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MagiCurrents

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Ring 76

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September 13th Meeting features history and magic

I can still remember as a college student in 1960, picking up a copy of Genii Magazine and reading that magician, magic dealer, world traveler Percy Abbott had died. I first met Mr. Abbott through the pages of his now famous magic catalogs and a monthly magazine he published called "TOPS." His shop and manufacturing center were in the little out-of-the-way Michigan community of Colon, but his mail order service brought magic to my front door. Abbott's magic catalogs were dream books for young men and women hoping to be magicians. When I was growing up, you were not a real magic insider if you didn't have the latest Abbott's catalog in your library.

Percy Abbott's granddaughter Julie Abbott Marshall is a member of Ring 76 and at our next meeting will present a brief lecture with pictures of the golden age of the Abbott's Magic & Novelty Company, as well as those famous Abbott's Get Togethers in Colon, Michigan, during the summer. Julie will give us some insight into the famous magic family, as well as a look at their successful mail order magic operation.

Abbott's was the place to go if you were a magician using apparatus in your act, because they made some of the best equipment on the market. Roy Armstrong, who has been a working professional magician and educator for more than 60-years, will bring some of his choice Abbott's props of the past and will present a special show-and-tell program following Julie Abbott Marshall's presentation. Roy and Betty Armstrong are our first Honorary Lifetime Members of Ring 76.

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Two Free lectures for Ring 76 members

On Monday, September 27th, World Champion Magician Jason Latimer will present his new lecture "Free" for Ring 76 members. After San Diego, Jason's first stop on his lecture tour will be Monte Carlo. The lecture is titled "The Science of Misdirection." Jason will give us some insight into ways of making our magic better through the use of misdirection.



Jason Latimer
FISM Winner

This lecture will take place at 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue and is free of charge to all Ring 76 members; non-members are \$15. Jason will also offer several tricks in his lecture. If you have never seen him perform, this is your opportunity to see a rising star in magic presenting information that got him to the top. Ring 76 is honored to be the first to present Jason Latimer's new magic lecture.

On Thursday, October 21, veteran magician Tom Craven will present his lecture "A Hat Full of Stuff" at 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. This lecture is also a Ring 76 sponsored lecture and is "free" to all Ring members. Non-members are \$15 at the door.



Tom Craven
Trade Show Magician

Tom is well known for his trade show performances

Hot August evening draws large crowd for favorite trick program

August 9th was a very warm evening in San Diego and nearly 50 people turned out in sweltering temperatures to attend the monthly Ring 76 meeting. The pre-meeting featured our usual teach-in with Phil Tuttle. If you have not taken part in one of these sessions, you are missing out on a golden opportunity to learn something new.

Ring President Diane Lane called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. She made the announcements and asked for volunteers to help with the planning of next year's Installation and Awards Banquet. The volunteers will work with the board on presenting next year's event. Greg Wauson, Ed Greene, and Richard Ustick will make up that committee. President Lane also asked for someone to take over writing the Ring 76 column for the Linking Ring Magazine; Sal Barajas, who works at the Seaport Village Magic Shop, volunteered for that job. Bob Pozner has done an excellent job writing the column for the past three years but has asked to take some time off.



Salomon Barajas

Also offering assistance to the newsletter publication will be Sherry Luft and Sebastian. We also recognized new member Jacques Lord. We had intended to induct all new members into the Ring in August, but that event has been put off until



Jay Knapp
from Tucson Az.

September. We recognized Jay Knapp, who visits San Diego and Ring 76 each summer from Tucson, Arizona. Jay volunteers to entertain children who are hospitalized in Arizona, doing dozens of shows each month for youngsters. He is an expert in the three-shell game and many other close-up effects. It is always a great pleasure to have Jay at one of our

meetings.

Last year the Linking Ring Magazine voted their top award in writing to Dr. Joel Moskowitz; his award has



Joel Moskowitz &
Bob Ingalls

just arrived and Bob Ingalls, 1st vice president, presented the award on stage in an official ceremony. We all send our congratulations to Dr. Moskowitz on this recognition.

