

Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award

Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

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Ring 76 Swap Meet Scheduled for Monday April 9th.

Monday evening, April 9th one of the most talked about and anticipated meetings of the year for many members of Ring 76 will take place; it is our annual magic swap meet. This meeting is an opportunity for members to sell their unwanted magic and buy someone else's magic treasures. If you are a buyer, this is a time to dig through a lot of other people's magic videotapes, DVDs, books, tricks, and seldom seen apparatus, and props of all kinds.



Some items to be featured at the swap meet.

(Swap Meet continued on page 6)

Nominations for Ring Officers set for May

Bob Ingalls is winding up his second year as President of Ring 76 in July. The Board of Directors will place Terry Lunceford's name in nomination for our next Ring president in May. In the meantime, the general makeup of the board of directors for the coming year is somewhat in limbo until the next board meeting when a suggested slate of officers will be announced.



Ring President Bob Ingalls opening the March meeting with a Giant Botania of flowers.

All offices are open and nominations will be accepted from the floor at the beginning of the May meeting. The current board has been operating without one member at large and that position

is expected to be filled in the coming year. It is also expected that at least one member of the current board will be leaving that position because of his work schedule.

If you are interested in one of the board positions, see a member of the current board or

(Elections continued on page 5)

March meeting brings out a wide variety of magic effects with some surprising explanations of how they work

Our March 12th meeting was the first during the new daylight saving time and was very well attended with 52 members and guests taking part in the festivities. President Bob Ingalls called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. sharp and there were a number of announcements. Following the announcements Terry Lunceford, the first vice president in charge of entertainment, took over the program.

The theme of the evening was a "Trick Parade." Our members were asked to do one of their favorite routines and then explain how the effect works. First up was Jacques Lord, who presented a trick he does at weddings. A torn and restored 2-dollar bill that includes some very clever and cute patter. Charlie Gott was next; he does Gospel Magic and his routine with the "A.B.C. Block" effect was very different. First he made all of the props himself out of wood and the blocks were "man, sin and life." After doing his routine he gave instruction on how to build the props and create the patter. This was a very complete presentation.

Dr. J. Pearson was our next presenter with a stand up coin routine. Dr. Pearson does magic for his patients everyday, and he gave our audience a lesson in how to get people you are interacting with to relax. Longtime professional performer Bob Elliott, who did an excellent routine of putting a coin under a spectator's wristwatch, followed Dr. Pearson. Bob has been doing this for years and has perfected a most unique and simple way to load the coin with out the spectator ever knowing what is happening. He gave a detailed lesson to our members, many of who asked him for more information after the meeting.

Craig Stone, another of our pros, gave us a great lesson in showmanship with cards by showing our members a great stand-up effect with pasteboards that is quick and very effective. Craig has a booming voice and commanding presence that added to his demonstration and explanation. Dr. Robert Allen, who offered one of the most original effects of the evening using two cottage cheese containers, followed Craig. They were the quart size container; a second pint size container is also used as a liner in the larger container, which conceals milk that fills a glass for a funny and surprising ending to the trick. Dr. Allen presented the trick and then explained how it was constructed. It is an effect that fits nicely into any kind of a show or routine.

Tom McCarthy is one of San Diego's busiest restaurant workers and knows how to get the maximum entertainment out of very few props. He used three playing cards and turned his few minutes into an exciting miracle.

Then in very simple terms explained his routine; it was another winner. Terry Godfrey was next,

another hard working professional who has a long list of fair dates scheduled for the summer ahead up and down the Pacific coast. Terry was wearing a Panama straw hat and used it in his routine with three little balls that fly from one hand to another and then into his hat. Terry explained his routine with pure sleight-of-hand to our members and while few will ever attempt doing the trick, they do have new appreciation for the work a real pro like Terry puts into his show. Both his routine and his explanation were very entertaining to watch.



Tom McCarthy very smooth card routine

Toni Perrine, who as a young woman worked in British Music Hall as a singer and dancer and today works as a magic clown, walked onto the stage with the confidence of an old pro, she balanced a tennis ball on ruler. Toni had a lot of good patter about balancing her checkbook and playing tennis and then knocked the audience dead with her balancing feat. She built the prop herself and showed us how to construct one for our own use. Joe Mystic followed with his Miser's Dream. Joe showed us a new coin dropper device he recently purchased at the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas. It has a magnet attached to it so he can move it inside and outside the coin bucket. Joe gave everyone some good food for thought on doing a Miser's Dream.

