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MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award

Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

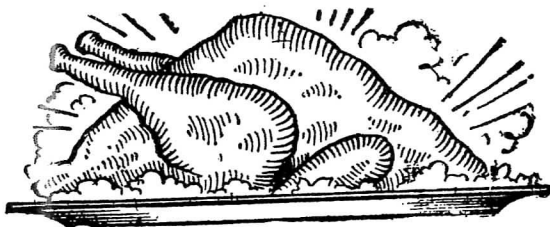
Website
www.ring76.com

Volume XVIII 12 December 2004

Holiday potluck dinner meeting December 10th.

By the time you read this many of you will have been contacted by phone about what you are to bring to the potluck dinner if you plan on attending on Monday, December 13th. If no one has contacted you then you should call Richard Ustick at 619-463-2407. He is keeping the master list of who is to bring what.

The Ring is supplying two large turkeys, plates, utensils, napkins, and cups. Kenny Shelton is bringing the soft drinks; there will also be coffee available. We remind all members because this is the holiday party, we will begin serving dinner a half



hour earlier than our usual meeting time. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm. So plan accordingly.

The theme of our program is "tricks old and seldom seen." In other words dig out those old props that you almost never use anymore and conjure up one of your routines from the past. We expect to see some nice old magic at this event, and it is also a time to come and enjoy the fellowship of the year.

There will be lots of good food and a good show; plan to take part in this special holiday program.

Diane Lane performs at Charger's Blood Drive in Nov.

IBM Ring 76 President Diane Lane was a headliner at the 26th Charger Blood Drive held Tuesday, November 23rd at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. Diane and her feathered friend Cassy the parrot were featured on the stage in the grand ballroom during the afternoon hours.

Diane talked about the bird and did some magic for several hundred people who were waiting to



Charger Girls surround Diane Lane who performed at the Charger Blood Drive

be called into the donor room to donate blood. This is the 16th year that Diane has taken part in the Chargers Blood Drive. She told MagiCurrents that during her health crisis of many years ago she used a great deal of blood, and when she needed the gift of life it was there

(continued on page 7)

November meeting offers learning opportunity for magic enthusiasts at Teach-in

The November meeting of Ring 76 brought six top-flight magicians together as teachers for the rest of the membership. They each presented an outstanding group of tricks, and members walked out of the meeting having learned something new. The room was set up with five large round tables and the instructors moved from table, to table giving each group their own session.

Terry Lunceford, a very busy pro, taught one of the classics of magic—the "Egg Bag."

Terry used a Max Malini egg bag and gave his students a good look at the bag's construction and did a sensational routine. The Malini bag is slightly smaller than the Tarbell and other bags, and the gimmicked compartment is



Terry Lunceford and his egg bag

built into the bag a little different than other bags. In recent years this has become the bag of choice by many magicians. A company out of Las Vegas is once again making this egg bag with the right weight material, and it is again available to performers. When he was finished with his egg bag presentation, Terry taught his students a very clever card routine.

Kenny Shelton, who has emerged as a hard working



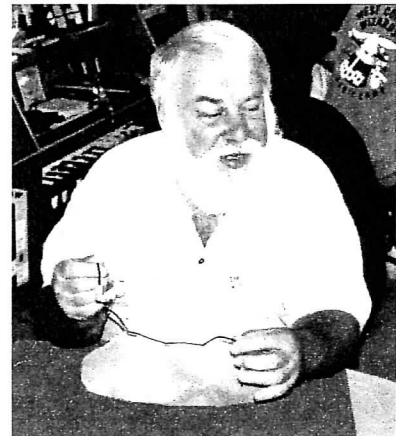
Kenny Shelton and some selfworking card tricks

performer, taught his students a series of impromptu self-working card tricks. Kenny's work with the pasteboards is quite good and one of the moves he taught during his 15-minute session was a quick peek at a selected card that

is so natural it is almost impossible to catch him doing it. If you follow Kenny's brief examples you

will have some great new card tricks to add to your repertoire.

Joe Mystic is another hard working professional magician in San Diego and this time of year his talents are in high demand, but he found time to put together a clever series of tricks with string and rope. He made up a very clever penetration effect with a short piece of string and two beads. It cost



He just looks like Santa it's Joe Mystic

him a dollar to make up the string, and he sold them for that price. It's one of those little bits of business that you carry around in your pocket and always have a good trick to show people. He also taught his audience a very visual silk off of rope. The instant beauty of the effect left his audience with their mouths open. Another great trick to add to your collection.

