ring 76, and we are proud to award him a Lifetime Membership in recognition of his many efforts and achievements in our behalf.

Olive Edwards, our second honoree in 2003, has been an active part of Ring 76 since the early 1960s. With her late husband George Edwards, this couple kept the Ring moving along over the years. Olive often times assisted George in his mental routines and question and answer act. At magic events large or small, Olive and George were always on hand to carry out what ever job needed doing. After George died in 1990, Olive had other interests to keep her busy but always kept up with what was going on within Ring 76. With grateful thanks for her untiring work for so many years, we add her name to our roll of honor for Lifetime Achievement and Membership.

## Ring Purchases DVD Magic Series for Library

Ring 76 recently purchased a 50 Volume DVD Magic Study course from the International Magicians Society as part of the Ring library. The lessons include card magic, coins, ventriloquism, cabaret, linking rings, mentalism, silk magic, rubber band magic, rope magic, sponge balls, escapes-the list goes on and on. The teachers include a who's who of magicians with names like Harry Lorayne, Derek Dingle, Lou Lancaster, Patrick Page, Johnny Thompson, Dean Dill, Tony Clark, Tom Mullica, and many others.



These DVDs are available to all Ring members free of any charge for viewing and study. There are five different programs on each disc. We know these discs will be popular, so for now we are limiting one

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# February Meeting finds 10 Contestants in the annual Ring Close-up Contest

Our February meeting was called to order by Ring President

Don Soul a few minutes early because of a busy schedule.

There was a brief business meeting followed by the induction of 20 new

members to Ring 76. Twelve of those members were on hand to receive their membership certificates. Ring Treasurer Richard Ustick wrote the material for the installation ceremony. Our congratulations to all of our new members. Our next installation ceremony will be in August.



New Members being installed

We had three IBM members visiting from Austin, Texas. Roger Gross, Kenneth Jones II, and Bobby



Visiting IBM Members from Austin, Texas

Lee Lucas were in San Diego for a trade show at our convention center and took the evening off to attend our meeting. Thank you for joining us and

taking part in our meeting.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bob Ingalls was unable to take part in the February meeting, so Richard Ustick stepped in and organized our close-up contest and was the MC for the program. This year's Close-up contest included cash prizes: First place, \$50; second place, \$25; and third place, \$15 - in addition to a plaque and certificate for those taking part. A strictly enforced time limit of 10 minutes was placed on each of the 10 acts. It was one hundred minutes of quality magic.

The first contestant was Chef Josef Rennleitner, wearing his chef's uniform who opened with a fast moving egg bag routine, then, with spectators holding the ends of a rope, amazingly passed the rope through his body. Josef then had a card

selected and offered to remove an article of clothing each time he missed finding the chosen card that finally turned up on his T-shirt. It was a strong opening act for this competition.

Howard Harris asked Charlie Gott's ten-year-old grandson, Danny Gray, who was a guest for the evening, to join him on stage. Howard made Danny's



Howard Harris & Danny Gray

E. Johnson, moved onto the stage with a very smooth-cut and-restore rope routine that had a lot of audience by play and lots of laughs. Then with the help of a member of the audience, Michael did a very funny and clever silk penetration through his arm.

Coin worker Ted Dunning produced four coins from thin air, then set about using his



Ted Dunning



Josef Rennleitner

selected card penetrate through the table into the youngman's waiting hand. It was a baffling effect and was Howard's complete act.

Then veteran performer, Michael



Michael E. Johnson

coins in a very entertaining routine using an Okito Coin Box as a bank and playing cards as stock certificates. Ted finished his act with a good solid coins-across routine. Nice clean work.

For these close-up acts we had a video camera set up with a large screen picture so everyone in the room could follow the action.

Gary Dismukes started his act with a surprise and very beautiful production of a full goblet of liquid from a small silk. Then a deck of cards was magically produced and cut into three portions by spectators. Each portion was shuffled and a single card from each packet was selected. Gary then, using his unique powers, divined all three selected cards to a big round of applause.



Gary Dismukes

Kenny Shelton then amazed us with some business using a borrowed dollar bill. Keeping with his theme of money,

Kenny then produced four coins from a glass filled with confetti. He then caused each coin to penetrate his hand in a most convincing manner and fall into the glass. He put a lot of work into this act.

David Eldridge used a standard ESP deck to mystify us with the help of a spectator. David has become a premier mentalist and matched or predicted the spectator's choice several times, using different techniques for each effect. For his finale, a mind-blowing closing with the deck arranging itself into ESP suits with no assistance from David. That one left everyone scratching their heads.



David Eldridge

Last year's Close-up Magician of the Year, Tom McCarthy, did a difficult Kings to Aces routine calling upon his enormous skill with cards. Then Tom absolutely bewildered



Tom McCarthy with his Golden Shell routine

his audience with an original Golden Shells and Pea routine. Tom ended his routine with a huge diamond under one of the shells instead of the pea. A lot of nice moves and some great showmanship in this routine.

Loch David Crane usually appears in the character of Baffling Bill Cody, a frontier magician, but for this contest he became the medieval magican, Merlin. Loch's regalia was complete with a chain mail headpiece and pointed boots. Loch did several things for us, including a magnificent card stab substituting a unicorn horn for the usual knife. An excellent character, costume, and act.



