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MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

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April 11, magic swap meet, things to know

Monday, April 11th, is one of the most talked about and anticipated meetings of the year for many members of Ring 76; it is our annual magic swap meet. This meeting is an opportunity for members to sell their unwanted magic and buy someone else's magic treasures. If you are a buyer, this is a time to dig through a lot of other people's magic videotapes, DVDs, books, tricks, seldom seen apparatus and props of all kinds.

If you have some magic and would like to sell it at the swap meet here are some things you should know. Tables are available for \$10 for a 6-foot-long table or you can share half a table with someone else for \$5. Sellers are the only people allowed into the hall until we officially open for business at 6:30 p.m. on April 11th. The room will be open to sellers from 4 p.m. to unload and set up for the swap meet. Buyers will not be allowed in until 6:30 p.m. There are no exceptions.

Ring 76 treasurer Richard Ustick is in charge of assigning tables to our sellers. Do not wait until the last minute to make your reservation for a table. Contact Richard early because there is always more demand for tables than there is space available. If you are a seller we urge you to get in early and set up for the opening buyers. Richard Ustick can be reached by phone at 619 589-1913 or by email at rustick@flash.net.

We remind everyone that the swap meet does not include an auction; the magic auction will be held in June. This is just a swap meet and you will not be competing with an auction of magic props and books. You keep all of the proceeds from your sales; your only cost, as a seller is the ten or five dollar fee for a table or half table.

New magic stamp now available from England

Royal Mail (the British Post Office) began issuing five interactive stamps on March 15th with the theme of magic. The stamps celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Magic Circle, a society, not unlike the IBM, dedicated to promoting and advancing the art of magic. The Magic Circle was founded in 1905 by John Nevil Maskelyne, who is regarded as the father of modern British conjuring.



The new British Magic Stamps that are now on sale and destined to be very collectable for magic enthusiasts.

Each stamp includes words of instruction to explain its interactive, or magic, feature.

The first of the issue bears a design that depicts a spinning coin that is blank in the center. The words "Heads or Tails" are written on the edge of the coin. The blank center area of the coin can be rubbed off to reveal if it is heads or tails.

On a second version of the stamp, an optical illusion is featured by a magician's hand holding a rabbit in the upper portion; in the lower half of the stamp is a

continued on page 11

Continued on page 11

March meeting offers surprise honors for Magic Mike Stilwell, a guest performer from Mexico, and silk magic

Our March meeting began with a sensational teach-in demonstration by Tom McCarthy. Tom has had a great deal of performing experience by working three nights a week at the Gathering restaurant doing table work and sometimes behind the bar. For our

teach-in he was behind the bar and presenting some truly wonderful card work and tipping those gathered around to his techniques. If you spent some time watching him you were bound to come away with some new moves and good information.



Tom McCarthy conducting a special teach-in before the regular meeting.

If you attended that meeting it probably didn't take very long for you to recognize that there were a lot of people crowding into our meeting space on March 14th. Some of those in attendance were not familiar faces to a Ring 76 meeting either. They were, however, invited guests because they were part of a special surprise event that was staged by Ring 76 member Michael E. Johnson.

Ring President Diane Lane called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and after a few brief announcements introduced Michael E. Johnson to make a special announcement. Michael quickly told

the audience we were all here to honor veteran entertainer "Magic" Mike Stilwell, who for the past 30 years has been bringing joy to the hearts and minds of audiences throughout Southern California.

Mike Stilwell was in shock because he thought he was coming to the meeting to present a special award to his longtime friend and fellow magician J.C. Wagner. But this time the trick was on Magic Mike. Not knowing what to say, Mike Stilwell just stood by as Michael Johnson read a portion of a group of letters of

congratulations from elected officials that included California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Governor commended Magic Mike for his "outstanding commitment to promoting philanthropic, cultural, and civic outreach programs in his community."

San Diego's Deputy Mayor Michael Zucchet, gave Stilwell a Special Commendation as Magician of the Year in San Diego, noting: "Mike Stilwell mentors other small businessmen with an emphasis on ethics and competence, improving the quality of life and economic conditions on a local basis."

California State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth praised Stilwell, saying, "You demonstrated care and concern for everyone you meet. That is probably the greatest magic any single person can perform." Adding to the festivities was a letter of congratulations from Tony Wilson, President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Then, veteran performer and close-up magic legend J.C. Wagner stepped forward and with Michael E. Johnson they presented Mike Stilwell with a giant trophy honoring him with the Fellowship of Honorable Magicians award for 2005. There were speeches by J.C. Wagner and Bernie Kay. Then a surprised Mike Stilwell thanked everyone for being such good friends and for helping him with his magic.



Mike Stilwell holds Governor's proclamation as J.C. Wagner comments on Mike's talent



Mike Stilwell accepts trophy from Michael E. Johnson as J.C. Wagner looks on.

