



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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Auction Promises to be Rewarding

This year's Ring 76 auction will have something for everyone and you literally can't afford to miss this golden opportunity to grab some really good magic at our September 8th meeting.

Dan Thomas of the Gathering restaurant has donated a set of very nice 10 inch Linking Rings and a Brad Burt Linking Ring videotape. Charlie Gott is bringing in a huge supply of stage props such as Squared Circle, the Devil's Frying Pan and Glass Candy Factory. And word from J.P. Jackson is that he is "digging really deep" to come up with stuff to offer. There will be other donations, too, so this is your chance to unload those items you haven't picked up in years and make a little money at the same time.

Members of Ring 76 are encouraged to bring auction items. Except for a 10% donation to the Ring on all items auctioned, the donor will receive the proceeds. Treasurer Dick Ustick will keep a running tab of the sales so to help him out in this thankless task we ask that everyone who has items to sell give Dick a list of what you are offering, in advance, that includes a description of the item, a note indicating if the prop, book or video media is complete, a remark as to whether or not it includes instructions and a suggested opening bid price if applicable. While you stand to profit from your sales, Ring 76 won't turn down a donation straight to the Ring with all proceeds going to the treasury if you so desire. (Thanks in advance, by the way).

There will be bargains galore and many of the effects will be demonstrated prior to the bidding. We intend to have a means to make purchases via credit card but checks and cash are always welcomed. This event is one that consistently contributes to our treasury so please be generous. It is hoped that everyone takes home at least one item.

This is one meeting you will not want to miss if your desire is to add excellent material to your repertoire at a fraction of its retail cost. You may find just the items you have always been looking for at this auction so be sure you make plans to be in the audience September 8th. Contact Richard Ustick at rustick@flash.net or 619-589-1913 for more information about selling your items.

Ring 76 Says Goodbye to Craig Stone

After performing magic at the Gathering Restaurant for 20 years, Craig Stone's last evening was Thursday, August 21st. Magician Magic Mike Stilwell and restaurant owner Dan Thomas decided to throw a little going away party for Craig on his final night of work. There were close to 20 prominent San Diego magicians who showed up for the good-bye party telling one last round of stories and sharing nostalgic memories of magic shows at the Gathering.

Some of those attending included J.C. Wagner, Tom McCarthy, Sebastian Figueroa, Jack & Lynn White, J.P. Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Mystic, Bob Pozner, Rich Robertson, Syd Segal, José Sanchez and his wife, John Hill, Doug Brewer, Mike Stilwell and Dan Thomas as well as many other non-Ring 76 members. Everyone wanted Craig to know they would miss him and wanted to wish him well as he moves across the country to Charlotte, North Carolina to begin building a new client list for shows.



Craig Stone

Since he was a teenager, Craig has been doing magic in San Diego. Jack White told the story of doing a lecture 35 years ago with George Edwards for the Junior Magicians group and Craig was in the audience. Jack said almost every trick he and George did went wrong. Finally, when nothing seemed to click, Craig stood up and said, "Let me show you guys a trick." And he was excellent!

Over the years Craig has hustled an audience at Seaport Village, done dozens of library magic shows, school shows, cruise ship shows, birthday parties, holiday parties and, of course, has table-hopped at restaurants all over Southern California. He has made friends wherever he has worked.

But Craig is best remembered, and made many new friends, as the guy behind the counter at Brad Burt's magic shop. For years Craig was at the shop to greet you and answer any ques-

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Bag Night Scores Big with Ring 76 Members

Bag Night was the theme for our August meeting and one never knows what will be found inside them. The first performer, international President-elect Jack White, brought out possibly the oldest commercially marketed trick, Fresh Fish. It was a great way to kick off the evening. Next was Charlie Gott and, with the assistance of Maxwell Johnson, he created a wonderful act that ended in a bill transpo into a \$1,000,000 bill! Following that, Alex Greenbaum took his props – two ropes, a ring, a playing card-sized What's Next? and a set of number matrix cards – and proceeded to show us an excellent routine.