Bob Pozner who has worked close-up in bars,



Bob Pozner ready to work

restaurants, clubs, and partys for nearly 40 years gave his students a real treat by teaching his routine of the color changing pocket knives. Bob has a great finish to his routine. He also took the time to teach a quick 4 ace routine, and he taught those who wanted to know some excellent card palming. Bob is one of those guys who will

always take the time to teach a fellow magician how to do a sleight or move whenever he is asked. He is a warehouse of knowledge about close-up magic, and we are lucky to have him as a member of our Ring.

Michael E. Johnson is another magician that is busy working shows in San

Diego County and outside of the state, as well. Michael is much in demand these days and we are always thankful when he has the time to take part in one of our programs. Michael opened his session with a coin roll across his fingers and he told his audience why

that move is so important. He says this is one of the fastest ways of letting your audience know you are a magician with dexterity. He gave some quick hints on how to quickly get the coin roll down pat. He also presented his routine on a trick that is sometimes called a kids' trick but with Michael's presentation, it is a great mystery and super entertainment-the "Multiplying Rabbits." Michael brought with him a huge plastic bag of sponge rabbits so that everyone could practice the routine and learn how to palm the bits of sponge. He also talked about how to routine this wonderful trick to get the most out of it. Someone once told me that the Multiplying Rabbits should sell for \$100 because it is such an effective trick when performed properly. Michael gave his students a great lecture on the handling and presentation of this trick.

Jeff Marcus rounded out our team of magicians with a very clever "Ring on String" routine. Jeff is another performer who has worked every venue you can think of in magic and is well versed in close-up performing. These days Jeff has expanded his stage work to hypnotism and mentalism, but he can also do a good job of entertaining a large audience with just a deck of cards.



Michael E. Johnson and 1000 sponge bunnies

What makes these teach-in sessions so great is that everyone can get personal attention and instruction. This was perhaps the most diverse in effects taught and included a stellar group of instructors. The Ring members are all indebted to each of the instructors for the time and dedication they put into these special programs.



Jeff Marcus and his ring on string routine



A room full of magic students waiting for instructors to make the rounds of each table. Many students got personal attention.



Michael Ammar lecture brings out large crowd and offers unique magic experience

More than 60 Ring members and guests attended the Michael Ammar lecture on Monday, November 15th. This was one of the "free" magic lectures put on annually by Ring 76 for its members.

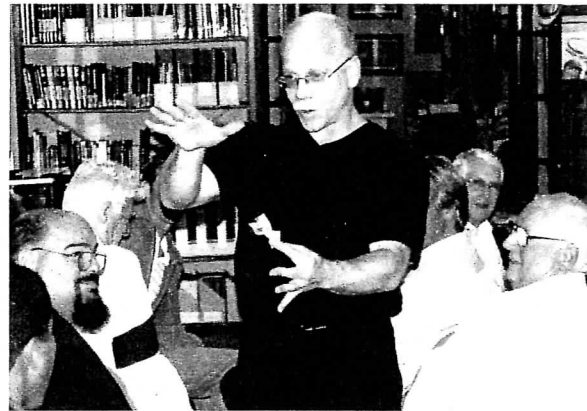
The evening began at 5:30 with a pre-lecture workshop that was attended by 12 members. This workshop had a fee involved and each attendee was given personal instruction in a variety of effects that Michael taught. **how to present a card trick**



Michael Ammar talking about how to present a card trick

For the lecturer Michael opened with his production of a wine bottle, and then went into one of the cleanest coin in bottle effects this writer has ever seen. In his explanation portion of the lecture he talked about the "Topit" a secret pocket in your coat, and how to make it and how to use it properly. Michael produced the bottle from the Topit and also got rid of the coin that everyone thought was in the bottle with the Topit.

Michael Ammar has a truly winning personality as he explains his tricks and tells stories about his magic and his performing. He told the audience that he began in magic with a stage act and doves. But one day in Columbus, Ohio, at the Columbus Magi-Fest when his entire act went bad, he gave the doves and all the props away. He decided the world did not need another dove act and that his talents were in close-up magic. So he has made a name for himself in producing books, videos, and lecturing and teaching magic. He is of course in much demand as a performer, as well.