Bob Ingalls then took over the meeting that was to be devoted to silk magic. But before we began with



Guest magic star
Kali Hazan from
Tijuana, Mexico

our regular series of Ring 76 performers, our friends from South of the Border in Mexico gave the audience a special treat. Kali Hazan, who operates a magic shop in Tijuana, presented a very nice act to music.

Dressed in a tuxedo, Hazan presented a fast moving act with manipulations and apparatus that included a lot of flash, color, and surprise. A distinguished looking gentleman,

Hazan's act was well received and was yet another in a long line of wonderful surprises and top-flight entertainment brought to our meetings by our friends and fellow Ring members from Tijuana.

The theme of our program for March was Silk Magic; we will let the photographs tell the story of their magic. They appeared in the following order:



Bob Ingalls and
rubber dove

Charlie Gott,
Kenny



When Diane Lane's pet cockatoo saw Bob Ingalls rubber dove, the cockatoo sent out a loud squak that stopped the show.

March meeting in photo's



Alex Greenbaum and
his coins across in a silk



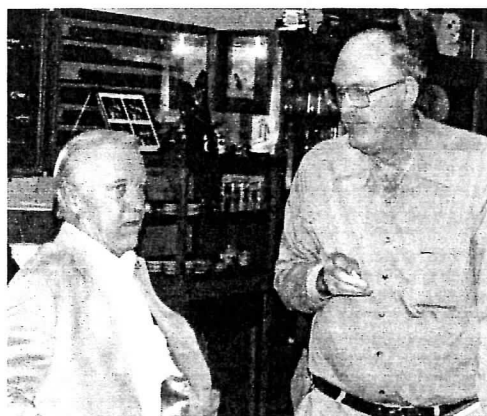
Diane Lane produced
six umbrella's from
a bundle of silks

Shelton, Alex
Greenbaum,
Diane Lane,
Jeff Marcus,
Toni Perrine,
Sal Barajas,
James Thayer,
Bob Ingalls,
and Joe
Mystic.



More Ring 76
photos on the
next page

All of our performers for the evening and a couple of "hams."



J.C. Wagner & Jim Riley talk over old times in Ring 76.

More photos from the March meeting



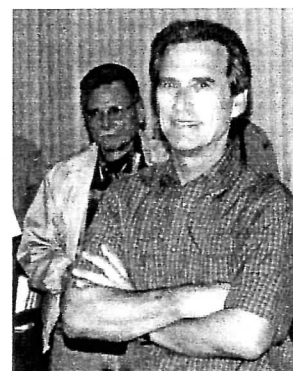
Charlie Gott preaches a sermon that includes a little magic.



Joe Mystic with another clever routine with money, a silk, and salt.



Honoree Mike Stilwell and his son, following a tribute to Mike's 30 years of performing in San Diego.



Dan Thomas, a supporter of Ring 7, from the Gathering Restaurant, looks on during the program.



Tijuana magician Kali Hazan and his applause sign.



Kenny Shelton pulls a silk necktie through his neck during his act at the Ring 76 March meeting.



Toni Perrine getting a word of advice from "Cassi" the magic cockatoo before the show.



Terry Lunceford & J.C. Wagner talk magic.



Jeff Marcus wowed the audience with a very clever silk on and off coat hanger illusion.



Toni Perrine and a lot of silks from a very small cabinet.



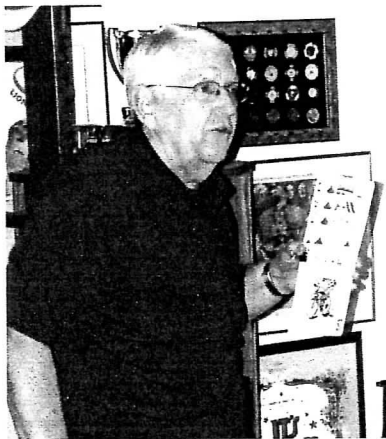
Sal Barajas, a change bag, a silk and very cute assistant.



Mike Stilwell enjoying the magic show.



Jim Thayer with a good story and silk streamer.



Bob Ingalls doing his silk act with jumbo playing cards.



Mike Stilwell with agent Bernie Kay during tribute to Mike.



Tom McCarthy where he is most comfortable, behind the bar doing card tricks for an amazed group of magicians.



Diane Lane with the perfect way to end any magic show, with the production of a huge silk American Flag.

A look inside the Columbus MagiFest 2005

By Jeff Marcus

In February, I attended the Columbus Magi-Fest in Ohio. I was there one time before but only for one day. This time I was able to attend the entire three-day event. It is very well planned, thanks to Jep Hostetler and his crew. As a result there were no apparent problems for the nearly one-thousand guests. It also had a different feel from the west coast conventions that most of us usually attend. First of all, it is in the winter and in Ohio, so there is snow and it gets very cold. One of the unique things is that the dealer's room is in a big dome tent! It is a permanent facility and is climate controlled, plus you can access it through a hallway from the [Marriott] hotel so the cold was not a problem but a surprise if you are not expecting it.