Up next, Dr. Jeff Pearson found a shrunken head in his bag and promptly vanished it. That was followed by Southern California Territorial Vice President Jeff Marcus showing us a set of nested paper packets into which he placed a nickel and transformed it into a half dollar. Toni Perrine then took center stage to give us a very creative impromptu performance of the Egg Bag, Linking (comical pacifier) Rings and ended with a brief Professor's Nightmare.

Our next performer, Loch David Crane, was given a deck of cards and five small pillows with arms, legs and a head,

each bearing a different value that established a royal flush. One at a time, each was revealed from the paper bag as Loch deposited a playing card into it, huffed and puffed into the bag then pulled out a card transformed into a pillow. Howard Robinson was up next taking the Two-Card Monte to new levels. Then he had the audience select a red or black color, name a suit of that color and, finally, asked for a value. His assistant, Ricardo Mendez, then verified for the audience that, from a deck of miniature playing cards, one face-down card was the one randomly selected.

We were then treated to a stimulating puzzler from out-of-towner Nick Brown as he displayed two cardboard pieces with a brick design on one side and a cloudy sky on the other. With unique moves, he was able to show a solid brick wall or a hole in the sky at will. Closing was 2nd Vice President Michael E. Johnson who brought his son, Max, back on stage to assist him with a bizarre slapstick routine as he tried to make milk and eggs disappear. The result was a total mess and a hilarious way to end the evening.

This meeting's bag night brought out the best from our courageous volunteers and it was warmly appreciated.



Top row, l to r: Charlie Gott, Howard Robinson, Alex Greenbaum, Jeff Marcus. Middle row: Jack White, Michael E. Johnson & Maxwell, Nick Brown. Bottom row: Loch David Crane, Toni Perrine, Dr. Jeff Pearson.

I.B.M., S.A.M. Join Forces, Present Spectacular Convention

by Jack White, International President-Elect of I.B.M.

The big I.B.M.-S.A.M. Combined Convention of 2008, held in Louisville, Kentucky, is now history and it is being called a rousing success by all who attended. There were, of course, a few hiccups along the way and, as usual, there were a few things that could have been better but for the most part everyone had a good time and business was conducted by both organizations and in the dealers room as well.

Attending from San Diego were twelve members of Ring 76, many in high profile positions. I officially became the President-Elect of the I.B.M. during the convention, Bob Ingalls took part in a variety of convention functions, J.P. Jackson operated one of the most frequented booths in the dealer's room, Jeff Marcus conducted business during the Territorial Vice Presidents breakfast and Sherry Luft, Toni Perrine and Diane Lane counted ballots following the "People's Choice" Awards on the closing night of the convention. Toni Perrine wowed everyone with her dancing both before and during the convention banquet. Joel and Arlene Moskowitz spent a great deal of time visiting with old friends and enjoying the convention activities. Bob and Happy Elliott tried to get to as many events as they could but were constantly stopped by magicians of whom Bob had mentored years earlier and spent a great deal of their time talking about magic and the past.

The Convention was held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. During the spring each year the Galt house is headquarters for the racing crowd attending the Kentucky Derby so they were ready for the 2,000 magicians and their families who descended upon the city and the hotel. The Galt House is actually two towers of hotel rooms and banquet facilities. The towers overlook the beautiful Ohio River and are connected by a three story glass walkway that is called the "atrium" because there are trees growing and exotic birds housed in this area. It is also home to a beautiful bar that has fish swimming in the Plexiglas bar. This area became the meeting place for those attending the convention during after-hours activities.

The theater where all of the shows and contests were held was less than a block away from the hotel. It was within easy walking distance even for the most senior citizens and those in wheelchairs had an access walkway making it easy to get back and forth to the hotel from the theater. The Galt House is located right in

the heart of downtown Louisville and the city nightlife was three blocks away from the hotel.

On the plus side of things: The closing banquet and cocktail party before were included in the price of your registration and that meant everyone got to attend the banquet. The food was good, the entertainment was OK but could have been stronger and it would have been nice if the Presidents of the I.B.M. and the S.A.M. would have been allowed to have some part of the banquet ceremony. Most dressed up for the event and had a good time doing a little magic, dancing and being with longtime friends.