Michael Ammar in the audience floating a dollar bill

Another very visual effect he presented was the "Floating Dollar Bill," a trick that has been around for years but, after he performed it on the Johnny Carson Show on television many years ago, it became a classic. Michael spent a great deal of time explaining some of his moves in making this trick a true miracle. In his lecture notes he spends two illustrated pages talking about this one effect.

Michael talked about the importance of having a good business card and doing a trick with it when you give it to someone. He gave his listeners several different methods of doing a quick trick with your business card.

His Xeroxed Deck effect is a simple card routine but one of those stunners that will make you remembered. It's one of those effects than can be reset right under the spectators nose and ready for the next show. The effect features a piece of paper with the fronts of a deck of cards and right in the middle of the page is the back of a card. When the

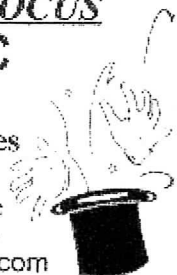
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page is turned over it features all card backs and the chosen card face up. All you need are some cards and a Xerox machine.

As he presented his lecture he introduced his wife,, Hannah, who has actually been around magic longer than Michael, she is the grand daughter of Willard the Wizard a grand old tent show magician and the daughter of Francis Willard, who lectured to Ring 76 in 2000.

The lecture closed with a borrowed torn dollar bill in peanut. The first half of the trick is U.F. Grants Million Dollar Bill Mystery; the second half of finding the torn bill in the peanut is Michael Ammar at his best. He features this trick in his video series Easy to Master Money Miracles.



Hannah Ammar setting up the dealers table

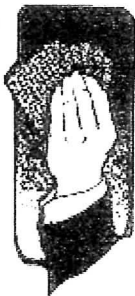
We have had a number of Ring members tell us that this was one of the best magic lectures they have ever attended. It was an exciting evening and a lot of good basic magic information was given out.

At Ring 76 we wish everyone a very.....



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"I could never figure out how he does that."

View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Looking for the Ghost of Christmas Present, Part Two...

Last month we examined the surfeit of classic magic material now in print that would make wonderful Christmas presents for your magical friends, relatives, or spouse. However, most of the items discussed last month ran from \$35 to \$150. This month might be a great time to look at the budget material that is available for, say, under \$15. Yes, a quality magical gift for under \$15 is quite common just now.

L & L Publishing is closing out its VHS video magic collection as it shifts its output to the more versatile and easier to use DVD format. The result is a huge collection of magic instruction videos at half price! The highest price for any of these closeout tapes is \$15, and most of them are only \$10! Virtually the entire video catalog from this most prolific of video publishers is being closed out, so jump on these if you are looking for a bargain. Examples of available volumes include five from the great Johnny Thompson, five from Aldo Colombini, multiple volumes from Daryl (including the **Card Revelations** series and the **Card Sleight Encyclopedia** series), multiple coin volumes from Dr. Michael Rubinstein (including his three-volume **Coin Sleight Encyclopedia** and three-volume **Knockout Coin Magic**), the whole Michael Ammar **Easy-to-Master** series for coins, cards, and invisible thread, and dozens of other volumes by performing pros covering stage, parlor, and close-up. The list is almost a "who's who" of magic: Lorayne, Sankey, MacBride, Burger, Wilson, Close, Jennings, Malone, Wonder, and many, many more. Check out the VHS video holdings at <http://www.llpub.com/>.

Dover Publications continues to reprint classic magic books at under \$15 each, as well as keeping their original magic publications in print. The few Dover books I mentioned last month are within this month's

stated budget. Many of the books aimed at beginners can be sources of fine tricks to which an experienced magician can add strong presentations and a bit of sleight work to make miracles. Last month I mentioned without titles the large Karl Fulves **Self-Working** series, in which there are six volumes of the **Card Tricks**, plus similar volumes on **Coin Magic**, **Rope Magic**, **Table Magic**, **Paper Magic**, **Handkerchief Magic**, **Mental Magic**, and more. Also desirable is the Fulves **Big Book of Magic Tricks**, which contains some powerful gambling con demonstrations and some interesting mentalism slumbering in its pages. Martin Gardner's **Table Magic**, although long pre-dating the Fulves books, is in much the same spirit. The reprints of John Scarne's **Card Tricks** and **Magic Tricks** are welcome additions of highly effective magic for anyone's library, and are treasured by magicians who prefer to put their energies into presentation rather than execution.

