

Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



MagiCurrents

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Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

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October meeting to feature "spooky" magic

Again, this month Ring 76 members will have an opportunity to perform on stage or present a close-up effect. The theme of the October meeting is "spooky" or "Halloween Magic." Of course all of that is very subjective and each person can present the effect that suites their personality. The important thing to remember is that is this an opportunity to perform, so put your effect or act together and become part of the program.

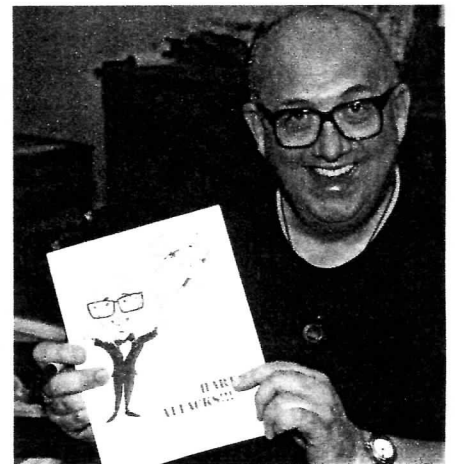
Jack White is going to present a piece of magic history by showing off a great old prop made by Floyd Thayer, the rapping hand. This trick was originally owned by magic author Robert Parrish and later given to the late Al Sharpe. Both of those men used the trick often in their presentations. Jack will be doing some bits and pieces from both of their routines.

The idea is to have fun with your magic and present it to an audience. The more you perform, the better you become as a performer. Take the time to put something together and present it at our next meeting.

If you are having a problem with coming up with an idea for a trick to fit the theme of our monthly meetings talk with Sal Barajas our Ring librarian. He will be happy to recommend a book, videotape or DVD that might contain just the material you need to present the perfect act for a future meeting.

Steve Hart Lecture at Ring 76 called "Fun filled event."

Steve Hart, a member of the board of directors of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, presented his much-talked-about lecture on comedy magic September 20, for Ring 76 members and their guests. Steve had just spent a week performing in the parlor at the Magic



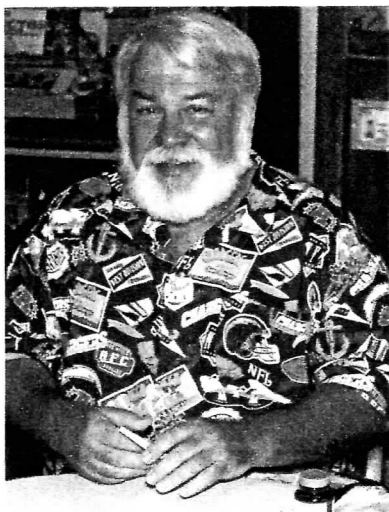
Castle in Hollywood. Steve's routine with a butterfly has become famous; he also gave his audience a great idea for an inexpensive version of the vanishing bottle trick.

Among his commercial items for sale, the most popular was the rubber chicken gag and his lecture notes called the "Hart Attack." Steve has an easygoing approach to his magic and a humorous way of getting his various points across to the audience. It was a fun evening of learning.

A large showing of magicians entertained at September meeting by members

With fans going full blast, a large group of members and guests turned out for our September meeting. The evening was warm, and the magic that was presented turned up the heat a notch or two for the audience.

The pre-meeting from 6:30 to 7 p.m. was presented by Joe Mystic, who gave members a look at the means of operation of a very clever close-up trick involving a pack of matches and a couple of business cards. This little effect was crated by Doc Zola nearly 90 years ago and is quite mystifying to do. Joe not only taught the handling of the effect, but he also gave a little lesson in how to properly make up the props for doing the trick.



Joe Mystic teaching a clever close-up trick to members.

This little teach-in session was so good that it was repeated a second time for those arriving late.

I saw Joe do this close-up effect at a magic convention about a year ago and was very impressed with his handling. We at Ring 76 are very grateful to him for giving up the background and knowledge to make this effect for our own act.

