



# MagiCurrents



San Diego, California

Celebrating Sixty Years of Service to the Magic Community

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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

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## Free Lecture by David Regal

Our June 9th meeting is shaping up to be a real treat for Ring 76 members. David Regal, the highly respected card worker, magician and author of dozens of articles on magic, will present his latest highly acclaimed lecture for our Ring. David has just returned to Southern California after a nationwide lecture tour. His lecture is **FREE** to all Ring 76 members; there will be a \$10 dollar charge to non-members and guests.

If you read MAGIC Magazine or Genii, you have no doubt read one of David's recent articles about magic. His thoughts on misdirection and clean commercial magic are well respected in the magic community. You will hear some of this philosophy on misdirection and he will be teaching some very unique commercial magic to his audience on Monday, June 9th.



This will be David's second trip to San Diego and Jack's Magic Place for his lecture. He was here about four years ago. We remind all of our members this is an all-new lecture with material for the beginner as well as the more advanced performer. David Regal is one of those charming characters of magic who is much in demand for private sessions as well as an author of many in depth articles on magic, magicians and magic history.

We expect this meeting to be very well attended so we advise you to arrive early to get a good seat for this very

## It's Dues & Election Time Again

Ring 76 members will be asked to pay dues in June. Again we will not ask for an increase; dues stand firm at \$25 for each member. This year your dues are payable at the June 9th meeting. You may, however, send a check at anytime during the month of June to Richard Ustick, the Ring 76 Treasurer, 251 Thrasher Way, El Cajon, CA, 92020 for \$25.

If you do not pay by July first you will be sent a dues reminder and you will also find that after June 30th a \$5 dollar surcharge will have been added to your dues bill and you will, therefore, be charged \$30. There is a specific reason for this change in policy. As late as last November, we had members renewing their dues that were supposed to have been paid in June and that made a nightmare out of keeping the books, not to mention an accurate roster of paid members.

Every year the Ring 76 Board of Directors attempts to have several special events for the membership and a variety of other activities that require fees and paychecks to put together. When members wait for a long period of time to pay their dues it makes budgeting difficult and determining what events our Ring can afford to sponsor. So, it has become necessary to create some sort of program to get our members to pay their dues on time.

Also at this month's meeting our annual election will take place. At our May general membership meeting, nominations for the one open office on the board, the office of Secretary, was opened and nominations were taken from the floor. Don Soul was nominated for that position and he accepted the nomination. Bob Ingalls then announced he would be stepping down after 10 years of service as an officer and past president so that would then leave one more open position on the board, that of member-at-large.

The slate of proposed officers for the coming year is as follows: President - Terry Lunceford, 1st Vice President - Kenny Shelton, 2nd Vice President - Michael E. Johnson, Secretary - Don Soul, Treasurer - Richard Ustick, Sgt-at-arms & librarian Donna Greenbaum with Members-at-large Diane Lane and Belinda Kaesler.

*Continued on page 5*

# Stage Competition Brings Out The Best

The May 12th meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. sharp by President Terry Lunceford. After introductions of guests and visitors - and there were many for this meeting - Terry opened the floor to nominations for the office of Ring 76 Secretary. Jack White, the current secretary, is leaving that position and Don Soul was nominated to replace Jack. Bob Ingalls announced that after serving for 10 years on the Ring 76 board and as a past president he would be stepping down. That leaves an opening for a member at large on the board. That position was opened to nominations however no one was nominated and, therefore, that job will remain open.

With the business portion of the meeting out of the way, normally Kenny Shelton, our 1st vice president in charge of entertainment, would take over the duties of master of ceremonies for our Stage Competition. However, for this program Kenny was busy running the spotlight and Richard Ustick took care of making sure the music for the various acts was played at the proper time. Terry Lunceford assumed the duties of M.C.

First up was a very professional performer José Sanchez. Dressed in a tux, he thrilled the audience with a very polished dove act. José works to music and has a smile that puts the audience at ease and makes him their friend immediately. Working with a number of colored doves his act is designed to have each effect complement the next effect. There was an audible gasp from the audience as José seemingly split one dove into two. José builds most of his props and they filled the small space he had to work in for this show. His act set some high standards for the rest of the acts that followed.

Toni Perrine was next with a very colorful and unique act. It was a departure for her working to music with no patter. Toni has created an act that magic books remind performers to think about when routining their program. Do something that is different and is you. Toni included an exotic dance routine with the production of colored silks from two large fans that she uses in the opening portion of her act. The stage for this performance was small and filled with props and made it difficult for the dance number to be fully appreciated. Her magic effects were visual and well rehearsed. There were one or two technical problems because her tables were not placed in the correct position on stage. Toni closed her presentation with a very nice floating table routine. Toni is not a young woman and must be very much admired to attempt such an ambitious act.