Among Dover reprints which are essentials for the advancing magician are the Erdnase **Expert at the Card Table**, Annemann's classic mentalism volume **Practical Mental (Effects) Magic**, Bobo's original **Modern Coin Magic**, and Paul Curry's **Magician's Magic**. The prolific Jean Hugard's books are cornerstones of a magic library, and Dover has many of them: **Royal Road to Card Magic**, **Card Manipulations**, **More Card Manipulations**, **Handkerchief Magic**, and the highly useful (**Modern**) **Magic Manual**. Historical books containing tricks to update with fresh presentations include the Hatton & Plate **Magic Tricks**, Downs's **Art of Magic**, and Sach's **Sleight of Hand**. More Fulves books distilling and updating the card work of two early twentieth century masters are **Charles Jordan's Best Card Tricks** and **Ellis Stanyon's Best Card Tricks**. A fun and valuable addition to one's library is the Dover original by Milbourne Christopher, **Magic: A Picture History**, formerly known as **Panorama of Magic**.

All of these Dover books range from \$6 to \$15, and they are available from Dover online, or at your nearest chain bookstore or favorite magic dealer. For a full list of Dover holdings in magic, go to <http://store.doverpublications.com/> and use the site's search engine to look for *magic*, *legerdemain*.

Magic Inc. in Chicago is also having a half-price VHS closeout sale, with most of the titles running from \$5 to \$15 each. Magic Inc. also features more than 400 publications in the under-\$15 range, in every sub-genre available: mentalism, kid magic, card magic, money magic, act building, sets and

costuming, close-up magic, table and illusion building, stage magic, livestock magic, manipulation, ballooning, and much, much more. Go to <http://www.magicinc.net> and click upon the link for Videos to get the half-price listings. For the books, click upon the link for Books and then choose the small list box for Price Ascending to see them from least expensive to most expensive.

Steven's Magic Emporium features Joe's Clearance Closet, a regularly updated area of books, tricks, and videos that are in overstock. A quick check showed that a good number of VHS videos are on sale for \$12.50 each. Go to <http://www.stevensmagic.com/index.htm> and click upon the link to Clearance.

Finally, don't forget that you can often find under-\$15 books at used magic bookstores. H & R Books (<http://www.magicbookshop.com>) shows 251 items in their On Sale link, many of them videos for \$10 to \$15 each, not to mention their usual 20% off list for all used books. Bradbury Books (<http://bradburybooks.com>) features a huge number of books under \$15 as well. Both H & R Books and Bradbury Books require some patience if you are browsing, as no sifting by price point is available. However, if you have specific items you are seeking, then the search engine at H & R and the alphabetized listings by categories at Bradbury should help you find your desired item quickly.

If you can't find a magical gift for your recipient in the myriad choices given in the November and December *View From the Cheap Seats* articles, then you haven't tried hard enough! There is something for everyone here, from \$2 to \$150. Match your recipients tastes and interests to the wide variety of material available, and make your favorite magician very happy this holiday season. Or, give something new to yourself!

Happy holidays, and I'll "see" you again in the new year! Regards from Tennessee,
Jon A. Hand

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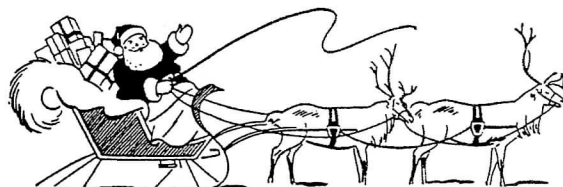
Diane Lane & Chargers Continued from page 1

for her. She says now she wants to make sure it is available when other people are in need. She says it's payback time and this is her way of giving back to the community.

Also taking part from Ring 76 in the Charger's Blood Drive this year was Howard Harris, who presented magic in the huge banquet room. Working the donor room was Charlie Gott, who arrived early in the morning and stayed until well into the afternoon doing strolling magic. Both Howard and Charlie worked out of their pockets.

Diane Lane always brings a truckload of props with her when she does a show. The Charger Blood Drive show was no exception. She featured a number of large effects during her time on stage. Of course it was Cassy the Parrott that stole the show.

In the New Year invite a friend to attend a Ring 76 meeting!