Bob Ingalls called our meeting to order and had several announcements for our members. The new 50/50 raffle was explained. Bob told the members that tickets were a dollar each or 6 for five dollars, and the money from the ticket sales would be split with a lucky winner later in the evening. The new 50/50 raffle seemed to be a success and the Ring 76 board of directors has decided to continue it for the rest of the year.

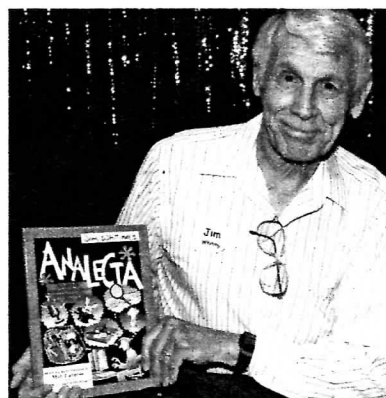
Mago Ruly, from South of the Border, asked for a moment to officially thank the Ring for the awards he received at the July awards banquet. He then

produced several newspaper articles in Spanish, several with photographs of him and his awards. He says the awards brought him a great deal of public attention and many new bookings for his shows. This once again shows that good publicity pays off in entertainment.



Mago Ruly from Mexico shows off newspaper articles about his magic in Tijuana.

President Ingalls reminded all Ring members of the importance of signing up to take part in the San Diego Blood Bank magic shows October 8th. A sign up sheet was on a table at the door so members could sign up for this worthwhile event to thank those donating the gift of life in our community.



Jim Whiting proudly holds a copy of his new book "Analecta."

Ring 76 member and cartoonist Jim Whiting brought copies of his new book titled "Analecta" to the meeting and autographed them for members who wished to purchase a copy. We are happy to report a copy of Jim's new book is in the Ring library. The book

features stories about Jim's life in broadcasting, cartooning and his love of magic. It is a fun look at the life and times of the always exciting and funny Jim Whiting.

Members were reminded that Steve Hart would be presenting his lecture to our members on Tuesday September 20th; it would be a free lecture for all Ring

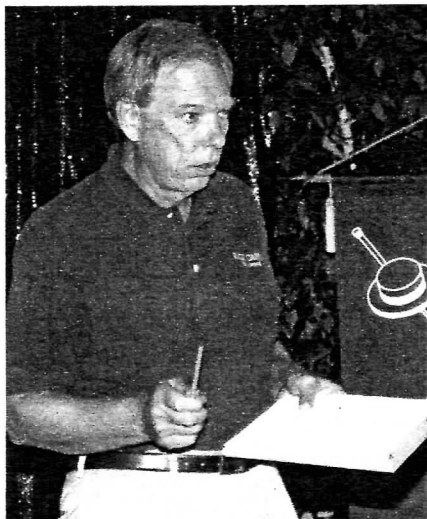
members. The haunted house that was built last year by member Ed Greene was on display and any member or group of members wanting to take it home and work out a routine for our October meeting could do so. Escondido Magic Shop owner J.P. Sirica briefly talked about his new shop and invited everyone to visit.

The program was then turned over to 1st Vice President Terry Lunceford, who with great fanfare introduced our 13 acts for the evening. Here is a list of our performers; the pictures will give you a look at the effects they presented. Jim Whiting, with a very clever routine featuring his cartooning, Tom McCarthy, Charlie Gott, Craig Stone, Jim Thayer, Joe Mystic, Bob Posner, Jacques Lord, Toni Perrine, John London, Alex Greenbaum, Michael E. Johnson, and Jeff Marcus.

All agreed this was one of the best meetings we have had in a while and a great way to get our fall season off to an exciting start.



