

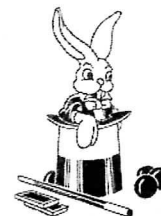
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MagiCurrents

San Diego, California

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Volume XVIII 1 January 2004

Jack Evans & Joe Bertuzzi voted Life Achievement Honors by Ring 76

The Ring 76 board of directors has voted to induct two longstanding members into our Hall of Fame and make them Honorary Lifetime Members of the Ring. This award is given to veteran members of Ring 76 for their dedication to magic and efforts on behalf of magicians everywhere. We are making the announcement in January; these nominees will be officially installed in July at our regular installation banquet and ceremony.

Jack Evans, who is president and founder of Ring 292 in San Marcos, is our first honoree for 2004. Jack has been interested in magic since he was a little boy in Montana and his grandfather took him to see Master Magician MacDonald Burch, whose feature illusion was causing a pony to disappear. Years later, Burch wanted Jack Evans to take over his huge show and tour with it. But at the time, Evans was busy with his own show.



Jack Evans
Lifetime Achievement
Honoree

Jack is best remembered for his many years as a cruise ship magician, having traveled around the world many times, having made 40 trips to Alaska, and through the Panama Canal 70 times. All told he spent 14 years on cruise ships as an entertainer. He has worked the Magic Castle many times with his magic and comedy. Evans has built most of his props, and those he has purchased he has modified

or elaborately decorated. Jack has always made his own wardrobe, and it was rumored years ago that Liberace got his costume ideas from Jack Evans's creations.

Over the years, since settling in Oceanside, Jack Evans has worked diligently to increase the awareness of magic and magicians. His talents were put to work creating our special backdrops for Ring 76 a year or so ago. Jack has a beautiful collection of magic, most of it one of a kind items, as well as a sensational collection of playing cards. In addition to keeping Ring 292 together and adding to his amazing collection, Jack still finds time to play many dates each year, always coming up with something new for his audiences.

Jack Evans is a grand performer and a great guy ready to help anyone who needs an idea or a suggestion or two in order to work out a kink in a routine. Ring 76 is honored to have him as one of our special Honorary Lifetime Ring members.

The Board's second honoree is Joe Bertuzzi, who became a Ring 76 member after watching Roy Shank present his beautiful silk act at a retirement party for a friend in the late 60s. Over the years, Joe held several offices within Ring 76. In 1978, the IBM Convention Committee asked Joe if he would be the Convention Coordinator for the first San Diego Convention. After the convention, Joe became the



Joe Bertuzzi
Lifetime Achievement
Honoree

Continued on Page 5

December meeting and holiday tribute to past Ring presidents attracts 65 members & guests

The December meeting for Ring 76 members is always our traditional potluck feast and a show. This year the membership honored past Ring 76 presidents, who were all given the new International Brotherhood of Magicians Past Presidents medal. There were 12 past presidents in attendance and eight of them presented a brief act.

This year the Ring purchased two turkeys, Richard Ustick fixed one of them and Peg Marcus prepared the second one. Each member drew a tag designating what he or she should bring to the potluck dinner. The serving line was set up and people started eating at 6:45. It was a time for good fellowship and meeting and talking with the various members. Pat Hannum, an early president of Ring 76 and an Honoree Lifetime Member, attended along with past presidents Fred and Ursula Rohrer, who both served as past presidents of Ring 76.



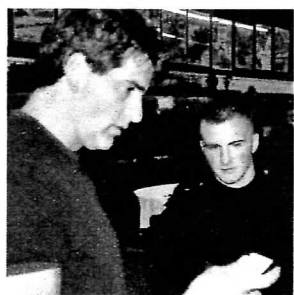
Pat Hannum
3rd Ring Pres.

We were also happy to see Phil Tuttle, who returned after open-heart surgery in late October, is looking and feeling much improved. Armando Torres and Mago Ruly presented two beautiful awards to Diane Lane and Jack White for taking part in the "Magic Festival" in Tijuana in November.