The theme of this warm evening was "my favorite magic trick." More than a dozen performers got up on stage and presented their favorite trick or tricks. Jack White started the evening off with a trick that Tony Wilson, the new IBM president, gave to Jack during his visit earlier this summer in San Diego.

Michael E. Johnson had a stage full of volunteers as he presented a mental effect that had a surprise ending. Some of the performers did stand-up magic and others did modified close-up with cards on stage. Jim Thayer did a clever card routine, as did Bob Pozner, who had his ever-present derby hat as part of the effect.



Michael E. Johnson &
helpers who are not so helpful.

Phil Tuttle presented a very different two-ring routine with very large rings. His patter was most original. Phil King had a bag full of magic; he began with an egg bag routine and ended with a card trick that included an automatic shuffling machine.



Joe Mystic and his
two dollar bill mystery

One of the highlights of the evening was Joe Mystic and his two one-dollar bills to a two-dollar bill and a two-dollar bill to a 100-dollar bill. Joe does this entire routine very smoothly and he should because he created it many years ago and has presented it hundreds of

times in walk around and trade shows. He will be showing you how to do a portion of this routine at our September teach-in so make it a point to attend that session.

Kenny Shelton presented a card trick that was suppose to have a selected card in his shoe, but it wound up in his mouth. Jeff Marcus also presented a very different card routine, but he did not go to his shoe or his mouth to find a selected card.



Kenny Shelton produces chosen card in his mouth



Bob Pozner looking for a chosen card



Jeff Marcus mixes a deck of cards

Our lifetime honorary member Jack Evans produced a flying saucer. Jack is one of the best storytellers around and weaved an excellent story around his



Jack Evans & Toni Perrine

magic; it is always a delight to have him as part of the show. Toni Perrine has a great routine for the antique necklace trick that is both funny and entertaining. This was a wonderful evening of the young and not so young sharing their favorite magic tricks and routines.

Our raffle offered a wide variety of new and used magic. Longtime Ring 76 member Vi Freeland won the Siegfried & Roy poster, and she said it was something she has wanted to add to her magic collection for years.

This warm August evening turned into a cool experience for people who loved magic. After the meeting many members stayed around and did close-up magic for each other; then, many adjourned to the nearby Denny's coffee shop and continued their magic experience for the evening.

In the next column are photos of the various performers and members who took part in the program for the month of August. September will bring our installation of new members, Julie Abbott Marshall's lecture on her grandfather Percy Abbott, Roy Armstrong will have some great old Abbott's magic to show us, and we will have some surprise performers from Mexico to round out this special meeting. Plan to attend; it will be an exciting program.



Jim Thayer presents a card trick



Phil King and his egg bag



Phil Tuttle and his ring routine



Jack Evans & Vi Freeland



Diane Lane with her portable PA system



Toni Perrine on stage, performing

The Misadventures of a Working Magician

By Michael E. Johnson



Insulting The Boss's Wife

One corporate client liked my promotional materials so much, he immediately hired me for two events: a company holiday party in early December and his New Year's Eve party a few weeks later. Everything went great during the first show. The setting was an elegant steak house in downtown San Diego. The room was too narrow for a stage show or for strolling magic, so I concentrated on parlor-style stand-up for the next two hours.

Early in the evening, I nearly tripped doing my signature routine for the card under the shoe. Out of the 20 people in the room, and 40 legs, I managed to pick the only leg in the audience that was artificial. Instead of sending the signed card to the inside of his shoe, I improvised and had it appear in his wife's purse. (It probably would have been too difficult to pry the shoe off his prosthetic limb, although I could have done it if requested.)

As the evening wore on, the crowd grew more intoxicated. Because the close-up magic was so well received, the client asked me to stay an extra hour. By now, the small crowd was getting rowdy, and I was digging deep into my repertoire. Plus, fatigue was taking its toll on me. This was my third show of the day. I skipped dinner to work, and now I had to stand aside and watch plate after plate of steaks, chops and fish pass me by. This was especially excruciating, because I'm a vegetarian.