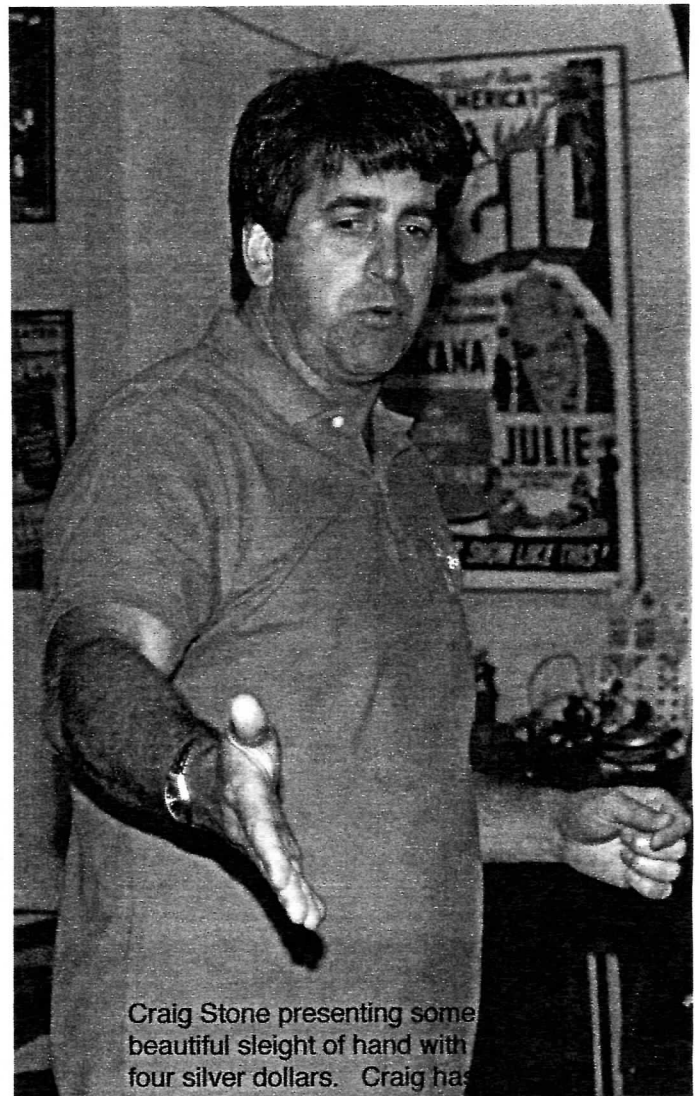
Jim Thayer with Don & Donn Soul doing a nice version of the "wedding card trick."



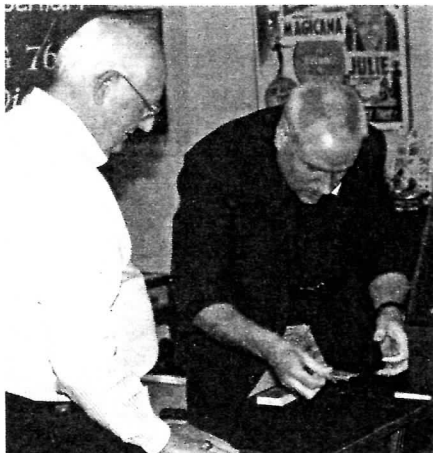
Terry Lunceford holding things together at the M.C.



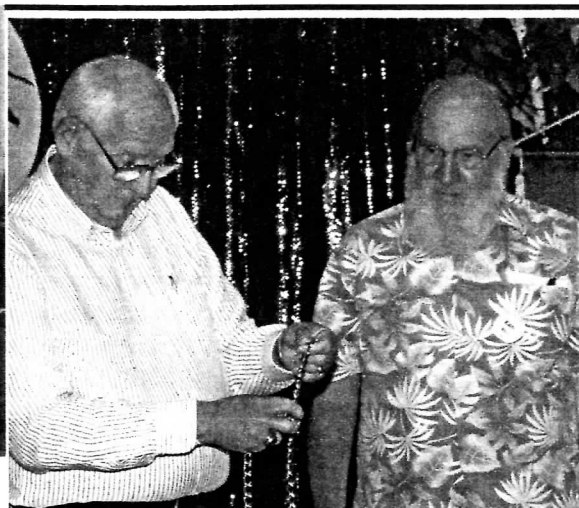
Loch David Crane showing off just two of the many awards he received on his recent tour of Germany and the many shows he did while overseas.