Armando Torres &
Mago Ruly

Holiday Dinner in Pictures



Past Ring Presidents



Past presidents (L to R) Bob Pozner, Jack White, Greg Wauson, Jeff Marcus, Rich Robertson, J.P. Jackson, Jim Riley, Fred Rohrer, Sherry Luft, Ursula Rohrer, Don Soul, and in front, Pat Hannum.

During our show presented by past presidents of Ring 76 Bob Ingalls was the master of ceremonies and did his usual superb job of holding things together and keeping the show moving. First up was Past President Bob Pozner, who served during the late 1970s. Bob did a version of Gregory Wilson's "Fist Full of Dollars." Bob has great timing and always manages to give an effect a lot of polish and fun.



Bob Pozner

Next up was Rich Robertson, whom we don't see enough of these days. Rich was president in the 1980s. He did a very nice six-bill repeat with real dollar bills. Then he wrapped up his very nice act with a very clean poker prediction. Nice job, Rich.



Rich Robertson

Jack White then took over the stage and presented several magic gags, including the old dirty hand towel bit of business and the girl-to-rabbit gag. Then Jack, with the help of Christina Ustick, did a card stab with a jumbo deck and a knife with a blade 12 inches long. Jack was president of Ring 76 in 1976 & 77.

Then came longtime magic collector and historian J.P. Jackson, who brought out a giant Die Box and gave us a brief history of this trick with information that dated back to just after the Civil War. J.P. went through the usual routine and then suddenly turned the die box into a tray featuring



J.P. Jackson

nine wine glasses filled with liquid. It was a complete surprise, and you could hear the audible gasp of surprise from the audience. It was a nice routine, history lesson, and surprise ending rolled into a quick five minutes.



Greg Wauson

Greg Wauson, who was President in the early 1990s was on stage to present a clever little mental routine with cards that had pictures of animals on them. Greg got everyone in the audience to make animal sounds, which had everyone laughing. Then he wrapped this act up with a very well-done card-in-balloon.

Greg has been a longtime asset to Ring 76.

Next came immediate Past President Don Soul, who did his award winning "Shaman Don" act. Don has added some new twists to this act, making it even funnier than in the past. Dressed in a bathrobe with badly painted-on eyebrows and mustache goes into his one-man magic skit where he calls on the "spirits" which reside in a bottle of Jack Daniels. It gets more "spirited" as it goes along.



Don Soul

Jeff Marcus, who is our current TVP and past president from the late 1980s, was joined on stage by volunteers Kate and Phil King, who help with a very clean and well-presented version of "Three Cards Across." Jeff's routine has the cards that pass from one person to another the same cards that were selected by various members of the audience. It was also nicely done.

Sherry Luft, who was president of Ring 76 in the early 1990s, changed an ordinary brick into one that had her name on it. It was a quick routine but very visual and clever.

We salute all of the cooks and those who brought special dishes and shared them with our members. We had many guests joining in with a large turnout of regular members for the 2003 Holiday Potluck and Tribute to past Ring 76 presidents.

February brings a new format to the annual close-up contest. New rules and format making it truly a close-up performers event will be announced at the Jan 19th meeting.

Magic Book Review

By Dr. Joel Moskowitz

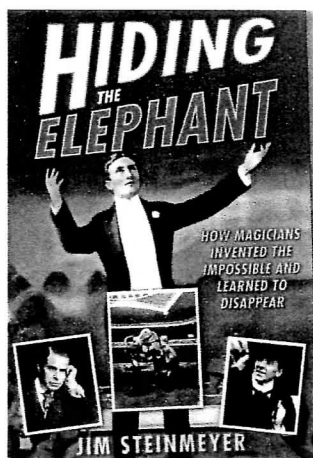
So that is how it's done!
A review of Jim Steinmeyer's book:
"Hiding the Elephant"

Once Adam bit that apple, Gutenberg invented the printing press, and magicians began writing and demonstrating their secrets, knowledge became available to all who cared to learn. Jim Steinmeyer, a master of secrets, has elected to create an illusion in print. There is a maxim that "if you want to hide a secret, publish it."