Near the end of the evening, one lady was busting my chops big-time, hell-bent on exposing my tricks and

destroying the art of magic. Rolling with the moment, I squared off against her, and said, "You're kind of bossy, aren't you! I don't know if I like you." The crowd roared its approval, so I launched into my book test and phone book tear prediction. After everything was over, I found out that the heckler I destroyed was the boss's wife. I figured I was doomed for New Year's Eve.

When I arrived at the New Year's Eve party, the boss's wife greeted me warmly, so I wasn't in big trouble after all. Midway through that show, some guests took me aside and said, "We heard all about you! We heard you called the boss's wife a 'bitch,' and you said you hated her. We think that's wonderful!"

That evening went pretty well too, and I got paid. Sometimes, you never know what works in a magic show, but I still wouldn't recommend biting the hand that feeds you.

How to quit smoking!

Jack White tells the story about his grandmother who encouraged her grandson to continue his study of magic. Jack was in his early teens and would spend time at his grandmother's house practicing his magic because she was always an enthusiastic audience. When he was 13, Jack could palm seven cigarettes in each hand. He did not smoke but liked to emulate a trick he had witnessed magic legend John Calvert perform, that of producing cigarettes out of mid air, a popular effect in the 1950s.

Jack would use the cigarettes over and over again; after all, they cost 20 cents a pack in those days. To make the props last for several performances, he would insert toothpicks into the cigarettes and seal the ends to keep the tobacco from falling out by adding a drop of model airplane glue. In this condition a set of gimmicked cigarettes could last for several weeks of normal handling.

One evening, as Jack's grandmother was passing through the room where her grandson practiced his magic, she noticed the little silver metal bucket that

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contained the cigarettes. At the time, she was trying to kick her lifelong habit of smoking. But seeing those fourteen nicotine sticks in that little pail on the magic table was too much of a temptation for the senior citizen.

On one of her trips past the magic table her hand slipped into the silver bucket and out came a cigarette. The woman, who was craving a quick drag from a cigarette, carried it around for several minutes between her fingers before actually putting it to her lips and striking a match to light it.

As the flame of the match touched the model airplane glue on the tip of the cigarette, a sudden burst of fire illuminated the half darkened room, the innocent cigarette quickly became an inferno as the toothpick in the center caught on fire. Stunned by what was happening, the elderly woman, who was just hoping for a quick puff on a cigarette, spat the conflagration out of her mouth, and it flew across the room resembling a comet streaking across the nighttime sky.

Needless to say, it was the last cigarette that Jack's grandmother ever had or wanted to have. The next day, the elderly woman told her grandson she didn't think it looked good for a teenager to be performing with cigarettes and gave him some money to buy a die box, a prop she felt was more becoming a youthful magician. She also told her grandson to get those nasty cigarettes out of the house; she said, "If anyone lights one of those things by mistake, they might burn the house down." She should know!

Ring 76 Magic Day at the San Diego Blood Bank is coming up in October. Members are asked to donate a couple of hours doing close-up magic for blood donors.



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Coming Lecturers Cont from page 1

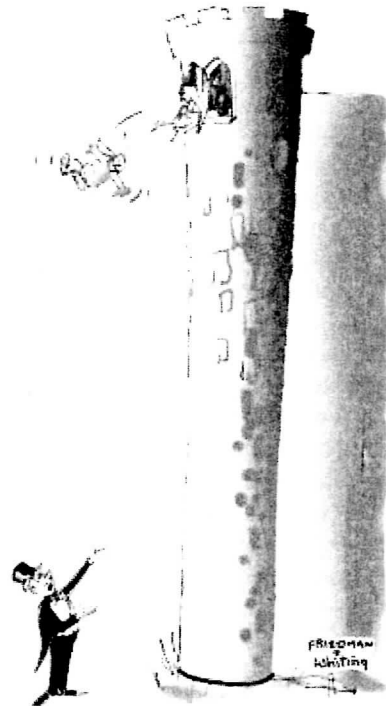
and presents a lecture filled with material that everyone can and will use in their own acts. After 43 years of performing for a living, Tom Craven has learned a lot of magic secrets, and he will share them with us during his new lecture. If you read Ring 2100, the online IBM Ring, then you have heard about Tom Craven and the super lecture he presents.