Alex Greenbaum, one of our youngest performers at 16 years of age, presented a spelling effect that was very clever and mystifying. Alex gave his audience a few tips on how to make sure the trick works every time by being sure you know how to spell a spectator's name properly. It was a good effect. Closing the show was Ring 76 President Bob Ingalls, who did a super prediction involving a chosen card with the prediction being hidden under a spectator's chair. Bob said he figured the trick out on the drive to the Magic Castle in Hollywood.



Toni Perrine
balancing a tennis ball



Charlie Gott
with Gospel Magic



Terry Godfrey doing
paper ball in hat.



Bob Elliott and some
clever coin magic



Joe Mystic and the "Misers
Dream" with a new kind of
coin gimmick.



Dr. Jeff Pearson and a
coin routine



Craig Stone
Note his name on
his shirt.



Dr. Robert Allen
and his milk & paper
ball routine.



Jacques Lord and a bill
exchange

Magic Book Review by Dr. Joel Moskowitz



Who Was That Masked Man? By Joel A. Moskowitz, M.D.

Thoughts on Mentalism

Originally published in “Vibrations” the Journal of the Psychic Entertainers Association

June 1998, when Dr. Moskowitz was a member of that august body.

Conjure this? This shall be a story of elucidation. What is it that you do? What do those who watch what you do think or feel about what you do? What follows are some thoughts designed to provoke interested readers (cold or hot) to consider their identity, purpose, mission, and vision. All in the hopes of expanding their self-awareness in the service of enhancing their effectiveness, marketing, presentation, and help them lose weight, as well.

In a voluminous tomb entitled, “Dictionary,” no heading for “mentalism” exists. Rather you find “mental telepathist” (not pathetic mentalist) from which you are directed to see “mind reader.” If you were a mind reader, you would already have known that. “Mind Reader” is defined as “one who professes or is held to have ability in mind reading.” Notice that the ability is either alleged by the person him/herself or others. There is an absence of inference that the quality is real.

Small wonder (more about wonder later) that in a random survey of unselected men and women in an ATM line elicited their free association to the couplet “mind reader” as “performer” “entertainer,” “vaudeville,” “magician,” “fraud,” “deception,” “charlatan,” “provocative,” and “amusing.” This sequential trend was obtained in a statistically challenged set of responses (I will not burden the reader with the actual data).

(Note: This concern for the reader wherein substantiating conclusions is respectfully omitted has been the approach in a recent book on Houdini, but we shall not digress. Nor is any deduction to be made from the reactions of those surveyed, nor their order of appearance. Instead, I suggest that the reader poll their own diverse group for baseline definitions. For the purpose of this essay, I shall assume that what I found is a widely met set of responses.)

What is your purpose in practicing the art of mentalism and how might you best get there?

If you naively believe that your only motive is a hope to convey your power of being able to bend men’s minds or enchant women folk, then I respectfully suggest that you an experience of self-examination to understand your latent feelings of inferiority and/or powerlessness.

In the regrettable motive that by demonstrating your mastery of the mentally unspoken you will elicit the awe of the masses that will bow to your new religion and kiss your ring, it is advised that, with haste, you contact your local mental health agency for help.

Where your intent is to enlighten, beware that you stand astride the knife edge of disclosure. Few performing mentalists purposefully wish to reveal their methods. The guise of themselves and educators whose subject is the mind generally seeks only to attempt to cloak their mystery with a mantle of psychobabble and pseudo professorial authority.

It is my observation that the optimum demonstration of mental agility – including talents of uncommon mental functions – reading minds, the future, being able to use cerebral vibrations to move objects, to divine missing objects including bodies, expanded sensory perceptions – vis-a-vis being able to see through silver dollars and other dough (cooking I mean) – are most satisfying when the mentalist/

magician/actor and the audience agree to ‘dance’ together. Each plays a role – the performer will behave in an “as if” mode (as though he/she possesses wondrous powers) and the audience will react as though it were true/real/believable. “The play is the thing.”

