



MagiCurrents



San Diego, California

Celebrating Sixty Years of Service to the Magic Community

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

Volume XXII 10 October 2008

October Meeting Halloween Hijinks

If you are looking for a lot of laughs, a little magic history and new ways to present some old magic effects, the Monday, October 13th meeting of Ring 76 is the place to be. It is the Ring's annual Halloween magic meeting and an opportunity for any member or guest to get up and present a trick or a complete routine that would be good for the Halloween season magic show.

Over the years we have had some pretty crazy magic acts for our Halloween show. Last year, Joe Mystic stole the show with his "Living Head in a Glass Jar", the talking head in the jar actually found a chosen card in a random deck. Jack White presented his "Mississippi River Water Miracle" complete with a four-foot long snake. (View some of the pictures on page 6.) This is always a fun meeting with lots of excitement and a few surprises. And we are guessing this year will not be any different!

J.P. Jackson and Jack White will give Ring members a little magic history lesson this year as they recreate the famous "Spirit Painting" illusion that was often a part of the now almost forgotten midnight spook shows that toured this country in the 1930s, 40s and 50s. The spirit painting effect that J.P. and Jack will be presenting was designed by the great Paul Fox and was used by several famous magicians of the past.

You have time to pull some props out of your magic trunk and clean them up and work out your favorite Halloween routine for this month's meeting. If you are a close-up worker there is always time to work out a close-up routine to present before or after the regular meeting. Ask Jack White to show you his famous "Spirit Lock" effect. It is a close-up classic that is perfect for the Halloween season.

These are always fun meetings and a time to be creative with your old magic effects so dig out some of your older magic and have some fun with it and show it off at our October meeting. If you want to perform, sign up at the door with Kenny Shelton or Terry Lunceford. If you need some special help in rigging your act before the show see Jack White or Terry Lunceford. If you have special music to

continued on page 5

Ring 76 Public Show Canceled

After more than a month of negotiations with the Carlsbad business community and Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce CEO Ted Owen, Ring 76 President Terry Lunceford has decided to cancel plans for a public show scheduled for October 18th & 19th at the Carlsbad Village Theater. Lunceford believes that moving the show to a period during the spring of 2009 will work better for the Ring and for securing financing of the show itself.

Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce CEO Ted Owen had been working with several prominent North County business representatives to purchase all of the tickets for the shows and give them to a charity to sell. In light of the current economic slowdown it has been more difficult to find investors. Several people have expressed interest in such a deal but would like to push the show back a few months, hoping for a better economy.

Ring President Lunceford has investigated the possibility of several other venues for presenting a Ring 76-sponsored show in other North County communities and in San Diego. Theater size, rental costs and ticket sales are of major consideration. Since Ring 76 and its members are not equipped to sell tickets for such an event, a necessary fact of life for the show to be a success is that a second party is able to purchase a large block of tickets or all of the tickets to help pay for the rental of the hall, insurance and other incidentals that go with the production of such a show.

Lunceford said, "The Halloween season is the perfect time to present a magic show of the kind we were want to present. However, we started a little late in our planning for financing the show and the recent downturn on Wall Street has not helped in pulling money together for our event." President Lunceford added, "It would be fiscally irresponsible to attempt such a show without the help of outside money to pay the expenses."

"Continuation of work with those interested in helping Ring 76 produce a show will assure a successful event for the future," said President Lunceford. So Terry and the board are working on the financial side of producing a public

continued on page 5

Auction Night Brings Ring 76 Members Rewards

With more than 60 members and guests in attendance, our September meeting started with a brief business report as president Terry Lunceford stated that the Ring is a go for two public performances at the Carlsbad Village theater October 18th and 19th. A call went out for stage crew and



Dick Ustick and daughter Christina

other support with the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce providing publicity and ticket sales for the 300-seat venue. (See the front page story for follow-up details). Terry also announced that our November meeting will spotlight a lecture by Paul Green, master of the Classic Force.