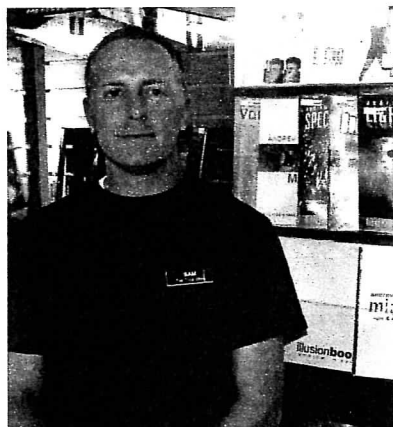


Magic Notes from Jack White**Two new magic emporiums and a look at magic in San Diego during 2004**

Here we are caught up in the hectic period of the holidays, and it seems like last year's holiday season just ended. What a busy year for magic: I attended three conventions last year, the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas in January; The IBM Convention in Cleveland in June; and the Magic Live Convention also in Las Vegas in August. In less than a month I will head to Reno and begin planning for the IBM Convention this summer in Reno; also on that planning committee are two other members of Ring 76, Don Soul and Bob Ingalls. If you really want to enjoy a magical experience, plan to attend this summer's IBM gathering; I will have more to say about the planned events in future columns.

During 2004 we lost Brad Burt's Magic Shop and read a number of stories and editorials about the demise of the so-called brick-and-mortar magic shops around the country. We of course still have the magic shop at Seaport Village and the news of Ring 76 member Tom McCarthy opening a new online shop. That is most encouraging for those of us living locally and relying on a local shop for props, books and DVDs. See Tom's write up on his new enterprise elsewhere in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, Sam Blankenship, an energetic young man, has opened a new place called the "Trick Shop" in the Old Town area of Temecula. The exact address is 28561 Old Town Front Street. At

**Sam Blankenship**

a time when magic shops seem to be disappearing, it is exciting to see someone jump into this business with the excitement exhibited by both Tom and Sam.

**The front of the Trick Shop in Temecula**

Sam operates a full service magic shop with the regular jokes and novelties in the front and a nice selection of professional magic elsewhere in the store.

**A portion of the inside of the Trick Shop**

The "Trick Shop" is a family business and employs Sam as the buyer, demonstrator and general magician on call. His wife runs the cash register and keeps the books, while their oldest son sells and demonstrates some of the close-up magic offered in the front part of the store.

Since the store opened in early October, they have sponsored several lectures by famous magi and have attracted a sincere following in the Temecula area. Eddie Lake, a member of the Magic Guild in the North County, is a regular customer of the Trick Shop and says, "It's wonderful to have a magic shop in his backyard."

I have included with this article some pictures I took shortly after the shop opened for business.

The Old Town area of Temecula is a fun place to visit; if you pay a visit to that area be sure and stop by and see the Blankenships and their magic shop.



**Eddie Lake & Sam's son
talk rope magic**

A number of our longtime members have moved away from San Diego in the past year. Phil King recently sent me his new address: 418 Lakeside Drive, Liberty, Missouri 64068. Phil Tuttle is now living at 1646 Kellenbeck Ave. Apt A, Grants Pass, Oregon 97527. Both of these gentlemen have indicated they want to stay in contact with members of Ring 76. A seasons greetings card would be in order to both of them.

We are also reminded that in 2004 we lost a good friend and one of the founding members of Ring 76, Pat Hannum. Pat had a big heart and she loved magic and everyone who had an interest in or cared about the art of magic. We miss her.

During 2004 Ring 76 brought in a wide variety of magic lectures and many of those teaching sessions were "free" to members. Bob Ingalls has already lined up a list of candidates to lecture to our Ring in the year ahead. I urge you to make the effort to attend as many of these lecture sessions as possible. They are all designed to teach us something new about our craft and help us to become better performers.

We also offered a unique set of programs to our members. For several years now it has been the intent of the board to continue to have our members perform as often as possible. That practice was carried out in 2004 and will continue in the year ahead.

Magic cartoon cups are great holiday gifts

If you are a regular reader of MagiCurrents then you know that Ellen Friedman and Jim Whiting have been producing a series of wonderfully funny original magic related cartoons for more than a year, their latest is on this page.

Ellen and Jim have recently had some of their favorite cartoons put on coffee mugs, and they are selling them as gift items.

