

Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



# MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



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Ring 76

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Volume XVIII 11 November 2005

## A Wild lecture set for November meeting

Our November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting is a departure from our normal monthly meetings because our board of directors has decided to bring in Rachel Wild and Tom Jones, a husband and wife team of magicians/magic dealers to present their popular new lecture titled "Kiddies to Koporate." This couple will show Ring 76 members how easy you can use many of the same effects for holiday children's shows and then, with a little change of routining, make the same effect work for adults or a corporate event.



Tom Jones and Rachel Wild, skillfully entertaining with their new lecture "Kiddies to Koporate."

No matter what kind of a show you do you will find something of interest in this couple's trunk of magic effects. Let us tell you up front this is pretty much a dealer demonstration and most of what they will be showing is for sale on their dealer table. If you are not looking to add anything new to your act you will still find what this couple does with magic informative and most entertaining.

(Continued on page 7.)

## Plans for Ring 76 Holiday Party now complete

The annual Ring 76 Holiday meeting will be Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at Jack's Magic Place and will feature a potluck dinner and special entertainment featuring San Diego magic legend J.C. Wagner.

At the November meeting Richard Ustick will be asking those who plan to attend the December meeting/party to select a slip from a brown bag. The slip of paper will contain information on items you are to bring for the potluck dinner. The Ring will again furnish turkey and a variety of other food items for the dinner.

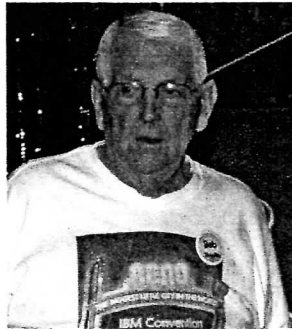
Terry Lunceford has just confirmed that J.C. Wagner will present a special program of magic as the after dinner entertainment. We will set up our screen and video camera so that everyone will be able to see and enjoy the close-up work of J.C. Wagner. This we believe will be a holiday party you won't want to miss.

We will have a few other surprises to add to the mix and will tell you about them in our next newsletter. The year 2005 has been an exciting one for Ring 76 with many innovative new events, and we will wrap up the year with one big party and a top San Diego performer to show us his own special brand of magic. Mark your calendar for December 12<sup>th</sup> and the Ring 76 Holiday Party.

Remember to see Richard Ustick at the November meeting and select an item to bring to the potluck dinner in December.

## October meeting offers a tribute to spooky magic & Halloween

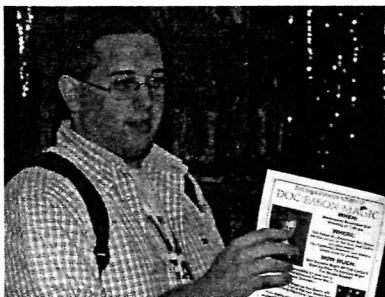
Our October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting attracted 54 members and their guests and was a lively affair. Ring 76 President Bob Ingalls called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. sharp and got things started with announcements. He recognized everyone who took part in Magic Day at the San Diego Blood Bank by name and thanked them for their efforts. There is a story and photos elsewhere in this issue of MagiCurrents about the Blood Bank event.



Ring 76 President Bob Ingalls calling meeting to order.

It was announced that anyone not paying their dues will be removed from the MagiCurrents mailing list, and all members were reminded they must be a member of the IBM in order to hold membership within Ring 76.

Syd Segal had an announcement about his coming lecture featuring the close-up magic of Doc Eason, set for early November. At this point Bob Ingalls would normally turn the program over to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Terry Lunceford, who would conduct the program which was



Syd Segal talks about coming lecture.

magic for Halloween. But this month Terry was on a lecture tour in the south, and Bob filled in as M.C. for the evening.

Members were encouraged to prepare and present a routine or a trick that would be suitable for the Halloween season. It is interesting that the number of performers was the haunting number 13.

Jack White opened the program with a Spirit Lock that was designed by Karl Germaine and not often seen these days. He then presented Thayer's Rapping Hand; this piece of apparatus has an interesting history. It once belonged to magician

and magic author Robert Parrish. Jack acquired it from the Alton Sharpe collection and gave our members a brief look at this grand old piece of magic.

Kenny Shelton took time out from selling raffle tickets to be our next entertainer and presented an effect he saw Chris Angle do on television, "Chain Through the Neck." There was a audible gasp in the room as spectators pulled the ends of the chain that was wrapped around Kenny's neck. It was a spooky effect.

Charlie Gott was next on the program and with the help of Arlene Moskowitz did a rope trick that had a message for the spirits from scripture. Tom McCarthy then took over the stage and was able to entertain our entire room full of people with a card effect that had a spooky story attached to it. Tom is a delightful entertainer and had the audience with him throughout his presentation.

Richard Ustick loves Halloween and always shows up at the October meeting in make-up and costume, this year was no exception. Sporting an outfit that easily made him the best dressed Vampire in all of San Diego County, he presented one of his original songs that was accompanied with several standard magic effects that were most cleverly worked into his act. Glorpy the haunted hank and a floating ball were most prominent in this year's effort. This may have been the cleverest and most successful attempt to date. There was a time when Richard included his son Alex and daughter Christina in his magic songs but he says his son has new interests so his daughter was his assistant and sound engineer for this year's effort. This routine brought great rounds of laughter and much applause. In short, it was an outstanding effort.

