



MagiCurrents



San Diego, California

Celebrating Sixty Years of Service to the Magic Community

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

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Welcome Our New Board

Ring 76's biggest social event of the year, the annual Installation of new officers and Awards Banquet, is set for Sunday, July 13th at the Cottonwood Country Club in the east county. For directions to the country club see the map in this newsletter or you can go directly to the Ring 76 web site to get the printable map PDF by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.ring76.com/html/cottonwood.html>

The social hour begins at 5 p.m. with a cash bar for those wishing to have a drink before dinner.

Serving time will be at 6 p.m. The menu will include an entrée of Lasagna, both vegetarian and meat sauce, Chicken Cacciatore, a garden salad with garlic bread, your choice of coffee, ice tea, water or milk. Dessert will include large homemade brownies.

Dinner will be followed by our special raffle that will include some very special prizes that include a Terry Lunceford "Viper Snake Basket" - a super illusion that is valued at \$500. Michael E. Johnson has put together a package that includes a Criss Angel DVD, Houdini poster, a Siegfried & Roy Radio City Music Hall poster, A Fu Manchu poster, a Penn & Teller DVD, a David Copperfield autographed poster, a marked deck of bicycle cards and more. Belinda Kaesler has created a surprise package of magic related items that include; a 50x60 blanket with playing cards on it, a quilted fabric zippered bag with playing cards on it, a magic wand, a small magic wand pen, a collectable card decanter filled with mixed nuts, a Thunder Tube, King of Hearts Hologram, sun glasses, a magic themed tee shirt and a \$25 gift certificate to Tikiland Costume Shop. Jack White has put together a huge basket of magic videotapes featuring some of the top names in magic. We will also have some great surprises. Raffle tickets are \$1 each of 6 for \$5. All proceeds will help with the cost of the banquet.

The installation of new Ring 76 officers starts at 7 p.m. Terry Lunceford will begin his second term as president, Kenny Shelton starts his second term as 1st vice president, Michael E. Johnson will serve his second term as 2nd vice

Kenny Shelton Donates Time & More!

Ring 76 1st Vice President Kenny Shelton recently spent the day entertaining blood donors in the Gaslamp district of San Diego. The all day blood drive was the Omni Hotel and had a San Diego Padres theme. Kenny has been a longtime supporter of blood drive activities and during this event he did close up magic and his juggling act.

During one of his breaks in performing he took time to roll up his sleeve and donate the gift of life - blood. He also taught one of the on duty nurses - named Sonny - the basics of juggling three balls. According to San Diego Blood Bank officials: "Kenny's work as a performer turns the blood drive into a very festive occasion and encourages blood donors to attend these events."

Thanks, Kenny, for urging the public to give blood through your tireless efforts.



Kenny donates blood



Teaching Še to juggle

Continued on page 5

Free Lecture by David Regal a Big Hit!

The June meeting was busy, what with dues being collected and membership forms to fill out. 65 people attended this evening's general meeting and the first order of business was president Terry Lunceford's announcement of the board's proposed slate of officers for the pending election. He mentioned there was an opening for the position of member-at-large and Bob Miegs accepted the nomination. The slate of officers was accepted by those in attendance and a motion that the proposed slate be accepted as the official board for 2008/2009 carried. No printed ballot was necessary. The new board of officers are: Terry Lunceford - president, Kenny Shelton - 1st vice president, Michael E. Johnson - 2nd vice president, Don Soul - secretary, Dick Ustick - treasurer, Donna Greenbaum - sgt.-at-arms/librarian, Diane Lane - member-at-large, Belinda Kaesler - member-at-large and Bob Miegs - member-at-large.

With official business out of the way, our guest for the evening, Magic Castle award-winning lecturer David Regal began one of the most helpful talks given to our members. His new book – *Approaching Magic* – emphasizes the methods one needs to take to tap into the creative side of routining. Even classic old tricks can benefit from David's rethinking process. To introduce his concepts he presented *The World's Greatest Invention* using a rollup screen and an actual glass of liquid in the manner of an egg bag. Thus we began to see the many uses of modern day strong magnets used throughout the evening.



Paper Money was an in-the-hands visible change of a rectangular piece of bond paper into a dollar bill ala the old Adams Money Maker but without the little device; a purely visual and very effective puzzler. He followed with a three-card monte routine called Change for a Five with the kicker being that all three cards have changed values. Did you really see that Queen at all?

