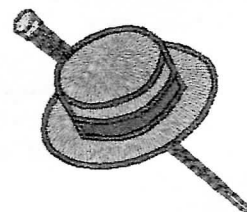


Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



# MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



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Volume XXII 2 February 2008

## Ring 76 Close-up Contest set for February 11th

The Monday evening, February 11<sup>th</sup> Ring 76 Close-up Contest is one of the most anticipated events of the year. It gives Ring members an opportunity to perform close-up and personal their favorite routines and an opportunity to win prize money and honors at a future Ring event. The contest is limited to members in good standing only; that means they must have their dues with the I.B.M. and Ring 76 paid currently and be registered for the contest.

All contestants must register with Kenny Shelton before 6 p.m., on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Kenny's phone number is: (619) 417-5741 or you can e-mail him at [vettesbro@aol.com](mailto:vettesbro@aol.com). The contest is limited to 10 contestants so it is very important that you contact Kenny Shelton and get your name on the program as soon as possible. This year a ballot will be made up with each performer's name on it and members of Ring 76 will be invited to vote for the performer you think is the "best."

Each contestant will present their close-up act five times, moving to five different tables and performing for a different audience at each table. This procedure gives each contestant the feeling he or she is truly working for a real close-up audience. Some performers choose to stand at the table while others feel more comfortable sitting at the table. Contestants may do either or both during their 10-minute presentation. We do expect each performer to adhere to the time limits; a whistle will sound when each 10-minute block of time has ended.

Ring 76 members are encouraged to bring a guest or other people interested in magic to this meeting; however, only Ring members are eligible to vote on the contestants. You can vote for only one contestant, then from the ballots collected the one receiving the most votes will be our first place winner, the contestant with the second highest number of votes will be second and so on. We have only once had a tie for first place in this contest, and top honors were presented to both contestants.

The Ring 76 Board of Trustees has again voted to present a gold medal to the top three winners and a cash prize of \$50. for first place, \$25. for second place and \$15. for third place. The winners will be announced and presented with their honors at the Ring 76 Installation and Awards Banquet at the Cottonwood Country Club, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Our audience at this event is very important: we ask that all of our voting

members take the time to carefully evaluate the presentation, skill, appearance, and entertainment value of each performer. We would hope to keep this contest from becoming a



**Our 2007 Close-up winner  
Bob Pozner in action**

popularity event; give our top prizes to the best performers of the evening. In respect for each contestant, we ask our audience to select one table and stay at that table throughout the evening.

Because the format of this evening is a little different from our other programs, we ask that you try to arrive a little early and get a seat at one of the five tables. Ring President Lunceford will call the meeting to order at 7 p.m. sharp and make a few announcements and then begin the contest. If you are going to fill out a ballot it is important that you see all of the contestants perform, so plan to arrive at the beginning and stay until the end.

Story continued on page 5

## 2008 kicked off with an outstanding program

By the time January 14<sup>th</sup>, our first Ring 76 meeting of 2008, rolled around everyone in the club had made their New Year's Resolutions and had had time to forget them or at the very least break the earlier promise that they would keep them. With all of us now back in our same old bad habits, Terry Lunceford, the Ring 76 President, called our first meeting of the New Year to order and we all settled down to an evening of "tricks we had just learned." The thought process here being that if you received a new magic prop for Christmas this would be a good place and time to show it off. But apparently none of our members received any new magic over the holidays or, if they did, they are saving it for a later show.

To begin our meeting we observed a time honored tradition with in the I.B.M. that of honoring those who are no longer with us. A broken wand ceremony was conducted with dignity for Marcus Day, who died last summer.

The brief ceremony was also intended for all of our fellow magicians who departed this world in 2007. Jeff Marcus, I.B.M. Territorial Vice President for Southern California conducted the ceremony, fulfilling a commitment to our brothers and sisters in magic.