Joe Mystic had the job of following Richard Ustick and Joe's was the perfect act. Joe is the consummate showman and is a real professional performer; he invited J.P. Sirica, the fellow who operates the Grand Magic Shop in Escondido, to join him on stage. Joe was dressed in his Wizards outfit and presented a sensational paper tearing routine that ended in a Wizard's hat for his assistant. Joe gave us a great lesson in how you take a little trick and build it into an act. Another great job from Joe

Mystic. Alex Greenbaum was next, working in a black costume and a skull mask, creating an impressive figure on stage. Assisted by Christina Ustick, Alex presented a clever card routine. This young member is growing with each appearance on stage before an audience.

The bubbling Toni Perrine, dressed in a white overcoat and black hat, treated us to a real Halloween delight in magic: a floating skull. Toni built this effect into a production and handled it well. Michael E. Johnson, who always gives us a wild and way-out performance, was next to be introduced. In his Viking Hat and the wildest shirt you have ever seen he swallowed swords, regaled us with very funny patter and wrapped it up with a clever magic effect. Michael is another of our professional performers whom it is always a pleasure to watch work.

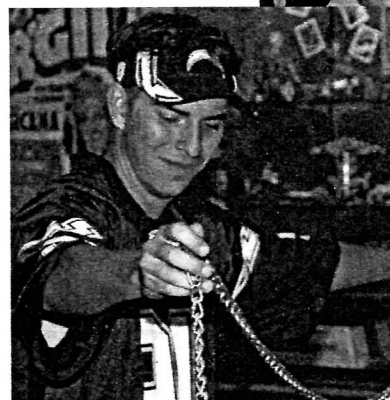
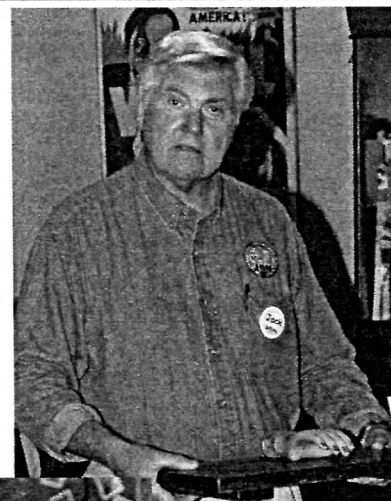
Jeff Marcus gave us a haunting version of the pencil through the dollar bill. Jeff had not intended to perform but when invited, quickly put together this clever routine. John London continued our program of Halloween magic with a very exciting and well thought-out card prediction effect. John is another one of those performers who can take something small and turn it into a big effect.

Craig Stone was upset because we did not have a badge made up with his name on it, so he wore Ursula Rohrer's badge and it never looked better. We are getting our new badge-making machine and hope to have new badges for all members who do not currently have one. Craig did a card effect that was both involved and most entertaining.

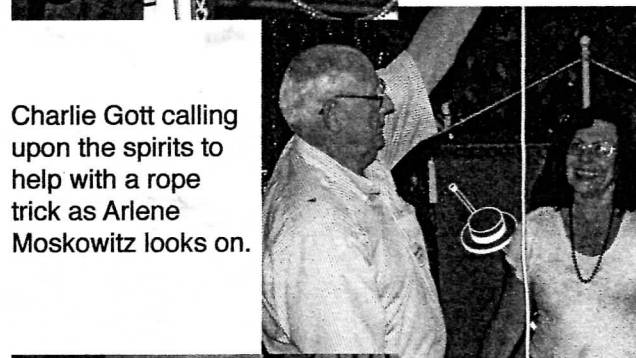
Our last performer of the evening was a former member who now lives down-under in Australia. He was visiting Southern California, and shipping some of his belongings to his new adopted homeland. Ray Hadad decided it would be a good idea to visit a Ring 76 meeting while he was in San Diego, and we are all grateful that he did. Ray has always been a clever kind of guy and he presented his "Appearing Black Spot," on the closed hand of an assistant from the audience. Ray's handling of this effect was truly delightful. He was performer number 13, bringing our program of Halloween magic to an end.

Here is a quick look at that meeting in photographs.

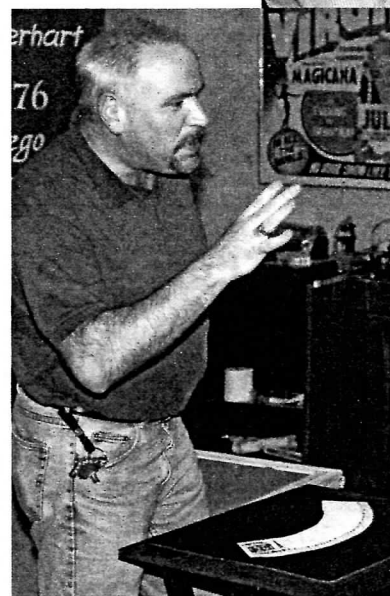
Jack White with the rapping hand. Jack called upon the spirits to name a selected card.