Cocoa is an effect that plays to all audiences. Based on the chop cup, David's performance uses two cups then, from out of nowhere, "hot" chocolate pours from one of the cups at the finish. The gimmick, like all the gaffs for Regal's effects, was simple, affordable and downright clever. Two more tricks – *Man Not Quite Dead* and his *Haunted Pack* – used invisible thread hookups that made a person wonder if there really is such a thing as PK. At times, it appeared he was nowhere near the objects. One more slant on a classic presentation just before the break was obviously one of his favorites, *The Puppy Trick* – a different version of *The Ambitious Card*.

During the break and again after the lecture, Regal's book was for sale. He brought only a few of the \$75 treasures but the were gobbled up by those in the audience wishing to "pick his brain" via the printed page. It was a worthwhile investment indeed.

Starting the second portion of the evening, David showed us *Impossible Envelope*. This mentalism masterpiece involved a person sitting in the audience who, throughout the evening, was asked a series of questions by David. At this point in the show Regal opened a large manila envelope that had been sitting in plain view the entire evening and the crayon-written prediction inside matched every answer the spectator had given. How can you top that unless you've seen *A Quiet Goodbye*, his next bit? In this one, four borrowed coins stacked in the performer's hand, quietly vanish without a trace. Same thing with *Consolidation* wherein four quarters are placed inside a folded one dollar bill. What do you have? Two dollars, of course, as evidenced by the \$2 bill kicker.

In *Darkness* gave us a folded black screen that is lifted to show a ring behind it. A wand is thrust through holes on each side of the screen then the screen is turned around to expose the wand and in the center dangles the ring. And we've all seen the torn-and-restored playing card but how 'bout a credit card? David calls that one *Restored Credit*. Amazing. The third card trick for the night was entitled *Sympatico*, a very clever and easy card matching stunt involving, of all things, a one-way force deck. The finale for the evening was *Translocations*, a coins across miracle.

The membership was rewarded with one of the best Ring 76-sponsored lectures in quite a while and you couldn't beat the price, that being a nominal \$25 annual dues. Those who weren't at the June meeting missed out on quite a lot of innovative ideas.

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Treasurer Dick Ustick patiently awaits your presence at this year's Ring 76 Installation Banquet. Don't disappoint him.



World's Greatest Invention



Greetings from the dues board: Dick Ustick, Donna Greenbaum & Michael E. Johnson

David Regal presents
his lecture from
"Approaching Magic"



Michael E. Johnson's Membership Kits



Newest Board Member, Bob Miegs



Returning Secretary Don Soul with wife Donna



Impossible Envelope

Magic Book Review

by

Dr. Joel Moskowitz, M.D.



"The Secret Life of Siegfried and Roy ... How the Tiger Kings Tamed Las Vegas" by Jimmy Lavery, Jim Mydlach and Louis Mydlach as told to Henrietta Tiefenthaler.
Reviewed by Joel A. Moskowitz M.D.

The art of the dust cover of this book is deceptive. Except if you remember the maxim, "You can't tell a book by its cover". This is the poster child for that wisdom.

Recall also the children's game 'telephone' where one whispers into the ear of the next person a message and this is then transmitted round the circle by which time, the original message may have little relationship to what was said originally. "The Secret Life of Siegfried and Roy (How The Tiger Kings Tamed Las Vegas) is a story ostensibly told by Jimmy Lavery, Jim Mydlach and Louis Mydlach to Henrietta Tiefenthaler. Published by Phoenix Books, 2008, this well produced unauthorized tale of the two magical stars whose amazing and original talents paved the way to establish Las Vegas as the acme destination for conjurers. In 247 pp, this \$25.95 hardcover, promises to reveal the 'secret life'. Note that doesn't mean, as some swift readers might assume, reveal their magical secrets. Fellow conjurers may breathe easy.

The publicity flyer states "the three co-authors had unprecedented access into the world of "Siegfried and Roy" and intimately (this writers emphasis) the often shocking but always juicy details of what they saw, heard and experienced over the course of the magician's careers. This is somewhat of a misleading exaggeration. Magicians are familiar with the art of word wizardry i.e. equivoque. Readers don't expect it from authors who profess to tell hitherto secret information.