In his latest book ("Hiding the Elephant, or How Magicians Invented the Impossible and Learned to Disappear" Carroll and Graf, 2003, 362 pp.) penned for whoever has the thirst to learn, Steinmeyer tells who and how and when. Another ancient maxim is that each of us gets out of a book what we see in it. Laypersons will think now understand "how it is done." Erudite conjurers will marvel at the history of their craft.

Psychologically savvy readers will muse about the personalities of those masters of mystery who are dedicated to deception.

In the history of modern illusions, many will know of Henning, Copperfield, Siegfried and Roy and Lance Burton. Fewer will have heard of Blackstone and Jarrett. For some, Houdini is synonymous with magic and



escape. Few know of Robert Houdin, Thurston, and Keller. Focusing on roughly half a century some seventy years ago, Steinmeyer, who himself is a creator and consultant to the star illusionists of our time, describes how stage magic was, once upon a time. And maybe still is. It is likely that current devotees of the art have never heard of the Bangkok Box performed by Jarrett. Revealing how Jarrett accomplished this wizardry shouldn't pain even the World Alliance of Magicians, organized foes of exposure.

Read how Brian DeKolts carried his wife in a small box. Or ghosts floated on stage and interacted with live actors.

The principles of deception, Steinmeyer tells, have, however, not changed all that much. Much of it is done with mirrors. Magicians can stop gnashing their teeth. Steinmeyer lifts the curtain, making the backstage visible but it doesn't damage the deception.

We have, hopefully, begun to understand the mechanisms, many dealing with psychology and perception. Science has become more marvelous and available, the audiences more sophisticated and skeptical, yet the art of magic thrives.

Hidden in plain sight in Steinmeyer's text is the critical revelation: good magic entertains. It does not cheat you (read politicians and their trickery with words), confuse you (aka rapid action finger flicking card manipulators) or perpetrate a fraud upon you (19th century spiritualists; "caution, there are some of these still around").

Steinmeyer causes the personalities and adventures of such illusionaries as Davenport and Maskelyne and Davant to float off the page and into the reader's sensorium. Their rivalry led to theft of secrets, competition to excel and, for those who were privileged to watch, marvels beyond belief.

The era was punctuated in 1917 when at the Hippodrome, Harry Houdini astonished all when he vanished

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Book Review continued from page 4

an elephant. Such wonders have since been superseded. Example: causing the Statue of Liberty to disappear (Steinmeyer had something to do with that).

When this writer spoke with Jim Steinmeyer about the writer's plans to develop a program that would expose students of the theater to principles of magic frequently employed in many Broadway type productions, Jim suggested that there was a thin line which when crossed would engender the ire of fellow magicians. His very fine book is cognizant of this and rather than expose, enlightens the readership. That group should include most literate magicians. **Highly recommended.**

Lifetime Honors Con't from page 1

Territorial Vice President for all of California; he held that position for 10 years.

The then President of IBM Dr. William Spooner asked Joe if he would be willing to fill a vacancy on the IBM Executive Board. Joe was subsequently elected to three consecutive three-year terms as a member of the Executive Committee. While serving on the Board of Trustees Joe also served on the Youth Committee, and Membership Committee and was appointed as Chairman of the Endowment and Development Foundation.

Joe is best remembered in the IBM as the man responsible for developing and implementing the Linking Ring on CD Rom program, the IBM MasterCard program, the group Health Insurance program, and many other important programs for members.

Many years ago during a board meeting Joe and the late Karrell Fox roomed together, Karrell asked Joe what influenced him in magic? Joe told him that when he was in grade school he would rush home every day after school and turn on the television set and watch "Milky the Clown" do magic. Suddenly,

Karrell had tears in his eyes, and Joe asked what was wrong? Fox replied, "I was Milky the Clown."

