

Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



# MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



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Volume XVIII 12 December 2005

## "Stew" McKinley Dead at 75

The always jovial and entertaining, Stewart "Stew" McKinley 75, died Tuesday evening, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Lake Ellsinore hospital of complications brought on by lung cancer. McKinley was diagnosed with lung cancer three and a half years ago. At that time doctors gave him six months to live, however the cancer went into remission and he out lived the doctor's prediction by three years. McKinley never smoked; however, over the years he was exposed to second hand smoke from members of his family and his co-workers.

Though he had slowed down in his activities in recent years, McKinley continued to attend magic meetings and do shows. He had many shows

booked for the month of December in the Riverside

County area where he lived. On Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November he experienced a shortness of breath during the afternoon hours and was taken to the hospital where he died that evening.

McKinley was a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and called Ring 292 in San Marcos his home Ring; he was also a member of the Society of American Magicians, a member of Toastmasters International and held membership in



Stewart "Stew" McKinley comedy magician and character. Circa 2000

## December Holiday meeting to include J.C. Wagner show

The December meeting is always an exciting evening of friendship, magic, and story telling. The Ring will supply the turkey and Bob Ingalls is bringing roast pork. At the November meeting, those planning to attend the Holiday meeting were able to draw slips of paper telling you what you should bring in the way of food. If you were not at the November meeting or failed to draw a slip of paper, then you should call Richard Ustick at (619) 589-1913; he will let you know what you need to bring in the way of food items.

The Ring will again supply dishes, silverware, napkins, cups, soft drinks, and bottled water. We will begin serving at 6:30 p.m. which is about a half hour earlier than our regular meetings begin, so plan to arrive a little early.

We are very happy to announce that J.C. Wagner will be our special entertainment for the evening. Following dinner, J.C. will present his own special brand of bar magic for our



J.C. Wagner in action at the bar at Jack's Magic Place.

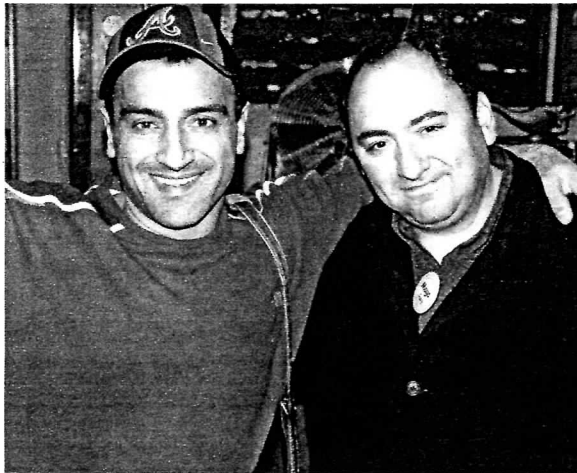
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(Continued on Page 9.)

# The Tom Jones lecture was the highlight of the November Ring 76 meeting

Our November meeting brought out 68 members and their guests, and Tom Jones presented his magic lecture titled "Kiddies to Korporate" and featured both close-up and platform magic. Tom's wife Rachel Wild was not able to make the Southern California portion of the tour because of a family crisis at home.

We had many guests at this meeting, including one of the comedy stars of Circus Tihany Spectacular, which was appearing across the border in Tijuana. Eduardo Akopian, the famous clown, had the night



Eduardo Akopian, award winning clown with Circus Tihany, and Mago Ruly.

off from the show and accompanied Mago Ruly to our meeting. You will find a more complete story about Circus Tihany elsewhere in this edition of MagiCurrents. Mago Ruly told me that immigration agents held Eduardo at the border for several hours because they said his passport was not in order. But the entertainers were determined to make it to the Ring 76 meeting and did.