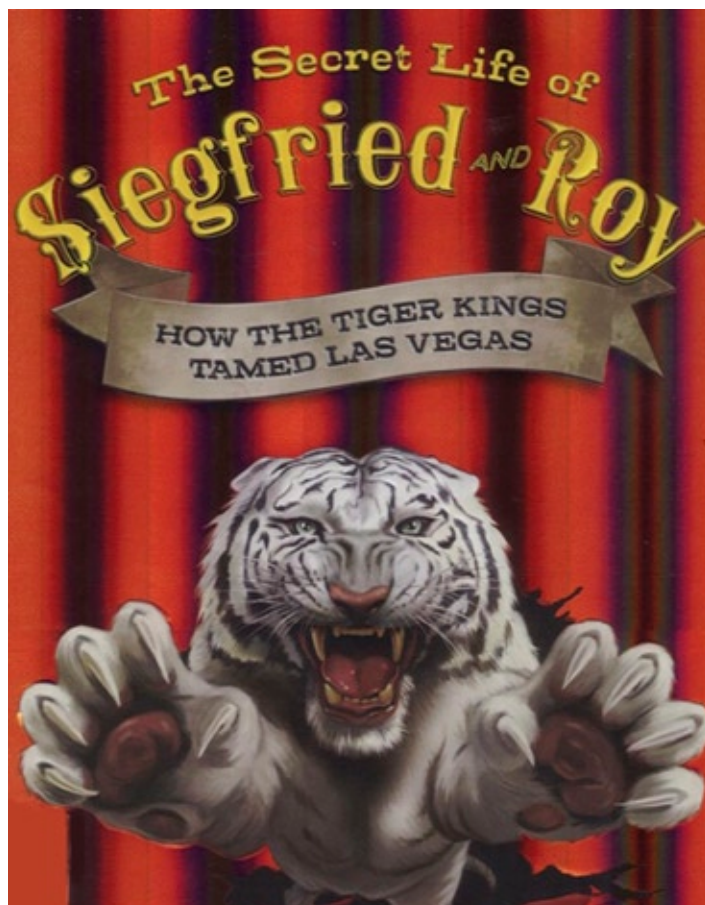
With a bibliography of almost ninety citings, one might imagine that this is a scholarly well researched book. The sources mentioned range from National Enquirer, E! Online, the web site of PETA, to the New York Times. The latter October 5, 2003 reports Tiger Mauls Illusionist on Stage. Add to this a sprinkling of references to Liberace, references to circuses, the history of Las Vegas and some of its luminaries, a selection of photos of the 'cats', Roy in recovery and even the pain medication shipped over from Germany which Roy took in addition to his prescribed meds and you have a glimpse of the adventures and mis-adventures of this famous duo.

Your reward for buying this book and ingesting its contents is that you may learn both more and less than you wanted

to know. Did you know that Lynette, their female 'partner', achieved Guinness book of records status for having been sawn in half so many times. How many? No mention. Or, that Bernie Yuman's (a Jew and their manager) connections with the White House made an audience with the Pope possible. Allegedly, Yunam asked the Pope to bless his family. That in contrast to the public statements that they never declawed their cats, they did. And, Lynette kept stored in her freezer ziplock bags full of claws thus avoiding tiger body parts to be sold on the black market.

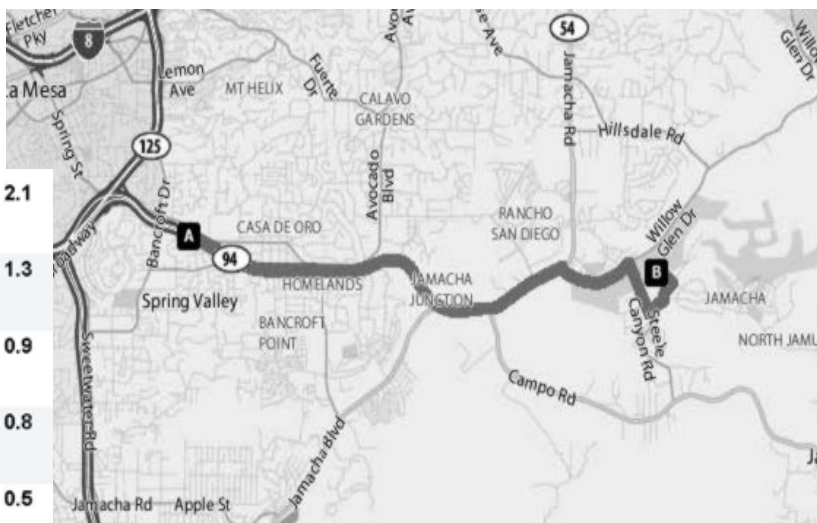
In opposition to the maxim that it is never wise to work with children or animals if you want your show to run smoothly, Siegfried and Roy defied the latter, until the disastrous event. Glitches, humorous incidents, anecdotes involving Unions who threatened to kill them, personalities who were part of their stage and private lives adorn this semi-chronologic history. If you are the sort of person who cannot resist picking up a copy of National Enquirer or similar while you wait on line at the food store checkout counter, this book is for you. If you are seeking the inside scoop on the magical methods of the partnership which made Las Vegas the mecca for magicians worldwide, this will not be a shortcut. Entertaining, to be sure, but enlightening 'not'.