Joe Bertuzzi now lives in Orange County to the north of San Diego but continues to keep his fingers on the pulse of our Ring and often corresponds with local magi, as well as keeping an interest in the magic activities for all Southern California. For his long association with our Ring and his continued efforts at helping magic world wide the Board of Ring 76 is proud to include Joe Bertuzzi as an Honorary Lifetime Member of his home Ring 76.

This year's honorees will join Pat & Art Hannum, Roy & Betty Armstrong, Al Knox, and Jim Swoger, who are our special Lifetime Achievement Honorees. Jack Evans and Joe Bertuzzi will have all rights and privileges of regular members of Ring 76 always!

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"The pants are a bit long. Want to have the cuffs torn and restored?"



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View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Risk-Free Ring Flight

Ring Flight is a popular trick among close-up magicians. The effect is that a borrowed ring disappears instantly and appears in the magician's key case. The usual method is a reel and a gimmicked key case. However, the trick is dangerous in that sometimes the ring comes off the clip and goes flying, often across a darkened restaurant. In a recent discussion of Ring Flight on one of the Internet magic bulletin boards, one magician stated that he lost a \$5,000 ring overboard on a cruise ship! Here, then, are two risk-free, reel-less versions of Ring Flight, one for close-up and one for stage.

Close-up version: Sew a metal ring into a tiny pocket in a corner of a handkerchief. Procure a key case that folds in thirds and snaps closed. Open the key case and hang a key on each key clip except for the one in the center. Open the center key clip, rotate it out, and close/latch the case with the clip hanging out, sealing the rest of the clips/keys into the closed case. Place in jacket right breast pocket with the open clip hanging out of the pocket.

Borrow ring from Spec 1 in right hand. Hold hank in left hand, saying, "We'll place this ring where no one can get to it." Place the borrowed ring under the hank and into the left palm, simultaneously pushing the sewn ring to the center of the hank. Hold the substituted sewn ring from the outside of the hank with the right hand, and give it to Spec 2 to hold.

Reach into right breast pocket, threading ring onto single loose key clip. Remove the key case from right breast pocket with left hand covering the ring and clip, and hold the case in clear sight, saying, "If I lose your ring, I might need a quick getaway." As the hand exits the pocket, the key clip end of the case is automatically turned to the bottom of the hand as the hand turns palm up. The magician reaches over and whips the hank from Spec 2, and Spec 2 verifies that the ring is gone. The hank is replaced in the magician's pocket.

Left hand holds up the key case. Right hand opens the inverted key case, and the key clips clatter out in a row. There, in the middle of the keys is the ring on a key clip. After the spectator verifies that it is his/hers, the magician removes it from the clip to return it.

Stage version: Procure a small wineglass. Instead of sewing the ring into a cloth pocket, hang the metal ring from a short thread sewn to the middle of the handkerchief.

The magician might write a receipt for the borrowed ring to give to Spec 1. Substitute the threaded ring for the borrowed ring as before. Hand Spec 2 the wineglass, guide Spec 2 to cover the whole bowl of the glass with the hank, and tell Spec 2 to drop the ring into the glass "for safekeeping." As Spec 2 then drops the sub ring into the glass, the magician reaches into his pocket for the key case. All eyes and ears are on the noisy clatter of Spec 2 at the moment of the drop, and the load of the ring should be well-covered. Spec 1 is then told, "If I lose your ring, I might need a quick getaway," as the key case is removed from the pocket. Then the magician snatches the hank away, taking the sub ring with it, and places the hank into a pocket. The wine glass is empty, and Spec 2 verifies that the ring has vanished from the wineglass in his own hand. Spec 1 then sees the key case opened, and verifies that his ring is hanging from the key case. It is important that the magician direct the audience's attention carefully during the ring's vanish and its reappearance, as these are quick moments that the audience might miss. Also, anticipation is important to have the effect make solid impact, so the magician must not neglect a bit of recapping and build-up, yet not telegraph the final effect.