One recent quote in the Linking Ring magazine read: "There were outstanding close-up tricks, stand-up, parlor, platform magic and some great mentalism effects in Tom Craven's latest lecture." Both the Jason Latimer and the Tom Craven lecture are both free to Ring 76 members.

Coming in November is Michael Close, Magic Magazine columnist and reviewer of tricks and books and renowned restaurant magician. Details and the exact date for Michael Close are still being worked out. We hope to have details for you in the next issue of MagiCurrents.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!"

View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Everyone who does magic does sponge balls at one time or another. The problem with most routines is that they lack a strong climax, especially if they attempt to build upon the idea of a vanished sponge ball appearing in the hand of the spectator. When that effect occurs, the trick is about at its zenith, and further repetitions detract rather than add. Here, then, is my finish for the sponge ball trick.

Crediting: This is my combination of Don Alan's **Sponge Bunnies Surprise Finish** and Dr. Jak's final move from **Multiball**. Jak's version involves a wand and some complications, but Alan's version lacks the impact of Jak's, so I took the simplicity of Alan's idea and combined it with the impact of Jak's idea. I have never found anything stronger.

The effect is that a huge shower of sponge balls falls from the spectator's hand when she expects to see only one new arrival. This is *the* follow-up for the "one in your hand, one in my hand, mine vanishes to appear in your hand" sponge ball move. There is no way to follow this multiball effect, and it is the only thing I have found that follows the in-the-hand appearance of a vanished sponge ball. I find it easier to do standing, but sitting is also possible. It is indeed a fantastic parlor/platform item for 50 people or less, yet plays wonderfully one-on-one.

First, get a variety of sponge balls. I use 10 of the 1/2" balls (available in only in red, in packs of 10 for \$2.50 per pack at www.themagicwarehouse.com), several red 1" balls, and one each of six different colors of 1.5" balls. Or, you can take common household kitchen sponges 1/2" thick in several colors and cut them up into 30 or 40 cubes of 1/2" each. Stuff them all into your right trouser pocket if you are right-handed. If you intend do it seated, then take your seat, pull the sponges out of your pocket, and stuff them between your legs during setup before the show so that you are ready at any time.

Perform your usual sponge routine. Reserve the "one in your hand, one in my hand, mine vanishes to appear in your hand" part for the end of the routine. Instead, spend the routine pulling balls out of an invisible coinpurse, splitting them in two with the finger, changing colors or shapes or sizes, making them go from hand to hand, making them appear under your hat/cap, whatever, just don't involve the spec's hand until near the end. Do the "one in your hand, one in my hand, mine vanishes to appear in your hand," and wait for inevitable shriek. Then...

Tell the woman/girl that you are going to try something very special, but that you need her to follow exact directions for this experiment to work. Actually, you are going to train her to accompany you in a "fake off," and she will be as fooled as anyone if you do the training well. Position her on your left side, holding her right hand out palm up, right after the aforementioned shriek. Tell her to close her hand and turn it palm down. Demonstrate this with your right hand. Tell her that on the count of three, she is to open her hand completely, palm down. Again, demonstrate with your hand: Count "1 - 2 - 3" and open your right hand exactly on three. Go over this with her three times, making sure that she opens her hand palm down exactly on three. The important thing is that you do it with her as she practices, demonstrating each time how she should open her hand, palm down, exactly on three. If she does it right three times, you have conditioned her to opening on time, *and* conditioned both her and the audience that your hand will open the same way.

