

Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



MagiCurrents

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Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award

Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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December 11th meeting will feature Whit Haydn and light dinner menu

In case you haven't heard Ring 76 has booked Whit Haydn from the Magic Castle in Hollywood as our special entertainment for the Monday, December 11th meeting. Whit Haydn does one of the funniest linking ring routines you have ever seen. Just when you think you have seen every thing than can be done with the Linking Rings along comes Whit's very funny act.

Whit Haydn combines his magic with the wit and charm of a con artist and the deftness of a pickpocket. Each year for the past ten years, Whit Haydn has taught a popular "Masters" course known as the "School for Scoundrels" for magician members of the Magic Castle. The course concerns the famous street swindles: the Shell Game, Three-Card Monte, and Fast and Loose (the Endless Chain).



Whit Haydn

Whit has appeared at Caesars Magical Empire in Las Vegas, he has presented his act at Caesars Palace in Lake Tahoe, he works some of the world's largest and most prestigious cruise ships and has been the opening act for Jerry Seinfeld, Loretta Lynn, Gallagher, and many others.

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Ring 76 has booked two high powered lectures for early 2007

In recent months Belinda Kaesler, Bob Ingalls, and Terry Lunceford have been working to line up some special lecturers for Ring 76 in the year ahead. They are now ready to announce the line up for January and February. On Monday, January 22, 2007, Jeff McBride will bring his special brand of magic to San Diego and present a show first, then a complete magic lecture featuring all new material beyond his last visit to San Diego in 2002.

Jeff McBride is one of the hottest names in magic right now as he tours the world doing full evening stage shows, as well as a unique close-up magic performance. He has also created a lot of talk with his now very popular Magic & Mystery School in Las Vegas. Jeff has, through his Master Classes on magic, been able to help hundreds of performers achieve a new direction with their magic. He will carry that theme with him during his lecture in San Diego.



Continued on page 5

November meeting continued the acclaimed annual Ring 76 Teach-in with 6 instructors

Our November 13th meeting attracted 54 members and their guests; one of the guests was a reporter from a local newspaper who is doing a story on the recent revival of magic on the movie screens and the many performers appearing in the San Diego area.

The meeting room was set up a little bit different than usual for the November meeting, which was our annual close-up teach-in session. Five very large round tables with chairs were set up in different areas of the room, and our members selected a table and six instructors made the rounds of each table, giving a lesson in close-up magic. All of our teachers were advanced hobbyists or professional performers.

Bob Ingalls, President of Ring 76 and a longtime performer, began at table one and presented a card trick that didn't have a name that Bob learned from FISM winner Henry Evans. It is a subtle self-working mental effect. Bob presented the effect and then taught his students how to do it, the only props required was a deck of cards and a little know-how.

At table two was Terry Lunceford, who regularly appears at the W.C. Fields bar at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. Terry presented a series of rapid-fire card tricks using three different moves and sleights. Terry taught each of the sleights and then gave some pointers on presenting the effects that blended into each other for a very nice routine. This lesson was aimed at the more advanced members of the Ring.

Sal Barajas was at table three and presented Erdnase Color Change. Sal worked as a demonstrator for several years at the old Seaport Village Magic Shop and has become very adept at working close-up. He brought along some extra cards for his students to practice and perfect the moves involved with this startling and very visual color change. He used his 12-minute time limit carefully to make sure his students had the basics of this trick.

Bob Pozner was at table four and taught his students Nick Trost's "Eight Card Brainwave." Bob made up several dozen sets of this trick and gave them out to his students, complete with instructions, so his students could take the effect home and work on it. Often times a performer would have completed the trick he was teaching before the next magician/instructor was ready to move in and begin his session. Bob has put together a very clever

vanishing hank effect that he quickly taught to the delight of his students. Bob, by the way, worked with J.C. Wagner and Bob Sheets many years ago at various bars doing magic in San Diego. He is a very accomplished close-up performer.