Fritz Lotze and Jim Sloan

Business out of the way, the audience was anxious to begin the auction. There was what seemed like an endless array of props, media and books submitted by our members creating a dense "forest" of magic items on stage. Everything from a jigsaw puzzle to a bubble gum machine was presented and the bidding was fast and furious. At the end of the evening most items had been sold. 10% of the gross sales went to the Ring treasury with proceeds of member's individual items finding its way to their pockets. Thanks to the laborious efforts of treasurer Dick Ustick and his daughter Christina, the chaos of bookkeeping worked quite well and we don't know what we'd do without their help every time this event take place.

Here are some comments made after the auction:



The Amazing Jeff Marcus



Sidney Franklin and Bob Gordon

Charlie Gott: "My wife is so happy to get this stuff out of the garage. She told me not to bring any new magic home with me, either!"

Jacques Lord, who lost all of his magic in a fire that took his home just a year ago, was looking to replace some of the things he lost: "I was able to buy several books I had lost in the fire and I picked them up at discount prices."

John Hill had been looking for a roll-on-table: "When I saw one for 25-dollars in the auction I knew I had to go for it. It needs new casters and a coat of paint, but I feel I got a bargain."

Sidney Franklin bought a professional Sword Thru Neck and a Light and Heavy Chest: "These were two props I have always wanted and I was ready to go the distance to get them."



FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE LA MAGIA



The Joker



Mr. Alex



Ruly Jr.



Kalihasan



José Sanchez



Liye y Loch David Crane



Joe Mystic



Mago Ruly y Pecas

Magi Book Review

by

Dr. Joel Moskowitz, M.D.



The Deception of a Magician

Review by Joel A. Moskowitz M.D

August 28, 2008

Sic Transit Gloria Mundi (So passes the glory of the world). It has been but only eight years since the magician who is attributed with having given a facelift to magic has passed on. This illusionist is credited with having stimulated renewed interest in conjuring. He, whose fame soared to heights exceeding prior levitations, vanished. The name, Doug Henning, is seldom mentioned these days.

What happened? This Canadian illusionist rejected the stereotype of the top-hatted, tuxedo-wearing mystifier. His hair was long, smile effervescent, clothes casual and flamboyant. He flitted about the stage like a butterfly creating wonder and receiving awards.

Martin Gardner, science genius and enthusiastic magic hobbyist, addresses the self-deception and ultimate disappearance of Henning in a chapter of his book. The title: "Weird Water and Fuzzy Logic", 260pp published by Prometheus Books, Amherst, New York. Among many extraordinary subjects e.g. Eyeless Vision and God and Klingon and other Artificial Languages, 16 essays originally published in *Skeptical Inquirer*, is "Doug Henning and the Giggling Guru".

Gardner, while listing Henning's triumphs — e.g. a magic show which ran on Broadway for four years, numerous television spectacles and multiple other appearances — writes, "Then something happened to Doug on his way to a magic shop. He discovered TM (Transcendental Meditation) and became a pal of the founder".