Loch David Crane

The final performer of the evening was our oldest member, Jim Swoger. Jim, assisted by Danny Gray, did a packet trick using what appeared to be hand made cards. Poor Danny could never find the clown card which finally appeared in Jim's pocket. Swoger told members after the competition he invented the trick and routine that afternoon and made it up for this show. Jim still shows his love of magic in the best of all possible ways – by performing.



Jim Swoger

The entire membership voted on this year's coveted close-up Magician of the year. The winners will be announced at our installation banquet July 19<sup>th</sup>, and awards will be handed out at that time.

Our Monday, March 10th meeting will feature the magic of Ring 292 in the North County. Jack Evans and his group presented an outstanding program of magic last year when they brought their show to San Diego. They are back with a new program of entertainment. Cake, coffee, and tea will follow the program. Here is an opportunity to meet some of our fellow magicians from North County. This is always an exciting meeting, so plan to attend. Bring a close-up effect; there is always a session after the regular meeting.

## Honary Members Continued from page one:

Our third honoree for the year 2003 is Jim Swoger, who is celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> year in magic. Jim began doing magic shows when he was five years old and at the ripe old age of seven he did a coin trick for Houdini. In the 1930s he was one of the busiest magicians in Pittsburgh, Pa., doing a full evening review style show. In the 1940s he and Melbourne Christopher were in the same Special Services group in the Pacific during World War II. Jim did thousands of shows for G.I.s under battlefield conditions. When the war was over, Jim opened a magic shop in Pittsburgh that became known as "The House of Enchantment." For 40 years Jim, advertised his magic creations in the Linking Ring Magazine and appeared in shows and was part of the dealers' room at IBM Conventions all over the country. In the 1990s he moved to Oceanside and was presented with an honorary lifetime membership in the IBM and the SAM. He continued to create new magic effects and market them. For the Ring 76 Close-up contest last month, he created two new effects and at age 85 presented them as a contestant. For all that he has given to magic and magicians everywhere, we are proud to welcome him as an Honorary Lifetime Member of Ring 76.

We announce these 2003, Honorary Lifetime memberships now; however, their names will be engraved on our plaque of honor, and they will be publically recognized at our ceremonies and installation banquet in mid-July. As honorary lifetime members these three individuals will be given all rights and privlges of regular members of Ring 76, dues free.

## Ring Receives Sid Gerhart Donation

Ring 76 member Fritz Lotze and longtime friend of the late Sid Gerhart recently donated a file of material that was once the property of Mr. Gerhart.

The file includes notes in Sid Gerhart's handwriting on his now well-remembered medicine show pitch act. Also included is the complete script for his act.

It is hoped that a showcase can be purchased to display these artifacts and many of the other Sid Gerhart items in the Ring's collection. This to better memorialize our Ring's namesake.

## DVD Library Con't From page one

disc per-person and we are asking that you only keep a disc for one month. Borrow it at one meeting and return it at the following meeting.

This is the first set of DVDs we have added to our library, but we hope to continue this effort. There is much valuable information in these programs for the beginner and advanced performer as well. We ask that you handle each disc as though it was yours and keep them in good condition so they can be used for many years to come. The retail value of this collection of magic lessons is reported to be \$1250.00.

We will have a listing of all the lessons in the library. We request that you ask Jack White for the individual discs and sign your name in the check out book. Jack, will check your name off the list when you return the borrowed disc. We also want to remind our members that we have added a number of new books to our library, many recent donations coming from Jim Swoger, Don Holcomb, Bob Pozner and Jim Whiting. Before or after our next meeting take the time to look over our library and see if there might just be the book or DVD you are looking for. The library is for the benefit of all Ring members.

## A MagiToon

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"And now, before the concert begins, please turn off cell phones and pagers; and magicians if you will put away your cards, coins and thimbles



## Magic notes from Jack White

### Ring 76 Junior Magic Program Is Alive & Growing!

The other evening, minutes before the Ring 76 Board of Directors meeting was called to order, Fred Kaplan, who heads up our junior magicians program was showing me a very different and clever card trick. I had just attended the David Regal lecture the evening before and thought I had witnessed every clever card trick invented. But Fred's trick blew me away. Knowing I could not ask how he did it, I instead asked, "Where did you find that effect?" He said one of his young students had come up with it. And added, "It's a killer, isn't it?"

Fred Kaplan's efforts in establishing a Ring 76, Junior Magicians program is growing each week.



Fred Kaplan & his students

With the assistance of Phil Tuttle, a complete teaching program has been written and put into lesson plan form. Recently these two men began taking in students from the Barrio Logan area of San Diego.

They now have 12 youngsters from this "at risk" neighborhood.

Some months ago Kaplan made an appeal for help to our members, especially for a member who is able to speak both English and Spanish. To date, there have been no volunteers; however Fred tells MagiCurrents that one of his students is doing a fine job of translating for the students who speak only Spanish. However, there is still a need for an adult Spanish-speaking magician to help make this program more meaningful for Spanish speaking students.

This spring Kaplan and Phil Tuttle hope to have honed the skills of their young performers so they can entertain at birthday parties and take their show as a group to North County retirement centers, offering a complete program of magic. The students are all working hard to achieve the quality that allows them to appear before an audience.

Because Phil and Fred have already completed the hard work of creating magic lessons for their young students; volunteer instructors need not have any fear of not having enough material to work with or having magic tricks to teach the students. These young people make all of their own props and perfect their movements and skills with the instructors looking on from the sidelines and giving confidence and advice.