**Jeff Marcus conducting Broken Wand Ceremony**

First Vice President Kenny Shelton then took over the meeting and acted as master of ceremonies in introducing the various performers for the evening. The one person you never want to follow on a magic program is Craig Stone, and he started the evening off with one of his stand-up card routines that had everyone laughing during the trick and mystified when it ended, and that we suppose is the best way to start off any magic show with comedy and amazement. It was now up to the rest of the performers to keep up with the example set by Craig. Michael Feldman was next and was in very good form. He presented an original coin effect that included some very fancy sleights with three coins and a coin purse. It would be good if our members could see this effect on a

close-up basis like the February Close-up Contest rather than on a stage. This routine required a lot of skill and good showmanship and Michael displayed all of that with great flourish.

Joe Mystic, always a thoughtful kind of guy, told the audience it was Michael E. Johnson's birthday, we all sang Happy Birthday and Joe proceeded to produce a Rabbit in a hat for Michael, by drawing a top hat on a sketch pad, Joe then magically had the rabbit pop up out of the quickly sketched hat. Then Joe tore the page off of the large drawing pad and gave it to Michael as a souvenir of the evening. It was a seemingly impromptu moment and magic effect made to look like an off-the-cuff, last minute thought. It looked that way because it was presented by a real pro who knows how to make his magic entertaining and look like it just happened. We can all take a lesson or two from Joe's performance skills.

We were all happy to see John London again after being away for a while. John did a nice mental effect supported by some original comedy material. Jeff Marcus returned with a very nice routine for the "Zig Zag Coke Can." In Jeff's hands this effect played big and left everyone in the audience asking themselves, how did he do that?

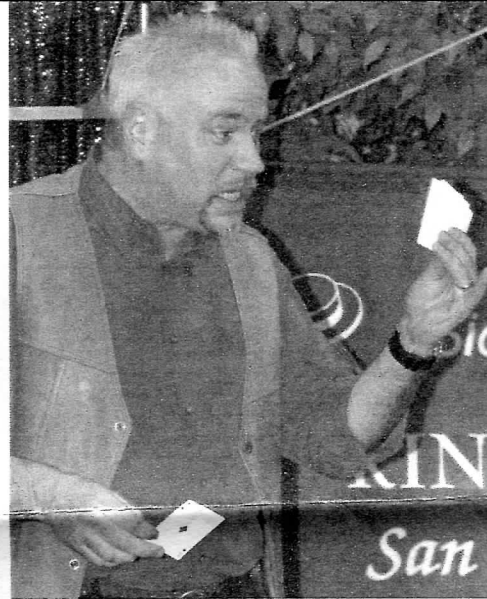
Just when you thought you had seen every "Three Card Monte" routine in the world, Tom McCarthy presented his very funny stand-up version of this effect that "killed." Tom really works to make his magic entertaining and all of that hard work has paid off. His timing, facial expressions, patter and his misdirection are all blended together in one flawless bit of business that is just good magic. Thanks for sharing, Tom!

Sometimes cartoonist Jim Whiting is a character right out of one of his own cartoons. Jim presented one of his routines that appeared to be straight out of a MagiToon cartoon; it was funny, flashy, and no one has figured out yet what it was that he did. But as usual we enjoyed the baffling way it was presented. Dr. Jeff Pearson did his version of Tom Vorgahan's miniature wallet and then for the end, added yet another effect. It was still a work in progress, though entertaining.

Loch David Crane invited people up from the audience for his card stabbing routine that Loch has turned into a very interesting little mystery. Closing the show was Michael E. Johnson with a nice bit of business out of his full evening show with a deck of cards. A lot of entertaining magic was presented.