Dealers room at the Columbus MagiFest. A huge tent in the hotel parking lot in February.



Inside the dealers tent is heated and very comfortable and very large

They have a good variety of dealers (about 30) and, of course, many were different from the dealers we usually see out this way. Abbots and Twin City Magic were two examples but there were also some familiar faces. As usual,

there was a large amount of close-up and parlor props but, as is the case in a mid-sized convention, there was not much in the way of grand illusions.

There was a bunch of round tables in the hotel lobby for people to sit around and do impromptu stuff for each other. One very cool thing that happened to me was when someone asked me to do something, I asked to borrow a deck. When I opened it up, I realized it was a marked deck. Of course no one at

the table knew it and, after a while, I realized the guy who lent me the deck didn't realize it either. I was doing miracles. Some magicians wait their whole life for that kind of a situation. It was a beautiful thing.

I missed the contest (it too early in the morning and I was too tired to get out of bed). But there were lots of other great things at the convention, too many to report them all, so I'll generalize with a few of my favorite highlights. One interesting thing was that there were five past Intentional I.B.M. presidents attending including June Horowitz.

All of the close-up shows were great. Close-up demonstrations were presented with the performers moving from room to room. One highlight was a young guy named Rick Merrill--absolutely fantastic! His sleights were flawless and he had me in tears with his comedy. I missed a lecture to watch him again. Although there were only five lectures, they were all top-notch.

All of the shows except one, took place in the hotel's banquet rooms but the portable stage was really set up well. The second night was called the "Headliner Show" and took place at a Veteran's War Memorial auditorium in downtown Columbus. It's a beautiful facility,



The showroom is a hotel ballroom with large video screens so you can see everything.

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not unlike the Civic Theater here in San Diego. They had buses to take the attendees to and from the hotel for that one evening event. It did seem strange to me that the "Big Downtown Show" was not on the last night as kind of a finale, but I'm sure they had their reasons. Steve Bargatze was the M.C. at that show and did a fine job as usual. He did have a tough time with a volunteer that was acting like a total jerk, but Steve handled it professionally. I hate to admit this but it was kind of neat to see someone else have to deal with an uncooperative layman and how he handled it.

The last night closing act was Tony Chapek, whose act is very unique. Basically, he had a big television on stage with a video taped program that is Tony as an alter ego which he interfaces with. It's hard to describe but very entertaining. If you have the chance to see Tony's act, don't miss it. You will enjoy it.

I would recommend the convention, especially if you happen to be near Columbus in February. (But you would have to be nuts.) If you would like to see more information about the convention, including pictures, you can find it online at: www.magifest.org. It's always nice to see what is happening in magic outside of your own back yard. The Columbus MagiFest gives one a good feel for middle America values and tastes in entertainment.

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Reading a book and viewing a video can create a good magic routine

By Greg Wauson

One of the many things I appreciate about Ring 76 is the library, thanks to the efforts of Bob Pozner and others. The library offers a convenient way to explore different avenues of magic and to get to know the magic of some performer you've heard of but never seen.

One of those magicians is Norway's Jared Leirpoll. I'd heard that his video "**Pocket Power**" has some creative ideas. And a few weeks ago when reading Eric Paul's book, "**The Successful Family Entertainer**," I came across a "can of Coke from shoe" idea which Eric learned from "**Pocket Power**." That really got my interest because I could immediately imagine how funny and entertaining that would be, especially to kids, and possibly during my own kid show. So I didn't have to think much about which video to check out of our library when I saw that one.

This video does have a lot of useful material on it. Jared divides his time on the video between proper techniques and finished routines. He does a very good job in showing the huge difference between performing sleight of hand improperly and then properly. The use of your pockets is actually a very small part of the tape, so I think the video title is a misnomer. Something more like "Improving Your Effectiveness as a Sleight of Hand Magician" would be more apt but not as catchy.

He references Juan Tamariz in his explanation of crossing the gaze, a deceptive method of switching two objects. Jared performs it

very smoothly and shows the proper offhanded way to execute it. He also demonstrates how attention to details makes the difference between accomplishing the dirty work unnoticed versus removing the wonder of the performance. A small point such as the position of your thumb when bringing a "dirty" hand out of your pocket can help ensure your hand won't catch on your pants and draw attention to the wrong place. I was surprised to see that Jared uses the can from shoe as nothing more than a throwaway bit to keep the audience's attention while a spectator is signing a playing card. His intent is to avoid dead time; performing magic, after all, is about keeping the audience entertained. I agree with him that paying attention to details like that makes the difference between a good and an excellent performance.