Kenny Shelton showing a chain that he pulled through his neck.



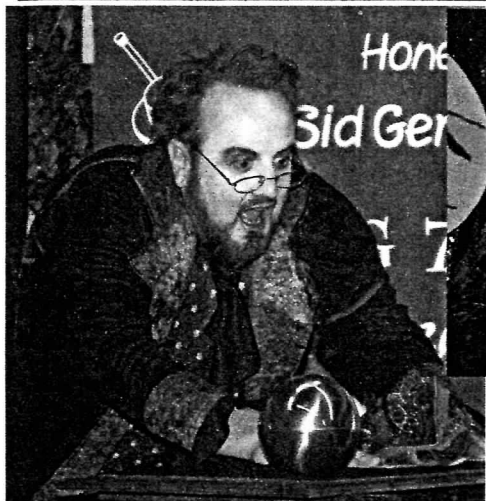
Charlie Gott calling upon the spirits to help with a rope trick as Arlene Moskowitz looks on.



Tom McCarthy giving instructions to his audience helpers as he begins a super card effect that played big.

**(More Pictures Next Page)**





Richard Ustick singing.



Alex Greenbaum



Joe Mystic and J.P. Scirica tearing paper hats.



Toni Perrine & floating skull

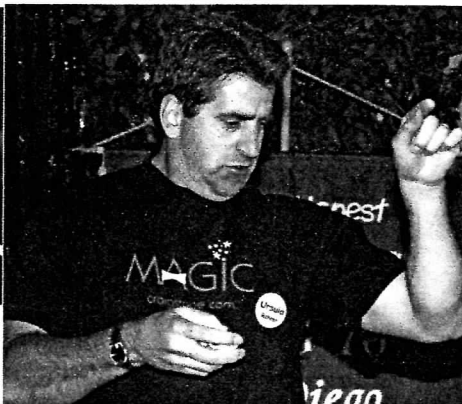


Jeff Marcus causing pencil to penetrate a dollar bill.

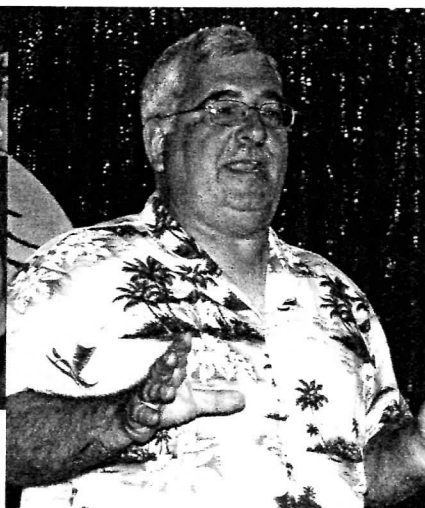
Viking King Michael E. Johnson



John London with correct card prediction in hand.



Craig Stone points at spectator



Ray Hadad, past Ring member visiting from Australia an doing a routine with invisible spirit.

(Left) Group shot of our Halloween performers.





# Magic Book Review by Dr. Joel Moskowitz



The Shadow of the Shadow

It is quite likely that virtually all who have an interest in magic have either owned, read or are familiar with books on conjuring which they did not know were actually penned by the esteemed author of The Shadow, Walter B. Gibson. The books they cherished were actually written under a pen name. In terms of literary productions, Walter B. Gibson was the shadow author, aka ghost writer, for such magical greats as Thurston, Blackstone Sr. and Jr., Houdini, Kreskin, Henry Hoy and Dunninger. All this is revealed in Walter B. Gibson and The Shadow by Thomas J. Shimeld McFarland Publishers, Jefferson, N.C. and London, Softcover Edition 2005 \$29.95 pp 190.

Although many of those interested would be quick to assert that Maxwell Grant has been identified as the author of The Shadow series of detective novels, fewer would know that in most instances Walter B. Gibson was Maxwell Grant or that the name Maxwell Grant was a synthesis of the names of two dealers in magical items, Max Holden and U.F. Grant. It might further surprise readers to learn that Houdini's Escapes (the first book on magic which this writer purchased for \$2.00 and still owns over six decades later) was another escape by Houdini. He didn't write it; Walter B. Gibson did!

Author Shimeld in an extremely detailed biography riffle shuffles Gibson personal history with what will be of interest to magicians, kernels of aha information e.g., Did you know that after Houdini died, Bess Houdini gave Gibson permission to use Houdini's notes to publish, under his own name for once, "Popular Card Tricks" (1926) and up until 1976 Gibson went on to publish six books dedicated to Houdini's life, magic and escapes. Still prized is The Original Houdini Scrapbook (1976). This prolific writer authored the biography of Thurston, Harry Blackstone Sr.: The Blackstone's Annual of Magic (1929) and Blackstone's Tricks Anyone Can do which resembles Thurston's Book of 200 Tricks. Gibson, in 1941, was the first to create a comic strip book which featured a living person, starring Blackstone. Gibson had been introduced to Blackstone by a Chicago Astrologer,

Professor Seward. Not surprisingly Gibson ghost wrote, for Seward, Facts about Brunettes and Blondes and How to Read Them, a psychological text based on the theory that success, happiness and a thorough understanding of others can be achieved only through a study of racial differences and national ideals. One has to wonder how politically correct this publications was in the late 20s.

