



# MagiCurrents



San Diego, California

**Celebrating Sixty Years of Service to the Magic Community**

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website  
[www.ring76.com](http://www.ring76.com)

Volume XXII 4 April 2008

## Reserve Your Swap Meet Table Now!

The April 14th Ring 76 meeting will feature a Magic Swap Meet. At this writing 9 tables have been reserved as well as the bar section of Jack's Magic Place. There are still a few tables left for anyone wanting to sell their older or unused magic and make a few dollars. The Ring's annual swap meet draws many members we don't often see at our regular monthly meetings as well as members from the North County and as far away as Orange and Riverside Counties.

If you have not reserved a table you should contact Richard Ustick ASAP via e-mail at [rustick@flash.net](mailto:rustick@flash.net). He is keeping the table set-up records. The cost to use a 6-foot table is \$10, a half table or card table is \$5. So that everyone selling has the proper time to set-up their table, Jack White will open our meeting place at 3 p.m. on Monday, April 14th and have a two-wheeled dolly at the door to help move boxes from your car to the swap meet room.

If you are a member looking to do some shopping the doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and it is always the early birds that seem to get the good bargains in used magic, books and videos. In years past most of those having things to sell have pretty much sold everything or have run out of customers by 8 p.m. We do not have a closing time but, judging by years past, everyone is packed and on their way home or at Denny's Restaurant by 8:30 in the evening.

All funds raised by the rental of tables at the swap meet go to the Ring 76 treasury. This is one of the most anticipated meetings of the year. 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. We advise those wanting to sell magic not to wait to reserve their tables. We've already had a larger than usual advance for reservations.

Last year one of the people selling some of his unused magic was so excited when a potential customer visiting his table picked up a prop that was for sale and performed it. The person selling the trick said, "I didn't know that was such a good trick," and he quickly put the prop away, deciding not to sell it.

## Lunceford To Seek Second Term

Terry Lunceford has announced he will seek a second term as President of Ring 76. Elected as president of the Ring in June of 2007, Terry has worked hard to guide the club through a most successful Installation and Awards Banquet, a series of difficult board meetings and planning for 2007-08. He is looking forward to getting Ring 76 through its 60th Anniversary a celebration that will bring excitement to the membership and recognition to the club.

In the year past, Terry has made an effort to upgrade the standards for various contests within the Ring and the quality of teaching sessions at various meetings. He has worked closely with his two vice presidents, Kenny Shelton and Michael E. Johnson, in the planning of the holiday party and the creation of our new membership roster. Building the membership of the Ring is one of Terry's goals and he is working with membership chairman Michael E. Johnson to continue the Rings growth with new members as well as bringing quality meetings and activities to veteran Ring 76 members.

Terry has a long and respected history in magic and the I.B.M. He was a regular at the old Magic Lounge in San Diego along with J.C. Wagner, Mike Stilwell and many other local magi. He was well known on the restaurant circuit as a table-hopping performer. Terry has made more than 100 appearances at the Magic Castle in Hollywood - most recently his work at the W.C. Fields Bar has brought him shining reviews and accolades. He has operated his own magic shop and for many years was recognized as a creator of fine magic props and magic wholesaler. Recently, Terry has discovered new technology that can help him create some unique magic effects and he's exploring the possibility of reentering the magic wholesale and manufacturing business.

A lover of fast cars, Terry has become a well-known race-car enthusiast and has brought home top honors on the racing scene. He owns and races "F-mod" cars and has taken part in many championship races. In this razzle-dazzle schedule Terry assures the membership of Ring 76 he will continue to have time for them and the responsibility

*Continued on page 5*

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# March Teach-in Brings Many Rewards to Ring 76

The Ring 76 Teach-in meeting is one that members look forward to each year. Ring 76 brings five of our most advanced performers together annually as instructors for a special learning session. Five round tables are set up and the instructors are each given 10 minutes to teach a trick, sleight or routine those gathered at the tables.

This year our instructors included Brad Burt, Greg Wauson, Bob Elliott, Craig Stone, and Dr. Jeff Pearson. Each of these gentlemen expended a great deal of effort selecting their effects to make them easy for our members to understand.

Brad Burt has had three decades of teaching magic behind a magic store counter. For this session Brad gave his students a real gem: a very simple way to locate a selected card in a deck. Simple in operation, the technique for making it work smoothly requires a little knowledge of cards and how to hold the deck. Brad was generous in his explanation and instruction. Many of his students had a deck of cards with them and were quite proficient in the technique by the time the session ended. Some of the students received a bonus lesson from Brad with a very different "Vanishing Coin" effect using a thumb tip.

