



# MagiCurrents



San Diego, California

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

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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

Volume XXIII 2 February 2009

## Close-up Competition for 2009      Henry Evans Guest Lecturer

The first of two Ring 76 competitions for the new year will be presented at the February 9th meeting. It's the annual Close-up contest. This year's entrants have been limited to five contestants and were selected in advance by 1st Vice President Kenny Shelton.



Craig Stone

Last year, Craig Stone took home the first place prize money with a tie for second - Mago Ruly and Michael E. Johnson - each receiving second place cash awards.

Each year's event just keeps getting better so be sure you attend our meeting this month. Watch what happens and cast your vote. We've never been disappointed by the efforts of our talented members.

The second of two Ring 76-sponsored lectures takes place on March 9th with one of the most popular lecturers on the circuit, Henry Evans. He's a world-renowned performer and his expertise with cards, coins and close-up performing in general will be shared with Ring members.



Henry Evans

The lecture will be free to Ring 76 members and a meeting entry fee of \$10 must be paid by non-Ring members. If you are new to Ring 76 and are unfamiliar with magic lectures, they run about an hour and a half and, after the magician demonstrates then explains the working of his presentations, he will have items to sell, usually lecture notes, DVDs, books and marketed effects. Don't miss this entertaining lecture by one of the best magicians in the business.

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# January Teach-in Meeting Brings Out The Best

49 members and guests were at the January 12th meeting with the spotlight on a five-member teach-in team. Bob Ingalls, Tom McCarthy, Jeff Pearson, Michael E. Johnson and Syd Segal rotated among the five tables of eight magic enthusiasts each offering routines ranging from simple to intermediate-level skills and lasting not more than 10 minutes in presentation time.

Bob Ingalls, a last minute substitute for Loch David Crane who had taken ill earlier, showed the group Mark Wilson's 3-Way test, a one-ahead impromptu form of Mental Epic using slips of paper & a pencil, a container (coffee cup) and a few available objects at hand. Tom McCarthy's That's an Odd Color by Chaz the Magician was the center-

piece of his demonstration, his other stunner being a four Kings trick which allowed Tom to teach the Elmsley count, a necessity for any card worker.

Dr. Jeff Pearson gave the students Eddie Fechter's That's It utilizing the center peek. Michael E. Johnson revealed his famed Sponge Rabbits routine, a show stopper wherever he appears, and Syd Segal showed how to do a four ace production. Lucky random winners of a question Syd would pose to each group won a DVD of his new release Simply Sydney, a fine teaching tool for serious card workers.

This year's teach-in was well appreciated by all who attended and it encouraged a few guests to join on the spot!



Ring 76 2009 Teach-in



This year's Teach-in instructors, from left to right: Tom McCarthy, Syd Segal, Bob Ingalls, Michael E. Johnson & Dr. Jeff Pearson



# "HAPPY" 75TH BIRTHDAY, BOB ELLIOTT!



On January 4th, 2009 the San Diego magic magic enthusiasts, gathered at the Ran- to celebrate the 75th birthday of one of an afternoon of anecdotes, card tricks and a special Magic Square adding up to 75.

community, along with neighborhood cho Bernardo home of Dr. Jeff Pearson magic's great mentors, Bob Elliott. It was tribute by Loch David Crane who presented There was, indeed, real magic in the air.





# Magic Book Review

by

Dr. Joel Moskowitz, M.D.



Want to Never Get Invited Again and Never Be Forgotten?  
Review of "Stuntology" by Sam Bartlett  
by Joel A. Moskowitz M.D  
October 13, 2008

Obnoxious, Annoying, Gastly, Unbelievable, Jerk, Painful, Ridiculous, Freaky, Disgusting, Crazy, Confounding, Sickening, Just plain NUTS! According to Wikitionary, a free dictionary, "Stuntology" is a neologism coined by Sam Bartlett in the 1980s and trademarked by him in 2002. It is defined as "The study of unorthodox and resourceful techniques employed by people to avoid boredom in all situations. A body of knowledge that includes the perfection of meaningless techniques (such as straw-popping or hand shadows), odd physical sensations (such as the playground simulation,"dead man's finger"), pointless games (such as "cheek darts"), as well as simple pranks against friends and social institutions.