The audience willingly suspends disbelief. Ah, but where lies the optimum pleasure? I suggest that it is not in *amazement* or even *wonderment*. By dictionary definition, “to amaze” is to confuse, bewilder, excite to frenzy, madness, perplexity. Wonder encompasses “marvel, miracle, that which excites amazed admiration” or a “bewildered” curiosity aroused by the extraordinary and unaccountable.” Do you, the mentalist, want to leave your audience confused and agitated? Wouldn’t you prefer them to feel entertained, pleased?

The problem of much of magic, mentalism is that the production of a bowl of fruit, a canary, an undisclosed thought evokes wonder and this in turn triggers intellectual reaction of seeking an explanation, thereby muting the joy of surprise.

For me, the O’Henry ending is choice. The card effect, The Web does that. Slydini did it by having a series of balls vanish into a small box which, at the conclusion of his effect, was shown to be (a) empty (b) have no bottom. I recall with glee when a clown/magician/juggler tossing some plates into the air, upon dropping some whereupon they audibly smashed, evoked gasps from the audience, myself included, when without breaking his rhythm he skimmed some of the plates into the audience and from which we ducked, only to discover the ones he scaled into our midst were paper! The surprise admixed with pleasure was delightful.

The shock of the unexpected is the quintessential quality in producing a memorable psychologically emotionally satisfying experience. Accomplish this and you have impacted your audience in a way few will ever

forget. Therein, I submit, is the proper twist in the tale.

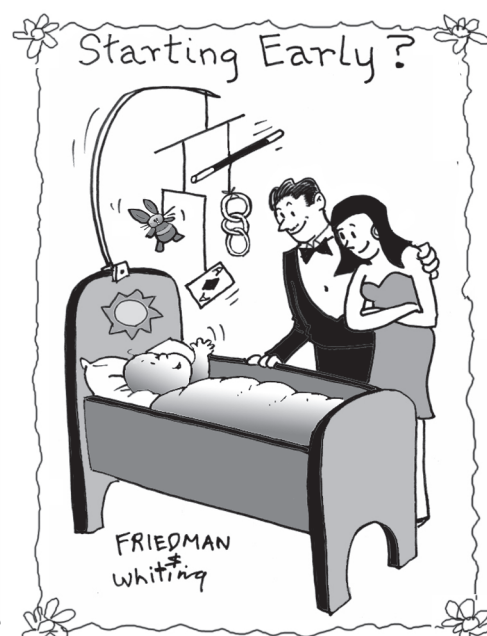
Election Story continued from page one

have your name put into nomination at the May meeting. Board members are expected to attend our general membership meetings on the second Monday of each month as well as the eleven board meetings on the fourth Monday of each month except December. That is a total of 23 meetings each year or two meeting each month. Because the I.B.M. is an all-volunteer organization, all officers are expected to pay your own way on all events.

The benefits of the job include planning for the future of Ring 76 in San Diego.

“MagiToon”

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



Auction story con't from page 1

If you have some magic and would like to sell it at the swap meet, here are some things you should know. Seller's tables are available for \$10 for a 6-foot-long or you can share half a table with someone else for \$5. Sellers are the only people allowed into the hall until we officially open for business at 7 p.m. The room will be open to sellers from 3:30 p.m. to unload and set up for the swap meet.

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

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

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

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

We have found that swap meet evenings usually end somewhat earlier than our regular meetings, so be on time because the early birds are the ones that get the great bargains and the hard-to-find magic. This year raffle tickets will be sold at the door with the proceeds going to the Ring treasury. Kenny Shelton will pick a new ticket every 15 minutes and raffle off a prize. All sellers are being asked to contribute an auction item as part of the privilege to sell at this event.