Michael E. Johnson was at table five and kept his students yelling for more. He taught a clever version of "Quarter thru Dime," "Head through Card," and a very impressive "Vanishing Pencil." Michael is an all-around professional magician and is at home with close-up, strolling magic, as well as his parlor or stage act. He is a guy who takes his magic performance seriously and works somewhere everyday.

Nelson Bui was our wrap up performer/teacher. Nelson is a research doctor during the day but a devoted performer of sleight of hand during the evening hours. His work with cards equals anything you have ever seen. He presented and taught a straightforward effect not requiring any sleights that even our most beginning students could pick up on and learn to do. Nelson found two selected cards by cutting the deck and just dropping the halves on the table and the chosen cards would appear face up. Nelson has a bubbling personality that drew his students in and compelled them to learn the new card effect.

The teach-in session ended about 9 p.m., many of our members stayed and practiced what they had learned and asked questions; others took turns doing effects at the bar and talking about magic. It was all out and over by 9:40. Many moved down the street to Denny's restaurant for something to eat and more magic; others went home. The officers of Ring 76 thank all of our performers/instructors for making this a very worthwhile session.

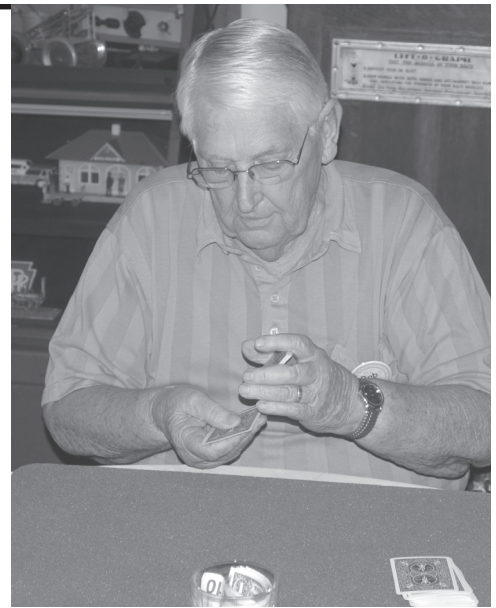


Michael E. Johnson

Ring 76 Teach-in photo's



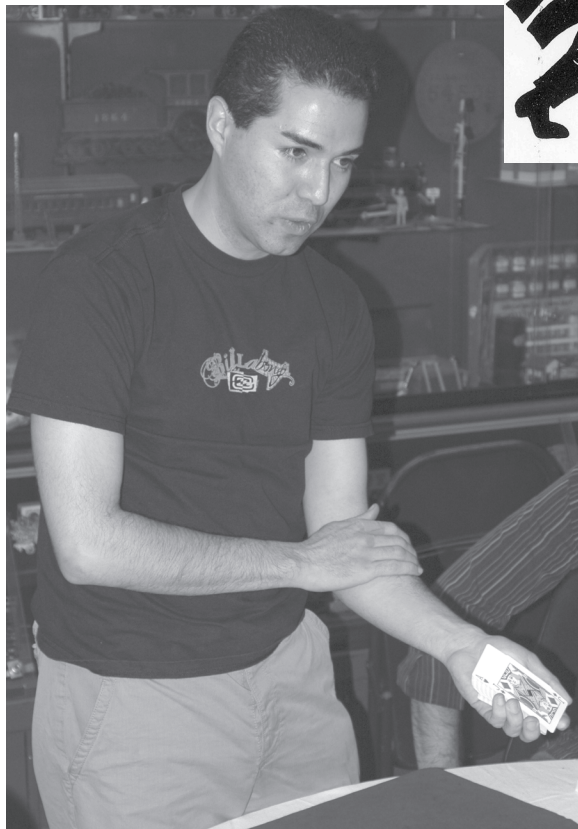
Nelson Bui with Jim Riley and Greg Wauson looking on.



Bob Ingalls



Terry Lunceford



Sal Barajas



Bob Pozner with Jim Whiting looking on.