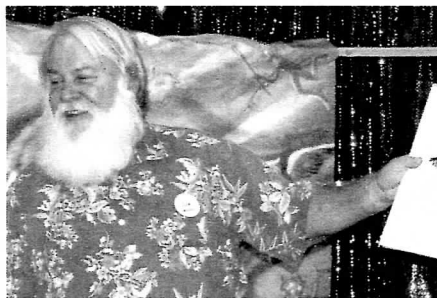
**Craig Stone**



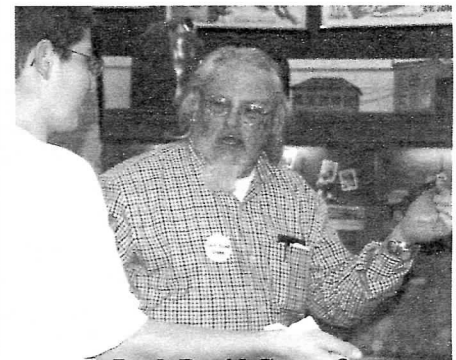
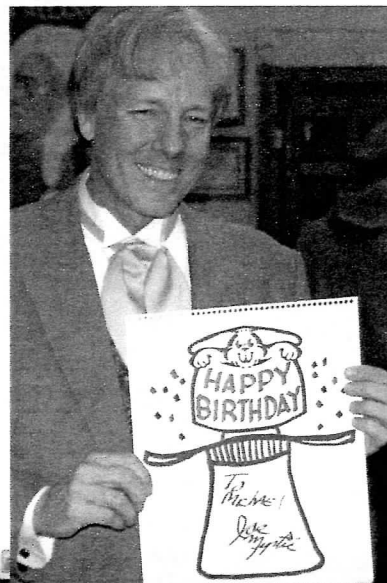
**Tom McCarthy**



**Michael Feldman**



**Joe Mystic, and to the right is Michael E. Johnson, the Birthday Boy**



**Loch David Crane & his assistant**



**Our cast of performers, top row: Craig Stone, Joe Mystic, Jeff Marcus, Dr. Jeff Pearson, Jim Whiting, Bottom row: Kenny Shelton, John London, Tom McCarthy, Michael Feldman, Michael E. Johnson and Loch David Crane**



## Magic Book Review by Dr. Joel Moskowitz



Magic/Conjuring is an addiction but in the words of the psychiatrist who was called to evaluate Kris Kringle in "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street," the actor Edmund Glenn was suffering from a "delusion for good." We can take comfort that our compulsion regarding things magical are not pathologic. But a compulsion it is.

How many of us aficionados of the magical arts do not have our antennae ever out for any reference to the word magic or its equivalents. Very few, I suspect. It was in this state that I wandering in the gift shop of The Maritime Museum in Sydney, Australia, spied a book: "The Queen's Conjuror," "Buy it," my inner voice commanded.

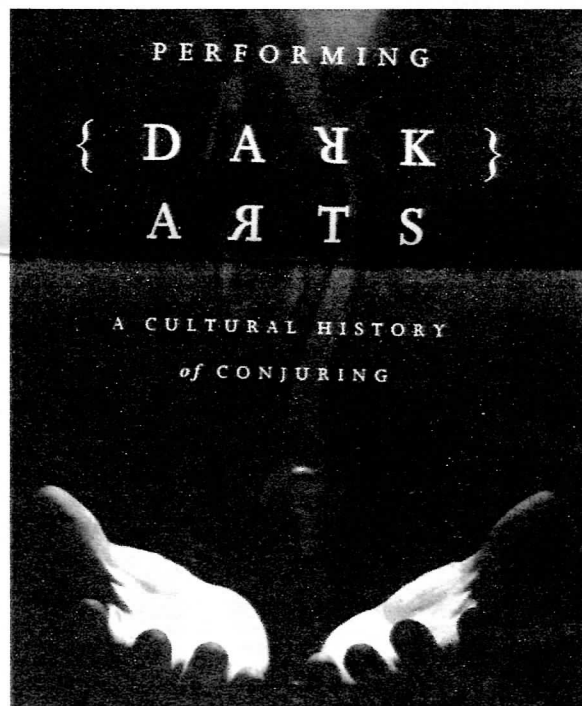
But this is not a magic text, but rather a historical recitation of a Dr. John Dee, advisor to Queen Elizabeth I. Yet it is a tale of the interface between science (he was a navigator,) wonderment, and the tug of war between the mysterious and the known. In those days, his ability to amaze others earned him the appellation of being a magician. In those times, a less than positive reference. Throughout the Western worlds, the ability to seemingly act in opposition to the era's beliefs in the expected fascinates and frightens. Being called a magician was not a compliment. It inferred an affiliation with the dark side.