Adult volunteers are needed to assist with the teaching of magic. Help is needed two Saturday mornings a month and perhaps one afternoon or evening a month to learn the lessons to be taught to the students. If you would like to volunteer, call Fred Kaplan at (858) 451-9012 or you can send him an e-mail at [magicman@san.rr.com](mailto:magicman@san.rr.com). He will get back to you with answers to questions and information on his growing program.

If you know of a young person who has expressed an interest in learning magic, you can use the above phone number or e-mail address to get information about having that youngster enrolled in these junior magic classes. It is important that we as Ring 76 members encourage young people with an interest in magic to receive a good foundation in learning our craft. It is also important that we all take part in this mentoring effort that Kaplan and Tuttle have so diligently pursued.

Fred is also asking for donations of props, tricks, books, and videos you might have and will never use so that he can offer them to his junior magic classes.

He hopes to have his youngsters ready to present a program for the Ring membership by late this summer. In the meantime we are all proud of what Fred Kaplan and Phil Tuttle have accomplished in a very short period of time. Now if you can give of a little of your time a couple of times a month let's give them some support in this exciting program. If you take part in Fred's classes, you will probably have the same good fortune I had, and learn something new from the students.



Phil Tuttle & Student

## Offer of new websites for Ring 76 members

It seems today that more and more magicians are directing potential customers to their online Website. We recently heard from a Los Angeles company that is making a special offer to IBM members. We thought you should know about this, but we want to make it clear this is not an endorsement for this company by Ring 76.

Websites4magicians, is offering to build a Website and customize it to fit your needs. What struck us is the price. They are currently offering the make your Website for \$49.99; normally they tell us they charge \$99 for Websites. This is a special offer to members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, so you may have to give them your membership number to make sure you are a paid up member in the IBM.

This company has produced sites for top magicians such as Tina Lenert, Christopher Hart, Jonathan Levit (that X-Files guy) and others.

If you are looking to put your own Website online, you might want to contact websites4magicians.com. They have an information site you can look at which is [Info@websites4magicians.com](mailto:Info@websites4magicians.com). If you want to talk with someone, their phone number is (866)-855-7749.

We also remind our online members that MagiCurrents is on posted on the Ring's Website each month with most of the pictures online in color. If you have not visited our Website we urge you to do so. There is a brief history of the Ring, as well as our current activities and other useful information. The site address is [www.ring76.com](http://www.ring76.com)

Magician  
**Terry Luncford**  
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## Support our MagiCurrents Advertisers with your business

You may have noticed a new San Diego business has joined our list of monthly advertisers in the pages of MagiCurrents.

We welcome A Better Deal, Tuxedos and accessories to our pages. Better Deal is a discount tuxedo company offering designer quality dress suits for performers.

They are located in the Bird Rock area of La Jolla and offer same day service. They are offering custom design tuxedos from \$99. Give your act a new quality look and dress yourself up in a new tuxedo. The way you dress will get you more and better bookings.

We urge Ring 76 members to support all of the people who advertise in our pages each month. Their advertising has helped to pay for our continuing efforts with this newsletter.

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## Magic Pro-Tips

By Brad Burt

Ever wonder what makes magic, magic? Ever ask yourself the following question when looking at a particular effect, trick, routine: Why? No, really....Why? Why is THIS magic?

Ever notice that magic comes in flavors that start at the simplest of what can only be classified as 'Puzzles' and gradually move toward the sublime? Sublime equaling the kind of routine that leaves you thinking that maybe magic is REAL.

Ever think about what magicians do so deeply that you really begin to doubt the validity of what we do. Seems so trivial. So much nonsense. Why? Look at it this way....if we really could do magic, wouldn't we pluck real gold coins from the air and predict the lottery in such a way that we always win the big ones? Don't you think that 'lay folk' think that same thing? I mean let's face it, they really are NOT stupid. So what is it that we are doing out there with our decks of cards, purses full of half dollars, pockets bulging with sponge balls, color changing knives, fake body parts, and small silk hankies? What?

If the above seems like a downer, I'm sorry, because it's not meant to be. I am convinced that the best way to do the most powerful and exciting magic is to be firmly rooted in the REALITY of the situ-

ation. You have to know what your audience is thinking in order to manipulate how YOU want them to react. You have to lead them along a neatly devised road only to dump them into the uncertainty of a dark forest of doubt in what they experienced of your magic!

Reality says that dollar bills do not float about the place. And, in fact they don't. That's what makes it magic when YOU make that happen. I know that for myself, after doing magic for over 32 years professionally, I have to periodically step away from the technique and try and SEE what the audience is SEEING! I encourage you to do this. Work at it. It is not

easy. We sit behind the curtain and watch the rabbit being placed into the hat. We know the extra coin is in OUR hand and the deck has a brief, but crucial set up. We KNOW what is going on and it ever so subtly affects our management of the miracle we are striving to present.

Thus the maxim, "Practice until you no longer know what you are doing," comes into play. What we present flows with such automatic grace that we can stand outside of ourselves and SEE as the audience SEES. The magic happens NOT because WE did some unseen manipulations, but simply because of the 'Magic' in OUR hands. The magic flows like streams of energy from us and activates a series of happenings that can not happen. You see, the truth is that not everything IS possible. If that were true then magic would truly be a silly enterprise. But, it is NOT silly. It is an entertaining link with a realm that humans would love to believe is possible and thus when astounding things happen before them they are, in fact, comforted.