Craig Stone presenting some beautiful sleight of hand with four silver dollars. Craig has just recently joined Ring 76 and we are very happy to have him as a member. Craig is back at the Gathering Restaurant on Friday & Saturday nights.



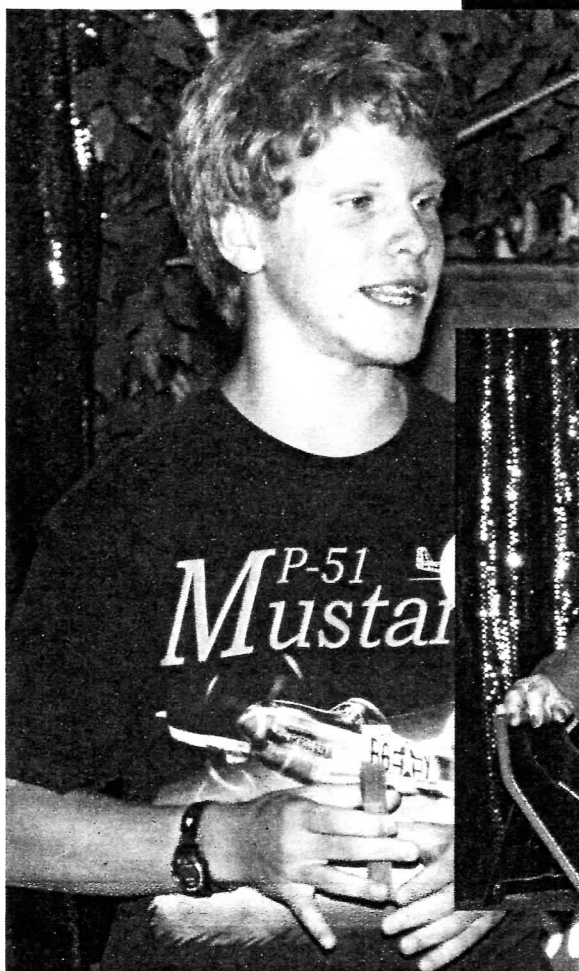
Tom McCarthy doing a card trick for Charlie Gott



Charlie Gott with a chain escape and bible story



Jacques Lord



Alex Greenbaum with cards



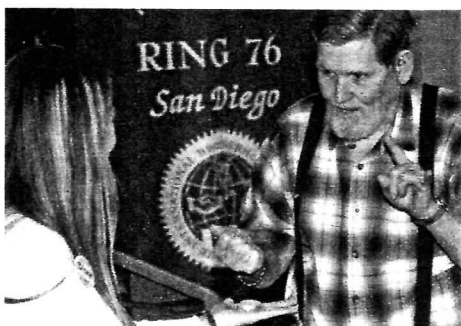
Toni Perrine and the necklace trick



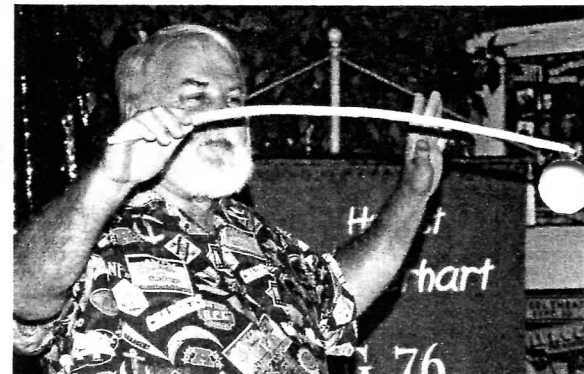
Michael E. Johnson finds a chosen card on his forehead.



