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MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



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Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

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Gala Holiday Potluck Dinner and A Super Show on December 10th.

The Annual Ring 76 Holiday Party and Show will take place on Monday evening, December 10th at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. All members and their spouses are welcome at this event. This will be a buffet/potluck dinner. We have assigned the basic dishes to our board members. Board members will be purchasing and cooking two turkeys, sliced roast beef, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, yams, rolls and butter, and a green salad. The Ring will also supply soft drinks, coffee and tea, as well as bottled water.

Members are being asked to bring food items other than the above menu. If your last name begins with A-J please bring a cold salad, which could be Ambrosia, 3-bean salad, chips and dip, vegetable or fruit platter, or a favorite recipe.

Members whose last names begin with K-R please bring a hot side dish. We can always use more mashed potatoes, hot vegetables, beans, stuffing, tamales, or a family recipe.

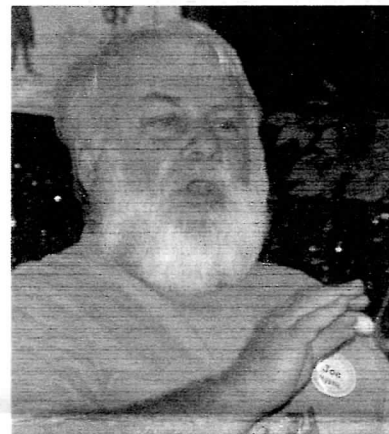
Members whose last names begin with S-Z please bring a dessert. We have no desserts on the menu so a pumpkin pie, apple pie, cakes, cookies, brownies would all be welcome.

Because we have many members with food allergies please take the time to write up a small index card listing the ingredients of any dish you bring.

Diane Lane has taken on the job of coordinating the food for this event if you have any questions about what you should bring; give her a call at (619) 203-9986; she will be happy to make suggestions.

We are asking that all of the food arrive between 6:30 and 7 p.m. We will open the serving line at 7 p.m. for dinner, followed by introductions and our program.

The program will be a special show by one of San Diego's



Joe Mystic Holiday Party
entertainer

busiest stage magicians-Joe Mystic, who has just come off the road following a series of variety show appearances. We have all seen Joe in action many times at our various meetings: and he has always presented very clever effects. But for this, show we will see a different side of Joe Mystic as he

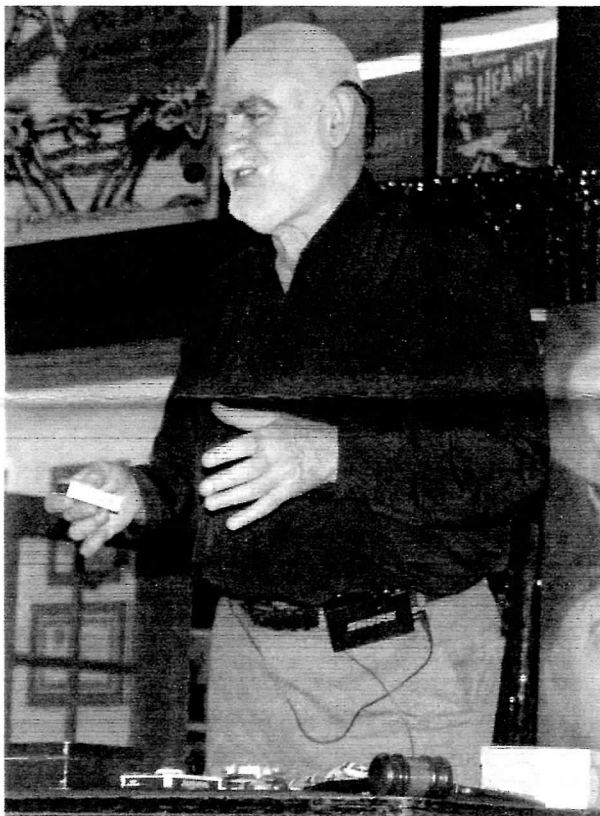
presents several of his illusions from his big show that played the Lawrence Welk Dinner Theater for several years. This promises to be an exciting evening of good food, good fellowship, and top entertainment.

As a magician, it is always advisable to have a few close-up tricks in your pocket to present at the table during dinner. This is always a popular and exciting evening with a larger than usual crowd. So we ask that you limit people you bring to your immediate family and no guests for this meeting.

November meeting with surprise lecture and the Chargers Blood Drive make for special Magic!