While the stage was being set for the next act, Bob Ingalls attempted to do a "Snake Basket" routine as filler

between acts. When Jack White heard Bob was working with a snake he appeared with a large gun in case the snake escaped from the basket. When Bob could not find the snake, Jack fired the gun and two huge spring snakes flew out towards the audience.

Next up was Loch David Crane who always appears on stage in very unique costumes. In the past he has appeared as a Wizard in medieval costume and as Bafflin' Bill Cody in a very real western get up. This evening he was dressed as "Karnack", the all-seeing, all knowing mind reader. His turban was delightful; his flowing cape was perfect for his character. His material was well above anything he has used before and much of it was very funny. There was no real magic to his routine but there was good comedy and a joy to behold.

Sydney Franklin was next and presented a combination of mental magic and hypnosis and scored well with his first effort at this act. Sydney is new to Ring 76 and is just becoming established as a performer. The stage environment as a magic performer is somewhat new and he says he learned a great deal from this first time out as a mentalist. He has a sparkling personality and is not afraid to be bold in his performing techniques. He knows he has to refine his act and smooth some of the rough corners. He is excited about working with other members to create something that is both mystifying and entertaining.

The seasoned pro Michael E. Johnson closed our program with an act that is a little different for Michael. A student of Houdini history, Michael treated the audience to some very rare and very old Houdini memorabilia. His stories were filled with comedy and excitement. Then with the help of a committee from the audience, Michael was chained with a variety of items including handcuffs, locks of all size and design as well as a very heavy chain. He then played with his committee as he escaped and was quickly once again found to be securely locked up. It was an act where we laughed and learned something about another era in magic.

The show came to an end too quickly. There was a lot of good talent and it was clear that each act dressed for the occasion and put a lot of thought and work in their performance. The winners will be announced at the Installation and Awards Banquet on July 13th.





Loch  
David  
Crane



Toni  
Perrine

Sydney  
Franklin  
& Lucy



José  
Sanchez



Michael  
E.  
Johnson

Ring 76  
STAND-UP  
COMPETITION  
MAY, 2008



# **Magi Book Review**

by

**Dr. Joel Moskowitz, M.D.**



"The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam" by Ann Marie Fleming, a review by Joel A. Moskowitz M.D.

For decades audiences were amazed by magic said to have originated in the mysterious Orient. Some Western conjurers faked being Chinese. Why then did a magician who was authentically Oriental fade into obscurity. How many know of "The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam"? A chance discovery of an old 16 mm film in her grandmother's basement piqued Ann Marie Fleming to track the history of this conjurer, acrobat, world traveled vaudevilian and contemporary of Houdini.

Fleming, herself an award winning filmmaker, author and artist, had a passion to understand why Long Tack Sam is mostly forgotten. Using her skills she reanimates his life with pictures, cartoons, and posters. Ms. Fleming, Long Tack Sam's great grand daughter, combines archival photos with her own graphic 'sidebars' and commentaries. The beautiful result is a history lesson as well as glorification and understanding of the times and tribulations of this Northern Chinese magician's adventurous life.

Starting with a playbill from a theater in Germany where Long Tack Sam performed in 1933, a grant from the National Film Board in Canada, and while wandering through a magic collector's conference, Ms. Fleming chanced upon a poster of her beloved grandmother and her sister in full Chinese dress. They were Long Tack Sam's daughters! Quoting Ms. Fleming, "It was very emotional."

The romantic chance meeting between L.T.S. and an Austrian shopgirl attracted local attention. That a Buddhist Oriental who converted to Roman Catholicism to marry this European girl was news. At that time in his career, Sam was director of Tan Kwai Troupe reknown for their 'hair' tricks. Polticial changes with the ascension of the Republicans in an effort to eliminate the style of the Ching Dynasty made it obligatory to cut off the hair tails and along with this went Sam's career.

Paradoxically with the admiration for things Oriental there was prejudice against Chinese. An anecdote illustrates: A fellow, but Caucasian performer, incensed that L.T.S. appeared on the bill before him, came on stage during Sam's act and thrust some dirty shirts at

him demanding that "I want these back by Saturday night and go easy on the starch!"

Sam was a handsome, multi-lingual entertainer who traveled world wide, spoke, it is alleged, French, German, Yiddish and with an American accent at that. Sam was 'wildly popular in Australia, such that they thought he was Australian'. His act was international. Ms. Fleming's pursuit is cheerfully documented with commentary about the world events during the period when L.T.S. lived and performed.

"Freezing Ice in the Hand" was a contribution to The Sphinx in the October 1930 issue and is reproduced for the reader. Also included is The program of the Golden Anniversary celebration from the Society of American Magicians. This depicts Sam as the headliner of their show. Orson Welles is quoted as praising Sam as one of his teachers. Jacki Flosso remembered Sam doing a somersault effect where he produces a bowl of water...at age 73!