Writing as Wilber Gaston, (1927), Gibson wrote First Principals of Astrology. This fascination with psychic phenomena induced him to author, for mentalist David Hoy, (1965) Psychic and Other ESP Party Games. And with his wife, Litzka: The Complete Illustrated Book of the Psychic Sciences (1966); Mystic and Occult Arts: A Guide to their use in Daily Living (1969); Complete Illustrated Book of Divination and Prophecy (1973).

All these literary efforts were intertwined with an ongoing torrent of stories about The Shadow, the man who could read men's minds. Gibson is noted to have said that the plots and personalities in this most famous detective took on a virtual life and the stories would simply write themselves. After Houdini's death, sEances held in a Greenwich Village apartment where Gibson wrote didn't contact Houdini but is alleged to have become haunted by a more mysterious figure, Lamont Cranston.

Gibson helped Dunninger in his aspirations to become a psychic entertainer by writing (for him) Inside the Medium's Cabinet exposing secrets of the mediums (1935) and a year later How to Make a Ghost Walk. Shimeld informs: Dunninger entered the radio world thanks to Gibson with the first broadcast September 12, 1943, Dunninger The Master Mind with Gibson producing the scripts. Gibson even used Dunninger as a character in one of his Shadow stories, The House of Ghosts.

(Continued on Page 11.)

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## View from the Cheap Seats



**By Jon A. Hand**

### Poor Man's Nest of Boxes

*Standup magic*

The nest of boxes is a classic magical effect, and there are many methods. From the old (and still effective) methods by Jean Hugard in *Modern Magic Manual* (in the Ring magic section) through the gaffed Lippencott Box to Tommy Wonder's version in the *Books of Wonder*, the nest of boxes remains a powerful effect for audiences of all ages. Part of a class of effects that could be described as "object to impossible location," the nest of boxes using a borrowed object has far more impact than Card to Wallet or other similar effects. I devised this version of the effect and used it in my recent kid show, which actually had as many adults present as kids. I am happy to say that it played well to both demographics.

In effect, a borrowed coin is clearly marked by a spectator and the magician. The coin vanishes cleanly and suddenly, reappearing inside the fourth layer in a collection of familiar objects. I will give a simple handling for the vanish, and then my preferred handling.

Collect the needed objects: a modern USA state quarter, 0.5 inch round adhesive stickers in neon colors from your local office supply store, a ballpoint pen with a removable cap, an emptied standard pocket-sized matchbox, an envelope, craft glue, a #19 rubber band, an empty clean peanut butter jar with lid, and a small wooden chest from an import store.

Assemble the simple gaff: Use the craft glue to affix your quarter heads-up into one end and one corner of the matchbox drawer. Allow the glue to dry thoroughly, perhaps overnight. Choose a brightly colored sticker (hot pink, yellow, fuchsia, whatever) and write your initials on it with the ballpoint pen. Allow the ink to dry thoroughly and then affix the initialed sticker to the head side of the glued-in quarter. Place the matchbox slide back into its cover. Make a dot with the pen or a pencil on the upper left side of the matchbox cover to indicate that the drawer is right side up and that the coin is on the performer's left end of the box.

Seal the gaffed matchbox into the envelope. Allow the envelope's glue to dry thoroughly. Move the

matchbox to one end of the envelope and wrap the remainder of the envelope around the box, forming a firm bundle with the rubber band. Drop the bundle into the peanut butter jar. Close the lid on the jar tightly. Place the jar into the small chest and close the latch. Place the capped ballpoint pen into your jacket's right inside breast pocket, along with a strip of matching color stickers cut from the page of mixed colors available at your business supply store.

Perform the routine: Call up two spectators to be help in the effect. Ask Spectator #1 to stand on your right. Ask him to hold the chest by its handle in full view and open it only when asked. Ask Spectator #2 to stand on your left, and request one of those new state quarters. If one is not forthcoming, have an extra loose one in your pants pocket that you can use. Reach into your jacket's interior breast pocket for the ink pen and the round stickers. Remove the cap and lay it on the table. Initial one sticker yourself to show your spectator, and have him/her initial a similarly colored sticker. Take the borrowed quarter, and place YOUR initialed sticker onto the "heads" side of the coin. Flip over the coin and place the spectator's initialed sticker on the "tails" side of the coin.

Coin Vanish, simple handling: Buy a thick, opaque pair of handkerchiefs, such as bandanas. Sew a small pocket holding a quarter into one corner using fabric from the second hank. Throw the gaffed hank over the quarter in your hand, and steal out the borrowed quarter as you substitute the sewn-in quarter, and palm it. Hand the hank with the sub quarter to Spectator #2, and have him hold the quarter through the cloth. Build up the magic about to take place without giving away your plot, then whisk the cloth out of his hands, and the coin has vanished.