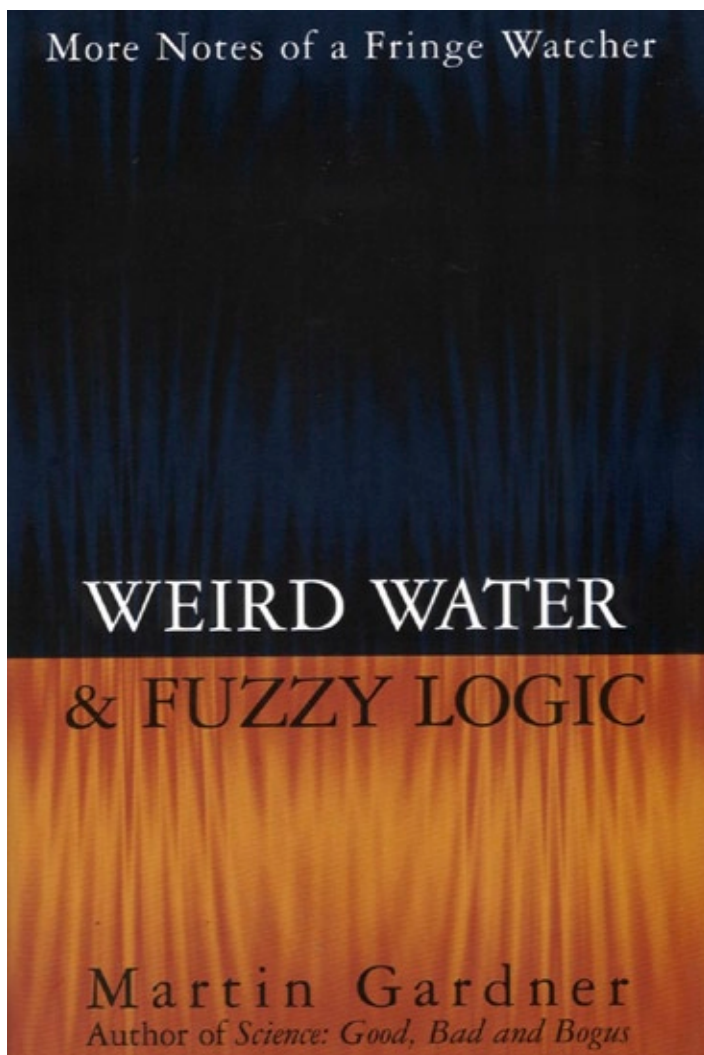
By repeating a 'mantra' and forking over thousands of dollars, TM promises that you will develop the ability to become invisible, to see hidden things, to walk through walls and fly through the air; real magic, not stage stuff. Henning swallowed this. He is said to have asserted: 'thinking so' would allow you to 'levitate'. You, Henning counseled, once having achieved a high state of consciousness would be able to become invisible because your body "just stops reflecting light."

Henning was so imbued with the potential of TM that he abandoned his career, selling his effects to David Copperfield and others. He planned a center where the marvels would be demonstrated. This billion dollar extravaganza would utilize extreme technology to astound visitors. He intended to include many of his magic illusion

secrets. The paradox of his belief that Transcendental Meditation was valid yet his willingness to present trickery in the service of advertising TM is notable.

No source that this reviewer has consulted implies that Henning was a charlatan. He was a believer. Sadly, the health benefits attributed to TM didn't work for him - he died at age 52, in 2000 of liver cancer. This may be a testimony to the mystery of self-deception. It is generally thought that the hyper-educated such as university professors are prone to be deceived. How is it that a master of deception, such as Doug Henning, fell prey to the false promise of TM?

Martin Gardner is a lucid author whose topics describe worldwide irrationality. He provides the antidote: informed writing. This book is highly recommended for thinking magicians and other life forms.



**Syd Segal's Presents A
Once In A Lifetime Lecture From
Internationally Acclaimed
Magician and Author
JAMES SWAIN**

WHEN: Sunday October 26th - 4:30PM

WHERE: Jack's Magic Place 14275 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92115

HOW MUCH: \$27 (includes autographed novel and set of lecture notes)

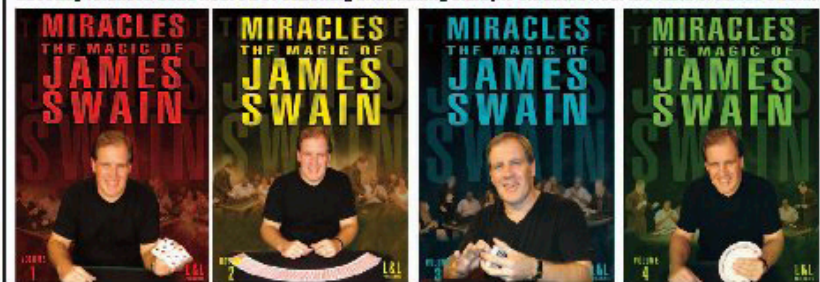
Want to reserve your seat? Contact Syd Segal as soon as possible. Seating is limited and I will need to collect your admission fee prior to attendance. Your reservation will reserve you a seat and the sooner you sign up, the better the seat you will receive!