Now, back up a couple of steps and put both hands into respective trouser pockets as you tell the woman/girl what you want her to do now. If seated, drop both hands into lap in rest pose, and lean back as you tell her what's next. Tell her to pick up exactly *two* balls from the table, put them both into her right hand, close the hand, and turn it palm down. All eyes will be on her as she does this, since the training exercise has piqued everyone's interest. Meanwhile, use your right hand to collect as many sponges as you can and crush them into your right hand. It does not matter how many of them you actually grab, just do it quickly and without attracting attention. When she is finishing with the balls, remove both hands from pockets at the same time. Come out with the sponges crushed into the right 2nd through 4th fingers, and the forefinger pointed. If necessary, use your left hand to guide her hand back into the correct position. When she is in position, remind her that she must open exactly on three for the experiment to happen.

Using your forefinger to tap the back of her hand, count to three as dramatically as you can, staying in rhythm. This is not the place to make comedy or interrupt the count

rhythm in any way, so save that bit for some other trick that requires counting. At the exact moment that you say three, open *your* right hand exactly as you did earlier, and she will open hers at precisely the same moment. Back away instantly as she and the audience shriek, because a huge collection of sizes and colors of balls just appeared from her hand after *she herself* picked up the two balls! They will bounce away in every direction, looking even bigger than they were because of their scattering.

Believe me, *no one* will suspect that the balls came from *your* hand! I did this as my climax of the sponge routine five times in three hours of one night, for audiences of 25 to 35 each time, and it rocked every show. The sponsor for the evening saw three of the shows, and she still came and asked me how I made that shower of balls appear in the spec's hand! Of course, I told her that secrets couldn't be told, or they wouldn't be magic.

Only once did I ever have a problem with this effect. The girl was mentally challenged (no joke intended, she was somewhat mentally retarded), and she just could not open her hand on cue fast enough. I just relied upon my conditioning of the audience and did it anyway. It breezed right by everyone, and she had never even opened her hand at the moment of the appearance! She didn't understand, but the audience didn't know that, and when I escorted her back to her seat to thunderous applause, she simply gave me back the two sponge balls she was still holding, with no one noticing!

Get comfortable with the pocket steal to make it unobtrusive. Get comfortable with teaching the counted response. Get comfortable holding the wad of sponge balls while you point. Do those three things, and you have a miracle. Enjoy!

Jon A. Hand would like to hear about your sponge ideas. Email him: jonahand@hotmail.com or postal mail him at P.O. Box 1300, Pulaski, TN 38478 (Editors note: We are re-running this column by request of several members.)

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September Meeting Cont from page 1

If you have a favorite Abbott's trick, you are encouraged to bring it along to talk about or present at the September meeting. Percy Abbott traveled the world with his full evening show before settling down to operate a magic business. So we will also have several international performers on hand as special guests to present some magic from around the world during this very different Ring 76 meeting. Armando Torres and Mago Ruly are bringing two IBM members from Mexico City, as guests to present some of their brand of magic.

This is an opportunity to learn about magic of the past, to perform some magic of the past and to enjoy some current magic from our friends south of the border. For those arriving early, there will be an opportunity to learn that wonderful dollar bill switch that Joe Mystic presented at the August meeting. Joe will be conducting our teach-in for September that begins about 6:30 pm. This should be a very exciting evening.

Joel Ward still needs help for Carlsbad Art event

Joel Ward, back in Southern California after his 3-month run at the Flamingo Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, is still trying to book strolling performers for the Carlsbad Art Splash event September 25th & 26th at the Flower Fields next to Legoland.

Entertainers working three hours or longer will receive a \$50 payment for their services. This is a non-profit event. Joel is hoping to get at least ten performers for this two day event. He is looking for magicians, clowns, jugglers and other novelty acts.

If you would like to take part in this event, contact Joel Ward at magicjoel@yahoo.com or call him at (760) 417-4073.

Loch David Crane
Says:
Thank You

**for your support during his
recent illness and troubled
times.**

Magic Notes from Jack White

MagicLive Convention one of the best of the year!

It was just three years ago on August 19, 2001, that Stan Allen the publisher of MAGIC Magazine celebrated the 10th Anniversary of his publication by offering one of the best-produced conventions in the history of our art. He said he would never do it again as it all came to a close on August 22nd of that year. The success of that first event and the continued accolades the magazine received about their efforts of three years earlier caused them to do it all over again, and it opened on the same day that Allen, three years earlier, said, "Never again."