Ring 76 President Bob Ingalls called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. sharp and thanked everyone for taking part in the October Blood Bank Magic Day event. He welcomed the many guests who were attending our meeting. There was a brief announcement about the close-up contest set for February, and some important changes in the rules for that contest. You will find a story about those changes in this newsletter. Alfonso Vasquez had an

announcement about an event at the Marine Recruit Depot and asked for volunteer performers for November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Richard Ustick had members who plan to attend the December Holiday Party draw slips of paper telling them what to bring to the potluck dinner. For more information see our story on the front page of this newsletter.

The Ring 76 board of directors tries to never schedule a lecture on a meeting night because we want our members to be able to perform at as many meetings as possible each year. But this month was an exception to the rule; our regular meeting night was the only evening that Tom Jones and Rachel Wild could appear in San Diego, so we booked their lecture for this evening. Terry Lunceford our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, was performing at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, so Bob Ingalls introduced Tom Jones, who quickly got things off to a colorful start with a very different style "Blendo" that used only one single 36 inch silk. After he taught our members how to fold the silk, he told them how to use the effect for a kids show or how they could use it to sell a product in a corporate performance. Tom presented a lot of good useful information.

During a session with playing cards, Tom gave the audience a quick look at the "force" that was often used by Harry Blackstone Sr., when he wanted a member of the audience to pick a specific card. The force is very easy and very clever, Don Soul has been working on it, and if you ask him, I am sure he will show it to you if you could not attend or have forgotten that part of the lecture.

There were many very different routines presented, and the audience responded by purchasing a vast amount of material from the dealer's table. The Tom Jones lecture was a big success. I wonder what it would have been if Rachel Wild would have been on hand?

After the lecture, many members worked the bar with new routines they wanted to try out and Mr. Alex brought along the best-trained little dog you have ever seen. The dog is part of his act and can seemingly walk on its hind legs like a man for long periods of time. It was an exciting evening of magic.

Our November meeting in pictures:



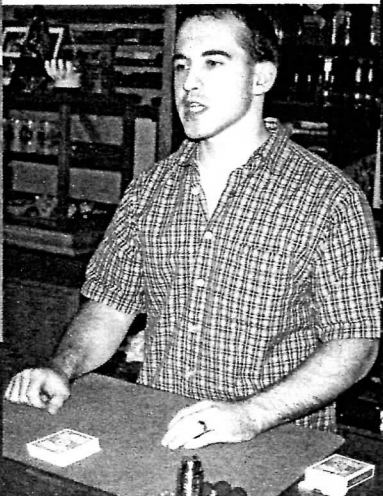
A lovely guest keeps Ed Greene company



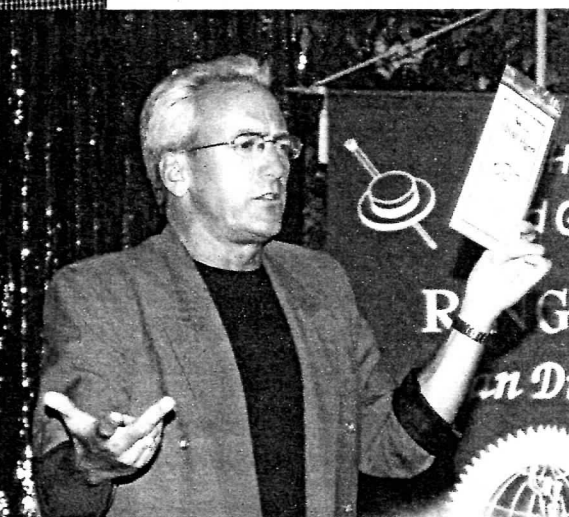
Lou Otte watches Alfonso Vasquez do a card trick



Fritz Lotze & guest



J.P. Seirica doing a card trick at the bar



Tom Jones pitching his lecture notes



Mr. Alex and a very well trained dog.



Members and guests ready to see a magic lecture.



## McKinley Tribute Con't from page 1

the Magic Castle. He did not become interested in magic until he was in his early 60s. He wanted to do a few simple magic tricks in conjunction with a speech he was going to present for a Toastmasters meeting. He went to North County magician Jack Evans and asked for help in selecting effects for his talk. The two men became good friends, and Jack Evans helped him polish his magic skills.