The always entertaining John London and friend



Left: Bob Pozner shows some great moves with coins. Right: Joe Mystic with a clever rope trick that is an old effect but in Joe's hands it has a new look.



Magic Book Review

by

Dr. Joel Moskowitz



As a young medical student about a half-century ago, I dismissed attempts to interest my peers in the history of the medical arts as irrelevant. Jim Steinmeyer, master illusionist and historian, offers to those of us obsessed with the magical arts a grand opportunity to learn from the past. The Glorious Deception, The Double Life of William Robinson, aka Chung Ling Soo the Marvelous Chinese Conjurer Carroll and Graf, 2005, 451pp, \$27.00 the long title of Steinmeyer's latest biographical travel through time will appeal to even non-magicians fascinated by timeless exotic wizardry. Soo, a silent conjurer, uttered only one line in his stage career, Oh my God. Something has happened. Lower the curtain. He had been killed in the performance of The Bullet Catching Effect. Houdini and others speculated about sinister plots. None were discovered.

Instead, author Steinmeyer takes the reader as William Robinson, the magician's actual name, life ricochets off of a myriad of contemporaries of the Victorian stage, including Harry Hill and his Brooklyn Saloon, the fire in which resulted in the deaths of many who came to be entertained by Jim Campbell, minstrel impresario. Jim Campbell was William Elsworth Robinson's father. After the devastating fire, Jim Campbell praised the two actors whom he incorrectly complimented for their glorious efforts at their post. Can we wonder whether this reverence for death on stage may have had something to do with son William Robinson's death?

Few will challenge Steinmeyer as being treacherous to the craft. Divulging how it is done is for some magicians, the ultimate sin. The author is himself a master inventor, i.e., Copperfield's vanish of the Statue of Liberty. The subject of this book, Robinson was not so much an inventor as a thief. Purloining another performer's act may be excused as admiration. Luminaries such as Herrmann were denounced by rival magician Keller (with whom Robinson had an association). Herrmann was charged with being ready to plunder anything: an employee, an idea, or a dime. William Robinson stole an act.

Later, Robinson was technician and stage manager for Alexander Herrmann. After Herrmann's death, the widow didn't think Robinson proficient enough on stage to take over the act, despite Robinson's having masqueraded a time or two as Herrmann. Robinson wrote in a magic periodical, Mahatma, "Secure a method and style of your own; adopt a name that is not similar to any other person, so as to avoid all suspicion of trading on another man's success." This advice was not one, which he believed, applied to him.

He performed as Achmed Ben Ali, similar to the inventor of Black Art (Ben Ali Bey) which technique Robinson also copied. It is as though Robinson suffered from multiple personal conscience disorder (not a true psychiatric diagnosis). He also violated the cardinal rule regarding disclosure of magical secrets by covertly aiding in the revelation of magical and illusion methods in Scientific American magazine in the 1890s. The name and performance which was his ultimate appellation, Chung Ling Soo was snatched from a real Chinese magician, Ching Ling Foo (born Chee Ling Qua).

The battle was joined when Ching Ling Foo bested Leon Herrmann as superior master of the classic The Linking Rings. The Herrmann show went on to disintegration. Robinson emerged with his own new act, as Chung Ling Soo (meaning extra good luck) mimicking and capitalizing on the fame earned by the true Chinese conjurer, Ching Ling Foo.

Robinson, illusory on stage, was even deceptive to his closest. A bigamist, he willed his body to his extra-marital mate. There is no moralizing by Steinmeyer. Death by misadventure was the verdict of the inquest. Suicide by magic, *chez la femme*, international revenge by the offended Chinese Boxer militants all were considerations. The reader of this scholarly entertaining story will not learn any further facts about

Continued on page 7

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View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Magician vs. Gambler, part two — routined table magic

Continuing the routine that began in the September issue, the magician has just watched the retired Las Vegas dealer demonstrate his ability to deal perfect seconds. The quotations are patter for the routine, and the quotes inside the quotes are the conversation between the magician and the dealer in the storyline of the patter.