I would think that this second version of Ring Flight would play better than the venerable Bill to Lemon on stage, as it is more magical for the distant audience due to the clatter noise of the dropped ring into the wineglass and the very visual/aural drop of the keys from the key case.

Give one of these a try, and let me know how it goes for you. Email: jonahand@hotmail.com

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Please donate used magic books and pocket tricks to 9-&-10-year-old Danielle and Hanna. Their family lost everything in the recent fires. Loch David Crane will accept all donations and see they are delivered to the girls who love magic! Bring your donation to the next meeting.

The Village Wizard more than just another magic shop

By Michael E. Johnson

Hearst Castle might be better known, but a new magic shop called **The Village Wizard** is destined to become a favorite stop for magicians in Central California. Owned by Rick Bruce, a former president of Ring 76, the Village Wizard is located in the quaint coastal town of Cambria, in San Luis Obispo County.

After reading about Rick's shop in MagiCurrents, I decided to drop in while traveling north along Highway 1. What a pleasant surprise! This magic shop had real personality. Here was the largest selection of magic greeting cards and wizard material I have ever seen, and not a fake dog pile gag in sight.



**Village Wizard Shop
Cambria, California**

Even more impressive is the magic inventory. There are large displays of videos and books, tricks, and colorful props. Several gorgeous Norm Nielsen poster reprints in frames grace the walls of this enchanting magic

emporium. The shelves are stocked with quality merchandise. It is obvious from first glance this store is operated by a magic professional, with real-world experience.

It was interesting to hear Rick counsel a young teenager on what magic to purchase. Recently I had visited the Magic Shop in Disneyland, and was disappointed to see row after row of light-up thumbtips and off-color gags, with no books or props in sight. That store seemed more interested in pushing stripper decks and whoopee cushions than nurturing the art of magic.

What would The Village Wizard recommend to a potential teenage customer? Well, rather than sell "Flash for Cash," Rick recommended a single book, Mark Wilson's Course in Magic, my own personal favorite. The youngman seemed disappointed, but he followed Rick's advice and avoided the expensive levitation effect.

After introducing myself, I discovered that Rick is as nice as his magic shop. He insisted on giving me a bag of donated stuff to bring back to Ring 76 for a future raffle. He even offered to help book my theater show, "Magically Yours," in the same venue where he recently had a sell-out audience for his own production titled: "Pandora's Carnival of Chaos."

During my brief stay at his store, I could see that Rick had actively involved himself in the community where he lives. In the span of fifteen minutes, he demonstrated tricks, ran the cash register, loaned out tools to a neighbor, took phone calls (one to support a local fundraiser, to which he agreed) and made a phone call to his babysitter to check on the well being of his youngsters.



**Rick Bruce
Businessman/
Magician**

Now, Rick is assuming even more responsibility by taking over the ownership of the Rumpelstiltskin Book Gallery. That business stocks children's books and features "tales of enchantment and toys of the imagination." The new store is down the street from the magic shop.

If you ever travel near the community of Cambria, be sure to visit the Village Wizard. It will be part of my itinerary, whenever I am on old Highway 1. The shop is located at 746-B Main Street in downtown Cambria. Drop by and say hello; Rick would love to see you.

Loch David Crane

Says:

Thank You

for your support during his recent illness and troubled times.



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Magic Notes from Jack White**Magic marketing plan for the first part of 2004**

For years I have been jotting down ideas for magic shows for various times of the year. In looking over my notes and the notes of a few friends, I have put together a magic marketing guide for the first five months of the year 2004. If you take the time to read through this column, I think you will find a couple thought 's that might help motivate you in booking some new magic dates for the months ahead.

I urge everyone to keep a database of people you work for, and contact those people regularly for new work. Keep names, dates, phone numbers, e-mail, and street addresses. This file will pay off, so take the time to set up such a filing system today.