Coin Vanish, preferred handling: I use the David Berglass gravity method of sleeving found in Lewis Ganson's *Art of Close-up Magic, Vol. 2*. If you have never tried sleeving previously, it is not difficult, and you can learn it confidently with some daily practice for a while. Briefly, you need a dress coat or sport coat over a short-sleeved shirt. The lining of the jacket must be smooth around the entrance of the sleeve. If it is wrinkled or puckered, you can pull it up with your left hand at the inside of the shoulder. To do the basic sleeving move, let your right arm drop to your side so that the sleeve falls to its full length. Then pull up the forearm level with the floor, which will not shorten the sleeve. Lay the coin in the right palm, and bounce it up and down a few times. The sleeve still will not move, and it should be at the heel of the hand where the wrist begins. Close the fingers over the coin. Instead of making a regular fist, push the third and fourth fingers closer to the heel of the hand, making a diagonal following the curvature of the thickest part of the lower thumb flesh. You now have a little chute of fingers down which the coin will fall into the sleeve. Raise the fist upward towards the face a bit, and loosen the fingers

slightly. The coin will slide noiselessly all the way down the sleeve to the elbow. To recover the coin, simply drop the right hand down to the side and curl the fingers backwards to catch the coin as it drops out into a fingerpalm.

Returning to the vanish in the routine, have Spectator #2 show the coin around so that the colored stickers show. Ask for the coin, and take it into the right hand. Bounce it up and down a few times, and then notice that the spectator still has your pen with the cap off. Close the right hand into a fist to hold the coin, and reach to the table with the left hand to get the cap. As you hand the cap to the spectator with appropriate commentary, sleeve the coin. Take the capped pen in the left hand, and place it back in the right inner breast pocket. Do a little build up, and do a transfer of the non-existent coin to the left hand, showing the right hand empty. Make your woo-woo, magic passes, or snapped fingers, etc., and open the left hand to show the coin vanished. Hold up both hands and show them both front and back, at shoulder or face level.

Either way, you have vanished the coin. Turn to Spectator #1 on your right and ask him to open the chest and remove the contents. Take the jar with your right hand on top and your left hand on the bottom, and gingerly transfer it to Spectator #2. Request that he open the jar and remove its contents. Take the envelope in the right hand and transfer it to Spectator #1. Request that he remove the rubber band and tear open the envelope. Ask him what he sees. As he removes the matchbox, recover the sleeved coin (or have the palmed coin in the easier version). Take the matchbox in your left hand, and push out the drawer with the right pointed forefinger, while now fingerpalming the coin. Show Spectator #1 the coin with your initials showing, and ask him to announce what he sees.

Now you turn to Spectator #2, and do a shuttle pass of sorts. Turn the matchbox upside down over the fingerpalmed coin, and move it away. The coin is now showing spectator's initials up. Hand Spectator #2 the coin as you close the inverted matchbox with the left fingers and pocket the matchbox. You are now clean as the spectator's face tells the story.

I leave it to you to make your own patter story to suit your performance character. If you have never tried sleeving, this is an excellent excuse to begin adding it to your repertoire of sleights. I hope you try this and feel free to adjust it to your character by using different objects in which the coin is found "nested."

## Wild Lecture Continued from page 1

Rachel's stunning good looks and English upbringing perfectly complement Tom's American charm and panache. Simply put, this couple makes a great team and is the hit of magic conventions around the world. It is obvious that their partnership is a lot stronger than just two parts of a double magic act as they both work so comfortably together, with one quite often finishing the other's sentence.

This is a Ring-sponsored lecture and is free to all Ring 76 members and their spouses. Non-members and guests are \$10 at the door. Some of you will remember that we had originally scheduled our Teach-in session for the November meeting; that program has now been moved to next June. We elected to make that change because this was the only time we could book the Wilds for a magic lecture.

The range of effects the Wilds have for sale on their dealer table is quite considerable; we urge you to check out their walnut and brass items, we were very impressed with the craftsmanship involved. This is a lecture that can be enjoyed on many fronts, the introduction of new effects for holiday shows, as well as just watching this couple work at changing an effect to suit all kinds of different audiences.

As usual, this meeting will begin at 7 p.m. sharp at our regular meeting place, Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. By the way, Tortilla Lilly's Parking lot is once again open to our members on meeting nights.

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman





## Another successful "Magic Day" at the San Diego Blood Bank

Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, was an overcast cool morning in Southern California, as just over a dozen magicians from the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 76, began arriving at five donor centers of the San Diego Blood Bank. Each one of these tricksters had their pockets filled with playing cards, gimmicks, and a variety of close-up tricks they could use to instantly entertain those who had come to the Blood Bank to give the gift of life.

It has become an annual event for Ring 76 members and blood donor's countywide look forward to being given a personal and up close mini—magic show during the time they are donating and after giving blood while having a glass of orange juice in the blood bank canteen. Magic Day at the San Diego Blood Bank began in 1992, and has continued over the years by creating a loyal following of blood donors who enjoy meeting and watching magicians perform.

Ring members from throughout the county go to donor centers near their homes and donate several hours of performing time for those giving blood. Some of the performers give blood themselves. Donna Greenbaum rolled up her sleeve and began donating blood while her teenage son, Alex was doing tricks for donors and nurses alike.



Donna Greenbaum donating as son Alex looks on and entertains others.