The Orleans Hotel just off the famous Las Vegas Strip became the headquarters for **MagicLive** for the second time on August 22nd. The previous get together was a look back at the first 10 years of the magazine; the 13th anniversary gathering was a look ahead at where the magazine and magic are headed.

This year's event was structured much the same as the event in 2001; however, some of the areas that didn't quite work in the past were fine-tuned and improved this time around. To write a review of the overall 4-day convention is almost impossible because it was a little bit like a three-ring circus and something was going on all the time. Frankly, you couldn't see or be part of everything.

If you really want to know what happened and how people feel about this gathering, you should talk with the following members from Ring 76 who were there: Diane Lane, Bob Ingalls, Sherry Lift, Marcus Day, Jeff Marcus, Tom LaChance, Kenny



Breakfast with Kenny Shelton, Tom LaChance, Jack White and Bob Ingalls

Shelton, Henok Neghsh, and myself.

The most impressive part of this event was the staging for the close-up experience. That experience began at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon and continued until after midnight. Only 64 people were allowed into each session, and there were 13 individual sessions throughout the evening. You and your group entered what appeared to be a cocktail lounge called the Black Cat Bar. It was a real bar where you could purchase a drink if you

were so inclined. Behind the bar was a lady bartender who juggled bottles and cocktail shakers in a very entertaining presentation. Then, Eric Mead, who is well-remembered for his work at the Tower Magic Bar in Aspen, Colorado did his act with coins followed by cards. Some fast magic all-visible on giant TV screens in the bar area.

Our group of 64 was then moved to the next room that was set up like a formal dining room with tables, booths, and white table cloth; here Michael Close, who has been performing professionally in restaurants since 1978, treated us to some of his very exciting work. Following Michael we were ushered to another room where Tim Conover, who works trade shows, presented a fast-moving act featuring mental magic Trade Show style. Tim is the recipient of the "Dunninger Memorial Award" from the Psychic Entertainer's Association.

From this very colorful venue, we were again moved as a group to an area that featured excellent bleacher-style seating so that everyone had a perfect view of the performers who included Shoot Ogawa and Armando Lucero. Armando is a former member of the Long Beach Mystics that included Stan Allen, Mark Kalin, Mike Cavney and a host of other young men who have all made a name for themselves in magic. This was two hours of excellent close-up magic and a theatrical setting that greatly added to the overall experience. It was top-flight all the way and perhaps the fastest two hours I can remember.

The dealer's room at this magic event is a little different than most conventions you attend. To get into the room as an exhibitor you have to be an advertiser in MAGIC Magazine and the room is called Advertisers Fair. In all, 26 different dealers had booths and many were not the usual names that so often appear at magic conventions. Jeff Marcus was on hand at one of the booths demonstrating a



Jeff Marcus in the dealers room

system that controls the music for your act.



Chance Wolf
Cartoonist &
Magician

One booth that caught my eye was Wolf's Magic from Washington State. Chance Wolf is a cartoonist and is now building a very creative line of kids' show magic. He has designed all of his props and effects to look like something out of an old Warner Bros. Cartoon, with lots of bright colors and an exaggerated look of whimsy to everything. Chance has added many extras to his magic props, like whistles,

bells and sirens that make older effects very exciting and add a new flair in showmanship.

The props that Chance Wolf and his staff are turning out are so popular that nearly everything he was displaying was already sold and he was taking future



orders for his products. If you would like to have a better look at what he has to offer, check out his Web site at magician@wolfsmagic.com I think you will be as impressed as I was.

The lecture sessions at **MagicLive** were all very well done, and the best part at the end of each session printed lecture notes were available and they were "free." All you had to do was insert them into a special three ring binder that you were given with a brief case when you arrived at the registration desk.