Our November meeting was a little different than usual; instead of a program, we had a special lecture by Charles Gauci from Australia. Charles was making a tour of the United States and Canada and flew into San Diego from Toronto, the afternoon of the lecture itself. He is well known on the magic convention circuit as a performer/dealer who specializes in unique mental magic. He presented a number of new mental effects, as well as a look at his famous "Which Hand is the Coin In?" effect that uses a gimmick in the ear. That effect was first introduced at the San Diego I.B.M. Convention of 2002.

Charles Gauci is a longtime friend of many Ring 76 members, Gauci later told Bob Ingalls, and that knowing so many people made the lecture that much more pleasant. It was a good evening for the membership, as well with the lecture going until 9:30 and some members having to leave before it was over.



Charles Gauci

On November 20th, the San Diego Chargers and the San Diego Blood Bank held their annual blood drive at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. This is a giant event with the entire community coming together to support this effort of stock piling blood for the coming holiday season. Ring 76 was given a booth in the new Convention facility at the hotel. Michael E. Johnson made up a great display telling people about the I.B.M. and Ring 76 and featuring photographs of many of our members doing magic.

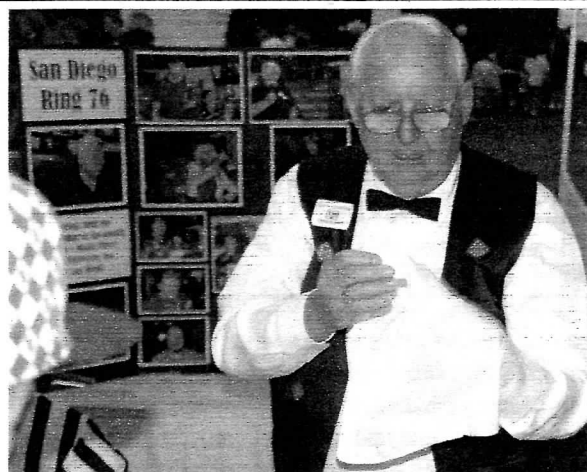
There was also a table at the booth where our members could do magic for those who dropped by, and when this reporter looked in there were throngs of people gathered around to watch the various performers doing close-up magic. Kenny Shelton arrived at 7 a.m. To begin an all-day shift of doing magic and juggling for those who came to give the gift of life. Charlie Gott was another Ring member that arrived early and was there to the end, entertaining young and old alike and walked away after a long day with a smile on his face.

Others taking part with an hour or more of time included Sebastian Figueroa, Craig Stone, Bob Pozner, Terry Luncford, Loch David Crane, Jim Whiting, Diane Lane, Michael E. Johnson, Magic Mike Stilwell, and Jack White. Mike Stilwell's costume, a Zoot Suit, draws people to him like a magnet. One of the nurses asked him if he would follow her into the donor room and entertain some of the people actually in the process of donating blood and of course he was on his way. Magic Mike once told a group of Ring 76 members that he really only knows six or eight good tricks and that he has them in his pocket ready to go at all times. His work in the donor room was superb, and it looked like he had more than eight miniature illusions with him.

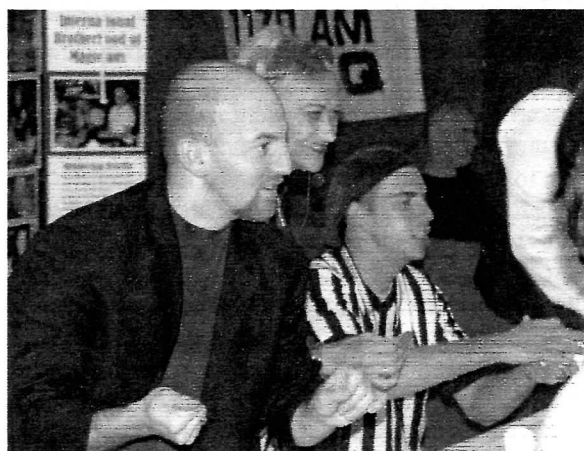
It is always good when we can turn our hobbies, skills and talents into a public service that can benefit the entire community. Ring 76 members who supported the Chargers Blood Drive made a difference in helping promote good health and safety in this community and all of our volunteers deserve a pat on the back for their efforts. At press time we do not have photos of all of the volunteer magicians. We will print what we have this month and the rest next month in *MagiCurrents*.