Charlie Gott donating blood after performing.

shift of performing and then donated a pint of blood for the cause.

San Diego Blood Bank officials say about 500 people will be affected in a positive manner by the blood drawn on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Many people schedule

their regular donation around the appearance of Ring 76 magicians at one of the various San Diego Blood Bank locations. In short, Magic Day at the San Diego Blood Bank has become an important part of encouraging people to donate blood in our community. It has also become a great way for Ring 76 members to get a little extra practice in front of a live audience.

Taking part in this year's effort were: Bob Ingalls, Jack White, Bob Pozner, Jeff Marcus, Kenny Shelton, Len Cardoza, Alex Greenbaum, Michael E. Johnson, Terry Runyon, Jacques Lord, Greg Wauson, J.P. Scirica, and Charlie Gott. In addition to feeling good by helping in an important community need, Ring 76 also received a huge public relations boost by having our logo and name on a Blood Bank flier that was mailed to 60,000 San Diego County residents.

Most of the donor centers had at least two different magicians on hand to entertain. However, the South Bay donor center in National City had only one performer who worked the entire day. Len Cardoza was the magician on duty there and from all the reports we have received he did an outstanding job.

We can always use more help, perhaps next year you can join in and help out with this effort to make sure the local blood supply is there for those in need. We have some photographs of some of the performers. Not everyone was photographed but here are the photos we received.



Bob Ingalls has been on hand for every Magic Day at the San Diego Blood Bank.



Charlie Gott worked the East County donor center and did some coin magic.



Jack White doing the 3-Shell game for a confused lady.



Bob Ingalls just arriving and filling his pockets with tricks to perform.



Bob Pozner always finds a pretty girl to show some magic.



Alex Greenbaum with coin through hank.



Jeff Marcus does some close-up card work for a group of donors in the East County.



Kenny Shelton does a little finger flinging with cards for a very interested donor.



Michael E. Johnson with cards in each hand, entertains two blood donors.

## Remembering a magician who changed my life

***Do you wanna learn how to do it, or do you just want to know how it's done?***

**By Bryan McDaniel**

In 1986 I was assigned to the Marine Air Control Squadron in Virginia Beach, Virginia. While there, I was introduced to a Gunnery Sergeant by the name of Bob Taylor. Bob was a "real magician." Because I had always been interested in magic, I immediately gravitated towards Bob in hopes he would share his wizardry. I quickly learned that Bob was very eager to flaunt his craft, yet not so eager to share its secrets.

Months passed and I remained in awe of Bob's level of skill. I would ask Bob to show me a different trick every day and he usually accommodated me. I was fascinated that one man could know so much about card magic, coin magic, sponge balls, cups and balls (which he managed to pull off with three Styrofoam cups and some wadded up paper), silks, and the list goes on. Bob was a walking encyclopedia of magic know-how and he was as just as adept at performing. Despite my exhibiting relentless patience and a heartfelt eagerness to learn, Bob remained undaunted.

In hopes of gaining Bob's favor, I recall letting him know that I was going to Raleigh, North Carolina and that I would be stopping in at the magic shop (the trip's only purpose was to go to the magic shop, but I didn't feel comfortable letting him know). I asked Bob if I could get him anything and he casually asked me to find out if they had a Johnson Cigarette thru the Quarter and if they did, to pick one up for him. Of course I had no idea what the trick was, but I was thrilled that I was able to provide him something related to magic. Upon returning from the trip I sought him out and found him in the hallway of the building where we worked. I proudly presented him with my offering and enthusiastically awaited his approval. Bob looked at the neatly packaged quarter, and doing his perfect Rainman impersonation, he commented, "I asked for a Johnson Cigarette thru the Quarter, this is an *E-Z Magic* Cigarette thru the Quarter; definitely not Johnson, yeah, definitely not Johnson. Bob walked

away not paying me for the *E-Z Magic* prop. I had failed miserably.

Bob and I would later deploy to Norway for an operation which was supposed to last about six weeks. Standing a quiet watch with Bob one evening I was asked, "Do you want to learn how to do magic, or are just interested in knowing how the tricks are done?" I assured Bob that I was sincerely interested in learning. Bob pulled out four cards, fanned them, and turned the third card face-up in the fan. Bob closed the packet and counted four facedown cards. He fanned the packet again to show the face-up card was on the bottom of the pile. He closed the packet and again counted four facedown cards. I was amazed. I couldn't wait for Bob to teach me what he had just done. Bob's first lesson was for me to learn an Elmsley count and a Jordan count. We both held four cards and I mirrored him as he talked me through the awkward moves. He then handed me Paul Harris' book, *The Art of Astonishment* and he told me to learn how to do the trick, "Reset." I asked Bob if he would demonstrate the trick so I could see how it should look and he was adamant that I learn it from the book. I quickly realized that learning magic from Bob was going to require a rite of passage.

Bob and I became very good friends and he would later indulge me in what I had expressed a sincere willingness to learn. Regrettably, I lost contact with Bob when he retired from the Marines about 18 years ago. Whether he was as masterful a magician as he appeared to his young, captivated apprentice bears little significance. To me Bob was and always will be a "real magician."