Magic well done is truly one of the most important of entertainments, and we should all be thankful that at some turn in our lives there it was for us to pick up and learn and do. Thank you.



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## View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

### What are we doing here?

I have a modest magical library according to most of the magic people with whom I converse (either personally, or online). My total holdings include 130 books, 2 DVDs, 12 videos, and a couple of CD-Roms. Of course, I have chosen these volumes very carefully, and they include the both old and new classics such as the complete **Tarbell Course**, **Greater Magic**, **Dai Vernon Book of Magic**, **Stars of Magic**, Hay's **Amateur Magician's Handbook**, Lorayne's **The Magic Book** and **Apocalypse**, Hilliard's **Royal Road & Expert Card Technique**, Elliott's **Phoenix** and **New Phoenix**, Sisti's **Magic Menu** volumes, **Magic of Michael Ammar**, **Jinx**, and Ammar's **Complete Cups & Balls**, to name only a few.

Herein lies the crux of my article: How much is too much? What are we doing with the material that we have? How much of it do we actually KNOW and USE? When does the enthusiasm for one's hobby and/or profession end and "magical secret lust" begin?

One reviewer called Lorayne's **The Magic Book** "enough material to make a close-up star out of a serious student." The **Tarbell Course** contains in its eight volumes the complete spectrum of magic, from close-up to stage to illusions. **Greater Magic** has (in the Kaufman 1994 edition) some 1400 pages of magic from virtually a "who's who" in magic during its pre-1940s heyday. Collected periodicals such as **Jinx** (3 volumes), **Phoenix** (6 volumes) **Magic Menu** (2 volumes), **Apocalypse** (4 volumes), and many others by Karl Fulves and Richard Kaufman contain *hundreds* of tricks *each*.

When one first gets into magic as a hobby, "magical secret lust" dominates the learning. Then, as too much money gets spent for dross, and the student learns more about basic principles of magic, the lust dissipates for a while. I suspect that it comes back with a vengeance, however, as the student begins to mature in his knowledge. What started as curiosity, perhaps decades previously,

now reincarnates as "know everything that is knowable."

Then, the race begins. How many books, videos/DVDs, pamphlets, and dedicated tricks can one afford to acquire to "keep up with what's new"? Somehow, we feel as though we are missing something if we don't have the latest/greatest from Ammar, or Sankey, or Daryl, or whomever.

What you will discover, if you are honest with yourself, is that you probably have more magic sitting on your shelf as yet undiscovered (or at least under explored) than you could ever learn in a lifetime. Two years ago I challenged Ring 76 members to learn one trick per month (from their respective existing libraries) well enough to add it to their performing repertoires. Did you do it? I did, and I am glad that I did!

A few months ago, Brad Burt's column in this same newsletter challenged those same members to "get out there and perform." I would add that "armchair magicians" are missing fully half of the joy of the hobby. There is nothing that compares to the joy one feels when that fleeting moment of rapturous wonder crosses the face of your spectators.

My message to you today is to dig into your library, learn some great forgotten material, and make magic for an audience. Put your "magical secret lust" or "know everything lust" aside and re-examine what got you into magic in the first place. Performing the impossible, even the mildly impossible, for either a handful or a gaggle of spectators is what it is all about.

## Ring 76 Cancels Public Show in Oceanside

The public show scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Star Theater in Oceanside has been postponed for a variety of reasons.

At this writing no new date has been set for the North County magic program.

The Ring 76 Board of Directors is looking for a member to volunteer as a producer for our full evening program of magic. The producer would be required to audition and arrange the various acts for a smooth flowing program of one to two hours in length.

Any Ring member interested in taking on this most important job should meet with Don Soul or Jack White for details.

Several new opportunities for Ring 76-produced stage shows are on hold waiting for someone to step forward and organize the people and the program.





## MIND OVER MATTER

By David Eldridge

### He Lived As A Devil, Eh?

**Effect:** A packet of 14 cards is shown face down. The performer deals the top card face up onto the table. On it is the name Bonnie. The next card is dealt face up, and placed to the right of the 1st card. The name on it is Clyde. It is explained that each pair of cards are partners in crime. Some are fictional, and some really lived. After all the cards have been dealt into two piles, either pile is placed on top of the other. The cards are then mixed and cut several times. The packet is then handed to a spectator who is instructed to deal the packet back and forth into two piles. After the deal, the spectator may stop, or pick up either pile and place it on the other, and do the procedure again. This is done as many times or as few times as the spectator wishes. When the spectator is satisfied with the two piles, he is to take the top card of either pile, and place it unseen into his pocket. The spectators each pick up a pile of cards, and thoroughly mix them, even going so far as to trade as many or as few cards as they wish. The two piles are finally shuffled together into one packet, and set face down on the table.

Two new cards are introduced. They bear the names Holmes and Watson. These are our "Detectives" Their job is to hunt down the criminal's partner. Holmes goes face up on the bottom of the packet, and Watson goes face up on the top of the packet. The "Watson" card is now dealt to the table. The next card is placed on the bottom of the packet. The next card is dealt on top of the "Watson" card, and so on until the "Holmes" card is dealt to the table. The cards remaining in the hand are discarded.