Opening day registration saw very long lines and was a little rough going in the beginning but after a while things settled down and everyone received their convention packages. Every other day you could go to the registration desk and get a "free" gift, compliments of the convention committee. One day was a poster with pictures of those performing at the convention, two decks of cards with the convention logo and a medal with the convention logo on it. These things all added a nice touch to the overall event.

The contest attracted some very good talent. However, the closed circuit TV in the theater for the close-up contest was not good. The picture was fuzzy and the quality was poor. It would appear the convention committee tried to keep costs down in this area and hired a company with non-broadcast quality equipment. This was a big disappointment and was talked about by convention-goers in a negative way after each show.

The International Show on Friday night, which was supposed to be the biggest of the four shows, was also a disappointment. We won't belabor the point; it just didn't live up to it's billing. Overall, most attending the entire convention will tell you it was one day too long; for some it ended too soon.

It was the first Combined I.B.M. – S.A.M. Convention in 35 years and everyone I have spoken with agreed they hoped we would not have to wait that long for another Combined Convention. Photos on page 6.



Magic Book Review

by

Dr. Joel Moskowitz, M.D.



Those who do not hear...A review of "Silent Magic" authored by Dr. Simon J. Carmel
Reviewed by Joel A. Moskowitz M.D.
August 12, 2008

"Silent Magic" is what, sadly, many acts would be better off being. The book title, "Silent Magic" does not, however, refer to acts without patter or mimes. It is a chronology expertly crafted by a Renaissance man of many letters who, himself, is also a magician who is deaf. Dr. Simon J. Carmel is a physicist, cultural anthropologist, illustrator and paradoxically a linguist! Biographies of fifty United States magicians, renowned and not, who were totally or partially deaf is the theme of his soft covered 157 page book.

Aside from marveling at the determination of those who cannot hear or speak who have pursued the arts of conjuring, what would the value of this book be to the hearing magic enthusiast? It is interesting to discover that Okito, Theo Bamberg, was deaf but many others described by author Carmel are not well known. Dr. Carmel expresses his wish that this book will inspire other deaf persons to develop an interest in performing, not only magic but as actors, clowns, and dancers.

When this reviewer was asked to become Medical Director of a large Psychiatric Hospital and Community Mental Health Center in Los Angeles, believing that psychiatric services should be offered in a multicultural setting, I was gratified to learn that the hospital was the venue for the first psychiatric program for the mentally ill deaf in the State of California. Thus, I became familiar with some of the special interests and needs of the culture of deaf persons - hence my interest in reviewing Dr. Carmel's book.

Returning to the question I posed above: How is this book going to help hearing and speaking magicians? Simply stated: "Magic is a form of communication". Prior to 1890, it was unheard of (not a pun) that a magician would attempt to perform without speech. Theo Bamberg lost his hearing at age 17 and suffered consequent speech impediment as well. It seemed it would be the last of five generations of magicians. When Theo proposed that he masquerade as a Japanese magician who didn't speak, his father thought him ridiculous. But it worked! Although not deaf, Horace Golden, who advertised himself as a whirlwind illusionist with no time for talking astounded audiences without the 'benefit' of patter.

It was once the style for magicians to accompany their mystifications by reciting inane (my opinion) poetry (see Tarbell Courses). Other magicians appear to require their own noise to relieve their tension on stage. Truly distracting, it is often offensively dull. Such books as "Scripting Magic" by Peter McCabe and the Hollingworth's writings teach that entertainment is predicated on preparation that includes a theme. Hanussen, in his "Mentalism and Telepathy", emphasized the value of studying gestures. His knowledge of the influence of gestures educated Hitler to bewilder the masses. While not inferring that the hand signs of deaf persons is at all similar in motive, the subtle yet powerful aspects of non-verbal communication should be entertained by all magicians.

While viewing some acts at the recent IBM/SAM convention, I regretted that more wasn't made of musical accompaniment. Pierre Brahma, a French magician, developed a clever system that permitted him to perform to music which he, himself, could not hear. A spotlight cued him so he could adjust his pace to the music. When the reader learns that it is possible to hypnotize deaf subjects, as the biography of James E. Casey indicates, you must admire the inventiveness. Morton A. Feldman, another hearing-impaired magician, overcame the challenge of performing for deaf-blind persons! Far from being handicapped or a victim of a sense deficit, the stories of these life-winners encourage those who are disabled by lack of creativity to stimulate their thinking.