One of the highlights of this video for me is his very clean dollar bill switch using no thumb tip. This will fool the wise guys. Watching him perform this sleight from the magician's vantage point is very entertaining. So, you can do this effect and entertain both your audience and yourself! He performs and explains his four cards to pockets routine. Since I'm not a card man, this to me was only entertaining to watch; I have no desire to master it. But this routine also shows how effective a well-thought-out performance can be.

Another winner is a torn-and-restored newspaper effect. This was very fun to watch since it's a staple in Jared's act and he performs it on the video in Norwegian. It sure sounds like English being played backwards. Think of this paper tear as Gene Anderson's with two differences: you first pour a glass of water into the paper (and only the paper is used, no pouches) and then pour the water back into

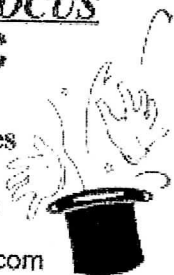
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the glass. Then you tear and restore the paper – and hand it out! This is a perfect response to an audience member who says, “Yeah, but can I have it?” The answer is yes he can. This effect is a winner.

In fact, the entire video is. Naturalness of your sleights and thinking through every aspect of your performance are key points to Jared Leirpoll. I can imagine Dai Vernon watching the video and applauding. You can't go wrong with this one. The video is also available as a DVD, and there is a companion book of the same name.

(Editor's note: Greg Wauson offers some good advice in the preceeding article. We thank Greg, Jeff Marcus, Bob Pozner, and Sal Barajas for taking the time to write special articles for this month's MagiCurrents newsletter. Your comments are always welcome, so send us those articles.)

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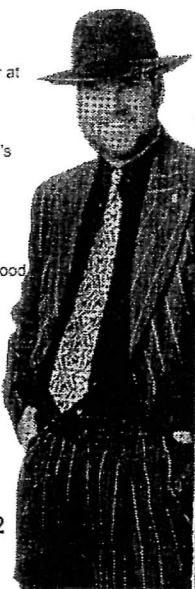
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**Stand-up Contest
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meeting. Plan to
present your act
and take part.**



View from the Cheap Seats

By Jon A. Hand

Hello to all my good friends at Ring 76! I apologize for not being part of your newsletter last month. My mother passed away in February, and I just couldn't "wrap my head" around writing for magic to get the March deadline. If you remember my January column, you know that those comments on "taking stock of what you have now, while you still have it," apply more than ever to me. I hope they had some impact upon you, as well.

For April I am going to suggest that you go back to basics. Re-read your first beginner books, or read some classic beginner books. I'll tell you why in just a moment, but here are some suggestions: Harry Lorayne's *The Magic Book*, Henry Hay's *Learn Magic*, Jon Tremain's *Amazing Book of Magic and Card Tricks*, Henry Gross's *Pure Magic*, Nicholas Einhorn's *Practical Encyclopedia of Magic*, Henry Baron's *Magic for Beginners* and *Close-up Magic for Beginners*, John Scarne's *On Magic* and *On Card Tricks*, Blackstone's *Secrets of Magic* or *400 Tricks You Can Do*, any of Karl Fulves's *Self-Working* series from Dover, or even Joseph Leeming's *Fun With Magic* and *More Fun With Magic*.

Now, start thinking about what you can do to combine two or more tricks from these beginner tomes into a larger routine. The combination of two or more ideas, with a suitable presentation to tie them all together, has a *gestalt* principle in which the sum of the ideas has more spectator impact than the individual parts. I'll toss a couple of ideas into the ring for you.

1. The Haunted Key Card Location, version 1

— This is a combination of the **\$100 Kick Location** card trick and the **Haunted Key**. Starting with the Kick Location, have a card selected (*Secrets of Alkazar*, aka *Book of Magic for Young Magicians*, one of my favorite books to teach beginners the importance of presentation, includes a chart of 15 different ways to have a card selected, so check it out). If you are a plotted patter story performer, force one of the Queens as a woman locked into a tower a la classic fairy tales (Shrek?), or concoct a kidnapping story of your own. Control the card to the

top. Get some salt from a pocket under your index fingernail as you patter. Tap on the deck for emphasis, leaving some salt from your fingernail on the top card. Cut the deck and complete the cut, leaving the salted card somewhere in the middle of the deck. In the original trick, you lay the deck on the floor, and kick it to cut the cards, the salt enabling the deck to split at the chosen card. However, in this combination routine, you now table the deck.