The packet on the table is picked up, and the dealing process continues, but in a slightly different way. This time, the top card goes to the bottom of the packet first, then the 2nd card goes to the table. This is done until a smaller number of cards is sandwiched between the two Detective cards. The cards NOT sandwiched are discarded.

The packet that remains is now picked up, and the top card is dealt to the table, and the second card is placed on the bottom. This continues until only one card is sandwiched between the Detectives. This card is turned face up. It says, for instance, "Frank James." The performer points to the spectator, says, "Jesse James! You are under arrest!" The spectator removes the card from his pocket. It bears the name "Jesse James."

You will need to make up the following pairs of cards; one name to each card:

Bonnie & Clyde  
Butch Cassidy  
Sundance Kid  
Boris  
Natasha  
The Joker  
The Riddler  
Erik Menendez  
Lyle Menendez  
Frank James  
Jesse James  
Bill Clinton  
Al Gore

Place the cards into the order given. Now, for the two Detective cards. You may use any names you wish, but I have a love of Sherlock Holmes, so I prefer Holmes and Watson. Place all the cards into a packet wallet, and you are set.

Bring out the packet of Criminal Cards, and deal them face up alternately into two face up piles, as per the presentation. After the deal, pick up either pile, and place it on top of the other. The packet is now in a cyclical order (abcdefghijklm). Pick up the combined packet, and give it a Charlier shuffle. Briefly, hold the packet in the left hand, and push off about a couple of cards off the TOP of the deck into your waiting right hand. Now push off a couple of cards off of the BOTTOM of the deck and place them on top of the cards in your right hand. Now push off a couple more cards off of the TOP of the deck and place them underneath the stack in your right hand. Continue this procedure until you have exhausted the deck. All this has done is cut the packet once. Set the packet on the table and allow the spectator to cut the packet as many times as she wishes. The packet is still in a cyclical order.

Now with an over hand shuffle, run 7 cards, reversing their order, but place these 7 cards back where they came from. In other words, do not place them behind

*Continued on page 11*

## **Magical Thinking**

### **An Essay**

### **By Dr. Joel Moskowitz**

If you are a thinking magician and think you know about magical thinking, this might make you think about the way people think and it may affect your performance.

A youth told his parent, "When I grow up I want to be a magician." His parent responded, "You can't be both, son."

Inherent in this wisdom lies the psychological mechanism which enhances mature spectators appreciation of the art of magic. In psychoanalytical terms, the root lies in magical thinking. A significant factor in allowing oneself to be amazed and amused by the conjurer is the capacity to think and feel as an infant. Performers are well accustomed to encountering an audience member who reacts with offense to being, as they feel, deceived. These people become distressed when in a situation that taps a time when they were miraculously powerful and helpless at the same time.

There is no time in our lives when we are as great a magician as when we are infants. Powerless in fact, we seem to be able to command these huge creatures (parents and other adults) by simply thinking we are wet, hungry, cold and with the most minimal of signals they do our bidding. The essence of magical thinking resides in this early period of cognitive development. Magical thinking refers to the belief that gestures, postures, specific thoughts or expressions can in some mystical way lead to the fulfillment of wishes or ward off evils. It is a very primitive belief system. In most, as we grow and mature, we learn that just because we step on a crack it won't break our mother's back.

Very young children, not understanding what actually causes things to happen, may harbor these erroneous ideas. To some extent religion and superstition encompass this kind of conviction. Persons with severe mental illnesses, i.e., schizophrenics or those with obsessive-compulsive disorder, may exhibit similar reactions.

If one searches for references regarding magical thinking on the Internet, you are mostly directed to the concept that this thought process is a feature in, for example, faith in alternative and complementary medicine. Although the articles infer that there is a cross-cultural basic hard wiring amongst humans that impels us to

such beliefs i.e. religion, the explanation doesn't go deep enough. As babies, we humans have all the same needs. Our pattern of learning about the world and how we can affect it and it affect us is doubtless the same for all of us. Magicians recreate the experience of defying reality. As spectators we identify with the wonder worker. In so doing, we enjoy the marvel of a very early time in each of our lives. Those who cannot go back to this feeling state suffer a rigidity, which mutes their capacity for pleasure. All the illusion arts, from mimes to movies, depend on suspending disbelief. The personality that permits us to think like Einstein and play like Bugs Bunny is the optimum adaptive style.

It is a major aim of our educational system to teach us how to reason logically. Magic defies logic and science. It is a generally accepted truism that scientists are particularly vulnerable to the outside the box techniques of the conjurer. Remember Uri Geller and the Stanford Research Institute (not connected with Stanford University)

At the Magic Castle in Hollywood, in the Close Up Room, the Host will choose two spectators to sit on either side of the performer. In this position, they serve as the surrogates for the people in the bleachers. Alas for the magician if either or both assistants feel challenged by not knowing how it is done. The enjoyment of the wonders is obliterated when these personalities feel threatened by the mystery.

Their reaction is contagious and the audience is witness to an unwilling contest where the performer is forced to be on guard. The assistant conscious or unconsciously will behave so as to sabotage the performance. Thereby he/she gains control of what they feel is diminishing them i.e. being fooled.