January

Traditionally, January is a dismal month for parties. Everyone is tapped out following the holiday frenzy. The only holiday in January is Martin Luther King Day. This can be a good time to book some library shows because the kids are not in school. Many times you can get a Friday, Saturday, and Monday out of this holiday. Also check for Martin Luther King Day celebrations and festivals; there are often times opportunities for bookings at these events.

January also has Super Bowl Sunday; most magicians have never considered Super Bowl parties to be the sort of event that needed magicians. Let me tell you that in the past few years many people are throwing more and more elaborate parties and are inviting not only beer drinking football fans, but also entire families. Anytime there are families, there's a potential market for magic. The best way to promote yourself for Super Bowl parties is word of mouth. So get the word out to your friends and past clients and let's hope for some bookings.

February

Once again Presidents' Day means schools are out and libraries are looking for performers to bring young people in for some culture and entertainment.

Valentine's Day, although not normally much of a holiday for magic, can be a bonanza if you are a balloon sculptor. I recently heard the story of a magician/balloon worker who opened up a merchant

credit card account specifically so he could do balloon deliveries on Valentine's Day and made a bundle of money. Be creative in this area. There is, of course, the potential of some extra restaurant work during the Valentine holiday.

Another overlooked holiday is the Jewish Festival of Purim, which is the most festive of Jewish holidays. It's a bit like working an indoor carnival. Find out if any synagogues in our area are planning large celebrations for Purim and find out who is booking the event. For more information about Purim, go to www.holidays.net/purim; this will help you plan your program.

One last thought for February: consider approaching retail stores running "President's Day" sales. Ask them about doing strolling magic or balloon sculpting as part of an in-store promotion. Most stores pay a fee for your work and let you keep all of your tips.

March

Dr. Seuss's birthday is March 2nd; many schools, libraries, and bookstores run special events celebrating the birth of this famous children's author. A magic show is a great way to get more kids in for the celebration target libraries and bookstores specifically. Put your ideas for a show on paper and send book stores a package to consider.

March is also International Mirth Month—the purpose of IMM is to show people how to use humor to deal with stress and difficult situations. This could be a good time to break into motivational speaking, using magic and comedy. For a great resource in putting a program like this together, Doyne Michie's audio and videotapes – "The Therapy of Laughter" is available from Flora and Company at www.floraco.com/othfam.htm

Don't forget the Irish and St. Patrick's Day. Here is another opportunity to work a pub, a restaurant, or party. I do recommend you know how to handle drunks and whatever you do know the words to the song "When Irish Eyes are Smiling." Just being able to sing that one song can get you out of a lot of tight spots on St. Pat's Day. I learned that the hard way.

How about March Madness? For those who haven't heard the expression, March Madness is when all of the college basketball teams play for the NCAA

Championship. March Madness has become a time for a reasonably enterprising performer to be able to figure out any number of tie-ins with local business. Think restaurants, sports bars, and sporting goods.

April

The days are longer and the weather starts to turn nice, and this is the time that many areas begin to stage street fairs and festivals. Drop by the front desk at City Hall and pick up a list of street fair dates. They also have contacts for each street fair. If you work as a street performer, do more than just pass the hat, have something to sell, Svengali decks, Twisty the Worm or the magic mouse. A good street magician with a pitch can do well at a one-or-two day street fair.

Here is an idea for Tax Day April 15th. There are always long lines at the post office with people mailing tax returns. Check with the postmaster and see if he will let you do some free close-up magic with money for people standing in line at the post office. You may get a few tips but most of all you will get your face on a television news program. News crews cover the post office like a rug on tax day and you doing some magic for those in line, and using the green stuff as a prop is sure to get you a feature story on TV and possibly the newspaper as well. Just a thought.