Phone - 619-300-1344 • Email - bu6380@aol.com

A little about Mr. Swain...

He has been performing magic for the past 40 years. He at one time was a student of the late Derek Dingle. He has published 3 books on magic and created one of the most popular packet tricks of the past 20 years (Capitulating Cards - over 10,000 sets sold). He has appeared on CBS Sunday Morning, FOX TV (10 times), and National Public Radio. As a rule, he normally does not lecture for magicians, he simply does not have enough time. In the past 10 years he has only lectured at the Magic Castle once and over 175 magicians attended.

Recently released DVDs from I & L Publishing showcasing multiple miracles from the mind of James Swain!



Jacques Lord at Rancho Bernardo High School

"I had a great time performing for Rancho Bernardo HS Grad Night back in June. From the photo you'd think I didn't learn about playing with fire. But we are making progress rebuilding our house and I am looking forward to having an open house for all of Ring 76 to see some of the 'magic' of building a green home, and I mean DEEP green."

- Jacques Lord

A reminder to all Ring 76 members

If you have a need for an extra e-mail address, don't forget to ask either Don Soul or Howard Robinson to set you up with an official Ring 76 web mail address. That's right! Your desired web mail name @ring76.com can be yours!

Hijinks *continued from page 1*

be played see Richard Ustick and he will help you get your music into the system. It is important that we all remember that we become better performers by performing as often as we can. Here is a great opportunity to take part in the joy of magic.

Our meetings start at 7 p.m. sharp with a brief business meeting and announcements followed by our program. We meet at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue in the City Heights area of San Diego. If you are a member bring a friend who is interested in magic to this meeting and they will be thoroughly entertained.

Public Show *continued from page 1*

show that is now being planned for some time in the coming spring. Lunceford noted, "I know everyone is a little disappointed that all of this is not happening the way we had envisioned it but we have to be patient and I know this will all work out for the best. But for now I am canceling the October dates and show."

"MagiToon"
by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman





Message from the Ring 76 President

I thought the auction was a rousing success! A lot of people got some new props to play with for cheap, others got rid of their old stuff, and the club made some money! It's always a fun night; I can't wait for next year! Special thanks to Diane Lane for setting up the credit cards for us, a really big help. Also, a special thank you to Richard Ustick and his daughter, Christina, for their hard work. Without them this would have been much more difficult.

I know the cancellation of the Ring 76 show is a big disappointment to you all. The logistics require we move the show back to the spring. The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce was not able to provide the ticket sales needed at this time. The corporate charity

money seems to have dried up due to the current economic situation. Moving it back will give us enough time to get a Theater and have the tickets sold. Too bad, I was really looking forward to this. More at the meeting.

OK! This month is Halloween magic! This always brings out the weird side. OK, we're always that way but Halloween seems to push us over the edge. I must say I'm proud of the creativity in this club and I can't wait to see what you all come up with for the October meeting.

October 20th thru 26th I will be performing in the Parlor (late) at the Magic Castle and everyone is invited. Just let me know the day you want to come up and I'll put you on the guest list. There's nothing like performing at the Castle. I can't wait to see you all there!

Terry Lunceford
Ring 76 President

clockwise:
Kenny Shel-
ton's Zombie
pumpkin, Joe
Mystic's Head
in Glass Jar,
Kenny juggles
three pump-
kins, Jack
White and his
snake bucket.