Greg Wauson has been interested in magic since he was a teenager and works hard at adding new material to his repertoire of magic skills and effects. He offered his students an opportunity to learn Dan Harlan's "Starkle" routine that includes a wonderful story and a most clever napkin tear. It was very clear that Greg has spent a lot of time with this routine and learning all of the little nuances of the napkin tear. Greg has the patience of a very good teacher and took the time to make sure each of his students was making the proper move.

For Bob Elliott, teaching magic is second nature. He spent more than 20 years at the Louis Tannen Magic Camp in New York. Bob has been a member or a guest at every magic club on the east coast and at one time or another has presented a show at hundreds of venues. Bob wanted to keep things simple for his students so he taught what is called "The World's Greatest Paper Tear". It is an impromptu effect that requires a little story telling, some simple knowledge of paper tearing and a lot of personality. Watching Bob go from table to table was to watch someone who truly enjoyed what he was doing.

Craig Stone is a professional magician and spends most of his time these days performing in restaurants. However, that has not always been the case. He has worked cruise ships, theaters and halls. He is another performer who has spent many hours behind a magic shop counter. Craig gave his students a routine with sugar packets that you might find in any restaurant. The effect included three switches, each move being a unique bit of magic business that are valuable tools in any magicians arsenal. This was personal, one-on-one instruction you don't get from a video or book.

Dr. Jeff Pearson has been a student of Bob Elliott and a devoted magic enthusiast for many years. He often uses a magic trick to relax his patients and get their minds off their pain or illness. He says, "A magic trick is the perfect ice breaker for a good doctor-patient relationship." Dr. Jeff began with a spectator freely cutting the deck into four piles of cards. Despite the fair conditions, the top card of each pile turns out to be an ace. His second trick, also with the aces, was called "Color-Changing Aces" by Harry Lorayne; a little more difficult to learn but a beautiful finish to the first trick.

The lessons presented in these sessions are what a real magic club is about: learning how to do a magic trick properly and in an entertaining manner. Even the beginner was able to come away from this session with new insight into the workings of good magic. A big "thank you" to all of our teacher-performers for going out of their way to make this a very special evening.

## Tony Clark Lecture Provided Extra Entertainment

On March 20th Tony Clark - stage magician, show producer and movie actor - presented his lecture for Ring 76 and guests. Ring members Jose Sanchez and Syd Segal brought Tony to San Diego.

Because of an accident on our local freeways, some of the people attending the lecture were delayed. Tony did not want those who had arrived for the lecture early to just sit in their seats so he began doing a few tricks that were not part of the lecture until the rest of the people arrived. Clark studied with the late Slydini and gave a presentation he learned from the master. His audience got a look at some effects with cards, coins and rope.



Tony Clark

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**Ickle Pickle dealer demo Tuesday, April**  
**15th is an event not to be missed. Unique**  
**items will be shown & sold. \$5 at the door.**  
**at Jack's Magic Place. Be there!**  
 .....





Teach-In 2008  
Ring 76 instructors

top-left: Brad Burt  
top-right: Greg Wauson  
center-left: Craig Stone  
center-right: Group  
bottom-center: Dr. Jeff  
Pearson  
bottom-right: Bob Elliott



# Magic Book Review

by

Dr. Joel Moskowitz, M.D.



**THE MAGIC CIRCLE** BY MICHAEL BAILEY Reviewed by Joel A. Moskowitz M D March 22, 2008  
**"INDOCILIS PRIVATA LOQUI"** is not what this book demands. "The Magic Circle: Performing Magic Through The Ages" by Michael Bailey is not to keep "mum" about. The Latin injunction emblazoned on the signature shield of Britain's most secret club translates "keep mum"; quite the contrary. The English language is bereft of superlatives with which to praise this excellent book, Michael Bailey, ex-President (shouldn't it be Prime Minister?) (1998-2003) invites the reader of this 288 pp hard backed book into the sanctum of magicdom's most intriguing organization. Together with photos (some in color) of the premises, an assortment of artful poster reproductions of magical greats, and well-crafted text, the grateful reader will enjoy reveling in magical history.

The fly leaf incorrectly advises that this book will be an invaluable addition to any would-be magician's bookshelf. This is too narrow an audience. Learned conjurers, practiced performers, lovers of the history of stage craft and just plain folk will be delighted to read about those who through the ages have amazed and challenged the beliefs of audiences worldwide.