Easter is a natural for Brunch with the Magic Easter Bunny. Head down to the Buffalo Breath Costume Shop and see if they have a rabbit costume in your or your assistant's size and put a hold on it. Line up a restaurant for the Sunday before Easter and Easter Sunday and plan to work fast for each customer and you can turn this holiday into a jackpot. The restaurant can advertise the Magic Easter Bunny will appear and perform during brunch. This is a win-win promotion for you and the restaurant.

Spring Break-again, as we've discussed, whenever school is out is a good time to work libraries. Approach libraries in January or February with your

literature, and specifically mention booking you for spring break week.

May

Holy Communion ceremonies, the biggest differences between a birthday party and a communion party is there will be adults present, so your act needs to be able to play for families, not just kids; and most communion parties will either be catered at a hall or in a backyard, so you also need an act that will play bigger than a living room show. I would contact all the major catering companies in San Diego County and leave an advertising package they can give their clients for these parties.

After Prom Parties are very lucrative both private in-home parties, and school sponsored "grad nights." A recent issue of "Magic Menu" has a great feature on working this rapidly growing market. Mark Strivings has a market-exclusive audiotape set that will give you everything you need to know about working them. E-mail Mark at MarkyApril@aol.com you will find his ideas very helpful.

Well, that gets us to early summer. We will talk about more booking opportunities for the rest of the year in a later column. There are many opportunities to perform and make money in the months ahead. Get out there and promote yourself, and the jobs will follow.

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Message From the President



Dear fellow Ring 76 members,

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season!

I really enjoyed myself working the various clubs and holiday dinners. I'd like to thank all of the past Ring 76 presidents who made the effort to attend the December meeting and perform for us. They each did a wonderful job! A "special thank you" is in order for Pat Hannum, the "grandam" of Ring 76. It is always a pleasure to have her at one of our functions.

Now that we are into January 2004, it's time to set goals for the New Year. Jack White has put together a very interesting magic marketing plan in this issue of MagiCurrents. Please take a look at it; there are some good ideas for new shows. I would love to see our club joining together and doing more volunteer shows for charity, as well as becoming an active part of the "Healing with Magic" program, which is an IBM sanctioned activity. Read more about it online at www.magician.org.

Our "Close-up" contest is in February. This year we are going to try a new format. We will have four different tables and each contestant will perform at each table. Audience members will be able to see each performer close-up, not on a big-screen television. The contestants will rotate to each table, performing their routine four times. The voting members will have some guidelines to follow for the judging process. Sign up with

Bob Ingalls for the contest. Members have requested this new system for several years, and we have decided to try it this year and see how it works.

The board is happy to announce the appointment of "Life Achievement Memberships" to Jack Evans and Joe Bertuzzi. Both of these gentlemen have touched Ring 76 in positive ways over the years. They now join a very select group of Ring 76 Lifetime members.

Do you know someone who would like to be a member of Ring 76? Invite them to a meeting; let them know about our club.

Remember our January meeting is the 19th—A week later than usual so those going to Las Vegas and the World Magic Seminar will not have to miss a regular meeting of the Ring.

Diane Lane
President Ring 76

♣ Resident Magician & Goodwill Ambassador at the Corvette Diner 1987 - 2002

◆ Member of Hollywood's Prestigious "Magic Castle" Since 1981

♥ Member of International Brotherhood of Magicians Since 1976

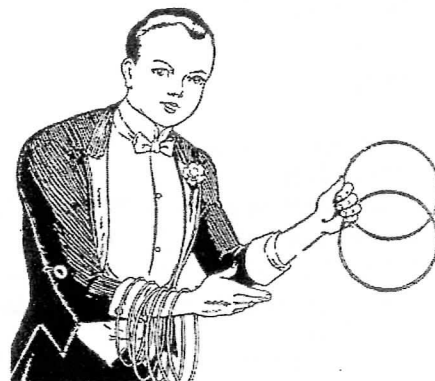
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Ring 76



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News

San Marcos-based Magician **Michael E. Johnson** received a \$2,000 grant to bring his Life Skills Magic program to the Children's Hospital in Dallas, Texas. Just Technical Associates, a computer Services Company based in Dallas, provided the grant. During a tour of various cancer wards and clinics, Johnson performed close-up, interactive magic to provide distractive therapy for children who face serious health challenges. He did his famous phone book tear at least a half dozen times with the 1,300-page Dallas telephone book, as an example of overcoming obstacles. For the past several years, Johnson has brought magic to the Children's Hospital in San Diego, sponsored by the Starlight Children's Foundation of Los Angeles.