After being introduced to magic, McKinley was bitten by the bug and became an eager hobbyist and then a semi-professional doing six to eight paid performances a month the last seven years of his life. Attending the IBM Convention of 1993, in Quebec City, Canada, he registered to be a contestant in the stage competition. A member of the IBM told McKinley he was too old to take part in such competitions, that the majority of

the contestants were in their teens or early 20s. McKinley went ahead with his plans to compete and walked away with a first place medal for his efforts. In his acceptance speech he told the audience of mostly middle-aged magicians: "This proves you are never too old to learn new tricks and perform magic, I; am proof positive of that claim."

Ring 76 members best remember Stew McKinley as a performer in two of our recent exchange programs with Ring 292.

He always carried his act in a big brown paper shopping bag. He would reach into the bag and pull out props, silk scarves, and an occasional rubber dove. He did his entire act with a straight face, an outrageous costume, and tricks that often times had an



Stew McKinley



Stew McKinley producing a string of silks with his boxer shorts at the end of the silks. Note the brown bag of props on table.

amusing, sucker ending.

In 1996, Stew was one of the featured acts in a big fund raising event at the Avo Theater in Vista; also on the bill was the late Frank Herman and Jack White. Herman produced the show, as well as doing his own comedy act. He was especially complimentary after the show, Jack White remembers, about the work of Stew McKinley; it was high praise from a real pro, said White.

In the mid-1990s McKinley formed a club for magic enthusiasts in the Lake Ellsinore area; the membership grew each year. Under his leadership the group continued to thrive until 2001, when he was diagnosed with cancer. When Stew was no longer able to take charge of the club activities, it quickly disbanded. McKinley did continue to take part in Ring 292 meetings and activities during this period, having attended a meeting as recently as November 3<sup>rd</sup>. A special "Broken Wand" ceremony will be held in his memory in January at the regular Ring 292 meeting.

He leaves a wife, Carol, and a daughter both living in the Lake Elsinore area.

Stew McKinley's longtime friend Jack Evans summed things up best when he said: "Stew will be greatly missed, but we will never forget him."

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Flossing's the best way to get bullets out from between the teeth."

## Ring 76 Performers take part in Charger Blood Drive

It's now estimated that upwards of six thousand people jammed into the Town & Country Convention Center, November 22<sup>nd</sup> to be part of the annual Charger Blood Drive. Of that number, 2273 rolled up their sleeves and donated blood. On hand to entertain the crowd of enthusiastic people were members of Ring 76, who included: Diane Lane, Kenny Shelton, Howard Harris, Charlie Gott, and Bob Pozner, all giving many hours of hard work entertaining the throngs of people.



Left: Charlie Gott, Diane Lane, Kenny Shelton and Howard Harris. Not pictured but also taking part was Bob Pozner.

The larger than normal crowd at this year's Charger Blood Drive was brought on by a second winning season by this young team and their severe trouncing of the Buffalo Bills the Sunday before the drive.

As usual, a large well-lighted stage was set up in the performing area and Kenny Shelton did his juggling act on the stage; particularly exciting was his juggling of three footballs all at the same time. The audience went wild with applause as he displayed his skills; even the Charger players who were on hand signing autographs took time out to watch the juggling. Kenny also did strolling magic and caught the eye of a very excited 11-year-old boy who happened to be the son of former Charger kicker Rolf Benirschke, for whom the Charger Blood Drive was founded. The young Benirschke told Kenny he was a magician and wanted to know more about Kenny's card work. Of course that was Kenny's cue to show the excited young man some fancy moves.

Diane Lane also did her stage act and was a great success. There was a huge round of applause

when Cassi her big white macaw made her appearance.