The Haunted Key comes into play here. Reach into the pocket for an old skeleton key from the early part of the 20th century (if you do not have one, go to a local flea market and buy one for almost nothing). Lay the key across your palm perpendicularly, or across your middle two fingers if you wish, with the circular key head hanging off the hand, key teeth pointing toward your face. With a slight adjustment of the hand, or a tiny drop of the two fingers in the alternate approach, the key will slowly turn over in your hand without any other help from you. It looks very spooky once you get it down correctly. With an appropriate patter story, the spooky key turn lends a nice air to the card trick. After the key finishes its slow turn, thus "unlocking the woman from her prison," hold the key by its head and slap the key teeth against the long side of the cards on the table top. The salt will cause the deck to cut at the selected card. Lift away the top section of the deck (use the tip of the key to toss it aside if you can), and have the spectator turn over the top card of the bottom portion. Just remember, since the mechanics are a snap, work out a presentation that makes the combination idea shine.

2. Haunted Key Card Location, version 2 —

This is a combination of **Card Through Hank Penetration** and **Haunted Key**. Have the card chosen (or forced), and have it signed if you plan to leave it with the spectator as a souvenir. Control it to the top. Palm off the top card, and wrap the rest of the deck into a handkerchief or bandanna a la Card Through Hank Penetration (there is a palmless version in the Mark Wilson *Complete Course in Magic* and a palming version in Jon Tremain's *Amazing Book of Card Tricks*, to name a couple of references, but you know this classic trick). Hold up the hanky with the deck in it and the chosen card ready to penetrate. With your free hand, remove the Haunted Key from the pocket and perform it. After the key turns, or while the key turns if you can manage it, the card penetrates through the handkerchief, freeing the queen from her prison. Toss the card to its signed owner, and toss the hanky with the deck within to the audience if you wish to have them check for holes. Again, a good patter story will make this combination trick special.

Why not produce the Haunted Key to start the routine? Reach into the pockets looking for the deck of

cards. The right hand goes in first, doesn't find the deck, and the left hand enters its pocket. The right hand emerges while your mind and eyes are on the left pocket, with the key put into a thumb palm by its head (cigarette palm position). The left hand emerges with the deck in dealing position, and the right hand goes into rest position as you begin the patter with the deck. Reach into the air with the right hand to produce the key, pulling it from the thumb palm with the middle two fingers and pushing it up and forward with the freed thumb. Pluck it from the air in a definite spot, turning the hand palm forward as you pluck. Patter about the old key, and table it or allow a spectator to hold it as you begin the card trick.

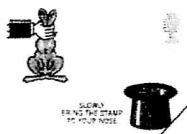
Have I whetted your appetite? Beginner books are full of good tricks you already know and have long since forgotten. Go back to them with an eye for combination, and you can quickly find new effects to add to your routines. Have fun constructing a routine that is unique to you by combining familiar materials into something fresh.

See you in May! Happy spring to you! Jon

New British Stamps continued from page 1

top hat. As you bring the stamp closer to your nose the rabbit goes in and out of the hat.

The stamps have become very popular in the British Isles and can be purchased at some Philatelic stores in the United States. For magicians this is bound to become a very collectible item on both sides of the Atlantic. If you can't find copies for sale locally at the Midway Post Office Philatelic store, you might want to contact friends in Britain or the Royal Mail Service directly and purchase a set of the stamps. Royal Mail is offering a first-day cover, a set of five postcards



Rabbit in hat
illusion stamp

that picture the stamps and a presentation package, which includes a set of five of the stamps. You will also receive information about the Magic Circle and biographies of famous magicians from Harry Houdini to David Copperfield. You can contact Royal Mail, Tellents House, 21 S. Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh E12 9PB. You might try going online and contacting the Royal Mail Service for price and delivery of the stamp package.

Swap meet story continued from page 1

If you have a friend who is interested in magic and is not a member, this is the perfect evening to bring them along as a guest. The swap meet evening is open to all members and non-members with many attending from the North County and from Rings outside of San Diego County.

Items we know will be available for sale include a huge collection of used magic books, videotapes, small magic and at least one sensational illusion. Here is your opportunity to sell that magic that has been sitting idle in your magic trunk or drawers. This is also a great time to purchase something new to work on for the summer season ahead. Last year's swap meet offered many fine props at greatly discounted prices. This year's event promises to be the same.

A word to the wise if you are a seller: keep your prices as low as you can without giving away your items. Buyers are looking for bargains and if you don't want to pack up the goods you bring to the swap meet, keep your prices low and they will sell.

We have found that swap meet evenings usually end somewhat earlier than a usual meeting, so be on time because the early birds are the ones that get the great bargains and hard to find items. There will be a lot of different and unusual magic and related items for sale at this event so plan to attend and look it all over. Please remember if you are going to bring things to sell, call Richard Ustick in advance and reserve a table. As usual at all of our meetings there will be hot popcorn and soft drinks available for everyone.

Trick Shop Broadcast on computer radio

Sam Blankenship, operator of the "Trick Shop" in the Old Town section of Temecula, has a live magic broadcast each Saturday night. You can listen in on your computer if you are connected to the Internet. Lee Asher, a two-time winner of the IBM close-up competition, is the co-host of the program with Sam Blankenship. They take questions from magicians and discuss new products for the performer.