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*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

We learned late in September that **David Sandy**, I.B.M. Site Selection Chairman for the 2010 International Convention, has signed a contract with the Town & Country Convention Center in Mission Valley as the location for the annual I.B.M. conclave in late June of that year. Room rates will be \$113 per night. The Town & Country will host the guests and offer facilities for lectures, dealers room, special programs and the various contests offered during a major magic convention. However, convention goers will have to take the trolley to a downtown theater, yet to be determined for the evening shows. This will be the fourth time the Town & Country Hotel has hosted an I.B.M. Convention in San Diego. Stay tuned for more information as we begin the countdown to a very special I.B.M. Convention in 2010!

Tom McCarthy suffered a freak accident in early September that kept him out of work as a magician for several days. Tom works for Cox Cable during the day and was setting some equipment up at Petco Park for the Padres baseball game when someone yelled, "Lookout Tom!" As he looked up, Tom watched a baseball coming toward him with great speed and it hit the fingers of his left hand. Nothing was broken but the pain was so bad that Tom could not work his sleight-of-hand skills during his regular evenings at the Gathering Restaurant. **Derek Ostovani** filled in for Tom on a Friday & Saturday evening. Derek is now back at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo studying structural engineering after spending the summer months with his family in La Mesa. By the way, you can catch new Ring 76 member **John Hill** working Thursday evenings at the Gathering. John spent the summer working a comedy act at Sea World and before that spent several seasons as a clown with the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus. In late September John left San Diego for



Indiana, his home, and has returned to the Indianapolis area to resume his silkscreen and magic business.

Past Ring 76 President and current board member, **Diane Lane**, has been back in the hospital with serious medical problems. Diane needs a kidney transplant and is on the waiting list for a donor kidney. She has started home dialyses treatments – the new dialyses IV was installed the morning following our last Ring meeting. Diane showed up at the September auction meeting with her credit card machine and then, when the last transaction was processed about 10:15 in the evening, went immediately to the hospital where blood tests were performed for her surgery the next morning to install the dialyses hookup device. The surgery was harder on Diane than she or her doctor's expected it to be. Her condition remains fragile. She has purchased a new phone at home and enjoys talking to friends and receiving cards and letters. Her computer is not working well so it is best if you send a greeting via the U.S. Postal Service. Her address is 3279 Atlas St., San Diego, 92111.

The fall Magic Castle swap meet is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th, the doors open at 9 a.m. **J.P.**

Jackson from Ring 76 and "**Suds**" **Sudbrack** from Ring 292 will both have booths at the twice-yearly "free for all" magic sale. In the past two years the excitement surrounding the Castle swap meet has diminished greatly and the quality of magic for sale and the size of the crowd has also become smaller. These swap meets

BRIEFS

are held in the spring and fall each year. The fall meet has traditionally been the best attended and usually offers the better items for sale.

Sidney Franklin, a new member of Ring 76, with the help of Cannon Escapes has come up with a new "Mail Bag Escape" that does not require the magician and bag to be hidden behind a screen or in a cabinet while the performer makes his escape. It is a clever routine and we are hoping to have Sidney present it for the Ring at a future meeting. He continues to develop his showmanship and has added a few touches to his routine. Meanwhile, Sidney has been working as a production assistant on a new TV series that is shooting here in San Diego.

Bob and Judy Ingalls leave October 8th for a cruise to the Hawaiian Islands. They'll depart from San Diego Harbor and will sail to the islands, spending a day and evening each at five different islands and then sail back to San Diego. Sometime in all of those days at sea Bob plans to do a little magic for his fellow traveler's onboard the ship. Right now Bob has more magic props packed for the trip than he does clothes.

Toni Perrine will perform her Dancing Through a Rainbow act at the Bedouin Bazaar to be held at the Al Bahr Shrine in Kearny Mesa, just north of Clairemont Mesa Blvd. off of Interstate 15 on the west side, Saturday, October 11th around 3 o'clock. The entire event goes from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Don't forget to reserve Sunday, October 26th for the "Hottest new name in magic lectures." **James Swain** will present his special brand of magic at Jack's Magic Place. Contact Syd Segal for tickets and time for the lecture. This is the one lecture you will not want to miss. Syd's e-mail address is bt16380@aol.com.

Coming Attractions

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.