As I sit in Baghdad, Iraq, almost 20 years later, I find myself entertaining troops and co-workers. A few individuals have expressed an interest in wanting to learn, and I am more than happy to pass on what has been passed on to me. Although it is my voice, they are Bob's words as I fan four cards and ask, "Do you wanna learn how to do it, or do you just want to know how it's done?"

P.S. Bob, if you're out there, I'd like to return your book.

*(Editor's note: We are always pleased to hear from Bryan McDaniel and know he is well. He will be finishing up his tour of duty in Iraq in March 2006, and retuning to San Diego. Later this month he will meet his wife in Paris for a week of catching up and rest and relaxation.)*



## PCAM Convention Cruise from Vancouver

By Diane Lane

In September, Sherry Luft, Toni Perrine and I boarded an airplane heading to Vancouver, Canada, for the PCAM Magic convention. As we boarded the plane we discovered Len Cardoza and his wife seated ready for take off. They were heading to the convention as well.

The Pacific Coast Association of Magicians conference was held aboard the cruise ship Norwegian Star.



Diane Lane, Sherry Luft,  
and Toni Perrine.

Shawn Farquhar and his wife Lori are the ships resident magicians. They put together a great conference. We had lectures and contests and shows. The only downside was no dealer's room, but it was fun when the 240 of us registered magicians and families headed to the local magic shops in the towns we stopped. The night prior to departure, the magis attended a party put on by the local Vancouver Ring. We had nibblers and great entertainment. I was lucky enough to have my coin sleights catch the eye of Frances B. Martineau. That landed me a private session with the pro and a gift of his brochure that he used back in the 50s. Frances did the illustrations for Rice's Encyclopedia of Silk Magic.

The next morning we headed off to the cruise ship. All boarded, emergency lifeboat drill out of the way, we headed out to sea. The cruise ship stopped at the ports of Victoria, CA; Seattle, WA; Astoria, Ore; and then docked at San Pedro, Ca.

Our lecturers included Lisa Menna, Gregory Wilson, Greg Otto, Joe Given, and Carol Massie, Danny Archer, and Bruce Johnson.

I participated in the contest. I entered the "Platform Magic" category. All went well except for the fact that I went over 45 seconds which cost me 5 points. I

came in 1st Place in the contest but did not receive an award due to the 5 point loss, putting me 2.5 points below the minimum point requirement for receiving an award.



Magician/artist Frances  
Martineau & Diane Lane

Victoria, Canada.

We had a great time on the cruise and are looking forward to the PCAM convention next year, which is being held in

## Book Review Continued from page 5

I've heard of Dunninger! expressed Margo. Why he's the man who has offered a huge award for any spirit phenomena that he cannot explain or duplicate! An award that no one has ever collected, added Cranston with a calm smile, and probably never will.

Nor has it even to this date! For that matter, a congruent challenge might be offered that there is no one who can duplicate the energy, breadth of interest and be able to create such enduring characters as has a relatively unknown Walter B. Gibson. He wrote 187 books, 668 articles to periodicals, 283 stories for The Shadow Magazine, wrote 48 syndicated feature columns, reported the adventures of The Shadow and Blackstone in 394 comic books and newspaper strips, helped develop 147 radio scripts. He wrote 1.5 million words of mystery about a single character in a single year. Gibson's writings inspired the inception of such pulp-heroes as the Spider, Wu Fang, Operator 5 and the Phantom Detective. In association with Carl Brema, Gibson, the magician, invented magical effects still amazing today. Gibson was multi-talented and destined to be unrivaled.

Thomas J. Shinfeld, himself a young performing magician from Beverly, Mass, gets the award for a highly researched, detailed biography and it can be said that Who knows about Walter B Gibson..Shinfeld knows (and you, the reader, will too) Buy this book.



### *Message from the Ring 76 President*

I want to take a moment to talk with you about something that came up at our last board of directors meeting in October. The subject involves our close-up competition that will be held on Monday evening, February 13, 2006. While that might seem like a long way off, it is not too early to begin to create some important new ground rules for that much anticipated and exciting program.

The first and most important change is that we must know by February 1<sup>st</sup> who is going to take part in this year's contest. If you show up the night of the contest and tell us you want to be a contestant, you will not be allowed to compete. All of this is an effort to cut down on having a huge number of contestants and allowing those taking part to be honestly evaluated on their skills, routines, and presentation.

As some of you will remember last year, we had sixteen contestants and if you stayed to judge every one of those taking part it was just over two and a half hours of magic. What that really means is that some of the last contestants were not judged at all because members left before everyone had a chance to perform. Still other people were too tired to do a good job of judging.

Let me go on record right now by saying I believe that all of our winners were top performers and deserved the awards they

received last July at our annual awards banquet. What we are trying to do this year is make sure that each performer has his or her time to shine and is fairly judged by our membership. Most of our members put a lot of time and effort into their act, and they deserve our full attention.

There is yet another change for February's competition; we will have the professional performers taking part in the close-up contest judged by other professionals, making them a separate part of the contest from the non-professional performers. We believe that will make the contest even more fair for all contestants taking part. When we present our awards for the winners next July, there will be a professional and non-professional category and award.