Ellen was recently at the Magic Castle Swap Meet in Hollywood where the artwork and the cups were a big hit. If you are interested in

purchasing a set of these cups for yourself or as a gift for a magic enthusiast, Ellen will have them at our December meeting.



**Ellen Friedman and a
new MagiToon cup**

It is Ellen who comes up with the ideas for these MagiToons and the talented Jim Whiting a professional cartoonist for more than 50-years, who puts the ideas in print. We want to thank them for their creative efforts and for sharing their work with our members.

Loch David Crane

Says:

Thank You

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

Message from the President



Dear Ring 76ers,

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving Day. We all have so many things to be thankful for.

I am so excited to see one of my goals as President of Ring 76 come true. That is the great "teach-ins" that are happening at our clubhouse monthly. We are all receiving a hands-on magic lesson that is important in building our skills as better performers. If you would like to volunteer to teach one of our pre-meeting classes, please call me and let me know.

The second goal of mine is to create a group of magi that are willing to go to charity events and hospitals, performing magic. I have one person who has stepped up to the plate and joined me at the Charger's Blood Drive last November 23rd at the Town & Country Hotel. Thank you, Howard Harris. More opportunities are available during the holiday season. Please let me know if you can volunteer for some of the coming events.

Our annual holiday dinner is coming up December 13th. Please contact Richard Ustick for assignment of what dish you are to bring to the potluck. It will be held at the clubhouse and space is limited. Please feel free to bring your spouse and children but refrain from bringing Uncle George and the neighbor's kids.

2005 is going to be another exciting year for Ring 76...Happy Holidays!

Diane Lane
President, Ring 76

Ring library cards now available

Ring 76 librarian Bob Pozner will have the new library cards available to all members who have filled out and turned in their library form.

The library is now open and members can check out our books, video tapes, and DVDs. The check out time will be 30 minutes following all regular meetings. Check out all materials through Bob Pozner.

You will need a library card to check out all items available. Bob Pozner will be able to help you sign up for a card if you have not done so yet.

You may keep all library items from one meeting to the next. This new effort is to see that everyone has a better chance to use all of our library resources.

We believe we have one of the best libraries of any Ring in the country; please use it and take care of it.



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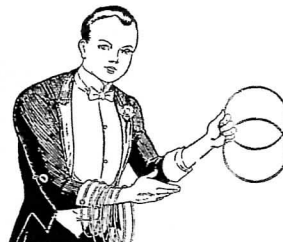
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Ring 76



Board of Directors

Diane Lane
President
858-278-1669
dvlane@san.rr.com

Bob Ingalls
1st Vice President
858-571-3340
bailysgp@san.rr.com

Sherry Luft*
2nd Vice President
sluft@secor.com

Jack White*
Secretary
619-299-9037
prestooone@cox.net

Richard Ustick
Treasurer
619-463-2407
rustick@flash.net

Kenny Shelton
Sgt. at Arms
vettesbro@aol.com

J.P. Jackson*
Member at Large
858-569-0096

Terry Lunceford
Member at Large
dveditman@cox.net

* denotes past Ring 76 Pres.

News

We begin with sad news that **Marie Blood**, the niece of **Harry & Bess Houdini**, has died; she was 87. As a young girl Marie lived with the Houdinis and for many years she lectured and wrote about her adventures with her Aunt Bess and Uncle Harry, becoming one of the last living links to inside stories about the legendary magician and his wife. Marie Blood was a member of the IBM and as such, a broken wand service was performed at her funeral in early November at Paramus, a small community near her New Jersey home.

Dr. Joel Moskowitz is featured in the November issue of *Linking Ring* magazine with a story about the history of Mene Tekel, a name that dates back to biblical times and the trick deck of cards of the same name that we all as young magicians had or at least had read about. The article is titled: "Mene Tekel, a Rose by Any Other Name." It is on page 52 in case you missed it. Joel put a lot of research into that article. Moskowitz spent much of the month of November traveling in Tibet.

The November 15th issue of the *National Enquirer* carries a cover story that **Roy Horn** attempted suicide several times following his stroke and dramatic battle to return to a productive life following his tragic ordeal. The article goes on to say the famous Las Vegas performers have written a new tell-all book, and they are currently shopping around for a publisher. The **Siegfried Fischbacher** and **Roy Horn** memoir will tell the dark side of the magicians' lives as well as the show biz glitz. No word on when the book will be published.