You can tune in on your computer by going to magicbroadcast.com on Saturday evenings, and it is interactive so you can also ask questions of the guests. It is another exciting break through in technology for magic.

A report on the Ring 76 Library by outgoing Ring Librarian Bob Pozner

I am happy to say the Ring Library is complete and members are enjoying this service at this writing.

Using the library is simple:

1. A Ring member fills out and signs a 'Ring 76 Library Card Agreement. This agreement, along with a current Ring membership card, is presented to the Ring Librarian.
2. Upon approval, a library card number is written on the back of the Ring membership card.
3. The member selects library material of interest, a maximum of two (2) items in any combination – books, tapes or DVD discs, from the library and removes the title cards from the selections. These title cards along with the current membership card are presented to the Ring Librarian. The membership card is retained by the Librarian until the borrowed items are returned.
4. Selections may be kept for thirty days or one meeting but a grace period of another thirty days or two meetings is allowed. After sixty days or three meetings a fine of five (5) dollars per borrowed item will be levied. This fine doubles every thirty days or single meeting up to forty (40) dollars per item and is due and payable to the Ring Treasurer immediately.
5. In the event of lost or damaged library material, an assessment will be determined by the Ring Librarian and will not exceed forty (40) dollars which is payable to the Ring Treasurer.

It is expected that members will take exceptional care of all borrowed library material. Please re-wind VHS tapes before returning them.

About the library itself:

Our library consists of 272 items; 175 books, 85 VHS tapes, 12 DVD discs and it is growing. This material covers every aspect of magic and on every level from beginner to the professional magician.

The entire library, as well as members and loans are now in a computer database.

Donations to the Ring Library are graciously accepted. Please donate any book, tape or DVD that is in good condition and pertains to the magical arts.

The bulk of the library is printed books. Books are wonderful and are the mainstay of knowledge in our society. The use of magic books requires imagination. The reader must translate the writer's intention into a physical act.

Next we have the VHS tapes. The tapes show the exact intention of the author and are much easier to grasp.

The best method of learning magic is the DVD disc. Not only is it faster because any portion of the disc can be located instantaneously, it is a better learning tool because of the A-B Repeat function. Using the A-B Repeat, any part of the disc can be viewed repeatedly.

This means if a particular sleight or technique is not understood, it can be repeated until it is learned. The slow motion capability of the DVD is unsurpassed. Finally, discs are much more robust than tapes. If properly treated, they do not lose fidelity and last indefinitely.

One of the purposes of our Ring is to perpetuate the art of magic. What better way than to maintain a viable library so that our members can improve their understanding of our art and become better performers. Our library is most probably one of the better Ring libraries in existence. Be proud of it.

By the time you read this I will no longer be the Ring Librarian. Mr. Salomon Barajas will have replaced me and will assume the duties of Ring Librarian for our April meeting. I would like to thank our President, Diane Lane, and the Board of Directors – particularly Mr. Jack White for their assistance in making the library a reality.

Bob Pozner,
Librarian Emeritus

(Editor's note: The members of Ring 76 owe Bob Pozner a great debt of thanks for his efforts in getting our library rolling. We have one of the best Ring libraries in the country and it is free to all of our members. Use it and care for it. The library is a marvelous asset.)

This month's library suggestion

by Salmon Barajas

Alakazam Magic Video Lecture #1 By Jeff Marcus

In our collection is a video lecture put out by one of our own Ring members Jeff Marcus. I like this video because even though the effects are not new to most magicians, his handling on these effects are unlike any I have ever seen anywhere else.

Besides tricks there is a bonus section on philosophy of performing and tips for working magicians on how to routine an effect so that the client will want you specifically at future events. There are also some tips on wardrobe to make you look as professional as possible. Also this is the only video that I know of which discusses the Servante, plus other utility devices.

Effects covered in this video are:

The Nifty Fifty: which is Jeff's own handling of the invisible bill switch.

Cigarette Thru Quarter: which features the non-sleight switch with a nice clean up.

Coins Across/Thru Table, One Card Matrix, Prelude to Monte: A color monte effect which ends with your business card in their hand.

Bottom Change: Diagonal Pivot Steal:

Ring Off Rope; Vanishing Handkerchief; Color Changing Knives; Marvel as he does the two paddle move with two knives, in the same hand, at the same time! Very cool.

Linking Rings: Learn how to switch the key ring in and out for examination.

We also have many other titles in our Video/DVD library and I highly recommend that our Ring members take full advantage of this new service which was made possible by Bob Pozner.