Buy and read Dr. Carmel's book: You may order from: Dr. Simon J. Carmel, 9339 Bridgeport Drive, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33411 - \$29.95 US plus \$5.00 for postage and handling.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"It's for you."

Craig Stone continued from page 1

tion you had about a magic trick, apparatus, videotape or book. If you just wanted to see the latest trick, he was ready to perform it for you. He made hundreds of friends at the magic shop and always had time to talk with you about a new trick you were thinking about putting in your act. He saved many magicians a lot of money by telling them a trick they wanted to buy was not right for them or their act. He would also recommend tricks, books and videos he knew would help certain performers.

The past year has been a rough one for people who earn their living by doing magic shows in greater San Diego. So tough for Craig that he and his wife Barbara decided it was time to move to another part of the U.S.A. and start all over again. Craig began looking at cities all over the country and, after a little research, he and Barbara selected an area near Charlotte, North Carolina. Barbara and the children are already in Charlotte and have set up housekeeping. Craig still had some show commitments so he left on August 30th.

Ring 76 will miss Craig Stone. He has always been there when our club needed him as a "teach-in" instructor or a show and we all look forward to hearing about his future success at the other end of the country.



Above: Early arrivals gather to surprise Craig.
Right: Magic Mike Stilwell, Lynn Stedd and J.P. Jackson chat.

Lower-right: J.C. Wagner holds court with Tom McCarthy and others.

Below: Craig delights the dinner guests.

Thanks to Bob Pozner for the photos.





Message from the Ring 76 President

What a lot of fun Bag night was! I don't even know where to start! I find bag night to be one of my favorite meetings because it gives us a chance to watch creativity in action and have a great laugh while we're at it. I want to thank all our performers for being willing to put themselves on the spot. Great show!

Looks like the rumors are true! Paul Green will be the lecturer for our November meeting! I have known this gentleman for longer than I care to remember and he has always been one of my favorite magicians. And not just mine. The Magic Castle has awarded him Lecturer of the year as well as Close-up Performer of the year. To list all of his awards would take up more space than we have

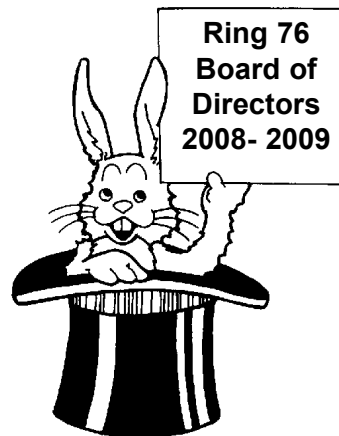
here. We are very lucky to have him! Do NOT miss this lecture.

We finally got hold of the Carlsbad village theater and it looks like we can have the theater for Sat night and Sunday matinee. More details at the Monday meeting

Our library could use a bookcase or two. Thought I'd ask the membership about donations before we go spending all the club's money.

Now to the auction. Can't wait. Always a good time, great deals and a chance to see and own some very unusual props. Dig through your closets and magic drawers for the stuff you want to auction off and come ready to bid! There is a lot of background work that goes into one of these and I want to give my thanks to all the board members for their hard work in putting this thing on.

Terry Lunceford
Ring 76 President



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*denotes past Ring 76 president

A Few Photos from the Convention



Top left: J.P. Jackson's dealer room display is ready for business. Top right: Christy Henson & Bob Ingalls. Bottom left: Joel Moskowitz, Warren Woolf, Arlene Moskowitz & Jack White. Bottom right: Toni Perrine, Diane Lane & Sherry Luft.

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

Which one of magic's most prominent writers and performers is moving is residence and offices to San Diego in early September? Answer: **Jamy Ian Swiss**! A longtime New Yorker, Swiss has decided to give San Diego a try, at least for a while. An outspoken critic of bad magic, he is well known for his book reviews and essays on magic in Genii Magazine and he is often booked somewhere around the world with his lecture and workshop on performing sleight of hand. Jamy has a passion for good magic and heaps great accolades on those who work and improve in their craft. His tribute to the late Lou Lancaster in the September issue of Genii is an example of his deep caring for fellow magicians. Welcome to San Diego, Jamy!