In the spring of 1905 Neil Weaver (who?) and friends were finalizing their plans for The Magic Circle. Contemporaneously Londoners were being introduced to a new illusion invented by Nevil Maskelyne and Charles Morritt appropriately entitled simply "Oh!" Banquets of the fledgling society were magical events where the sovereigns that the waiters received as tips turned into tadpoles in their pockets and guests were startled to find a white rabbit on every plate waiving the Union Jack.

Neil Weaver earned his living selling shoes. The son of an amateur conjurer, he himself was a keen hobbyist. Perhaps such trivial details will not be of interest to the sophisticated but other hobbyists will take some pride that arguably this most elite magic society was begun by such as they. Author/Magician Bailey carefully details the origins of diabolical means to create wonder: Did you know that *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* actually originated from a Frenchman who was living in London called John Cautaures, whom Scot described as the finest sleight-of-hand performer he'd ever seen. The roots of 'honest deception' trace back to Dedi of early Egyptian history. The production of a rabbit from a hat competes with the cups and balls as the trick most associated with magic. Included in the art and from the archives of The Magic Circle is a photo of the cups and balls used by His Royal Highness

Prince Charles; a graphic of Robert-Houdin performing "Second Sight" and "La Suspension Etherene" (broom suspension); Bautier de Kolta and his Vanishing Lady and much, much more.

Extensive commentary ranges from Erich Weiss in England (Houdini) to Robert Harbin (inventor of the Zig Zag Girl illusion). Hardly anyone who is/was anyone in magic does not receive attention in Bailey's highly researched tomb: David Copperfield, Doug Henning, Blackstone Sr. and Jr., Penn and Teller, Paul Daniels and Alan Shaxon, Dell-O-Dell and Lesley and Sydney Piddington, etc. After all, one would not be surprised that all these luminaries of wizardry would want to be members of this highest exclusive society, The Magic Circle. "The House of 10,000 Secrets" is yours for the small price of admission, US \$39.95. Published by Tempus Publishing Ltd, Cirencester Road, Chalford, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 8PE in 2007, with the price of £18.88 it is more easily procured from Independent Publishers Group, 814 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610 (Phone 312 337 0747) [www.igp-book.com](http://www.igp-book.com).

You will not be surprised that it is highly recommended.



**Lunceford** *Continued from page 1*  
that goes with being president of this Ring.

Nominations for officers of Ring 76 will take place at our May 12th meeting with elections held Monday, June 9th. At this writing all officers have expressed a desire to return to the board in their same positions with the exception of secretary. Jack White will leave the board after serving 8 years in the job of secretary. Jack intends to remain active in Ring 76, but will need more time to prepare for his duties as President of the I.B.M. Don Soul, a Ring 76 past-president and the man who has recently moved our MagiCurrents newsletter to an online publication, will accept a nomination for secretary.



President Terry Lunceford

Anyone can be nominated to any board position. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at our May meeting. All board members pay their own way to all Ring events and are required to attend 11 board meetings each year in addition to the scheduled general membership evening meetings. Ring 76 is an all-volunteer organization and board members receive no perks or entitlements.

## There's Ring 76 Magic In Iraq

Michael E. Johnson recently received this communiqué from Ring 76er Alfonso Vazquez:

Received your e-mail MagiCurrents in my Cox account. However, I can't e-mail you back. It's not so bad out here, just a little sandy but other than that is all good.

I brought some small items to do some close-up magic: Coins, cards, sponge balls. I've been doing some close-up magic for the Ugandans. They are the security force for the Camp. I have also been doing some effects for the people of Bombay. They are the workers on this base and, of course, for all four armed services.

I will be up here about 7 months. The name of the Camp is "TQ" Al Taqaddum, Iraq. Here is a picture of me and some of the workers from Bombay...I'll tell you they were amazed when I did some magic, so now everytime I go and inspect them they always ask to do something.

Well, take care and say hi to everybody in Ring 76.

...Alfonso Vazquez



Alfonso Vazquez and the Bombay crew

## Swap Meet *Continued from page 5*

The list of sellers so far includes: Tom Owen-Towle, Mago Ruly, Brad Burt, Toni Perrine, Ralph Mauzy, Mike Stilwell, J.P. Jackson, and Michael E. Johnson. J.P. has reserved two tables and has a very large supply of quality used apparatus for sale as well as books and videotapes.

One thing is for sure; the Ring 76 swap meets are talked about and remembered long after as an exciting night of selling, trading and learning about magic.

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Wow! Can you change that into a euro?  
It's worth more than a dollar!"