Magic Book Review by Dr. Joel Moskowitz



A Magician's Magician: The Magic of Alan Wakeling by Jim Steinmeyer

Whom do members of the conjurers craft acclaim as the secret source of among many of their most wondrous of effects? Contemporary audiences might offer David Copperfield or Siegfried and Roy or Mark Wilson as appropriate answers. Which reader has seen the Aquarian Illusion? It was presented on a HBO special "Mumbo Jumbo, It's Magic." Think Metamorphosis but instead of the substitution trunk, substitute a Plexiglas tank filled with water, into which is sealed a comely female assistant, who is likely to drown in moments. The curtain is lowered and raised almost instantly and the magician is now encased in the water! The inventor: Alan Wakeling! Jim

Steinmeyer, cognoscenti will recognize as the illusion inventor behind the curtain, has written a revealing book detailing many of Alan Wakeling's confidential mysterious methods.

Among those who laud Alan Wakeling's creativity are Mark Wilson (who depended on Alan Wakeling's clever originality for many shows), Mike Caveney, Channing Pollack, and among others, Ricky Jay. Jay expresses hesitancy that these hidden devices be revealed to the public. An attitude which Max Maven has expressed as well. There is a maxim that protects: "If you want to keep a secret publish it." Those of us who are concerned that revealing the how will destroy magic don't understand that the miracle is not the how but the art.

Regrettably, absent from the Introduction is the expected warm praise from Marvyn Roy. Mr. Electric was a close friend. After Alan's Navy experience, the two joined to produce a circus theme-like act: Dancing, Prancing and Necromancing with Wakefield and Roy. Marvyn's trade mark: The extraordinary effects which electrified audiences were in significant part the perfections of Wakeling.

"The Magic of Alan Wakeling," written by Jim Steinmeyer, was originally published in 1993 (published by Hahne) Out of print for many years, those who possessed a copy were fortunate. Thankfully, it has been made available again, at only \$14.95 for some 300

pages of wonders waiting to be discovered. We are indebted to Avalon, Carrol and Graf publishers for bringing this book back to us.

The variety of subjects demonstrates the breath of Wakeling's competence: His perfectionistic Billiard Ball routine opens the book. Particularly attractive to this reviewer are: "The Color Changing Gloves"; "The Goldfish in the Light Bulb"; "Psychic Blackjack"; "Eggs in bags and on fans"; "The Wakeling Crushing Apparatus"; a full Bar Act including a flaming glass of wine; "Numerology" starring "The Color Matrix" which was, I believe, a collaboration with the book's author; and handcuff escapes and dividing a lady; not to omit cards and coins. From the contents of this well-described book, reputations were and can be made. Photographs and careful diagrams complement the text.

Jim Steinmeyer wrote (in his newsletter) that Alan Wakeling died on November 10, 2004. One of the great inventors of magic of all time is a compliment from one who might be said to own that accolade himself. One word might describe the essential value of Wakeling's approach to magic creation: "Performability", something that will impress and delight everyone: those who make magic and those who are amazed by it. It is a pleasure to recommend this book.

Editor's Note: Amazon Books, the online book seller, is currently featuring the Wakling book for \$13.57 during the month of December.



December Meeting Continued from page 1

His television credits are extensive in the United States, Canada, and Japan. A story that circulates around the Magic Castle in Hollywood is what do Muhammed Ali, Sally Struthers, and Luciano Pavarotti have in common? All three have had their watches stolen by Whit Haydn. Amazingly—they got them back again. Whit's act will be one of the many highlights of this year's annual Ring 76 Holiday Bash.

For many years our Holiday Bash would begin with a potluck dinner with all of the members supplying a dish of some sort and the Ring supplying a turkey. The mess associated with that style of dinner and the yearly confusion of what people were supposed to bring came to the attention of the Ring board of directors. It was decided to do something a little different this year and relieve the Ring members from bringing food from home.

Jack White stepped up to the plate and announced he would create a light supper menu that will include Quesadillas, Chili without beans, corn chips with a Jalapeno cheese topping and one of Jack's special creations called a "Pizza-dilla" which is a quesadilla with pepperoni slices and onions. For dessert, we will offer chocolate fudge brownies with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Of course there will be coffee, a variety of sodas, bottled water and tea. Ring 76 is picking up the tab for the Holiday Bash supper. Don Soul has been taking cooking lessons and will be assisting Jack behind the bar at the grill.