Diane did several turns on the stage. At each of her performances Diane talked about the importance of donating blood and told the audience that she



Diane Lane working the stage with Cassi on her sholder.

had once been in need of a great deal of blood to save her life. She thanked all of those who had given for her many transfusions.

Howard Harris, Charlie Gott, and Bob Pozner all worked the canteen and entertained donors after they had given blood. They also were allowed into the spacious donor room and worked for many of the people as they were actually donating blood. Several donors commented that the magicians had all made the anxiety of donating disappear with their magic.

This was the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Chargers Blood Drive and Ring 76 has had entertainers at most of those events over the years. This was Diane Lane's 14<sup>th</sup> year of being part of this program. The blood collected from this drive will keep San Diego County safe during the coming holiday season when the public becomes so involved in the many holiday activities they become too busy to donate on a regular basis.

The San Diego Blood Bank thanks those who turned out to donate and those who took part in the entertainment. Their contributions will keep our Southern California communities safe in the coming weeks before the New Year.

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# Ring 76 members visit the Circus Tihany Spectacular Show in Tijuana

By Salomon A. Barajas

Since early September, the Tihany Circus Spectacular has been playing to full houses under their bright yellow and blue tents that were set up in the parking lot of the Callente Race Track in downtown Tijuana. This is the first time this super show has been in Tijuana in several years. By the time you read this article the show will have packed up and moved to Ensenada where it will be appearing during the coming holidays.



Wearing the many hats of a circus clown Sal Barajas, Jose Sanchez, Eduardo Akopian and Armando Torres backstage with a star performer.

On a Tuesday afternoon in mid-November, Saloman Barajas and Jose Sanchez drove across the border to see the show. As they were getting out of their car, another Ring 76 member, Armando Torres, who knew his way around the circus grounds, greeted them. Armando escorted his fellow Magi to the backyard of the show and introduced Sal and Jose to the star clown of the show, Eduardo Akopian. Eduardo was no stranger to these men, as he had visited our Ring meeting earlier in the month and Sal and Jose had met him there.

The Tihany show is a huge operation that travels on 47 show owned semi-trucks. This operation is truly a traveling city unto itself. It takes a crew of 110 people to keep the show moving and operating smoothly. The Tihany (pronounced "Tee-on-ee") show almost never crosses the border and appears in the United States, and for that reason the Tijuana dates are important because this is the one location that allows Southern California circus fans and

people who love the Tihany programs to have a chance to see this famous traveling extravaganza.

Eduardo Akopian invited the three San Diego magicians to his home and dressing room on wheels, all the while regaling us with exciting stories of being a famous clown with the Tihany Company of performers. While his life has been one big adventure we found it is also very regimented and his work as a clown very precise.

Eduardo was born and raised in Erevan, Armania. Then at the age of 15, he fell in love with the art of comedy and ran away with a traveling show. When he decided that he wanted to make a career out of this kind of work, he knew he had to go to school. So he studied his art at the world famous Moscow Circus College; after graduation, he won many major awards for his work. Now at 40 he looks back over the plaques, statuettes, and other awards in his mobile home. He has received the coveted award from the late Prince Rainer of Monaco and the famous circus competition in Monaco. Other awards for Eduardo's clowning around come from France and Germany where they take their circus and the art of comedy very seriously.

We also found that in addition to being a wonderful host, Eduardo is a superb performer. We took our seats in the elegant tent that is more like a theater. The show is presented on a stage instead of the traditional circus ring. The Tihany show was the first to incorporate the famous dancing waters program into their show many years ago and still use this effect of light, water, and music to great advantage. The lights dimmed and a giant



hologram of Tihany's head spoke to the audience. Tihany is now 90 years old and no longer performs in the show except for this opening sequence that is on tape, but he still oversees every element of the performance.

Suddenly the stage came alive with an explosion of dancing girls and acrobats; it was in the style of a large Las Vegas review. This show offered the most sensational

jugglers I have ever seen. There is a section of the program dedicated to magic with beautiful illusions that take a large cast of people to present. There are highflying daredevils, an amazing display of human strength and endurance.