The Gathering Restaurant owner **Dan Thomas** and **Magic Mike Stilwell** hosted a who's who of San Diego magic at the Gathering on Thursday, August 21st, as a surprise good-bye party for local magician **Craig Stone**, who is headed to Charlotte, North Carolina, his new home. Craig's wife Barbara and several of Craig's children are already in Charlotte and have set up housekeeping there. Craig had a few dates for magic shows he had booked earlier to honor before packing up and driving across the country. Craig said he could no longer make a living for his family with magic in Southern California so he began looking at other communities around the country and decided on Charlotte, North Carolina. August 21st was supposed to be Craig's last night at the Gathering and when he showed up for work he was surprised to find many of his longtime customers and friends at the restaurant to say good-bye.

Diane Lane made an unexpected trip to the hospital in August. After not being able to wake up from a sound sleep, Diane's father rushed her to the hospital emergency room. Doctors examined her and admitted her to the hospital for four days. After



her hospital stay she began sending out e-mail reports on her condition to concerned friends. A week later Diane showed up to do a show at her friend **Sherry Luft**'s office. The show was for Sherry's birthday.

Syd Segal has just announced he has booked one of the hottest names in magic for a Sunday afternoon lecture on October 26th: **James Swain**. He'll be talking about the new book he has just written entitled "Miracles of the Magic of James Swain." As an interesting side note, Swain began his career in magic as a student of Ring 76er **Bob Elliott** and has worked his way up the ladder of success. Bob still keeps in contact with Swain and is looking forward to watching his longtime student present his lecture. Syd has something exciting to add: His new card magic DVD Simply Sydney is for sale and can be purchased from www.dananddave.com or by directly contacting Syd at bt16380@aol.com

Former San Diego magician **David Avadon** will Walk Through a Solid Wall on Sunday, August 31st at the San Diego Air and Space Museum in Pan American Plaza, at Balboa Park. The event is to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank of San Diego. The stunt is being billed as the most daring ever attempted in San Diego. David now lives in Santa Monica and looks forward to seeing his San Diego friends. By the way, David and the food bank have put out a very nice flyer advertising the walking through the wall stunt. It's a nice collectable piece of magic advertising so pick one up for your collection or see **Jack White**. He has a few for those interested in having one.

BRIEFS

Terry Godfrey has been busy all of July and August doing his magic at fairs in Northern California and Oregon. He was at the Antelope Valley Fair from August 22nd to September 1st. He came back to San Diego on the 2nd then opened September 7th at the Festival of Children in Costa Mesa. On September 11th through the 14th, he'll be at the Mojave County Fair in Kingman, Arizona. When he returns to San Diego, Ring 76 hopes to have Terry do a little talk about working fairs and being an outdoor showman. It's always good to have you back in San Diego, Terry.

In the good news department the Trickshop in Temecula will not be closing down to become an online shop only. **Sam Blankenship**, the Trickshop owner, says he is moving the shop out of the Old town Temecula location but will open in another area of that community several miles away from the current location. He will continue to retain store front operation as well as online sales. Details of the new location for the Trickshop will be forthcoming.

Mexican magician **Armando Torres** (Mago Rafat) continues to work restaurants in Cancun, Mexico and will most likely have steady work until February, 2009. He'll then return to Tijuana for a few months and either go back to Cancun or a city close to Acapulco. Well, I guess somebody has to do it!

Loch David Crane is organizing a fund raiser for Ione, daughter of Losander and Luna Shemada. Their baby has a heart condition and while she is currently in good shape there are other operations to come. The benefit will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 12, 2008 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tentative location will be the Palace Station hotel convention room. Contact Loch at capnkirk@adnc.com for details.

Coming Attractions

October 13	Halloween tricks
November 10	Lecture: Paul Green
December 7	Holiday party pot luck
January 12	Teach-in
February 9	Close-up competition
March 9	Lecture: TBA
April 13	Swap Meet
May 11	Stand-up competition
June 8	Dues/Election/Favorite trick
July 12	Installation banquet



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MagiCurrents 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.