## *Message from the Ring 76 President*

Spring is here and the days are getting longer, for those of us interested in magic it is time to start thinking about shows for the summer months ahead. With that said, I am reminded that April is Ring 76 Swap Meet time. Here is an opportunity to dig through other peoples cast off treasures and find a real gem for your act. I know a number of fine magicians who, while digging through the tables of other magicians at the Magic Castle Swap Meet, have found that special trick or prop they had been looking for to make their act different and breath new life into their work.

Michael E. Johnson has informed me that as a result of advertising our activities on craigslist.com, an information Website, we will have a reporter and photographer at our Swap Meet on April 14th. The reporter is doing a story on the interest in magic as entertainment.

Coming May 12th will be the Annual Ring 76 Stand-Up Competition. I hope that you are planning on taking part in this very important contest. You will have up to 12-minutes to present your act. It is important if you are planning on being a contestant that you have your music cues and lighting

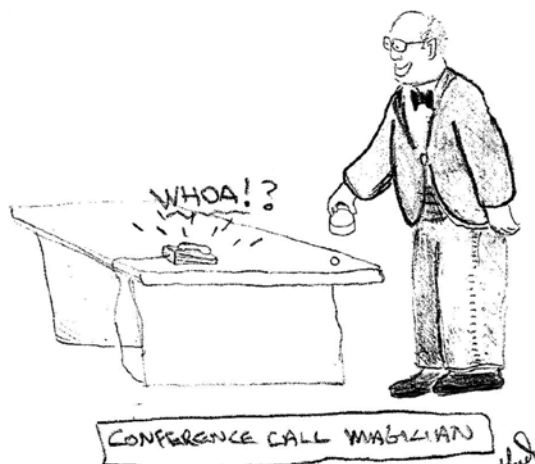
cues worked out in advance. Give a cue sheet to our audio person and the person running the spotlight. What you wear for your stage presentation is as important as the tricks you perform so dress for the occasion.

Don't be afraid to ask some of our members to help you with your stage act. I can think of a half dozen members who will be only too happy to help you out with your stage presentation. The most important part is that you make the effort to put an act together; it will be a positive experience that can only contribute to your being a better performer.

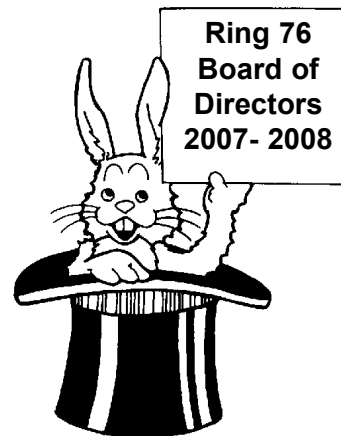
I have one more reminder of important things to do. On April 15th, the night following our Swap Meet, Ickle Pickle Magic Company founder Steve Bender will be at Jack's Magic Place to present a dealer demo lecture. Here is an opportunity to see Ickle Pickle's full line of magic and learn the best way to perform the various items for sale. Steve presents a sensational show with a lot of comedy and his products are very well made. This is yet another opportunity to find new magic for your summer act.

We have a full schedule of magic lined up for the months ahead so please plan to attend our meetings and take part in our various programs. I look forward to seeing you at the Swap Meet and the following evening at the Ickle Pickle lecture.

*Terry Lunceford*  
*Ring 76 President*



artwork submitted by  
Jacques Lord



### **President**

Terry Lunceford

### **1st Vice President**

Kenny Shelton

### **2nd Vice President**

Michael E. Johnson

### **Secretary**

Jack White \*

### **Treasurer**

Richard Ustick

### **Sgt-at-arms/Librarian**

Donna Greenbaum

### **Member-at-large**

Belinda Kaesler

### **Member-at-large**

Diane Lane \*

### **Immediate Past President**

Bob Ingalls \*

### **Territorial Vice President**

Jeff Marcus \*

\*denotes past Ring 76 president

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

## NEWS

"Magic Mike" - as in Magic **Mike Stilwell** - has created one of the best new Websites in magic. Take a look for yourself at: [www.magicmikesd.com](http://www.magicmikesd.com). It has his bio, how to book him, a photo section and a section on learning magic tricks. It is all interactive and you even get to talk to and hear from Magic Mike himself. The site is well done and Mike tells us it has already begun to pay off with new bookings. Find the time to take a look at this outstanding magic site.

Something else you should take a look at online - the new I.B.M. Web Portal at [www.magician.org](http://www.magician.org). The March issue of the Linking Ring magazine has a picture of **Mel Kientz**, the Web Portal editor, on the front page and a great story about the creation of the new online spot. This is a major effort by the I.B.M. to offer new and better service to its members world-wide. Kientz said: "...the new Web Portal will complement the Linking Ring by allowing them to get news items to the membership faster than the three month lag with the magazine." Take a look at the new online look by the I.B.M. We think you will be pleased with what you find.