Sandwiched in between all of the specialty acts the audience is entertained by the antics of Eduardo, who is a very good juggler, who makes a toy dog do tricks, and presents one of the cleanest and best "Misers Dream" coin acts I have ever seen. Eduardo also assists the magician with the vanishing duck trick. He is a talented and very funny man, and now I know how he received all of those awards that are on display his mobile home.

The Circus Tihany Spectacular is a blend of traditional circus of the past and a peek into the future with exciting modern settings and family entertainment. It is a show that can easily rival any of the Cirque de Solie units that are currently touring the world. Of course, having the opportunity to meet one of the stars of the show also makes it an even more exciting show to watch.



## Some new rules for our close-up contest

Last February at our close-up competition 16 people entered the competition, each of them receiving 10-minutes to do their act. Some took longer and some took less but, all in all, the competition lasted for nearly three hours. The most regrettable part of the evening was that some of the last contestants had lost an audience and the potential of votes.

Our 2006 close-up contest will have some new rules to make it fair for everyone. Anyone wanting to take part in the contest will have to audition in advance of the competition itself. From those taking part in the audition, the field will be narrowed down to six contestants by a panel of judges whose names will be announced in the January newsletter. The auditions will take place at 7:30 on the evening of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue.

No one will be allowed to compete who has not taken part in the January auditions.

The Ring 76 close-up competition has taken on new importance in recent years and is a special part of our annual programs. We are, therefore, attempting to bring an even more prestigious look and feel to this event. We encourage all members to audition for the right to compete in this contest.

In addition to a good routine for a performer's act, we are also looking for personality and the over all look of the performer. The judges expect more than a T-shirt and blue jeans; that is not how most close-up workers present themselves in a restaurant or other performing atmosphere.

Because we are giving out cash awards and the close-up award is one of prestige, the Ring 76 board of directors believes they are just in increasing the awareness levels of this contest and is making those feelings known for the 2006 competition.

We hope to see a lot of candidates for this contest on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. You will have a 10 minute window to present your act for our judges.





## Holiday scam for magic shows being worked on the Internet

The International Brotherhood of Magicians headquarters in St. Louis sent out the following warning about a new "scam" that is currently being used. I actually received the e-mail below and was about to forward it to a friend of mine in the Sacramento area as a possible after holiday gig. But before I sent him the e-mail, I received a warning from the IBM. Read this carefully.

GREETING,

I'M LARRY; MY WEDDING WILL BE COMING UP NEXT YEAR ON THE .29TH OF JANUARY 2006 , AT THE ADDRESS BELOW. I WILL LIKE YOU TO BE THE MAGICIANS FOR MY WEDDIING RECEPTIONS,I LOOK FORWARD TO A VERY BIG,SOCIAL AND COLOURFULL WEDDING, SO I WANT THE BEST OF PROFESIONLA JOB. YOU WILL BE WORKING FOR 4 HRS

RECEPTIONS ONLY, LET ME KNOW IF YOU WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DAYS,ALSO WILL LIKE YOU TO SEND YOUR TOTAL COST PLUS YOUR AIR TICKET FEES,MY PLANNER WILL BOOK THE HOTEL FOR YOUR COMING IF NEEDED. MY ASSOCIATE IN THE STATE WILL TAKE CARE OF THE CHARGES MODE OF PAYMENT VIA MONEY ORDER OR CHECK. I LOOK FORWARD IN HEARING FROM YOU SOONEST.

HERE IS THE RECEPTION ADDRESS SO AS TO CALCULATE THE TOTAL COSTING:-

Central Church of Chrish 6755 San Joaquin Street,Sacramento, CA 95820-2135 I LOOK FORWARD IN READ FROM YOU SOON.