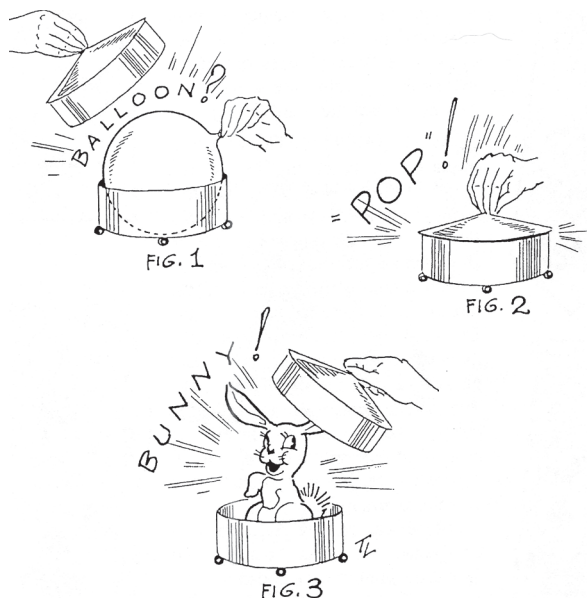
"The Surprise Miracle"

By Jack White

I am one of those people old enough to remember Hen Fetsch, a wonderful performer and prolific inventor of magic effects. It was an especially good day when I would walk into a magic shop and there was a new Hen Fetsch trick available. In March of this year a new book about the life of Hen Fetsch and his magic was released to the magical fraternity. It's called: "Fetching Magic" by Robert Kirkwood Spencer; I was eager to read it because when I was as a boy I was a great Hen Fetch fan.

I was not disappointed in what I read either and was particularly taken aback by a routine for the "Dove Pan." Taken aback because Hen Fetsch credits our Frank Herman for giving him the idea for the routine. On page 67 of the book the routine is called Hen Fetsch's "Surprise Miracle."

Effect: A white balloon is inflated, placed in a pan, covered with a lid, and "pop" goes the balloon, and it changes into a bunny. The needed props include a dove pan with a thumb tack affixed to the bottom of the load pan. Fetsch notes that for maximum effect it is necessary that the lid be placed over the pan and immediately removed with a single up and down. I have watched Frank Herman perform this routine many times. A very effective use of the old dove pan.

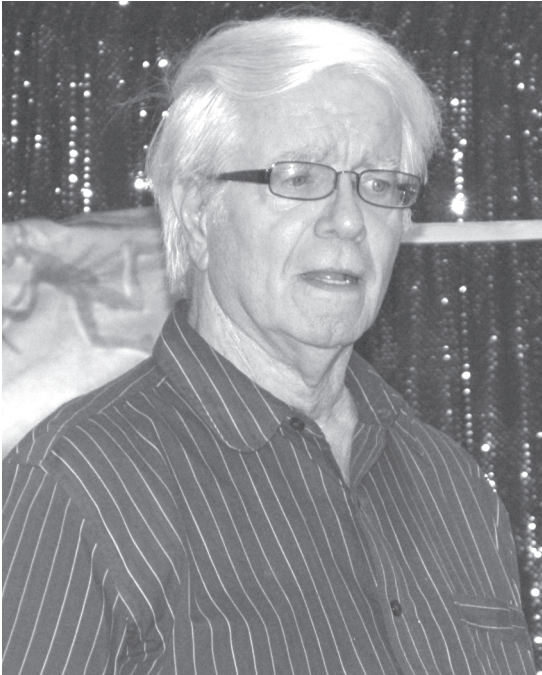


If you like this routine you will really enjoy the book, it is available online from most magic dealers if it is not available at the Grand Magic Shop in Escondido.

What a Magical World This Can Be

By Dr. Jeff Pearson

Dedicated to Bob Elliott, friend and mentor



Bob Elliott - magician & man of many talents

(Sung to the tune of "Don't Know Much")

**We know much about double lifts,
Color changes, invisible shifts.
We can top change or force a card.
We know what TTs and ITs are for.**

**We can hold out coins from your
view,
Perhaps many or just one or two.
What a Bobo and some shell can do;
Copper Silvers will amaze you, too.**

**You'll see only what we want you to
see
What a magical world this can be!**

**Now we're holding a rope with a
knot in the middle,**

**And it slides all around,
but try cutting that rope exactly in
the middle and-
The ends just can't be found.**

**Linking rings, some cups and
sponge balls-
Just when you think that you've see
it all,
Knives change color before your
eyes,
Sliding shells reveal more surprises.**