In the media: During the month of November, Magician **Craig Stone** was seen in a color photo in the North County Times



newspaper doing a show in Oceanside. **Loch David Crane** was seen in an NBC Today Show story concerning the San Diego Mayoral write-in candidate **Donna Frye**. Loch has been a supporter of Donna Frye since she announced she was a write-in candidate. Loch is also showing off a nice stack of German newspaper stories about his trip and shows in that country last summer.

Terry Lunceford has always been a race car fan. Now he has purchased his own race car and when not appearing at the Magic Castle or other performance dates, he is out working on or driving his formula V-one racer. Terry says he has always wanted a race car; now he has one and he is driving it and having fun.

Bill Bennett longtime San Diego Radio-Television personality and ventriloquist, died November 4th; he was 80. Bennett lived in Del Mar and for several years in the late 1980s and early '90s was part of a group known as "Three from TV." Bennett opened the show with his vent act followed by **Jack White** and his magic; then **Doug Oliver** closed the show on the piano. The show was booked and produced by an agency and it played many dates in San Diego, Orange and Riverside counties under several sponsorships. Bennett spent the last ten years working in real estate.

We also learned that Magician **Alan Wakling**, who for many years worked for **Mark** and **Nani Wilson** on the

Briefs

Magic Land of Alakazam and the Magic Circus and scores of amusement park shows, died November 10th at his home in the Los Angeles suburb of Westlake, California. His book "The Magic of Alan Wakling" was a classic. He was 78.

The Magic Castle Swap Meet on Saturday, November 13th, drew many San Diego Magi, **J.P. Jackson** and **Marcus Day** had a sellers table, as did "Suds." **Bob Ingalls** was on hand with **Jack White**, **Ellen Freidman** and husband **Ted Dunning** were selling mugs with their past MagiCurrents cartoons on them. **Terry Godfrey** was selling tons of magic video tapes at bargain prices. **Camron**, between cruise ship engagements, had at least four big illusions for sale. **Sebastian** was on hand looking for some new props for his show. **Loch Crane** was making the rounds.

At the Chargers Blood Drive November 23rd, **Charlie Gott** was seen doing a magic trick for California First Lady **Maria Shriver**, who was a special guest of honor at the blood drive. Charlie did strolling magic at the largest one-day blood drive in California. **Diane Lane** appeared on stage with her magic act and her parrot. Lots of good exposure for those taking part in this very well attended event at the Town and Country Hotel. This was Diane Lane's 16th year entertaining at this event.

Belinda Kaesler's Halloween costume shop at the Del Mar Fair Grounds was so popular it has now become Belinda's Workshop at the Del Mar Christmas Tree Center. Belinda had given two very nice gift certificates to her craft center as drawing items at our Ring holiday party Monday, Dec. 13th.

Coming Attractions

December 13th meeting at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be our annual holiday meeting with a potluck dinner that includes turkey furnished by the Ring. Our show will be "tricks old and seldom seen," so dig out those old effects that you presented at holiday magic shows of the past and be part of this special holiday program.

January 17th is new member installation night. For our program various magic tricks will be placed in brown paper bags and you can choose a bag and perform the trick inside. You may also choose a friend to help you perform this surprise trick. This should be an opportunity to test our skills as performers. (Note the January meeting is one week later than usual, the third Monday of the month.)

February 14th (Valentines Night) Our annual close-up contest. Start practicing now for this big event. Cash prizes. Bring a friend or a spouse to this evening meeting. Big Screen TV so everyone can see each contestant perform.

Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, January 24th, 2005, at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. sharp. These business meetings are open to all members interested in attending.

Editor's Note: You will note that we have a format change this month with our newsletter. It is being mailed in an envelope; that is because the U.S. Postal Service has requested that first class mail items be enclosed in an envelope. That does raise the postage of sending our newsletters to 74 cents. The Ring 76 board of directors has decided to maintain the size and style of newsletter we have been sending out for the past several years and to mail them with envelopes in spite of the additional charge for postage and mailing supplies. Please send along your thoughts.

MagiCurrents is published monthly by Ring 76 and is edited by Jack White; Associate Editor is Jim Riley. We encourage articles, stories, and news items. All material should be submitted to Jack White by e-mail at prestoone@cox.net. or written manuscripts may be submitted to Jack White, 4288 Arguello St., San Diego, CA. 92103.