There are a lot of things we have not worked out as yet, but I am moving forward and hope to have the details firmly in place by our December meeting at the latest. I have appointed a committee to meet with me to workout all of the details. That committee includes: Terry Lunceford, Kenny Shelton, Bob Pozner, Jack White, and myself.

Once all of the ground rules are firmly established, I will have Jack White write an article for the newsletter and let you know about all of the changes. But right now, if you are planning on taking part in the February Close-up Contest, we will need to know on or before February 1<sup>st</sup>.

*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](mailto:prestooone@cox.net) or by phone at 619-299-9037

## News

**Michael E. Johnson** will present a "Magic Jam" on Wednesday, November 16, at 7 p.m. as a fundraiser for Cub Scouts Pack 646, Den 2. The event will be held at Knob Hill Elementary School, 1825 Knob Hill Road in San Marcos. Ticket donations are \$2 each or \$5 for VIP seating. All of the funds go to the scouts. This is going to be a big event, so let's all do what we can to support Michael's efforts. Call (760) 747-4627 or email [mjohns341@cox.net](mailto:mjohns341@cox.net) for ticket information.

North County magician **Joel Ward** has put together a new Web site. If you would like to take a look at a good site, check out Joel Ward Productions "San Diego's Hottest Magic Entertainment" at [www.joelwardmagic.com](http://www.joelwardmagic.com). Joel tells MagiCurrents he is still working on the look for the site and doing some fine-tuning but it is almost there. Way to go, Joel!

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual L.A. Magic History Conference is being held November 10<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> at the Beverly Garland Hotel in North Hollywood. This is always a big event that is limited to 250 attendees. **J.P. Jackson, Marcus Day** and **Jack White** are attending from San Diego. One of the highlights of the conference is the release of a catalog featuring the magic estate of the late **Alton Sharpe**. J.P. and Jack White put the catalog together. If you are interested in quality used magic see J.P. and ask about acquiring a copy of the items for sale. J.P. is brokering the Al Sharpe collection for Al's widow, Lorraine. There are some rare and unique items in the catalog, which sells for \$5.



**Joel Moskowitz** is being honored the Louis Rose Society for his many articles and work in San Diego. The Louis Rose Society is welcoming material about Joel, including, testimonials, stories about him, and photographs of him. If you would like to add to the material being sent to the Web site, send your material to [www.jewishsightseeing.com/louisrosehistorical/honorees/2005-10-28-moskowitzjoelmd.htm](http://www.jewishsightseeing.com/louisrosehistorical/honorees/2005-10-28-moskowitzjoelmd.htm). Little has been written about Joel and his interest in magic this might be a great project for a Ring 76 member. Congratulations, Joel.

**Doug Brewer** was recently on a television news program but not appearing as a magician. This time Doug was wearing his hat as a civil engineer. We often associate the Rancho Bernardo finger flinger as a performer and forget he has another career.

**Diane Lane** made the rounds of two morning television news programs promoting the big "Fall Back" time change festival in the Gaslamp District, in late October. Diane worked several magic shows at the Fall Back festival in the Gaslamp District during Halloween. Diane says; "Yes, it is exciting to be on the morning TV news programs, but it is difficult to get up at 3:30 a.m. get dressed, and look sharp for the 3-minute morning broadcast."

## Briefs

**Terry Godfrey** is at Seaport Village with his magic show during the month of November; check with the Seaport Village Magic Shop for the days and times he performs. Seaport Village enjoyed a busy summer; now they are gearing up for the coming holiday season.

**Bob Ingalls** and **Jack White** make their 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive appearance as the after dinner entertainment at the La Mesa Optimists Club Scholarship Banquet honoring high school students and their parents for the students' academic excellence. This year's event will be November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Here is the latest from the rumor mill. The IBM is considering doing away with their convention slogan of "The Greatest Magic Convention on Earth" and replacing it with a great idea from Linking Ring Executive Editor **Phil Willmarth**, who suggests we call it: "The Original Magic Convention in America." That would be an accurate statement too; the first IBM convention was held in W.W. Derbin's backyard in Kenton, Ohio in 1926, making it the first organized magic convention in America. Stay tuned we will let you know what happens.

**Loch David Crane** as "Merlin-ye-Mage" 4 p.m. November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Carmel Valley Branch Library, 3919 Towngate Drive. Call (858) 552-1668 for more information on this show.



## Coming Attractions

November 14th meeting will be a special lecture featuring Rachel Wild & Tom Jones 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. Meetings are held at Jack's Magic Place 4275 University Avenue in East San Diego.

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

January 9, 2006, A New Year and time to induct all new members, those having joined in the previous year. Our program will be a "Trick Parade"; various members will show you how to make props for various tricks. This is the first time we have presented this program in several years; it should be very exciting. We will have more on the presenters and their effects in future editions of MagiCurrents.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, November 21st. This will be the last Board meeting of 2005, as there is no board meeting in December. 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.

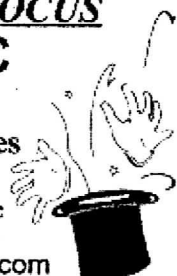
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