"Watching these perfect second deals, I wondered aloud, 'Can you really deal winning hands at will?' The dealer replied, 'Oh, yes! For example, despite many shuffles and cuts, here is a Full House.'"

Here you can use a strip-out riffle shuffle, such as Dai Vernon's from *Stars of Magic: Triumph*, or Henry Hay's from the card sleight section of *Amateur Magician's Handbook*. Follow with a multiple cut that leaves the original order of the deck intact, such as Gambler's False Cut from *Expert Card Technique*. Since the dealer is showing off, the multiple cut is strong.

Finish the shuffle and cuts, and deal the top 5 cards of the deck face up, calling their names and progressive hand strength as a dealer would. Thanks to the stack from last month, you have a full house in Queens and Aces. The more observant of your spectators will note that the Ace of Clubs has found its way back into your Full House, despite the fact that you "burned" it back into the center of the deck, shuffled, and cut the deck many times. You, of course, don't call attention to that at all.

"I offered to show the dealer what I could do with a deck of cards. He handed them over to me. I gave them a quick shuffle and cut (another pair of false handlings executed during the start of this patter). Then I asked him to cut the cards anywhere."

This next section is a strong justification for the

Cross Cut Force. Suiting your actions to your patter, have the spectator cut off a block of cards near the middle and set it aside. Pick up bottom block, and place it perpendicularly on top of the spectator's block.

"The dealer then stopped me with a comment. He said, 'Did you know that when the cards are cut, you have cut not to one card, but to two?' I said, 'How so?' He replied, 'There is a card above your cut, and a card below your cut.' I responded, 'Then we'll use both cards now.'"

Suiting your actions to the patter, lift the perpendicular block. The card at the bottom of the held block is the 8H, which has spent the entire effect resting on the bottom of the deck. The card on the tabled block is the KS, which was the de facto top card of the deck after the Full House was dealt. With the dealer's explanation, you have forced the top and bottom cards of the deck, both of which match the double-faced card second from the bottom of the deck (that is, the second card from the face of the block in your hand).

"Let's see, the card above your cut is the 8H (remove it from the face down block and show it around), and the card below your cut is the KS (lift it off the tabled block, and show it around)."

Drop both chosen cards face up on the table. Reassemble the deck so that the tabled block goes on top of the held block. Do not shuffle at this point, as you are playing the magician, not the card sharp dealer. This next effect is two instant reversals in Mark Wilson's *Complete Course in Magic* using a double-faced card. The deck is still in its original order, with the remainder of the top and bottom stacks intact.

"I will not do anything tricky with the cards," I said to the dealer. "None of your shuffles or fancy work, just some magic. Notice that I take one cut, and only one cut."

Insert the tabled KS into the face down deck, about 1/3 of the way down. Insert the tabled 8H into the face down deck, approximately 2/3 of the way down. Take **one** cut around the center of the deck, and carry the cut. Make a strong note of this simple maneuver aloud. Carefully square the deck on the table, looking as fair as possible. The double-facer is now in the center of the deck. Just below the DF is the remaining top stack. Thanks to the DF, the KS is now face up in the face down deck. Snap your fingers, or set up your woo-woo. Pick up the entire

deck, and do a ribbon spread across the table. There, in the middle of the spread, is the face up KS, one of the chosen cards found instantly without any diddling of the deck.

"There it is," I said. "The first of your two chosen cards."

Separate the deck at the double-facer, and close half of the spread with each hand, leaving the DF card lying on the table. Reassemble the deck with the remaining original stack on top. In other words, the right hand face down stack goes on the left hand of the face down stack.