In the course of my professional career as a forensic psychiatrist, I was taking a history from an older gentleman. He couldn't remember some details and asked permission to check with his wife who was sitting in my waiting room. After a perplexing pause, he returned. Face red, he exclaimed that he could not proceed with the interview. His wife had noticed a painting of me where the word "Necromancy" appeared. They were, he said, church going people and would not have any truck with black magic. Surprised, I clarified that the painting, done by a former patient, was in appreciation of my conjuring performances. Not that I was in league with the devil. Relieved, the interview proceeded.

Michael Mangan ("Performing Dark Arts" A Cultural History of Conjuring, 252 pp, Intellect Books) has written one of the most stimulating, learned, well-researched books addressing the role of magic in our lives. It is not a book of magic, but it is a book about magic. Readers who are seeking a book about tricks begone! If you are a thinking magician; curious about our craft and how

mystifiers were and are essential in our mental wiring, in virtually all cultures, read this.

Many years ago, I wrote: "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" or "The Use of Magic in the Psychotherapy of Children." My information is that magic begins in childhood when the infant experiences the power of



controlling events by thought alone (Mother bringing nourishment when he/she is hungry). Author Mangan turns to Freud (as, in part, did I) to illustrate the child at play throwing some toy away and having it return. It is uncanny and this unsettling feeling is both desired and feared by audiences who watch wizards perform. Professor Mangan is not a magician. He holds the Chair in Drama at Exeter University.

If you have a thirst for the origins of magic, myths, biblical miracles, back to the time of the first magic exhibition, almost five thousand years ago when Cheops, the pharaoh, who presided over the building of the Great Pyramid, summoned a magician named Dedi to palace this will mesmerize you. He decapitated and restored him. The interface of jugglers, Gypsies, Christian Orthodoxy, fraudulents, Barnum and Houdin and Houdini and Conan Doyle all riffled shuffled together with philosophy, reason, stagecraft, life and death itself all emerge from the erudite pen of Michael Mangan. Witches, wizards, warlocks, devotees of legerdemain, prestidigitation, quick mount your broomstick, flying carpet, all purpose levitation device and if you can't enroll in Exeter University, do the next best thing, buy and read this fine, readable work.

## Ring 76 Lectures set for the future

In late January, former San Diegan, Eric Anderson presented a lecture to a crowd of 36 people. Eric began with some of his corporate magic and then quickly went into his planned remarks about booking yourself or your attraction. He talked about letters, contracts, working with agents and how to keep your calendar full of paying dates for your show. It was a very different kind of lecture for our members and their guests with a great deal of valuable information, as well as some interesting tricks that he tipped to his audience. If you missed his San Diego lecture and have a chance to see Eric in another area, make it a point to add his lecture to your schedule.

## Joshua Jay Lecture Tour includes S.D.

Syd Segal is bringing the well-known MAGIC Magazine columnist Joshua Jay to San Diego for a lecture on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>; the cost of this lecture is \$20. It begins at 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. For the best seating you are urged to reserve in advance. Contact Syd Segal at (619) 300-1344 or by e-mail at [htl6380@aol.com](mailto:htl6380@aol.com).

You will see an all-new Joshua Jay lecture that will include tricks with borrowed bills, a remote control pocket change, cards, coins and a variety of other objects. There will be a mixture of both close-up and stand-up magic in this lecture. Joshua Jay has been writing and editing the trick section of MAGIC Magazine for years and understands the need for tricks for beginners, as well as seasoned performers and explains the working of his effects in careful, easy to understand language. You will come away from this lecture a better magician.