What is the performing magician to do upon encountering the insecure assistant who is more concerned with the how than the hooray? If you have a style, that suggests that indeed you do possess extraordinary powers, no explanation will be sought. A mentalist perhaps. They will ask to kiss your ring and start a new religion in your name. Satisfied that you are the proof of what they have known, all along, that there are things not understood by physicians or scientists. A. Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, the ultimate logician, refused to accept his friend Houdini's protestations that he did not have unearthly abilities.

If your performing persona requires you to offer a disclaimer (It is only stagecraft.) be prepared that some many will see this as just another subterfuge to conceal mysterious powers. Can the deceiver be telling the truth? Remember the profound: "For those who believe, no explanation is necessary. For those who

***Continued next page***

**Continued from Page 10**

do not, no explanation will suffice."

In the instance of the audience member(s) who are uncomfortable about not knowing how you accomplish your astonishments, psychological karate may sooth their apprehensions. Assure them that in being suspicious, they are in good company. Erudite men/women of science are also baffled. Offer to provide them with enlightenment. They can take lessons from you. Calmed, the need to compete for the holy grail of knowledge will disappear. Few will accept the offer of the forbidden apple. Bow and vanish.

## **Juvenile Diabetes Foundation looking for Magicians**

The San Diego Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation will host its annual Gala Banquet, Saturday Evening, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Del Coronado, part of the fund-raising effort is a silent auction. The officers of the Diabetes Research Foundation are asking a magician or group of magicians to donate a magic show to their silent auction committee.

Auctioning off a magic act or an evening of entertainment by a group of magicians has become a popular auction item for nonprofit organizations. Recently Bob Ingalls and Jack White put a magic show together for a silent auction benefiting "The Family Justice Center." Someone bid \$550 for a one-hour magic program. All of the money bid goes to the organization. Bob & Jack had the pleasure of meeting new friends and doing a little magic. They also knew they had helped a worthy cause.

If you or you and a fellow magician would like to donate your services for a magic show to help raise money for research to fight Diabetes in young people, contact Anita Simons, at (858) 279-9160 or you can e-mail her at [sandiego@jdrf.org](mailto:sandiego@jdrf.org)  
Donations must be made before April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**David Eldridge Con't from Page 9**

the cards they were in front of. The packet is now in a Palindromic order (abcdefgfgfedcba). Hand the packet to the spectator, and as in the performance, let him deal the packet back and forth into two packets, and place either pile on top of the other. Let him do this as many or as few times as he wishes, but make sure he knows that he is to stop when he has two piles dealt that he is satisfied with. When he is satisfied, instruct him to take the top card of either packet, and place it in his pocket. As he is placing the card in his pocket, pick up the packet that he did NOT remove the card from, and begin to sloppily mix it. However, you must keep track of the bottom card of your packet. That is the card that partners with the card in his pocket.

I do this by mixing every card BUT that one, which I leave on the bottom of the packet. Instruct him to pick up the remaining packet on the table (the one he removed the top card of) and thoroughly mix it. After a bit of mixing, place the bottom card (the partner card) on top of your packet. Take back his packet of cards, and riffle shuffle the two packets together. In doing so, make sure that the top card of your packet becomes the 2nd card of the combined packet.

In other words, shuffle one card on top of your top packet's top card. Table the combined packet. Bring out the Detective cards. Place one on top of the packet, and the other on the bottom of the packet. As you have probably guessed, you will now do a Down/Under Deal. Deal the top card (a detective card) to the table. The next card goes to the bottom of the packet. The next card is dealt to the table. The next card goes to the bottom of the packet, and so on until the other detective card is dealt to the table. The cards remaining in your hand are discarded.

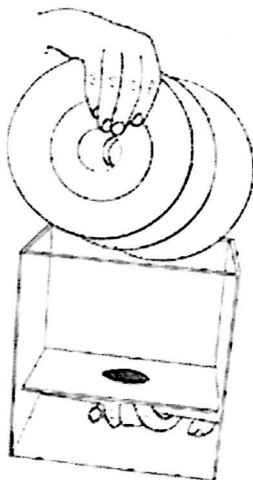
Pick up the tabled packet. You will now do a Under/Down Deal. This is the opposite of what you just did. The first card (a detective card) goes to the bottom of the packet. The next card is dealt to the table. The next card is placed on the bottom of the packet. The next card is dealt to the table, and so on until the packet is exhausted. Three cards will be sandwiched between the Detectives. The cards outside of the sandwich are discarded.

Pick up the small packet left, and once again do a Down/Under Deal as before. At the end of the deal, only one card will be trapped between the two Detective cards. This will be the partner of the card in his pocket. Flip over your card, and see the name, then "arrest" the criminal in the spectator's pocket.

# Mark's Magic by Mark Stone

## VANISHING RECORDS

**EFFECT:** A transparent front square box with no top or bottom, is held and shown empty. A flat piece of black plastic with a hole resembling a "phonograph record jacket" is shown and placed horizontally inside the box.

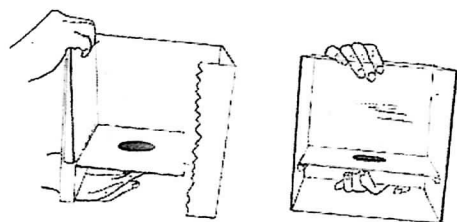


Then, up to eight 45 RPM normal records or the color changing record set are displayed and visibly placed on top of the plastic record jacket inside the box; the records are visible at all times. Suddenly, the front of the prop is flicked with a silk and instantly, all of the records disappear without a trace.