Our entertainment vice president Terry Lunceford says there are several surprise acts that are being added to the program to make this a full evening of holiday celebration. This meeting is open to all Ring 76 members and their guests, so mark your calendars during this busy time of year for Monday, December 11th. Dinner begins at 7 p.m.



Coming Lectures for 2007 Continued from page 1

On Tuesday, February 13th, the night following the Ring 76 Close-up contest, Mark Wilson and Nani will do a special lecture for Ring 76. Mark has done it all: network television, the top county fairs, theme parks, a full evening show, as well as corporate shows and appearances in Las Vegas.

Mark and Nani will show you what made their show work and why they have stayed on top for so many years in magic. This lecture has been written about in magic journals throughout the country. Mark is presenting this lecture as a special favor to his Magic Castle buddy Bob Ingalls. You will get some excellent information at this evening of exciting magic. It will be a valuable learning experience no matter what your interest in magic may be. Mark will teach you how to sell your show.

Both of these lectures will begin at 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. The cost is \$20 for Ring 76 members \$25 for non-members. Tickets may be purchased at the door for each lecture. If you don't see another lecture the rest of the year, don't miss these two special magic lectures that begin our 2007 season.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"I had an idea for a MagiToon
...but it disappeared!"



Message from the Ring 76 President

Let me begin by wishing each and everyone of you a wonderful holiday season. If you attend the December meeting, you will find we have planned, I believe, an exciting holiday program. As you know we are departing from the usual December potluck dinner this year and instead Jack White is fixing a light supper style dinner. We will have Whit Haydn from Hollywood to do his magic act, and we have lined up a few surprise acts to make our program even more special and complete. I urge you to make every effort to attend this, the last meeting of 2006.

We begin the coming year with some exciting news and events. Our January 8th 2007, meeting will install all of the new members from 2006, and will feature bag night with members receiving a brown paper bag containing a bit of magical mystery and each person has to make a trick out of it. Then on Monday, January 22nd, Jeff McBride will be presenting a special lecture for Ring 76 members, the fee is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-Ring members.



Mark & Nani Wilson

As we move into February we will hold our annual "Close-up" competition. We are still working out the details for this year's contest. Then the following evening, Tuesday, February 13th, we are very excited to announce that magic legend Mark Wilson and Nani will be here for a rare and special magic lecture, again the fee is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Learn how a weekly magic television show is put together, and how a major magic show moves around the country with Mark doing some clever magic in between the stories. This will be another sensational lecture.

That is just the first two months of the coming year. We have some other exciting programs and meetings scheduled in the first half of 2007 so stay tuned.

Before I get too deep into 2007, let me thank all of the people who helped to make our Teach-in last month such a success, they are shown in photographs elsewhere in this newsletter. I also want to thank the board of directors of Ring 76 for helping me to make this an exciting year. I can truly say I have never worked with a nicer and more talented group of people.

I also want to thank Jack White and Jim Riley who each month put out our newsletter and a big thank you to all who have contributed articles, and photographs, especially Jim Whiting and Ellen Friedman for Magitoons, Joel Moskowitz for his excellent reviews, and so many others. I must mention Don Soul, who is back as our Webmaster and doing a great job. Thank you all so much for helping to make 2006 one of the best in Ring 76 history.

Bob Ingalls
President Ring 76



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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 or by phone at 619-299-9037

News

In case you haven't seen it yet, **Michael E. Johnson** has put together a new Web site for Las Vegas Magician **Mac King**. You can find it at mackingnews.com; it has been up and operating since October. Michael talks with Mac King on the phone each month and gets his views on magic and the news surrounding Mac's show at Harrah's Casino in Las Vegas. If you need help in designing and getting your Web site together, talk to Michael; he has become very skilled in this area. You can also find the site on Google.