Flip over the deck face up in the left hand. Pick up the DF, which is showing as the KS, and insert it into the face up deck. This is simultaneously loading the 8H as a face up card when the deck is face down.

"Once again," I said. "What was that other card? Oh, yes, the 8H."

Repeat your finger snap or other woo-woo. Ribbon spread the deck face down, and the 8H is shining for all to see. Remove the DF with the 8H showing, leaving it on the table. Close up the whole ribbon spread, which leaves the original stack intact. Flip the deck face up, insert the 8H/DF into the deck anywhere, flip the deck face down, and set the deck on the table.

"The dealer admitted," "Well, that's a very impressive magic trick. But it won't garner you a dime at the gambling tables." I replied, "A magician wouldn't be allowed at the card tables anyway, as he could magically deal himself any hand he wished at any time."

Pick up the deck from the table. Slowly deal each of the 5 cards off the top of the deck, naming each as it appears, gaining speed with each new card until the fifth.

"The Ten of Diamonds, the Jack of Diamonds, the Queen of Diamonds, the King of Diamonds, and... the Ace of Diamonds. A Royal Flush!"

Smile sheepishly, as you have bested the card sharp dealer in your patter story, and hold your palms up in a gesture of innocence.

"And that's why nobody should play cards for money with strangers. You never know whom you are playing against."

As you talk, burn the Royal Flush into the deck, case the deck, and put it away into a pocket or your close-up case. You have closed your magic session with a high interest routine using very little effort, and your patter justifies your stopping your magic at that time. With the deck stored and the performance over, you are clean.

This has been a very strong worker for me. If you like it, add your pet moves, or combine it with a larger stack such as Harry Lorayne's *Poker Deal* from *Close-up Card Magic*. Please feel free to contact me with your comments or suggestions, and I hope you enjoy using from the routine.

jonahand@hotmail.com

Book Review Continued

Robinson's dramatic death but they will be gratified by Steinmeyer's well-researched tale of the magical scene at the turn of the last century. Highly recommended.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"I wish you had let me read it first."



Message from the Ring 76 President

I begin my column this month by saying thank you to all of our members who took part in the San Diego Blood Bank Magic Day on Saturday, October 8th. Ring 76 has received a great deal of good public relations as a result of our efforts. Local magicians were talked about on several morning radio stations and applauded for their efforts in helping to thank those who give the gift of life at the blood bank.

Our October meeting is another opportunity for members to get up and perform. I encourage everyone make the effort to take part in our various programs. Terry Lunceford who has been doing a great job as our vice president in charge of entertainment, is on tour in the south this month doing his very popular magic lecture for Rings in Texas and Louisiana. I will be filling in for him as the MC for this month's meeting.

Sal Barajas has been doing a great job keeping our book and videotape library up to date and the various materials available for our members. Remember, our library is open immediately following each meeting. There is no charge for checking out books, video tapes and DVD's but please take good care of them and return them the following month so that other members can take advantage of the information. Members of Ring 76 are very

fortunate to have this fountain of information resources available to them. Please use it and take care of it.

In November Rachel Wild will be bringing her dealer demonstration /lecture of new magic to Ring 76. The Wilds will be offering a host of new effects that many of you might want to included in your holiday season shows. I promise that their lecture will be entertaining and exciting. In booking the Wilds lecture we have been forced to move our annual teach-in program to next June instead of November. I let you know all of this because the Teach-in program has become very popular for Ring 76 members.

In closing I want to remind you that the IBM is a wonderful organization and it does look out for its members. If you have a friend who is interested in magic and is not a member of the IBM let that person know about our Ring and our activities. Bring them to a meeting and give them the opportunity to join the IBM. You will be doing that person a great favor and advancing their efforts in magic.