Joshua Jay

Joshua Jay, the International Star of Magic, began performing professionally when he was 10 years old. Today at 23 he is a full time professional magician, writing an internationally acclaimed column in MAGIC Magazine, appears at all of the major magic conventions, lectures extensively and has written a book about magic. In all of that, he has found time to go to college as a full time student and receive a degree in business administration. This is Joshua's second lecture tour to San Diego, and those who have attended his previous lecture are eager to see his new material.

## Close-up Contest story continued from page one.

The board of directors of Ring 76 believes this is an important learning experience for our contestant members, as well as the audience. Therefore, we ask that you give each contestant your complete attention and hold your comments until after the contest is over. This is a special evening of magic, so let's all work to heighten the dignity of this event.

## New membership roster for Ring 76

The long awaited Ring 76 roster of members names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses is rolling off the press and will be available to MEMBERS ONLY at our Monday evening meeting. If you will not be attending the Monday meeting and want a copy of the roster, e-mail your request to Jack White at [prestooone@cox.net](mailto:prestooone@cox.net) and one will be sent to you by U.S. Mail. Creating this roster has been a long arduous process, and we thank Michael E. Johnson for doing it. The cost of printing the roster is paid for by advertising and is not part of any member's dues.

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



When flash paper was not such a great idea.



### Message from the Ring 76 President

I am very excited about the Close-up Contest scheduled for next Monday evening. Though the winners will not be announced until July, at our Installation and Awards Banquet, this to me is one of the most important competitions the Ring puts on all year long. I hope you are planning on attending this event or possibly being a contestant. If you want to be a contestant, please read the article that Jack White wrote on the front page of this newsletter with all of the details about the contest, and remember there is a deadline date to register, and we will only accept a certain number of contestants.

I want to take just a moment to remind you that it is the membership who picks the winner in the Close-up Contest. You will get to vote for one contestant only. Some of the things you are looking at should include the overall presentation, skill level, the appearance of the performer, did he dress for the occasion, are his or her props clean and in good condition, and were the performers good entertainers. Don't write someone's name on the ballot just because they are a friend; give someone your vote because they were the best.

While I am thinking about it, I should tell you the Installation and Awards

Banquet will be held again this year at the Cottonwood Country Club, the same location as last year's event. The Ring 76 Board has agreed the date will be Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Kenny Shelton is the chairman for that event and will be asking for a couple of committee members from the general membership at our next meeting. If you would like to volunteer to help make that event a success, see Kenny; he needs a committee to plan the program, the menu, volunteer to be at the event to keep it moving in a smooth fashion.

Michael E. Johnson has been working for several months on putting together a new up-to-date roster of names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of all of our Ring 76 members. This has been no easy task for Michael, but when you give Michael a challenge he somehow rises to the occasion and completes the task in better order than you had hoped for. Such is the case with this effort; we expect to hand out the new Ring 76 roster at the next meeting to all of our members. I remind you these rosters are for Ring members only and the information within these pages is for our eyes only and not to be given out to just anyone. Please hold on to this little booklet because it is costly to produce and the effort of making sure it is correct has been exhausting. To make sure that none of your dues money goes toward this effort, Michael has sold advertising to pay for the printing and production of the directory. So we also thank those who advertised in the directory.

I would bet that when the meeting is over Monday night and we are cleaning things up, I will find two or three of the rosters on the floor. Please hold on to them and use them to contact fellow members; see you Monday, for an exciting evening of close-up magic.

*Terry Lunceford*  
President Ring 76



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

## News

**Joel Ward** is back in Southern California after working a year at the Horizon Hotel & Casino in Lake Tahoe in the main showroom. Joel is accepting bookings in this area right now. But don't be surprised if you hear he has accepted a new extended engagement elsewhere in the near future. Joel is a true up-and-coming magic star on the rise.

**Belinda Kaesler** has opened her costume shop in a place called Tikiland that is located at 3770 Hancock Street, Suite B. You will find it just behind the Sports Arena in the Loma Portal area of the city. Tikiland is a company that supplies props and entertainers for large corporate and convention parties and events. Now they can also outfit their clients in the proper costumes, as well, thanks to Belinda's costume shop. The phone number for Tikiland is (619) 670-6611. One afternoon in January, magician **James Dimmare** from Las Vegas, walked into Tikiland. He had heard about the place and was in Southern California, so he dropped by to look things over and seemed, according to Belinda, to be impressed.