Diane Lane with some coin magic at the Chargers Blood Drive



Charlie Gott doing close-up magic



Sebastian, Diane, and Kenny Shelton entertaining a big crowd of people



Looking out toward a smiling audience we see Charlie Gott, Kenny Shelton, and Sebastian working the crowd. Note that Charlie has his "Professor's Nightmare" rope trick set up on the table ready to perform.

Magic Book Review by Dr. Joel Moskowitz



This "Street" is not the "Road" to Magic

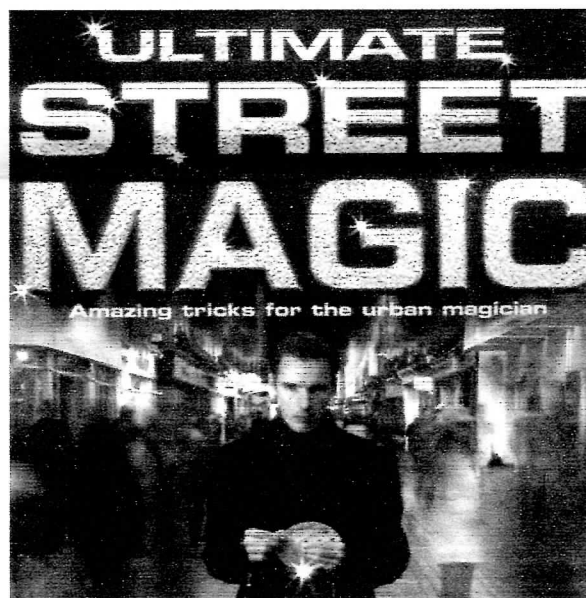
A friend of mine commented that "street magic," aka David Blaine, which astonishes the wayfarer, was beneficial to the magical arts. His meaning was that bringing seemingly extemporaneous conjuring to the passerby (not actually what we know to have occurred) served to introduce magic to those who might never have occasioned to have the funds to experience David Copperfield. While magical deceptions are often classified by the venue in which the performer exerts his/her wonders, i.e., stage, school auditorium, Chuckee Cheese birthday celebration, trade show, cruise ship. We have yet to hear about magic performed in a satellite (other than the outstanding science) or aboard a 747 or the like.

Having recently affirmatively reviewed another book (Tom Ogden's Idiots Guide to Street Magic), I was impelled to buy and read what purported to be the infinite source for knowledge of this specialized area of magic. The title, "Ultimate Street Magic," I was soon to find, out was more superlative than substance. It might be appropriate to remember that the adjective use of the word "ultimate" refers to a final destination and also a fundamental something, an underlying reality when all other things are disregarded. In no way is this book 'ultimate' in those senses. "Ultimate" is also utilized as an alternative to "greatest" and this book doesn't fit that definition either.

Author Gary Sumpter, in his introduction, offers that magic has grown more than he has. In this I am ready to concur. Blame (for this Blaine aficionado) cannot be foisted on Mr. Sumpter alone. His publisher, New Holland Publishers, titled another book "Every Magic Secret in the World Revealed" which I have not read, but may simply be the editor's inclination toward grandiosity and hyperbole.

One hundred twenty-eight slick pages hard bound exaggeration glamorously presented are yours for circa \$25.00. **AMAZING** card magic, **UNBELIEVABLE** coin magic, **MIND STRETCHING** rubber band magic, street magic **RED HOT**, **SURREAL** mind magic, **STREET FREAK** (think Chris Angel?), and street-smart **FANCY CARD FLOURISHES** constitute the chapters.

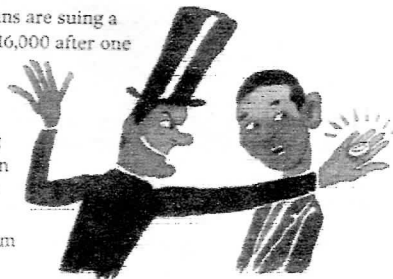
Admittedly, many books on magic are constructed like many cook books. Recipes are "borrowed" without any effort to attribute origins. Like cookbooks, such syntheses carelessly fail to include some of the appropriate ingredients. Mr. Sumpter doesn't disappoint. He refers his reader to additional sources, e.g., Magic Clubs wherein he includes: The Magic Circle (he is British as is his publisher); Society of American Magicians, but notably no mention of The International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM).