BEST REGARDS

The first tip-off that it was a con was the obvious hotmail address it came from. I did a little detective work and called the church to see if a wedding was booked under that name on the given date. They said "No". The church also said that they had received calls from DJ's, photographers, etc. I wondered how they could scam me if they were sending me a deposit check. Well here's the rub:

Say I quoted them \$1000. They would in turn send me a counterfeit cashier's check for \$1500. My bank, as most, would deposit it into my account, and most checks clear in 5 days at the latest. I would then be contacted again by Larry Mith who says mistakenly I was sent someone else's check- so I should send him a refund for \$500. I might even wait an extra week to make sure his check was good before sending him back \$500. Here's the deviously ingenious part: THE COUNTERFEIT NIGERIAN CASHIER'S CHECK ACTUALLY TAKES 4 TO 5 WEEKS TO DETERMINE THAT IT IS WORTHLESS. So the bad guys get your money and you're a little bit wiser. I wonder just how many people have fallen for this scam?

I actually wrote this Mith character back to firm up some details and to ask more questions to see just how far he would push this ruse. He surprisingly wrote me back, this time from a Yahoo email address. I guess hotmail has banned him. Apparently this con is happening with EBAY auctions as well. If someone overpays you on EBAY with a funny-looking cashier's check and then wants a refund, you are most likely their next target.

BE WARNED!



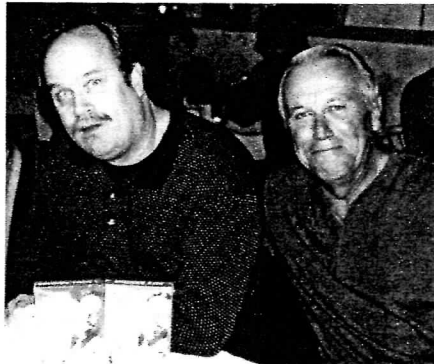
## December meeting Continued from page 1

members. So that everyone can see and appreciate his work, we are setting up our screen and video camera. You will be able to see J.C. work on the big screen as he goes through some of his best material for our members.

We are also happy to tell you that the Ring will sponsor a special J.C. Wagner lecture featuring many of the effects and moves you will see at the December meeting. The lecture will be presented in January. A date is yet to be set, but we will advise you of the time and day in the January MagiCurrents.

J.C. Wagner and Bob Sheets were just young men when they began doing their "finger flinging" at Marco's Bar in Coronado in the early 1970s.

Close-up performers came from all over the country to watch these two men work their brand of magic. They were soon given new opportunities at famous ski resorts, and during the summers, they were featured entertainers at some of the hottest tourist areas in the country.



Bob Sheets & J.C. Wagner buddies and fellow performers for nearly 40 years.

Over the years J.C. has written two books on his style of close-up magic and has released several video and DVD programs showing his work. Magic magazines continue to write about the new style of bar magic and close-up entertainment these two men gave to our art.

While magic is no longer J.C.'s main form of earning a living, he still continues to work at various spots on the weekends and draws large groups of loyal fans to see him in action with the cards and coins.

Our members will be treated to a truly exciting evening, Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue with our Holiday Potluck dinner, followed by some fellowship and then the magic of J.C. Wagner. There will, of course, be a few surprises along the way so plan to come early and enjoy the evening.

## Ring 76 Trick Parade and installation of new members set for Jan.

If you have joined Ring 76 in 2005 you want to be on hand for our January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, because we will officially induct all new members into the Ring in one special program. This is a special ceremony that is required by the International Brotherhood of Magicians each year.

Everyone has enjoyed the wonderful "Trick Parade" section of the Linking Ring, and so our January meeting will include a Ring 76 Trick Parade. Five or six members of the Ring will present a platform effect and teach it to our members or show them how to make the apparatus needed to perform the trick.

Already signed up for this program are Bob Ingalls and Jack White. We still need three or four other members to complete this program. If you have an effect that you would like to share with our members, please contact Bob Ingalls and let him know you want to be on the program. Each performance and explanation should not run more than 12 minutes.