The title didn't promise to divulge the stage secrets of Siegfried and Roy. That may have been the motivation for buying this book. You were not tricked except by your own mistaken expectations. After all, isn't the subject MAGIC.



DIRECTIONS TO COTTONWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Start at CA-94, SPRING VALLEY going toward MARTIN LUTHER KING JR FWY | go 2.1 mi |
| 2. Continue on CAMPO RD(CA-94) | go 1.3 mi |
| 3. Continue on JAMACHA RD(CA-54) | go 0.9 mi |
| 4. Turn R on WILLOW GLEN DR | go 0.8 mi |
| 5. Turn R on STEELE CANYON RD | go 0.5 mi |
| 6. Turn L on JAMUL DR | go 0.2 mi |
| 7. Turn L on IVANHOE RANCH RD | go 0.2 mi |
| 8. Turn L on COTTONWOOD VIEW DR | go 0.1 mi |
| 9. Arrive at 32.744228, -116.912421, on the R | go < 0.1 mi |



New Board *Continued from page 1*

president, Richard Ustick will continue as Ring treasurer, Don Soul will become our new Ring secretary and Donna Greenbaum remains our sgt.-at-arms and librarian. Returning members-at-large include Diane Lane and Belinda Kaesler and new to the board will be Robert Miegs. TVP Jeff Marcus will install the officers.

Jack White will honor Len Cardoza, our newly elected Lifetime Achievement award winner. Len is our longest serving member of Ring 76 having joined in 1950.

Terry Lunceford and Kenny Shelton will handout the awards for Best Close-up Performer, Best Stage Performer, Performer of the Year and Member of the Year Award.

Following the awards ceremony, a special program of magic will be presented. The show will begin with a surprise act followed by the full evening performance of Steve Spellman and Company - a high-energy stage show with special effects and lighting, music and his company of entertainers. This is a sensational family program so bring your children and grandchildren to this gala evening of fellowship and magic.

Banquet tickets are \$25 per person, \$15 for children 12 and under. Because the caterer must know in advance how many meals to prepare, we are asking that you **please** make reservations in advance by either calling or e-mailing Richard Ustick. His phone number is (619) 589-1913 or

e-mail him at: rustick@flash.net. It is very important that we have an idea of how many dinners we need to serve and how many tables to set up for the banquet.

This is going to be one of the best Installation and Award Banquets ever created by Ring 76 and you will not want to miss this very special evening. Get your reservations in soon and we will see you at the banquet.

"MagiToon" by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Hey . . . Great hat!"



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.

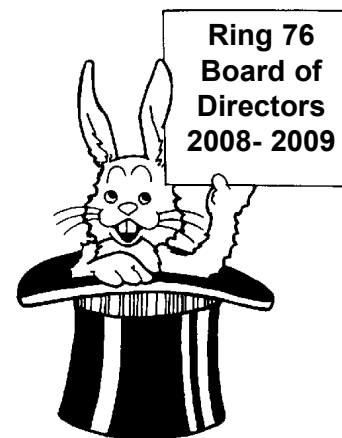
Kenny Shelton has been working with the catering staff at the Cottonwood Country Club and we will once again have a wonderful buffet dinner. There will be a no-host bar for those so inclined, dessert and some wonderful fellowship. This is an opportunity to

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 is elsewhere in MagiCurrents. Be sure to check out the directions to the event on page five but if you want to go "hi-tech", simply click on the link in the lead story on page one to download an easy-to-follow map for finding the country club. The map is also available at our web site Meetings page.

At the banquet we will also be presenting our awards for top performers in both the close-up and stage contests, among others, and we'll 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 begin service 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. See you Sunday the 13th!

Terry Lunceford
Ring 76 President



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

Member-at-large

Belinda Kaesler

Member-at-large

Diane Lane *

Member-at-large

Bob Miegs

Territorial Vice President

Jeff Marcus *

*denotes past Ring 76 president

For information on membership or Ring events contact secretary Don Soul by e-mail at dsoul@san.rr.com or by phone at (858) 484-3492

NEWS

Belinda Kaesler, Terry Lunceford, Jack White and **Michael E. Johnson** have created some very unusual and special magic related raffle prizes to be given out during the Installation and Awards Banquet at the Cottonwood Country Club, July 13th. Each basket contains between \$80 and \$450 dollars in merchandise. Tickets are a dollar a piece or 7 for \$5. All the proceeds go to the club treasury and help to cover the cost of putting together the evening's banquet and entertainment.