Bob Ingalls

President Ring 76



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For information on membership, or Ring events contact Jack White, Ring 76 Secretary by e-mail prestooone@cox.net or by phone at 619-299-9037

News

The Festival International De La Magia in Tijuana, Sunday, September 18th is being called a great success. The show produced by **Mago Ruly** and featuring his wife, **Armando Torres, Mr. Alex** and a host of other acts from South of the Border as well as **Loch David Crane and Jacques Lord** from Ring 76. The show began at 2 p.m. at the Plaza Mundo Divertido in downtown Tijuana. The success of this year's program will almost surely make it an annual event. Plan to attend next year's show.

Loch David Crane is keeping very busy with magic shows since his return from a successful tour of Germany earlier this summer. He appears at the Scripps Ranch Library on October 20th, at the Fall Back Festival (which is a reminder that daylight saving time ends) in downtown San Diego at 4th & Island streets in the Gaslamp District.

On Halloween, Loch will be appearing at the People's Food Store in Ocean Beach, promoting healthy treats for young people.

If you are a fan of **Cirque du Soleil** (Circus of the Sun), it was just announced that the production of "Quidam" is on its way back to the United States after an extended tour of the Far East. San Diego will be the first stop for the show in the U.S. It will open in late January 2006, probably in the parking lot of Qualcomm Stadium in Mission Valley.



Diane Lane, Toni Perrine and Sherry Luft flew to Vancouver, British Columbia in late September and boarded the cruise ship Norwegian Star for a five day magic convention at sea. Diane is also looking for videotapes that magicians have made or their acts or the acts of other performers for her weekly television show "Magical Moments." All tapes must be Mini DV, VHS or Beta DV.

Michael E. Johnson is appearing at the Pumpkin Station in Mission Valley from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Plaza Bonita October 1st, 9th, 15th, 23rd, and 30th, to kick off the Halloween season. Michael also keeps local magi informed through his monthly publication San Diego Magic News. If you would like to get on his mailing list, contact him at www.sandiegomagicnews.com.

The always busy **Joe Mystic** is drawing big crowds for his Hypnosis Show at Rookies Sports Grill, 2116 El Camino Real in Oceanside. Showtime is 8 p.m. Saturday evenings throughout October.

Belinda Kaesler has opened her Halloween costume and accessories shop at Pumpkin Central at the Del Mar Fair Grounds. She will be operating her booth until Halloween night. She is donating a pair of tickets worth \$25 each to the Ring 76

Briefs

raffle at our October 10th meeting. Belinda's shop is located in the big white tent just outside of the fair grounds. Drop by and say hello, and take a few tricks along because many of her guests spend time entertaining the clients who drop by to purchase a costume.

J.P. Scirica, who operates the new Grand Magic Shop at 1607 Escondido Blvd., Escondido will host a magic workshop from 6 to 7 p.m. at his shop on October 30th. If you have not had an opportunity to visit his shop, this would be a good time to pay him a visit. J.P. is also in the process of putting a big holiday production together in Escondido featuring magic and magicians. More information on that event will be available soon.

The illusion and variety show of **Tahany** is now appearing in Tijuana next to the Caliente Race Track. The show has been enjoying very good business since mid September and will appear through October 9th. Tahany is now 90 and no longer performing but is still in charge of producing this Las Vegas style show under canvas. This is one of the last truly great traveling shows of its kind.

Coming Attractions

October 10th meeting will allow members to present their favorite Halloween magic routine. This can be close-up or platform magic. We encourage everyone to take part in this evening of fun.

November 14th meeting will be a special lecture featuring Rachel Wild and some magic that will be perfect for all of those holiday shows that are on the horizon. Our teach-in that was planned for this date has been moved to our June 2006 meeting. This is, of course, a free meeting for all of our members.

December 12th Ring 76 annual Holiday Dinner Party featuring a special magic lecture and some surprise magic entertainment. Watch your newsletters for more details.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, October 24th. The meeting will be at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave, at 7 p.m. sharp. These business meetings are open to all members interested in attending.

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