Penquin/Riverhead Books is the publisher (2007) 170 pp \$14.00 Softbound of "The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam".



## David Regal *Continued from page 1*

special evening of learning from one of the leading pro's in magic today.

Just prior to the David Regal lecture, Ring 76 President Terry Lunceford will ask for any last minute nominations from the floor for Board Member at Large. If you would like to serve on the Ring 76 board you may have your name placed in nomination. We will vote on the slate of officers that were nominated in May. We expect these proceedings to move very quickly and we ask for your help in making the election process move very smoothly.

We are very happy and lucky to have booked David Regal for this meeting. We believe his magic lecture will be one that all of our members will enjoy and find rewarding. This should be a very exciting meeting.



**An editorial:** Artistic Credibility Challenged In Balboa Park by Michael E. Johnson

When I started performing magic in Balboa Park, I was shocked to discover the dog-eat-dog world of street performers who intimidate and slander to make competition disappear.

Here's what I experienced. On the first Saturday of the month, I went to the Park Headquarters at 10:00 a.m., stood in a long line of entertainers, and by the luck of a lottery, I was issued a permit to perform. The Park staff were very helpful, giving me an exclusive permit to perform in one of five designated locations for magicians. I spent about five hours presenting my Elegant Mysteries show near the Museum of Natural History, passing the hat and busking for tips. It was hard work but fun.

On my second day in Balboa Park, the honeymoon was over, and a magician I'd never heard of tried to take over my space. He claimed I was supposed to share the space. I'm not against sharing my stage with a qualified professional who I respect, but this stranger was rude. I held my ground, even as he called me names, threatened me, and heckled me as I tried to make a living.

A few hours later, another Magician I'd never met tried another tactic. He set up his show in an unauthorized location directly adjacent to me, loudly blowing his whistle and yelling at people to "Come see the magic show in Balboa Park". I still held my ground, and a short while later he disappeared without saying a word to me.

By the next month, a juggler who I never met posted a hit-piece on me on the internet, accusing me of "The death of artistic courtesy". In his blog, he called me names, used quotes from my own website against me, and urged his readers to contact me to express their displeasure.

As soon as I discovered the internet smear campaign, I immediately e-mailed the juggler to explain my position. But he never had the courtesy to respond.

It's obvious that these performers have their own set of rules, independent of the rules established by the Balboa Park Department of Recreation. What makes their criticism so ridiculous, is the fact that none of the three even have City of San Diego business licenses. Any businessman knows that a City Business License is required to conduct business in San Diego. I have one.

Perhaps if I'd known these performers, I might have shared my space with them. But none of them are members of the magic club, nor have I seen them at the many charity events for which I volunteer.

Rather than scaring me off, this criticism has only strengthened my resolve to keep performing in Balboa Park. Those of us who care about magic must stand up to these bullies. Otherwise, the art of magic will be defined by the lowest common denominator. To all members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, I welcome your support in this important cause.

Magician Michael E. Johnson

ed. note: The opinions expressed in this editorial do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of MagiCurrents.

## "MagiToon" by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Hello, Valdaro Magic Company?  
Well, we've got a problem."



## *Message from the Ring 76 President*

Here we are headed into summer and for me my second year as President of Ring 76. I want to thank all of you for helping to make my first year as president so successful and rewarding.

I have some exciting news to report about our Installation and Awards Banquet set for Sunday evening, July 13th at the Cottonwood Golf Course in the east county. After a long talk and some negotiating, Steve Spellman has agreed to be our entertainment for the evening. For those of you who do not know Steve, you are in for a real treat. He is currently producing one of the top family shows on the west coast featuring a full evening of magic and illusions.

Steve, as a favor to Ring 76 and our members, will present a full program with his complete cast of performers, lights, sound and special effects tailor-made for our banquet. I have admired Steve's work for years and have always hoped I would have the opportunity to bring his show to our group. Now my dream is really going to happen and I am thrilled it is taking place on my watch.

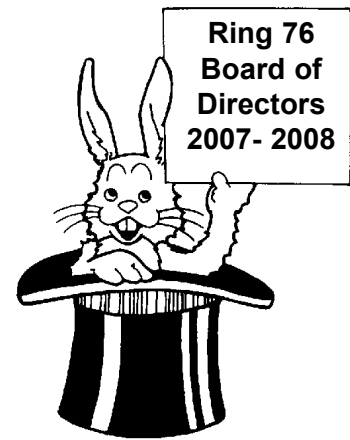
Kenny Shelton has been working with the catering staff at the Cottonwood Country Club and we will once again have a wonderful buffet dinner. There will be an open bar for those so inclined, dessert and some wonderful fellowship. This is an opportunity to

bring your family, enjoy a great dinner and see a sensational show. Because Steve does a family show, this will be a great evening for your children and grandchildren to attend. We will have a special price for children. That information will be available in the July Newsletter which will include a link for you to download an easy to follow map for finding the country club. Next month the map will also be available at our web site, [www.ring76.com](http://www.ring76.com).