MARQUEE PRODUCTIONS Presents:



Video Lecture #1

Election Committee to be appointed at April 11th meeting

At the April Ring meeting Diane Lane and Bob Ingalls will appoint an election committee. That committee will be made up of two or three members who will then contact various other members who have expressed an interest in becoming members of the executive committee of the Ring. The election committee will also be charged with overseeing the election in June and counting and certifying the ballots.

This year there are several openings on our board of directors. Sherry Luft is stepping down and will not seek reelection to office because of work commitments. Sherry is a past Ring president and has served in various jobs on the board for many years. She is currently serving as 2nd vice president in charge of membership. Her loss will leave a large void on the board and she will be missed.

Also leaving the board as member at large will be J.P. Jackson, who has also been a past president of Ring 76 and at one time or another has held down almost every job within Ring 76. J.P. has been in the hospital and undergone surgery in late February and because of health reasons would like to take it easy for a while. He has assured the current board he will remain active in Ring 76 business and can be counted on when needed to fill a position of responsibility but will not seek reelection as member at large.

The current board of directors will suggest the following slate of officers to the election committee. President, Bob Ingalls: 1st Vice President, Terry Lunceford: 2nd Vice President, (Open) Secretary, Jack White (fourth year:) Treasurer, Richard Ustick (third year:) Sgt at Arms, Kenny Shelton (second year:) Member at Large (open:) because Diane Lane will become the Immediate Past President she will fill the second member at large position with a full vote on the board.

The names of the election committee will be announced by the end of the evening April 11 and will also appear in the May issue of MagiCurrents. If you have an interest in serving on the board in one of the current available positions, talk with Diane Lane, Bob Ingalls or one of the election committee members when their names are announced.

Message from the President



The past three weeks have been a big blur to me. I have been on a cruise and vacation with my family for 15 days of being pampered, fed, entertained and free from the day-to-day activities of a very busy life. All of this was in celebration of the 12th anniversary of my liver transplant. I was so excited that I forgot to count the years and for a time, I was telling everyone it was 13 years since the surgery, then my daughter Jaimey did the math and reminded me it was March 23, 1993, that I had the transplant and that translated to 12 years. All of that proves that when you are having fun who counts the years?

Remind me to tell you about my trip and the ports I visited. Yes, I was able to do a little magic on the ship and practice a new routine or two that I hope to present at a Ring meeting in the next few months.

We have shifted into high gear at Ring 76; this is our busy time of the year. I want to remind all of you about our magic swap meet on Monday, April 11th. Richard Ustick is assigning tables; I strongly urge you to contact Richard and reserve either a table or half table as soon as possible because he tells me they are going fast. Jack White has written a story elsewhere in this newsletter about the swap meet. Take a look at what he has written for more details and the cost of a table.

In May the board will announce its slate of candidates for officers for the year ahead at Ring 76. If you would like to serve on the board of directors, please let me

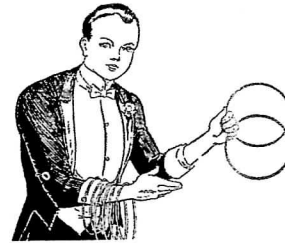
or Bob Ingalls know as soon as possible. If you would like to be a member of our executive committee, I remind you there is a certain commitment that goes with that honor. You must be able to set 23-evenings a year aside to attend 11 board meetings and 12 general meetings. Because we are a volunteer organization there is also some out of pocket expenses that you are not reimbursed for during your time on the board. But you are serving one of the best groups of magicians in the world!

There will be some openings on our board in the year ahead. J.P. Jackson, a past president and longtime board member, is stepping down because of health reasons. But J.P. at our last board meeting made it clear that he wants to stay active in Ring 76. He is going to head up a new panel that will become an advisory committee to the board of directors. The new advisory committee will be made up of Ring 76 presidents of the past. We will be announcing the names of that committee in the near future.

Also in May at our stand-up magic contest, we are again giving away cash prizes for the winners. I hope you are going to be a contestant in this year's stand-up event. In June we have elections and the Ring's used magic auction. In July we will have our installation and awards banquet that is being put together by Richard Ustick and Greg Wauson; it will be at Dave & Buster's in Mission Valley. Our August meeting is a beach party with food & magic at Mission Bay. Exciting times at Ring 76.

*Diane Lane
President, Ring 76*

Ring 76



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* denotes past Ring 76 Pres.

News

Ring 76 cartoonist and writer **Jim Whiting** has just sent his autobiography off to the printer. The book will be titled: "Analecta" and features many stories about Jim's work as an artist/cartoonist, radio personality, and magician. The book will feature more than 100 illustrations all by the author. Trafford Publishing in Canada is printing the book. Jim hopes to have some preview copies by the end of May. There is a chapter in the book devoted to the IBM and stories about Jim's days with a Ring in the Fingerlakes region of New York State and about his days with Ring 76 in San Diego. There are also stories about Jim's adventures at two San Diego IBM Conventions.