I especially enjoyed the lecture on magic legend Roy Benson and a brief look at a new book about to be released on his work and his life. There was a great session with Jeff McBride and card manipulation that seemed to please everyone. David Charvet gave a

great lecture on Alexander the Great and closed with the seldom seen Spirit Painting illusion. Magic Magazine editor John Moehring talked about being on the Ed Sullivan Show and then presented clips of magicians from the past that were also on the show. The surprise to me of this series was an excellent motivational talk with past IBM President David Sandy, who spoke about "Selling Your Act." Great material on marketing magic acts and performers, it was a knockout session.



David Sandy and
his marketing talk

What did I miss at this event? I would like to have seen a museum room of the quality presented at the 2001 **MagicLive**. But rethinking that thought, I don't know when I would have had time to view it.

If Magic Magazine ever holds another of these gatherings make it a point to attend. I would have to say, it is one of the best magic conventions I have ever attended.



Bob Ingalls, Chuck
Martinez, Kenny
Sheldon



Denny Haney &
new Las Vegas
shop manager
Tom Moran



Henok Neghsh
with his cards



Sherry Luft &
Diane Lane

Message from the President



Dear fellow Ring
76'ers,

I do hope everyone is well. Some of our club members attended the "Magic Magazine" Magic Convention in Las Vegas. It was wonderful. Jack White has more on the event itself in this newsletter, so look for his report.

We received very nice monogrammed brief cases. All of the lectures were very informative and interesting. We received lecture notes at the end of the lectures to put in a 3 ring binder that was in our brief cases. We had our photos taken and they served as our ID's. There were many big named magicians in attendance. The evening shows had a lot of variety in its acts. there were many performers of all styles. The jugglers and ventriloquist were great! Many standing ovations happened at this convention!

Bob Ingalls, our VP in charge of entertainment, has booked Jason Latimer and Tom Craven for lectures in the near future. Jason comes in Sept. 27th, Tom's lecture will be Oct. 21st. They will be great lectures and not to be missed! Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information.

Now's the time to start planning for those Spooky shows! With Halloween right around the corner, it's time to script some fun Halloween routines. Have fun developing something creative this year and be original.

In the meantime, bring a potential new member to one of our meetings.

Diane Lane
President, Ring 76

Belinda Kaesler Named TVP for So & Central CA.

After a mix-up in paper work **Belinda Kaesler**, past president of Ring 313 in Orange County and a member of Ring 76, has been officially added to the list of Territorial Vice Presidents for parts of both Southern and Central California, according to Joan Caesar member of the IBM Executive Committee. Belinda assumed her TVP position in July, and though her name was not added to the current official roster, her name will be added early next year. Belinda and **Jeff Marcus** will share duties as Territorial Vice Presidents. Marcus will serve Rings in Southern California, while Belinda will cover her home Ring 313 in Irvine and three Rings in Central California.



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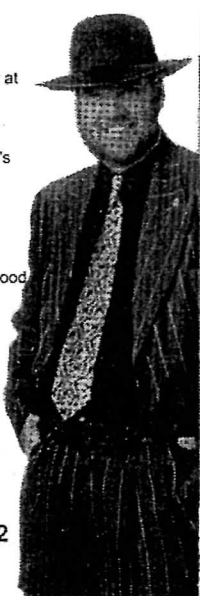
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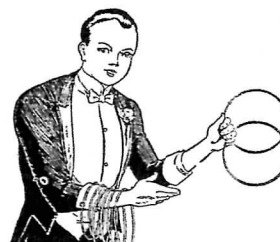
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* denotes past Ring 76 Pres.

News

With terrorism on everyone's mind these days, some interesting information from Ring 76 member **Dr. Joel Moskowitz**, recently reported that a prominent mid-eastern magician has been training terrorists. **ZULFIKAR**, also known as **Abu Jihad**, a well-known magician has used his skills to train Pakistani terrorists in the use of illusion to escape being caught and deceiving police who might be on the terrorists trail. Moskowitz says that Zulfikar is currently under house arrest by Pakistani police and during his questioning by authorities he talked about teaching 15 magic tricks to Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in an effort to make them more aware of how to evade being caught. One of the things Zulfikar told his disciples was to become a "street magician" to evade arrest. Zulfikar displayed his skills before the news media and police recently by doubling the currency taken from a bystander, keeping an egg flying in the air and growing mustard seeds in his hand. But so far he has not been able to escape from his jail cell.