Help us kick the New Year off right in 2006; plan to attend and take part in our "Trick Parade" program.

### Breaking News:

## Dean Dill Injured!

As we were going to press with this newsletter we received word that magician and magic manufacturer Dean Dill, was seriously injured in a traffic accident near Las Vegas just before Thanksgiving. Dean had stopped to help another motorist at the side of the road when Dean's car was hit by a third vehicle. Dean and members of his family were all rushed to a nearby hospital where their injuries were reported to be very serious. We do not at this writing have any further information on the condition of Dean Dill or his wife and son who were in the car when it was hit.

Paul Gross of Hocus Pocus Magic, and a good friend of Dean's is accepting donations via credit card, checks and cash to help Dean through this very difficult period. Paul Gross says the medical bills are going to be very big and urges everyone to help a fellow magician in need. To donate call Paul Gross at 800-407-4040 or e-mail sales@hocus-pocus.com.



### *Message from the Ring 76 President*

It is hard for me to believe another year is coming to an end. Jack White and I were recently going over some of the standout events of 2005, and I thought I would take just a minute to list them for you in case you are like me and have forgotten some of the special moments in Ring 76 history of the past year.

I don't think anyone will forget the moving tribute to San Diego magic icon Mike Stilwell last March. Just over 75 people turned out for that meeting and the surprise tribute to that great performer and genuinely nice guy. Michael E. Johnson did a wonderful job organizing that delightful evening.

The Ring sponsored four lectures since last December: Michael Ammar, Randy Pryor, Steve Hart, and Tom Jones. All of those events were free of charge to Ring 76 members.

The Trick Shop in Temecula and Tom McCarthy's online shopping mall for magicians opened just a year ago. In August of this year, the Grand Magic Shop in Escondido opened for business. All three are good friends to Ring 76 members.

Diane Lane completed two outstanding years as President of Ring 76; I was honored to be nominated and elected to take over after her successful terms in

office. I also attended and served on the IBM Convention Committee at Reno, Nevada, this past summer and was joined there by many Ring 76 members.

Vi Freeland and Bob Pozner were named Lifetime Members of Ring 76, Sal Barajas became our new Ring Librarian, and Howard Harris gave our Web site a new look.

We all lost two wonderful friends this past year: Jay Marshall, the Dean of American Magicians; and just last month the wonderful Stew McKinley. I had the pleasure of knowing both of them and counted them as real friends.

Once again Ring 76 members turned out to support the San Diego Blood Bank's annual Magic Day in October and the Charger's Blood Drive in November. There were many other community events that were supported by individuals and groups of Ring members. I salute all of you who gave of your time and talents.

Highlights of meetings include our Close-up Contest, Brown Bag Nite, Swap Meet, Installation Banquet, Auction, and Ring Picnic, just to name a few of the standout events. I am working with an outstanding and creative board of directors and, from where I sit, it appears the year ahead will be as exciting as the one that will soon come to a close.

If you know of someone who is interested in magic, bring them to a Ring meeting and, if they like what they see, ask them to join the IBM and Ring 76. You will be doing them a big favor.

Now, may I wish you the happiest of Holidays and the best New Year, ever!

*Bob Ingalls*  
*President Ring 76*



**President**  
Bob Ingalls

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\*denotes Past Ring President

For information on membership, or Ring events, contact Jack White, Ring 76 Secretary by e-mail [prestoone@cox.net](mailto:prestoone@cox.net) or by phone at 619-299-9037

## News

Ring 76 Honorary Lifetime member **Vi Freeland** had hip replacement surgery on October 25<sup>th</sup> and is now back at home after a month of physical therapy. Vi says she is doing well and misses seeing all of her friends at the Ring, but must take it easy for the next couple of months. Everyone at Ring 76 sends her our best wishes and looks forward to seeing her soon.