At the banquet we will also be handing out our awards for top performers in both the close-up and stage contests and we will be honoring our longtime member Len Cardoza for his lifetime in magic. Additionally, on that evening we will induct our new board members who will be serving during the 2008-2009 year ahead.

I hope you are planning to attend this big Ring 76 July meeting that will be filled with exciting surprises. I am also hoping to see you at the June 9th meeting featuring David Regal with his sensational **FREE** magic lecture for our members. See you Monday evening!

*Terry Lunceford*  
*Ring 76 President*



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

# NEWS

We are happy to report that longtime member **Charlie Gott** is "back on his feet" after foot surgery in late March and was able to attend two Ring events in May. Charlie is moving slow and walking with a cane but has proven the saying that even surgery to his foot cannot keep a good man down.

**Bob Ingalls** and **Jack White** are planning to drive to Louisville, Kentucky for the Combined I.B.M. S.A.M. Convention in mid-July. This is the second time the two have driven cross-country together to attend a magic convention. Other Ring 76 members planning to attend the big combined conclave include **Jeff Marcus, Joel & Arlene Moskowitz, Diane Lane, Sherry Luft** and **J.P. Jackson** (who will have a table in the dealer's room). Late word from the convention committee shows the meeting is about to hit the 2000-attendees "sold out" number for registrations in early June.

Legendary close-up performer **J. C. Wagner** is continuing to amaze his audiences at the "Little Club" in Coronado on Saturday's. Drop by the bar, located near the old ferry landing at the foot of Orange Avenue, on any Saturday afternoon and you will find a who's who of magic gathered watching J.C. do his latest "stuff."

**Terry Luncford** is working out a deal for Ring 76 to do a public magic show at the Carlsbad Theater, a converted movie theater in the North County that currently features stage productions. Details are not complete but Terry is hop-



ing to produce the magic program starring Ring 76 members sometime in October. The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce has taken an interest in the program and will help with the promotion and selling of tickets. The Carlsbad Theater is located in the downtown village of Carlsbad and is a very nice 300-seat house. Polish up your act as there will be auditions in the near future. Terry also reports we will need a lot of backstage and front crew as well.

**Donna Greenbaum's** husband Stu recently had angioplasty surgery and had three stints to open clogged arteries. Donna reports that Stu was home from the hospital the day following surgery and they both took a walk around their neighborhood that evening. He is doing well.

**Ralph Mauzy** and **Bob Ingalls** were seen kidding with members and guests at the Magic Castle in Hollywood the last weekend in May. When Bob and Ralph are at the Castle things are always lively.

Former member of Ring 76, **Sumit Dua**, has graduated from the USC Medical School in Los Angeles. Sumit's family is having a big party for him in early June, in Los Angeles. Sumit has promised a visit to a Ring 76 meeting sometime in the near future. After the first of the year he moves to New

# BRIEFS

York City to begin his residency. Sumit continues to remain active with his magic and has begun to amass his new library of older collectable magic books. Congratulations from everyone at Ring 76 on your graduation from medical school, Dr. Dua.

**Richard Ustick's** daughter, Christina, who has performed and helped her father during various Ring events over the years, will be graduating from High School in June. The Ustick's are very proud of their daughter's achievements. We are all hoping she goes to college nearby so she can continue to help her father during our special Ring events.

1st Vice President **Kenny Shelton** is one of the featured entertainers at a Padres Blood Drive in early June. Kenny will be doing his magic and juggling during the day-long event. It is expected that Kenny will also be one of the featured performers on the various "live" TV News spots promoting this important blood drive that helps to build up the San Diego blood supply for the coming 4th of July weekend.

There is exciting news concerning the coming Installation and Awards Banquet, July 13th at the Cottonwood Country Club. The special entertainment for that evening will be **Steve Spellman** and his full magic show. This is turning out to be one of the biggest and most exciting banquets the Ring has ever presented. Mark this evening on your calendar as one program not to be missed for a fun night of magic.

## Coming Attractions

**Monday, June 9th, FREE David Regal lecture for Ring 76 members. It will also be dues night as well as the annual election of new officers. A must-attend meeting.**

**Monday, June 23rd, Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, Jack's Magic Place.**

**Sunday, July 13th, Officer installation & awards banquet at the Cottonwood Country Club. Ring Members & their guests only.**

**Monday, July 28th, Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, Jack's Magic Place.**

**Monday, August 11th, Bag night - Bring a paper bag containing a trick to be used for improv performing. You'll get the trick back.**



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