Diane Lane is on the high seas this month working for a Norwegian Cruise Line that sails from San Diego to Alaska and back. Diane is, of course, doing her magic act and is also taking part in an educational program on the ship by teaching basic computer skills to anyone interested in taking her class. Diane will return to San Diego in time for the Installation Banquet and then take off with **Sherry Luft** for Louisville, Kentucky and the combined I.B.M.-S.A.M. Convention, opening July 21st.

Jim Burns, better known and the Great Zucchini, is again appearing in one of the exhibit halls at the Del Mar Fair pitching slum magic. Jim's sales pitch has started many a young man and young woman on the road to magic as a hobby. His six featured tricks include the Svengali Deck, Stripper Deck, Glorpy, Nickels to Dimes, Professor's Nightmare Rope Trick and Coin thru Glass. After doing these six tricks 50 to 75 times a day, Jim has developed a very entertaining sales pitch. Drop by and watch him work the crowd when you are at the fair. He puts on a great show and his routines are both practical and a lot of fun to watch.

Speaking of learning magic, **Joshua Jay**, who presented a magic lecture to Ring 76 earlier this year, has just com-



pleted a new 400-page book and DVD titled "MAGIC, The Complete Course in Becoming A Magician." The first printing run is 75,000 copies and it will be on sale this fall in top book stores across the country. Joshua is a young guy and has a passion for teaching magic in a new contemporary style and has made that happen with the publication of the new book. Jack White has a copy of the "galley proof" of the book and says: "It is very exciting with a lot of good material for the beginner and advanced students alike." Paperback copies will sell for \$22.95, while hard cover editions will sell for \$34.95; both editions include a DVD of the tricks in the book. You will be hearing a lot more about this book as a national marketing campaign is being planned for the coming months.

David Sandy, the site selection person for future I.B.M. Conventions, flies into San Diego, July 8th to look over theaters and hotels for holding the I.B.M. Convention of 2010 in this city. David will be joined by Jack White and members of the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau for the whirlwind tour. The newly remodeled Balboa Theater in Downtown San Diego is high on the list of theaters to look at for the evening shows. David hopes to have his report on San Diego, ready to present at the Louisville Convention later this month. Stay tuned for future developments in bringing another I.B.M. Convention to San Diego in the near future.

Keri Kaiser, Entertainment Chairperson, for the American Cancer

BRIEFS

Society's "Relay for Life" in Vista is looking for a (magician/magicians) who might be interested in donating some performing time to this worthwhile group. The event will be held on August 2nd in the North County. You can contact Keri at kerikaiser@hotmail.com. If you have trouble with that address try Lou Heck at Ring 292. His e-mail is lheck@sdcoek12.ca.us

Loch David Crane has decided not to attend the Combined I.B.M.-S.A.M. Convention in Louisville, Kentucky this year. He has a registration for the convention and a room at the hotel that is available to anyone interested in purchasing it. Loch purchased his registration when rates were low and booked his hotel room at the Galt House when rooms were still available. You can reach Loch at (619) 222-2849 or via e-mail at capnkirk@adnc.com.

Michael E. Johnson will be teaching "Magic Camp" at the "College for Kids" at Mira Costa College in Oceanside July 7th to 11th and the 14th to the 18th. Those classes are still open and if you would like more information you can call Michael at (760) 747-4627. He will also be teaching a magic camp at the Scripps Racquet Club from July 14th to the 17th that takes in youngsters from 6 to 12 years of age. Michael will also be performing at the Taste of Birdrock in La Jolla July 17th. The Taste of Birdrock will feature the best restaurants from that area of La Jolla. Michael will be doing strolling magic and this is the fourth year he has performed at this event. On Saturday, July 19th Michael will be performing at the Village Walk Center in the South Bay from 5 to 8 p.m. He will be strolling throughout the shopping mall doing magic in the well-established Eastlake shopping area of Chula Vista. Stop by and say hello.

Coming Attractions

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

Monday, July 21st, 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.

Monday, August 25th, Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, Jack's Magic Place.



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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 or written manuscripts may be submitted to Don Soul, 10068 Branford Rd., San Diego, CA 92129-3223.