Joe Mystic will continue to appear at the Lawrence Welk Theatre in the North County though the December holidays and will present his last show at that location on January 3, 2007. Joe has been appearing for the past several years on Wednesday evenings at the impressive Lawrence Welk facility. He started out with a six-week contract and stretched it into three years.

Word is circulating that **J.P. Scirica** has his Grand Magic Shop on Grand Avenue in Escondido on the market for sale. The Grand Magic Shop is the only full service magic supply house in San Diego County and fills a definite need. If you are interested in getting into the magic business, this might be an opportunity to look into for the future. Scirica will continue to operate the shop through December. At this writing, at least two local magi have expressed an interest in purchasing the business. J.P.'s plans, once the store is sold, are to return to the Seattle area and work for the police department there.

Bob Sheets was in San Diego for the Thanksgiving holiday, visiting his family. Bob attended the



Steve Reynolds magic lecture on November 20th at Jack's Magic Place, **J.C. Wagner** was also in the audience. Sheets and Wagner added a great deal to liven up the lecture. Bob has a new DVD out called "Skullcracker" and it's one of the best bill switches we have seen and it offers a great routine as well. Bob tells MagiCurrents it is an effect he had been working on for a longtime and, one night in Washington D.C., while working a date there he hit on the idea and has been doing it ever since. Most magic stores carry Bob Sheets magic DVDs; if not you can get it from any of the many online magic outlets.

Michael E. Johnson is doing a show on Thursday, December 14th for the Society of Professional Journalists at a prominent hotel in Point Loma. Michael is hoping to get some good press in local newspapers from those reporters in attendance. Michael is reporting that his bookings for December 2006, are better than in years past, a similar report is being echoed by several other local professionals in the San Diego area.

Jeff Marcus to Houston, Texas, on Thursday, November 30th, to do a corporate gig. When he finished his afternoon of magic shows for the client who hired him Jeff went over to visit the famous Magic Island night club in Houston to see what the other magicians were doing. Jeff will also be doing a show as the territorial vice president he will also

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be the installing officer for the Palm Desert I.B.M. Ring on December 5th.

To those of you attending the November Ring meeting you will remember a perky young woman by the name of **Mom Tazi**, a reporter from the San Diego City Beat newspaper. She was writing a story about magic and Ring 76 for her paper. That story is set to be published on December 6th; try to pick up a copy if you can. The City Beat newspaper is distributed citywide.

Bird flu is affecting dove workers. The uncertainty over the strains of Avian Influenza (AI) has affected the magic world. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has demanded a 30 day home-quarantine of U.S.-origin performing birds that have been out of the country for 60 or less days. This includes taking birds into Mexico. Something else to remember: beginning January 1st 2007, anyone going into Mexico must have a valid passport.

The December issue of **Magic Magazine** carries a Viewpoint essay by our own Ring 76 member **Brad Burt**. The very insightful article on page 32 deals with letting other people handle your props and how you handle that awkward situation. It is something all magicians should read.

If your spouse is looking for a special Holiday Gift, you might suggest a registration to the I.B.M. Convention in Reno, Nevada, this coming June 26 to the 30th. If you purchase before January 1, 2007, you will save \$20. Registration now is \$155; it goes to \$175 the first of the year.

Coming Attractions

Monday, December 11, Ring 76 Holiday Bash and Show. Light buffet served by the Ring and Magician Whit Haydn as our special entertainer. This will be a very exciting meeting; more information on page one of this newsletter.

Monday, January 8, the first meeting of 2007 will feature the installation of all new members in 2006. It will also be bag night: you can select a brown paper bag with a magic trick inside, and then create a magic effect with the props you receive in the bag. These are always fun evenings.

Monday, February 12, the much-anticipated Ring 76 Close-up contest. Information on becoming a contestant will be forth coming.

Monday, March 12, the Ring 76 Trick Parade, present a trick or routine of your own creation and then explain it to our members.

There will be no Ring 76 board of director's meeting in December; the next board meeting will be January 15, a week earlier than usual because of the Jeff McBride lecture the following week.

Watch for our re-opening soon



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