## APPARATUS & DISCRIPTION

Mark came up with the idea of this effect because he always enjoyed doing the "Color Changing Records" routine by Pavel. The apparatus is built in lucite and is a square box with a clear front and without a top or

bottom. The outside box panels are finished in bright colors and the inside of the box is flat black.

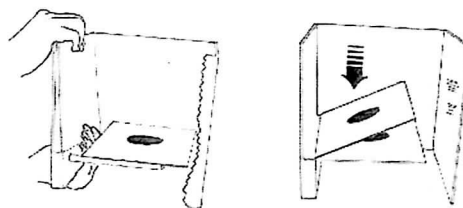


A white flat piece of plastic with a large hole that resembles a record jacket rests inside the box: the record jacket sits free on top of two side guides and can be slid back and forth or removed.

The box's back wall has an extra short fake flap attached to it and a collapsing flap hinged to the fake wall top edge (fig 1). One side of this flap is white with a painted large black spot (hole) the same size as the plastic record jacket hole. The other side of the flap is finished in flat black.

With the flap up it appears you have a regular empty box. Now, move the left hand palm up and put it underneath the bottom of the back wall (fig 2). Turn the box around with a smooth and slow 180 degree turning movement, saying at the same time,

"There is no false trap".



The instant the clear front is facing you, release the flap by using the right thumb. (Fig 4) will

drop down on top of the record jacket. Continue turning the box so the clear front is again facing the audience. From the audience point of view you are just showing the box on all sides.

The box is now resting in just the left hand. Then place the set of color changing records or regular 45 rpm records inside the box having them apparently resting on top of the record jacket. (But in reality they are on top of the open flap.)

Grab the silk with the right hand and flick the clear front of the box in an ascending movement that covers the box's clear front for just a moment. At that moment

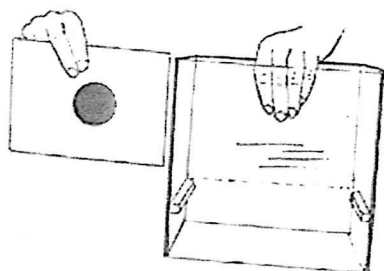
tilt the front of the box slightly toward the audience so the record jacket will slide forward (use your fingers to help) creating a gap between the back wall and the flap with the records.

It is through this gap that the left finger tips will push the flap back to the closed position, carrying all the records into the secret back compartment.

Immediately the left fingers hook the record jacket through the hole and push it back to its original position (flush to the wall.) All the records are gone! All this movement is easily done while the clear front is covered with the foulard for 2 or 3 seconds.

With the right hand, immediately grasp the box by the





upper back edge (flap and back wall together) and show the box empty.

This is a wonderful way to finish off your color changing record routine.

We are again indebted to Mark Stone for sharing this effect with our members.

*For our members who do not know Mark Stone, for many years he operated a company known as Cosmar Magic Company, based in La Mesa and produced many original effects that were sold around the world.*

*Mark began performing when he was just a boy and continued his interest in magic most of his life. In the 1980s he was an active member of Ring 76 and for a time served as Ring president. This is the second of his original magic effects he has contributed to MagiCurrents, and we look forward to more in the future.*

*Mark is currently preparing a book featuring many of his stories and his magic creations.*

## Shoot Ogawa Lectures to Ring 76 April 7th

Shoot Ogawa, the 27-year-old magician from Tokyo, will present his lecture at Jack's Magic Place, Monday April 7th At 7 pm. Syd Segal has booked the legend of close-up magic for this special lecture.


Ogawa was featured on the cover of Magic Magazine in March and was the subject of an extensive six-page story in the popular magazine. He recently won the MacMillan's International Close-up Competition in London. But winning first place awards is nothing new for this young performer; his first award came in 1993 at the Midwest Magic Jubilee.



We may be lucky enough to get a preview of Shoot's soon-to-be-released "Ninja Rings" routine that is said to be sensational. Make your reservations for this lecture early because it is expected to be even more popular than the David Regal lecture in February.

Contact Syd Segal by calling 619-265-1536 to make your reservations for this special lecture.

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## Message from the President

Anyone follow British magicians? An online friend of mine in Nottingham, England, has been fascinated with our Ring and wonders if someone could provide information on a magi named Marcus Finkelstone.

Our Web site has stirred interest not only from IBM headquarters but people not previously interested in magic. Ring 76 member Ken DeWoody will soon relocate our web site to a different server, as well as revamp it, and I'm looking forward to seeing the results.

It's time to start thinking about getting really involved with Ring 76. I'm proud that my administration has laid the foundation for many directions in magic - from performing to stimulating youth interest to dialogue among other Rings and more.

Who wants to join the board and keep the enthusiasm high? The election of officers is not predetermined, and if you want to try for a spot on the board of directors I urge you to run for one of the offices.

This month's theme is strictly entertainment and the calibre of talent is superb. The North County Guild is back again this year chompin' at the bit to put on another fantastic show. This meeting is not to be missed.