**Terry Godfrey** is already on the road doing fair dates: March 26 to the 30th, he was at the Casa Grande, Arizona, Fair; April 1 to the 6th, at the Yuma, Arizona, Fair; and April 9 to April 13th, the Phoenix, Arizona County Fair. This is just the beginning of his Spring & Summer fair schedule. He will be back at home in San Diego after the Arizona dates before heading out on the California Fair circuit. By the way, temperatures in Arizona these days are between 80 and 90. Terry says he likes working in Arizona this time of year because the temperature is below 100.

**"Sebastian" Figueroa** presented his all new magic show at the North



Park Vaudeville Theater on El Cajon Blvd, March 14 and 15. The show drew good audiences partly because of a great advertising campaign in the North Park area by the BigLoop Marketing Resources team.

If you are thinking about placing an advertisement in this year's I.B.M. - S.A.M. Combined Convention Program, the deadline for getting your copy and payment into the editor is May 16. **Richard Kauffman**, editor of GENII MAGAZINE, is producing the convention program book. It will be a quality publication that will be looked at for years to come. You should contact **Mona Morrison** for advertising rates. A business card-size ad is \$50. You can contact Mona by e-mail at: [mona@monamorrison.com](mailto:mona@monamorrison.com).

**Michael E. Johnson** was not at our last meeting because he was taking part in the "Strolling Magic Olympics" at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. While Michael did not walk away with top honors as we had all hoped he would, he says it was a very positive experience and he learned a lot. We all thank Michael for his recent efforts in bringing together our membership roster. If you have not received your copy, contact Ring 76 Secretary Jack White via e-mail: [prestooone@cox.net](mailto:prestooone@cox.net) and he will see that you get a copy.

The Magic Castle Swap Meet is Saturday morning, April 5th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you like rummaging through someone else's magic this is the place for you. There are usually 40 to 50 dealers with a lot of usual and some unusual magic for sale.

## BRIEFS

We are sorry to report that **Charlie Gott** has been in the hospital with surgery on his foot. He will not be able to put any weight on his foot or leg for several weeks. He hopes to return to our meetings in May or June. Meanwhile, a note of good cheer can be sent to [cgott@cox.net](mailto:cgott@cox.net). He would enjoy hearing from all of you.

**Joe Mystic** has been so busy he's had to miss the last two meetings while putting together an illusion show that he now performs at churches. The admission is free and open to the public. His most recent show was at The North Clairemont United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 30th.

When you see **Terry Lunceford** ask to see his new production of a mini-six pack of Cokes. Terry has taken a popular picnic item and transformed it into a very unique magic effect. He was showing it off at the recent Ring 76 Board of Directors meeting. Terry has been toying with the idea of getting back into the magic manufacturing business with his retail shop being the Internet.

**Bob Ingalls** and **Jack White** to do a magic lecture for the members of Ring 292 in the North County, Thursday evening, April 3rd. Both Bob & Jack are members of that Ring but seldom attend meetings there because of the severe traffic problems encountered getting to the North County.

Cartoonist/Magician **Jim Whiting** recently brought his granddaughter and her boy friend to visit Jack's Magic Place. The boy friend is a freelance photographer who is interested in magic. Jim said he did his act for the young man and he said he wanted to see more magic so Jim brought him to Jack's place where they saw a lot of magic indeed.

## Coming Attractions

**Monday, April 14th, Ring 76 Swap Meet, an opportunity to get rid of all that unwanted and unused magic - Jack's Magic Place: Doors open 6:30pm.**

**Tuesday, April 15th, a special dealer demo lecture of the latest magic apparatus by the "Ickle Pickle" magic company - 7pm at Jack's Magic Place - \$5 at the door.**

**Tuesday, May 6th, Aldo Colombini Lecture - 7pm at Jack's Magic Place - \$20 at the door.**

**Monday, May 12th, Stand-Up competition and a chance to perform your stage act. Be creative - 7pm at Jack's Magic Place.**



902 W. Washington St. • San Diego, CA 92103 • (619) 260-0400

MagicCurrents is published monthly by Ring 76 and is edited by Don Soul. We encourage articles, stories, pictures and news items of interest. All material should be submitted to Don Soul by e-mail at [dsoul@san.rr.com](mailto:dsoul@san.rr.com) or written manuscripts may be submitted to Don Soul, 10068 Branford Rd., San Diego, CA 92129-3223.