Phil Tuttle made a surprise visit to Southern California from his new home in Grants Pass, Oregon. In mid March. Phil drove to San Diego and carried with him seven cases of magic books that were recently purchased by **J.P. Jackson**, who bought the library of an Oregon magician. Don't be surprised if you see some of those books on J.P.'s table at the swap meet this month.

Craig Stone and his wife **Barbara** are expecting a new baby in October. This is number six for Craig, who says he will be 67 when the new child graduates from college.

Loch David Crane has donated a very nice case to store and display the Ring's videotape library. Ring Librarian **Bob Pozner** has been looking for just the right storage cabinet; now he has exactly what he needs. If you haven't done so, check out the Ring's book and videotape



library. The library is free to all Ring members.

If you are a **David Blaine** fan then you will be happy to know that **Barnes & Noble Booksellers** are discounting the "Mysterious Stranger" a 214 page, hardback book that is purportedly written by the king of exploitation magic; David Blaine, himself. The regular price of the book is \$24.95 but discounted to \$5.95. Some great photos of the past and present, some good magic tricks, and a lot about David Blaine and his style of magic. For having been allegedly written by one of magic's most inarticulate people, it is a very well written and produced book and a great value for the money. It's in the discount section of Barnes & Nobel in Mission Valley.

Terry Godfrey and **Mike Stilwell** were the entertainment for another big party in Palm Springs that featured a long list of Hollywood celebs. Terry and Mike have worked a number of parties in the Palm Springs area in recent years. Terry is getting ready to head out for the first of his fair dates for the spring and summer season in early April.

87-year-old Ring 76 Lifetime member **Jim Swoger** of Oceanside, continues to create new magic routines inspite of recent health set backs. Jim has a new birthday party routine with

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those little umbrellas you get with exotic cocktails. It's very clever, and the children love the routine. If you would like to learn it, give Jim a call at 760-722-7606 or, better still, drop by and see him. He loves to have visitors, but be sure to call and let him know you are coming.

Ring 76 President **Diane Lane** celebrated the twelfth anniversary of her liver transplant on March 23rd. To really make it a special celebration, she and her family took a 15-day cruise that began in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and visited the ports of Jamaica, Costa Rica, the Panama Canal, Colombia, Acapulco, and Cabo San Lucas. Diane says she is spending the time relaxing, reading and practicing her magic. She is working on a new routine using coins and cards. Have fun, Diane.

Don Soul past Ring 76 president is busy these days laying out and designing the program for this summer's IBM Convention in Reno, Nevada, June 28 to July 2nd. Ring 76 will have an ad in this year's program. This will be an exciting convention and the last for a while in the west.

Syd Segal has just informed us that the **Oz Pearlman** lecture set for late April is undergoing a change of location. Syd expects to have the new location locked up in about a week; for more information here is his e-mail address: BTL6380@aol.com.

The August Beach Party committee includes: **Jack White, Belinda Kaesler, Jacquis Lord, and Toni Perrine**. The beach party will be Sunday, August 14th, on Mission Bay more information is coming.

Coming Attractions

April 11th, Ring 76 Magic Swap Meet, get your stuff ready! See Richard Ustick if you want a table or half table for the swap meet. This is a great time to get rid of that magic you never use and to find some new tricks to experiment with.

May 9, Nomination of new officers and the annual Ring 76 Stand-up contest. Start getting your act together; cash prizes will be awarded for the top performers.

June 13, Ring elections, dues are payable and the famous Ring 76 auction. Mark your calenders for this exciting evening. Dues are \$25 if you cannot attend send your check to 4288 Arguello St. San Diego, CA 92103.

Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, April 25th at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. sharp. These business meetings are open to all members interested in attending.

Magic Notes from



I am most happy to report that my magic notes column has been moved to the back page of this newsletter this month because we have so many contributions to this month's newsletter. I want to thank all of the members who took the time to sit down at their computer and compose a brief article of interest to our membership.

We want to especially recognize longtime Ring 76 member Fritz Lotzi, who alerted us about the new British Magic Circle stamps that are now on sale. Greg Wauson has a great article on the importance of reading and viewing video tapes. Take the time to read it on page 8. Jeff Marcus attended the Columbus MagiFest in February in Columbus, Ohio; if you have never attended this very popular midwest convention, you will enjoy Jeff's article on page 6.

Soloman Barajas has a recommendation from the Ring's video library and retiring Ring librarian Bob Pozner issues a report on the state of the library. Jon Hand is back with an outstanding column of interest to all magicians on page 10. We send our best wishes to Jon as he grieves the death of his mother.

This issue of MagiCurrents is 16 pages, thanks to the fine contributions from

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 prestooone@cox.net. or written manuscripts may be submitted to Jack White, 4288 Arguello St., San Diego, CA. 92103.

our many members. Keep up the good work.