Don Soul

President Ring 76

## Classified Advertising

List the magic items you no longer need in this column and turn them into cash. See Jack White for listing your items:

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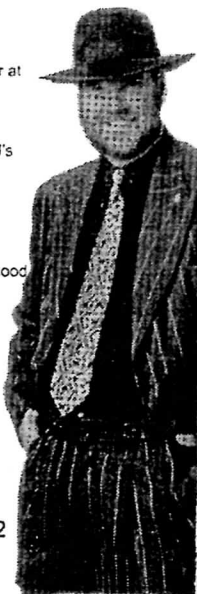
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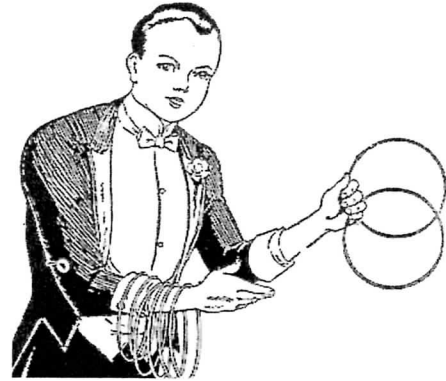
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## MagiCurrents:

MagiCurrents is published monthly by Ring 76, San Diego. Editor is Jack White, editorial offices are at 4275 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105. All submissions and letters should be sent to the above address or e-mailed to prestoone@cox.net,

## News

**Michael E Johnson** of San Marcos misses coming to Ring 76 meetings, because of a very busy schedule, however, he was able to work in last month's close-up contest. During 2002, he personally booked 352 magic performances. This year he celebrates his tenth year as a full-time, working magician, with recent appearances at the Hotel Del Coronado, Lawrence Welk Resort, a major trade show at the San Diego Convention Center, and Sea World. His original education program called "Life Skills Magic" is still growing, now in its fourth year at the Boys & Girls Club. Michael welcomes IBM members to attend a Life Skills Magic class; if you would like to learn more about the program. Call him at (760) 747-4627

**Josh London** presented his magic lecture to the Hollywood IBM Ring 21. The February lecture was one of the largest in attendance for Josh, to date. Josh says his "Card Transposition" routine received the most reaction and interest. Josh is hoping to book more Southern California lectures this spring and has lined up Ring 313 in Orange County for June. Because of his busy schedule Josh's column did not appear in this issue of MagiCurrents.

**Terry Luncford**, made his 52<sup>nd</sup> appearance at the Magic Castle in Hollywood in February. Terry is currently preparing to produce and edit **Aldo Columbini's** latest magic video, here in San Diego. Terry, will also be a guest performer at the up-coming Hawaii Magic Convention, in late March and then he is off to



Fectors FFF Convention in New York. Here is a man who knows how to keep busy. But no matter how busy, Terry always manages to drop by a Ring meeting and spend time with the members.

We are happy to report that Ring 76 member **Lane Lee**, is now back at work after being hospitalized in late December with a coronary artery blockage of 90%. Doctors placed 2 stents in his arteries to open the flow of blood. He has been told to take it easy for a while, but will make a full recovery. We miss you, Lane, and look forward to having you back at a Ring meeting soon.

Ring 76 members are still reeling from the surprise article and pictures in the February issue of Linking Ring magazine (page 54) on our Ring receiving the Quality Ring Award. We thank Linking Ring Editor **Phil Willmarth** for the many kind words and recognition.

**Chef Josef Rennleitner** has sold his popular Encinitas restaurant "L'Affaire" and is currently spending more time practicing his magic, sailing his boat and looking at a possible new business ventures. If you ever had a chance to eat at his restaurant, you know the food was excellent and under the watchful eye of his wife, the service was impeccable. The San Diego dining community will miss Josef's superb efforts at

## Briefs

operating a first class restaurant in the North County.

Acting Territorial Vice President **Jeff Marcus** has been making visitations to Rings in Southern California and has passed along word that **Long Beach Ring 96** would be interested in renewing our annual exchange program that was started many years ago and discontinued in the late 1980s. Efforts are being made to reactivate such an event.

**Ed Green** of El Cajon is currently building two major illusions, one by **Robert Harbin** and the other by **Jim Steinmyer**. At the February Ring meeting Ed was asking for help in figuring out the workings of one of the effects. By the time the meeting was over, he said he had the answers he was looking for to complete the projects. Hopefully, we can see those illusions at a future meeting?

**Magic Mike Stilwell** was kept very busy with Super Bowl Parties in January. Mike and **Steve "Sleeveless" Sloan** worked the big ABC Television Sports party the night before the Super Bowl. They were on a private yacht in the middle of San Diego Bay when the fireworks display went off. In February Mike worked a private party in Palm Springs for **Groucho Marx, sons**. That party was a who's who of show business.

**Sumit Dua**, is currently working as a paramedic in Los Angeles these days and will begin medical school next fall at USC, in L.A. He has sold 200 copies of his DVD on the torn ... restored card effect. **Meir Yedid** has been promoting the DVD on his website in recent weeks.

**March 10th Meeting: Exchange Show with Ring 292 in the North County. Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. Pre-meeting at 6:30 pm. Meeting at 7 pm. Ring 292 is bringing a show to San Diego. Jack Evans has promised another great lineup of talent. Coffee and cake to follow the show.**

**April 14th, Ring meeting is our annual magic swap meet and auction: Reserve your seller's table early so as not to be disappointed. See Richard Ustick.**

**May 12th Ring meeting presents a special mentoring program. We will have a special teach-in with guest instructors presenting a variety of new effects. These workshops have been a big hit in the past, so don't miss this program.**

**March 24th Board of Directors meeting 7 pm. Jack's Magic Place. All board meetings are open to members.**

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