**You'll see only what we want you to
see.
What a magical world this can be!**

**Watch this dollar bill that my fingers
are holding-
Now it's a hundred, instead.
And as you look closer when we
beckon,
The napkin flies over your head!**

**There have been magicians
throughout the ages:
Houdini, Professor and other sages;
you saw only what you wanted to
see.
What a magical world this can be!
(Repeat and fade final line)**

(Editor's note: We thank Jeff Pearson for sharing the above song lyrics with us. We also thank Bob Elliott for sharing his knowledge of performing and presenting magic to our many members. He is always a bright spot at our meetings and gatherings.)



Message from the Ring 76 President

It is spring housecleaning time at the Ingalls house, and I have found a drawer full of magic that I have hardly use; in fact, some of it has been unopened and remains in its original cellophane wrapper. I am getting all of it together for next Monday evening's Ring 76 Swap Meet. If you have been doing the same thing at your house and plan to be a seller at this year's swap meet, I would suggest that you reserve either a full table or a half table as soon as possible. Call Richard Ustick at (619) 589-1913 or you can e-mail him at rustick@flash.net. There is a story about all the details of being a seller on page one of this newsletter.

This is a great time to introduce a friend to our Ring, so plan to bring someone along to the swap meet that has an interest in magic because they will find some real bargains on sale and some nice collectables in magic.

The next few months are especially important to your board of directors as they begin to workout the planning for the year ahead. One of the things you should know about is the board's plan to collect dues for the year 2007 – 08. Our dues are payable on June 12th at our regularly scheduled meeting. Many people pay at that time, while other's wait to be billed in July and some wait until August or September to send in their checks. This year dues will be \$25 if paid during the month of June. However, after that dues will be \$30. You will still receive a dues notice if you are late but be prepared to pay an extra \$5. So a word to the wise, plan to

pay your dues in June, avoid a late charge and save. You will be hearing more about this new plan in the next month or two, I just wanted to give you a little advance notice so you can start saving now.

A new president and a new board of directors will be sworn into office in July nominations for board members will be open at the May meeting. If you would like to run for office, have someone place your name in nomination when I call for nominations at the beginning of the May 14th meeting. Elections will take place at the June meeting and the new officers will be installed in July. If you would like to become a part of the decision making committee for Ring 76 then think about running for office.

Things don't just happen by themselves in organizations like Ring 76; each event and meeting is planned and a lot of different people talk about and contribute ideas to make sure things go smoothly, while many others do the actual work for each event. I have had the pleasure for almost two years of being part of and overseeing that unit that plans and gives direction to all of our Ring meetings and events. I just want to take a moment to thank the board members and volunteers who work so hard to make sure that Ring 76 is one of the best in the International Brotherhood of Magicians organization. Though my term as president is quickly coming to an end, I want you to know that I will still be here to help in any capacity that I can in an effort to keep the wheels turning.

See you all Monday, for a great evening of bargain hunting and fellowship.

Bob Ingalls
President Ring 76



President
Bob Ingalls

1st Vice President
Terry Lunceford

2nd Vice President
Kenny Shelton

Secretary
Jack White*

Treasurer
Richard Ustick

Sgt at Arms/Librarian
Sal Barajas

Member at Large
Donna Greenbaum

Immediate Past President
Diane Lane*

Territorial Vice President
Jeff Marcus*

*denotes Past Ring President

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

News

The Grand Magic Shop in Escondido has moved one block east on Grand. The new shop is located at 252 E. Grand Ave. **J.P. Scirica** is a local magician, as well as the shop owner. This shop has in recent months become the only full service magic shop in San Diego County. Drop by the new shop and say hello, I recently tried to call the shop but the operator said the number was disconnected. It probably has not been moved yet from the old shop to the new location. The good news is they are moved and open for business.

All around top performer **Cameron** is making his first local appearance in years at the Long Shadow Ranch Winery in Temecula on Saturday, April 7th. Cameron has been kept very busy in recent years working cruise ships, various casinos and trade shows, but he still lives in the North County. His show April 7th will be his "Comedy Hypnosis Show." Doors at the winery open at 5 p.m. with the show to follow at 6:30 p.m. For more information on directions and tickets call (951) 240-5098.