If you have been in magic anytime at all you know the name **George Johnstone**: he and his wife Betty were a headline comedy magic act in the 40s, 50s, and 60s. George was based out of Chicago and wrote columns for both *Magigram* and the *New Tops* magazines and contributed material to dozens of other publications. He got his start as an assistant on the **Harry Blackstone Sr.** show. George died in early August after living with Alzheimer's disease for the last three years. In the early 1970s he was the guest of **Sid Gerhart** here in San Diego and presented an impromptu lecture for Ring 76. It was a sensational



evening-listening to George's stories and watching him work his miracles with simple props. With his passing we have lost another of the greats in magic; he was 85.

Joe Mystic will teach that wonderful effect he did at the August meeting of changing two one dollar bills to a two dollar bill. The teach-in portion of our meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Here is a great opportunity to learn a very deceptive trick with all the moves from the guy who came up with the idea that was later put on the magic market. Joe suggests you bring two one's and a two-dollar bill to the meeting. Something you should be aware of-the U.S. Mint is thinking of doing away with \$2 bills or changing their printed image and releasing them only through coin dealers at prices above their actual face value. A word to the wise, stock up on \$2 bills now while you can.

At the North County Fair Shopping Center in Escondido, **Rocky Osborn**, a very knowledgeable magician, has set up a small magic shop on the 3rd floor in front of the food court. One of the effects he is featuring for sale is called "Beat the Dealer." A very clever deck with cards from 52 different Las Vegas Casinos. Ask **Jack White** or **Bob Ingalls** to show it to you; they took the trick to the MagicLive Convention in Vegas, and they were the hit of the convention with

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it. The sad part of this story is that Rocky has decided to close down his little magic enterprise and move to Oregon, where he will work as part of a casino dealers school. Rocky's last day at North County Fair was August 31st.

Ring member **Ralph Mauzy** spent more than a week in Palomar Hospital in Escondido in August. He was suffering with diverticulitis; surgeons removed a portion of his intestine, but by the third day following surgery, Ralph was sitting up in bed doing card tricks for his nurses. Doctors say Ralph will make a full recovery after a few months of rest. Ring 76 sends our best wishes.

James Kellogg recently gave up a nice role in a network reality show so he could travel to the United Kingdom to set up a series for charity magic shows for the Liberty Foundation. James is taking his full show to Belize in Central America, where he will present five shows to raise funds to build a day care center for disadvantaged children. If you would like to help this worthy cause, James says he has a lot of extra room in his packing crates to carry donated books, school supplies and children's clothing. Bring any donations to the next meeting. Kellogg will accept them and will be leaving for Belize in mid-September. He is presenting five shows in Belize, a city steeped in poverty.

Tom McCarthy has started a new and very different online magic shop. To see his site go to shopformagic.com. He is offering new and used magic on his Web site. We will have more on this site in the months ahead.

Coming Attractions

Monday, September 13, at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. Teach-in with Joe Mystic begins at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m. Julie Abbott Marshall will give a lecture about her grandfather Percy Abbott. Roy Armstrong will bring a portion of his collection of Abbott's props for a show-and-tell session. Members are asked to do a favorite Abbott's effect or a trick out of TOPS magazine after the lectures. This will be a very different type of meeting featuring apparatus effects.

October 11th, meeting favorite Halloween or spooky effect or routine. This has proven to be an exciting evening in past years. Many members attend the meeting in costume. A special surprise at this meeting-a-real Haunted House from Ed Greene.

FREE LECTURE for all Ring 76 members will be presented Monday, September 27th, at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. World Champion Magician Jason Latimer will show us some original effects and tell us how he routines his act. This will be a great lecture; don't miss it!

Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, September 20th, a week earlier than usual, at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. sharp. These meetings are open to all members interested in attending.

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