Gary Sumpter, who lists himself as a dealer (Creative Magic), has a secondary title to his creation: "Amazing Tricks for the Urban Magician." Would a magician who performs in a suburban environment not find much of worth? He writes, "All of the effects included in this book are relatively easy to perform, leaving you plenty of time to work on your performance." This oxymoronic promise might be offered to author Sumpter himself. He would benefit from having devoted more time creating a truly valuable contribution to the literature of street magic. Borrowing another title from a truly entertaining TV show, you should "Curb Your Enthusiasm" with regards to purchasing this book....

WATCH ME PULL A SUSHI OUT OF THE HAT

Some Japanese magicians are suing a Tokyo TV station for \$16,000 after one of its shows revealed the secrets of their coin tricks. "I know it doesn't sound like a big lawsuit," Craig Ferguson told his *Late Late Show* audience, "but it has to be taken in quarters from behind people's ears."



A New Production for Syd & Atsuko Segal

News of the arrival of Synthia Ayame Segal arrived in the editorial offices of MagiCurrents just as our November issue was on its way to the printer. So we have had to hold up the news of this new production by Syd and Atsuko Segal until this month.

The proud father, of course, sent along a couple of photographs that we are also printing in this issue of MagiCurrents. Dad has also asked that we print the vital statistics: the baby was born at 10:24 p.m. on Wednesday, October 24th. Synthia officially weighed in at 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 18.5 inches in length. The proud father also acknowledged that mother and baby are doing just fine, but dad is a nervous wreck.

Synthia's father is working to line up a new series of magic lectures for the coming year. When the schedule is announced let's all try to attend at least one of them to assure the new baby can have a new dress and some new toys as needed. Everyone at Ring 76 sends their best wishes to the Segal family during this holiday season.



Syd & Synthia Segal; rest now Syd, because you will be running



"Thank You" MagiCurrents Contributors

As we wrap up another year of MagiCurrent publications for the members of Ring 76, the editors of this publication would like to give a little special "Thank You" to several people who contribute to this newsletter. We begin with Ellen Friedman and Jim Whiting who every month come up with a new magic cartoon that always brings a smile to our faces. A great deal of effort and time goes into each of these little gems. We just want Ellen and Jim to know we really appreciate their work even when health issues and vacation trips come along; they still deliver the goods on time.

Dr. Joel Moskowitz, is at his computer day and night writing articles for a variety of scholarly as well as leisure time publications, but each month he finds the time to research and write about a new and often times little known magic publication for our members. Thank you, Joel, for never missing a deadline and continuing to come up with new material to help us all with our magic.

And a special "Thank You" to Jim Riley, who takes time out of his busy schedule each month to spend a morning at my house going over all of the copy and photographs to make sure names are properly spelled, the grammar is correct and all of our "t" are crossed and our "i" are dotted, it's so nice to have a retired school teacher as a member of the team. To all of you a big pat on the back and a job well done from the readers of MagiCurrents!

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Want to see me make 2007 disappear?"



Message from the Ring 76 President

November was a razzle-dazzle month with a different style meeting for our members featuring a lecture and then on the 20th of November, our club took part in the Chargers Blood drive at the Town & Country Hotel. I want to thank all of the performers who showed up to support the cause at the blood drive. Latest reports show that 2000 pints of blood were drawn in that one single day, blood that may make a difference in saving a life during the coming holiday season.

You will find the December holiday party equally exciting this month. Jack has a story with all of the details of what to bring elsewhere in this newsletter. We will once again have a buffet/potluck dinner followed by Joe Mystic's Illusion show. I know you have seen Joe perform at meetings many times before, but for this performance you will be seeing something a little different. We also hope to have some music by Mago Ruly at the beginning of our program to get everyone into the holiday spirit.

The Ring 76 board had to do some fast-talking to convince Jack White to have the potluck dinner, because it does create a huge mess, and Jack rents the room out to other groups this time of year. So we are asking

for three or four volunteers to come by Jack's Magic Place on Tuesday the day after our party at about 10 a.m. to help with the cleanup of things. With a good group of people we should have everything put back in order by noon. I hope I can count on some of you to volunteer for cleanup duty.

I want to remind our membership of a couple of things coming in the future. If you are planning on attending the Combined I.B.M. - S.A.M. Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, July 21 to 26th, you should make your reservations before December 31st because the price will go up \$100 on January 1st. Jack White has a story in the December Linking Ring Magazine with all of the information on the convention.