March was a big month for past Ring 76 president **Diane Lane**; she became a grandmother for the third time. A new grandson was born March 23rd, mother is doing fine, but baby **Dylan** had to stay in the hospital because of breathing problems. But by March 26, Dylan was strong enough to go home. Diane also celebrated another big event in March: the 14th anniversary of her liver transplant. The strong medication that Diane has had to take to keep her body from rejecting the liver has caused her kidneys to weaken. She is now looking for a kidney transplant donor with type O positive blood.



The **Shoot Ogawa** Lecture on March 26 was very successful with more than 50 people attending. The lecture was promoted by **Syd Segal** who surprised everyone by bringing his very beautiful wife **Atsuko** to the lecture. Syd and Atsuko were married on May 17th 2005; she will graduate from Palomar College with an Associates Degree in Child Development later this spring. And she will need all that information she has learned about babies because she and Syd are expecting their first child in November. Atsuko is from Osaka, Japan.

Terry Godfrey is gearing up for a very big summer performing at fairs in California and Oregon, here is his schedule so far with more to be added later: Conejo Valley Days, Newbury Park, CA, May 5 & 6; California Strawberry Festival; Oxnard, CA, May 19 & 20, San Diego County Fair, Del Mar June 8 to July 4th, Sonoma County Fair, Santa Rosa, CA, July 17 to 23rd; Hood River County Fair, Hood River, Oregon, July 25 to 28th; Deschutes County Fair, Redmond, Oregon, August 1 to the 5th; Antelope Valley Fair, Lancaster, CA, August 24 to Sept 4; Harney County Fair, Burns, Oregon, Sept 6 to the 9th; Tehama District Fair, Red Bluff, CA, Sept 28 to the 30th. A lot of time on the road with this schedule. Of course Terry is most happy about landing the San Diego County Fair because he can stay at home during the run of that fair.

Briefs

After being buried for 81 years, forensic scientists will exhume the remains of renowned escape artist and magician **Harry Houdini**, to determine whether he was murdered, all of this according to the New York Times. The new book "The Secret Life of Houdini" by **William Kalush** and **Larry Sloman** has shed new light on the possibility that Houdini and his wife **Bess** may have been poisoned in 1926. Bess was also very ill and in the same hospital as Houdini when he died and it is now believed that both may have been the targets of spiritualist enemies. It is not clear when the body of Houdini will be exhumed, but it is believed it will happen sometime this spring. It is expected that DNA evidence will prove once and for all if poison was in his system when he died. So all these years later an air of mystery continues to circulate around the great mystifier!

Michael E. Johnson has a very busy month of fund raising events. On April 14th, he does an all day event in Fallbrook, for the Habitat for Humanity group. Then on April 28th he will do a fundraiser for the American Lung Association in San Diego. On Thursday evenings, Michael performs at San Diego County's only 5-Star Hotel and Resort, the Four Season's Aviara in Carlsbad. Michael is one busy magician.

Kenny Shelton recently auditioned for the summer job of strolling juggler and performer at Sea World, San Diego. Every spring the amusement park brings in dozens of youthful performers and gives them an opportunity to show off their talents; in return, the best are offered summer contracts at the park. I doubt that many have performed on network television as Kenny has. We say good luck, Kenny!

Coming Attractions

Monday, April 9, Ring 76 Swap Meet! Start putting the magic you no longer use aside and reserve a table at the swap meet. Turn your old unused magic into cash. Start time 7 p.m.

Monday, May 14. The annual Ring 76 stage contest. Start polishing up your act for this exciting event that offers cash prizes for the top three winners. Nominations for Ring 76 board of directors takes place at this meeting. The program begins at 7 p.m.

Monday, June 11, Ring 76 elections, time to pay your dues and the annual Ring auction of magic props, books, videotapes and DVDs. If you have items you want placed in the auction, contact Jack White or J.P. Jackson with a list of your goods.

Monday, April 23rd, the Ring 76 Board of Directors meeting at 7 p.m. At Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. These meetings are open to all Ring members who may want to attend.

Opening in April



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