**Michael E. Johnson** has put together another of his very popular "Magical Mystery Trips" to the Magic Castle in Hollywood. The event is planned for Sunday, February 10, the day before our next Ring meeting. The bus will leave from the Mira Costa College, San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Ave, Cardiff at 3 p.m. The trip is \$130 and includes round trip transportation to Hollywood, dinner and dessert at the Magic Castle and an opportunity to see several professional magic shows. The bus should return to the Mira Costa campus at 11:30 p.m. For reservations or more information on this special Magical Mystery Trip, call Michael at (760) 795-6820.



**Jeff Marcus**, the I.B.M. Southern California Territorial Vice President, spent a few days working in Palm Beach, Florida, in January. While in Florida, he met with magician **Mark Horowitz**, who has one of the largest private collections of magic sets. Jeff was given a tour of the Horowitz Magic Museum and said he lost count of the magic sets at 500.

**Toni Perrine** has been given some nice "ink" in a recent review of her work in a play that runs through Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Sunshine Brooks Theater, on Hill Street in Oceanside. The play is titled "Death & Taxes" and is enjoying big audiences and great reviews for the production and the actors.

**J.P. Jackson**, heads to Chicago February 14<sup>th</sup> to look over the latest lines of new magic being featured at Bob James Magic Shop and the apparatus at Magic Inc. Chicago has for many year's been considered the capital of magic sales because of the many brick-and-mortar shops and the many wholesale magic distributors in and around that city. There is a nice article in the January issue of MAGIC Magazine about Magic Inc. that was originally the **L.L. Ireland** shop, then later owned and operated by **Jay and Francis Marshall**, and now being run by Jay Marshall's son Sandy. There had been a lot of speculation that this great old magic shop would close following Jay's death, but it is still healthy and very

## Briefs

much alive. We should also add that much of the magic apparatus collected by Jay Marshall will be auctioned off in a special program the day following the Combined I.B.M. - S.A.M. Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Speaking of the Combined Convention, the headquarters for that week long event, the Galt House has been sold out and the over flow hotel is the Marriott, which is two blocks away from the convention headquarters. The registration for this convention is now approaching 1800 people with more than 20 percent of those registered coming from outside of the United States.

Early reports in to MagiCurrents say the Columbus MagiFest in Columbus, Ohio, was a big success again this year. The MagiFest is one of the older independent magic conventions in the United States and attracts top names and dealers to its annual program. A knockout hit of this years show was 16-year old, **Sterling Dietz**, who won the 2007, I.B.M. Close-up Contest in Reno, Nevada. It is always interesting to find such a large number of people who will brave the frigid temperatures of Columbus, Ohio, in early February to attend a magic convention.

Magician and Executive Chef **Josef Rennlietner** has a new "how to" DVD on the market titled: "The Magic of Joe Chef" that will give you a detailed recipe for the best "Rack of Lamb" you have ever prepared. Joe even does a magic trick in the DVD, the Egg Bag. This is the first in a series of planned magic and cooking DVDs from Josef. Available from Chef Josef at 2748 Ariane Drive, San Diego, CA. 92117.



## **Coming Attractions**

**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. To be a contestant, contact Kenny Shelton before 6 p.m. Sunday, February 10th. Phone: (619) 417-5741. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at 4275 University Ave.**

**Monday, February 25th, Joshua Jay Lecture at 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place. Contact Syd Segal for reservations. Joshua Jay lecture story on page 5 of this newsletter.**

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

**Tuesday, April 15, A special dealer demo lecture of the latest magic apparatus by "Ickle Pickle" Magic Company. 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place admission is \$5 at the door.**

**Monday, February 18th, Ring 76 Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place. All members are welcome to attend board meetings.**

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