In January, Ring 76 begins its 60th year of service to the magic community in San Diego. We have some big plans for this anniversary year, and everyone in the Ring will be part of those plans. We will begin talking about some of the special events we have planned beginning in January. I should also tell you that the I.B.M. Convention Committee was in San Diego in early November looking at hotel and theater facilities to hold their 2010 International Convention here. That comes as good news, as we would be the host Ring for that convention. I will keep you posted as things develop in that arena.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the December meeting on the 10th, and I want to take this moment to wish each and every member of Ring 76 the Happiest of Holidays and a successful New Year!

*Terry Lunceford
President Ring 76*



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Terry Lunceford

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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

The week following Thanksgiving always kicks off the countdown to the Holiday Season, and it seems magicians suddenly become in great demand. On November 26th, **Jack White** and **Kenny Shelton** did a show for the Optimist Club of Allied Gardens, as they honored young people for their scholastic achievements. **Bob Ingalls** and Jack White usually do this show annually; however, Bob has been under the weather and had to bow out this year.

Others on the road with a holiday show include: **Bob Elliott** and **Dr. Jeff Pearson** who presented their magic at a fund raiser on December 1st, for a high school football player **Scotty Eveland**, who was seriously injured during a game. VFW Post 3795 in San Marcos put on the fundraiser.

Tis the season for **Loch David Crane** to put on his Santa Suit and roll out the Startrike for a series of Holiday Parades: on Saturday, December 1st, Loch was in the Ocean Beach Parade and did magic following the parade from 5 to 6 p.m. On December 8th Loch will appear in the Pacific Beach Holiday Parade and perform magic from Noon to 3 p.m. Loch and his Startrike are in great demand for special events throughout the year.



Loch David Crane & the Startrike in a parade



Lou Heck has been promoting a special event with members of Ring 292; the event is to honor the "first responders" in the recent fires in San Diego County. The first responders include: Fire Fighters, Emergency Medical Teams, and Sheriff's Deputies. The event was held in Balboa Park on December 1st. Those taking part include; **Lou Heck, Terry & Amy Runyon, and Donna Greenbaum**; Lou was also asking for help from members of Ring 76 but that was a very busy weekend for local magi.

If you are a regular shopper on EBay, you may have noticed that Oceanside magician **Steve Spellman** had a set of lecture notes for sale. The notes were titled "Amazing Frauds." Locally we couldn't find anyone who remembered that lecture, so a group all threw in a few bucks and bought the notes for \$4. We may want Steve to present his lecture at a future Ring 76 meeting.

In case you have not noticed, **Michael E. Johnson** is looking pretty dapper these days in a new cut-away suit that has become his new costume for magic shows. He is currently working to secure a small theater in the North County for his new magic program called: "The Elegant Mystery Show." To give this show a better look, Michael has been studying with Magic Advisor **Bob Fitch** in Los Angeles. In late November Michael presented his act for Fitch who gave Michael some

Briefs

important pointers and suggestions for making it even better. For more information on the elegant magician, go to Michael's latest Website at: www.gentlemanmichael.com.

After more than a year entertaining audiences in a big show at the Horizon Hotel in Lake Tahoe, Ring 76 member **Joel Ward** will do his last show there on January 13th. The show is called: "TV Stars of Magic" and has been a big draw for the hotel. Joel's act has been in the featured spot on the show. He is not clear on where he will go after he closes at the Horizon; right now he is looking at several possibilities that include Southern California.

Ring 76 President **Terry Lunceford**, when he is not doing magic, races fast cars. In November he took part in the SCCA Solo Race in the Mod-One Class, at the parking lot of Qualcomm Stadium. Terry says he is driving a vintage classic racecar and is competing against people in more modern and up-to-date and high tech racing vehicles, and he still managed to come in just behind the winning car. By the way if you would like to see Terry in action with his magic, he appears every other Thursday evening at the Magic Castle in Hollywood.

In early November the I.B.M. site selection committee was in San Diego, looking over our city and the hotel & theater facilities as a possible site for the 2010 I.B.M. Convention. Keep your fingers crossed.

Coming Attractions

Monday, December 10th, our annual Ring 76 Holiday Party will be held at Jack's Magic Place, 7 p.m. We will have a potluck dinner; see page one of this newsletter for details on what to bring.

Monday, January 14th, New members night and an opportunity for all members who want to perform their favorite trick.

Monday, February 11th, the annual Ring 76 Close-up Contest; all Ring members are eligible to enter. The performers will go from table to table doing their act of 10 minutes. More details of the rules in the January MagiCurrents.

Monday, March 10th, Magic Teach-in Session. If you would like to be a teacher, see Kenny Shelton for details.

Monday, January 21, Ring 76 Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place. All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

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