**John Scirica**, owner of the Grand Magic Shop in Escondido, announced he has booked **Eugene Burger** to do a lecture at his shop on the evening of January 11<sup>th</sup>; the cost is \$25 per person. Eugene Burger will also do a workshop at the magic shop the following day, January 12<sup>th</sup>, and teach a 20-minute act that he does out of his wallet. The workshop is \$85. Grand Magic will have a giant after-Christmas sale. All items in the store will be sold at 20-percent off the retail price. For reservations for the lecture, call (760) 741-0835.

If you are looking to take the family to a special Holiday Magic show, **John Carney's** Wonder Cabaret is appearing for four weekends beginning December 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>. Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. with a Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m. at the Actor's Forum Theater, 10655 Magnolia Blvd, North Hollywood. For reservations call (818) 506-0600; tickets are \$15.

In case you haven't heard, **Cesareo Palaez**, better known as Marco the Magi and leader of the Le Grande David theater company in Massachusetts, suffered a severe stroke in late



October. Reports are that he is making a slow but steady recovery. Cards and letters can be sent to the Cabot Street Theater, 286 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA. 02925.

**Jim Swoger** was in the hospital for surgery on his face in November. Doctors removed a growth that was under the skin and say Jim will be fine. Jim will celebrate his 88<sup>th</sup>, birthday on January 26<sup>th</sup>. He is still creating magic effects and still has the first production box he ever built when he was a student in junior high school.

**Gregory Wilson** of Ring 313 has taken over an 825-seat theater at the Long Beach Convention Center for a show on December 17<sup>th</sup>. For ticket information and more about the show call (949) 650-1116. Greg is just one of several performers taking part in this one-time-only performance or you can get more information via the Web at [www.theseecretsource.com](http://www.theseecretsource.com).

**J.P. Jackson** just returned from a visit of magic shops and magicians in the Midwest. J.P. was looking for antique magic and books for his collection. His travels took him to Chicago, Ohio, and Wisconsin. He says the weather was cold and crisp. J.P. is also brokering the late **Al Sharpe** magic estate. He has an illustrated catalog of very rare

## Briefs

apparatus, Rice silks, and books. The catalog is \$5. and is a collector's item by itself. Contact him at (858) 569-0096 if you want a copy of the catalog.

**Bob Sheets** was in San Diego for the Thanksgiving weekend, visiting his father who lives in La Mesa. Bob was seen at Seaport Village taking in the **Terry Godfrey** show and later at the Seaport Village Magic Shop. Godfrey and Sheets talked over the latest effects that appealed to their style of fast, funny and funky magic.

**Diane Lane** tells us that her December 11<sup>th</sup> Magical Moments television show will feature street magic with **Jeff Smith**. The December 25<sup>th</sup> show will include **Dan Thomas** from the Gathering Restaurant, and the January 1<sup>st</sup> program will have **David Eldridge** as a guest. Magical Moments airs on Sunday evenings at 8 p.m. on cable Channel 23. By the way, Diane is always looking for talented performers and people who want to be crew members on the show. Contact her at [dvlane@san.rr.com](mailto:dvlane@san.rr.com) if you would like to help out.

North County performer **Jack Evans** is keeping very busy this December with shows. Jack is picking up some dates that were booked by the late **Stew McKinley** in the Temecula area.

**Joel Ward** recently interviewed with **Kenneth Feld**, the world's largest producer of family entertainment. Feld is looking at Joel as a possible star of a Feld-produced magic show that would replace one of their touring ice shows. We are keeping our fingers crossed for you, Joel!

## Coming Attractions

December 12th Ring 76 annual Holiday Dinner Party featuring a special magic lecture and some surprise magic entertainment. Details in this newsletter.

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.

February 13, 2006, Annual Ring 76 Close-up contest. All contestants must audition on January 23rd at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Six people will be nominated to perform in the contest on February 13th. These are new rules this year. Read the story on page 7.

No board meeting in December because of the holidays. The next Ring 76 board meeting will be Monday January 23, 2006, at Jack's Magic Place; all interested members are invited to attend.

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