Rick Bruce, past Ring 76 president, reports that his magic shop "The Village Wizard" is near the epicenter of the 6.5 earthquake that rolled through the central California community of Cambria, Dec 22nd. Rick says his shop had a lot of merchandise fall off shelves but only one item was broken. Best of all, there were no injuries. Rick's store recently sent some nice raffle items our way, and we thank him for the kind thoughts. See **Michael E. Johnson's** review of Rick's store on page 7 of MagiCurrents.

According to magic merchants, during the Christmas Season the hottest item on their shelves was **Michael Ammar's "Business Card" DVD**. It features a dozen effects with business cards for magicians.

The Western Fair Association will be holding their annual meeting in San Diego in January. **Terry Godfrey** will showcase his magic act during



that event and will be one of the few entertainers performing during the conference. The Western Fair Association is where performers go to get booked for the fairs held in the eleven western states. Terry will also go to Oregon and present his act for the Oregon Fair Association in late January. Godfrey says he has already booked a number of dates for fairs in 2004. If you would like to see Terry in action, he will be working Seaport Village, doing his act the afternoons of February 5th, 12th, 17th, and 26th. Stop by and say hello and see some great magic. Show times are 12 noon and 1:30 pm, at the West Plaza.

In case you haven't heard, Ring 76 President **Diane Lane** will grace the cover of the January issue of "Linking Ring" magazine in 2004. The magazine's Executive Editor **Phil Willmarth** told MagiCurrents he was impressed after reading about Diane's achievements in magic and her health challenges and wanted to feature her story in the magic magazine that is read world wide. Ring 76 is also proud of our president and fellow member and wish her well in the year ahead. Congratulations on this great honor, Diane!

David Eldridge, manager of Brad Burt's Magic Shop tells us that, after more than a year of editing and waiting, his new DVD "Fundamentalism" will be released in early January. The DVD is a basic training session in how to present

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good mentalism. It will of course be available through Brad Burt's Magic Shop.

If you are looking for some good close-up magic and a good meal at the same time, drop by "The Gathering," a family restaurant at the corner of Washington and Goldfinch Streets in Mission Hills; **Tom McCarthy** and **Craig Stone** work the tables Thursday through Sunday evenings. Both of these performers are excellent entertainers. Drop by and enjoy their work. You might even be able to talk the restaurant owner, **Dan Thomas**, into doing a quick routine for you.

Longtime Ring 76 member **Ismael Sanchez**, now in semi-retirement, has revived his skills as a portrait painter. At the December meeting he brought a very beautiful painting of magician **Dick Dale**, and let the membership see his work as an artist. Anyone interested in having a similar painting of themselves should contact Ismael at 619-440-4823. His art work is outstanding.

Bob Ingalls celebrated his birthday at the Magic Castle in Hollywood on December 19th. The staff at the Castle Restaurant came out and sang Happy Birthday to Bob. Ingalls was joined by **Ralph Mauzy**, **Jason Latimer** and Jason's fiancée, **Morgan**. In case you are wondering, Bob is 39, again. FISM Grand Champion **Jason Latimer** told Bob he is returning to college in January after taking the fall semester off to tour with his magic act. Latimer will be performing at the IBM Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, next summer.

Sumit Dua, former Ring 76 member, has just completed his first semester of medical school in Los Angeles. Hang in there, "Doctor Dua"!