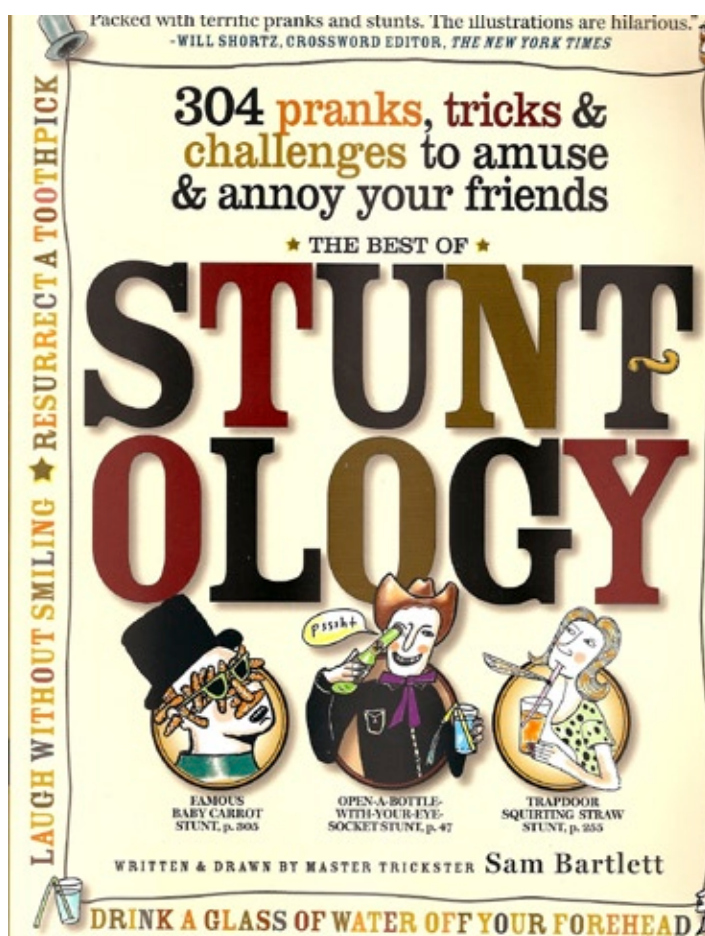
Sam Bartlett must thrill and bewilder his psychiatrist. Bartlett is a musician with too much time on his hands. On the road, he has collected his personal antidote to boredom. Why would anyone want to know and show how to open a bottle with your eye socket? To gross out your friends" (soon to become enemies?). Wouldn't you like to automate your computer to announce "Sam Bartlett (substitute your name) is not in his office right now. He will be back November 08, 2016." Or, if you ever get invited to a party and they have balloons, Bartlett instructs to surreptitiously pour some lemon juice on each of them (always carry a bottle of lemon juice with you) and Bartlett, the scientist, insists that the lemon juice will eat through the rubber and the balloons will explode. Or..answer telemarketers by tucking your tongue behind your lower teeth. Your unintelligible utterances will frustrate the solicitor.

Why would followers of magic want to own/read/use anything in Stuntology? Revenge? When your host keeps you waiting and then pays you less than agreed? Use his/her bathroom and covertly unscrew the shower head - insert a bouillon cube - reassemble and delight in the anticipation that the deadbeat will smell like a roast beef after showering! Or, use a safety pin to punch a few tiny holes a half inch or so from the lip of the styrofoam cups. Voila! Instant dribble 'glass'!

Is there anything in this book which won't trigger a lynching party with you as the main event? Can these nasty maneuvers be used to enhance your performance of mystery and legerdemain? Somewhat. For example: "Fork Telekenesis" is an instant way to levitate a fork behind a napkin (p52) aka Zombie. With the "Grinning Jackson

Stunt" Bartlett teaches you to fold a \$20 dollar bill so that you can change the expression on the President's smile (p69). Do pseudo hypnosis by asking a spectator sitting in a chair with both feet on the ground to lift up their right foot and move it in a clockwise circle. While doing this, raise and extend their right hand and draw the number 6. Their foot will change direction. Tell them they are in your control (Weird Neurological Stunt - p159). You can fake having a toothpick jabbed completely through your index finger (p195).

This collection of 304 pranks, tricks & challenges is illustrated (cartoons) by the author himself, all in 327 pages of a softbound publication of Workman Publishing, New York (About \$10.00). If nothing else, fantasizing victimizing some deserving acquaintance with some of this devilishly evil nastinesses might give you hours of mental pleasure.



ed. note

I would like to thank James Thayer for stepping up and taking over the Ring 76 web site. He has done a superb job of resurrecting our link to the cyber world and we should all acknowledge his meticulous efforts. Thank you, Webmage Jim! Incidentally, when you visit [www.ring76.com](http://www.ring76.com) be sure to look at the Library page. If you've been curious about what we have to offer, it's all there.



## Message from the Ring 76 President

Not much to say. I've been out of town enjoying a much needed break from the rigors of business to celebrate my 15th wedding anniversary.

Well, I'm back and ready to go. I hope everyone learned a trick or two at the January Teach-in. They are always informative and eagerly anticipated by our members.

Coming up is the Close-up competition and I wish all the contestants the best of luck.

*Terry Lunceford*

*Ring 76 President*

Here is an inaugural gift for MagiCurrents readers! This is the sequential Magic Square (made using Theo. Annemann's famous formula) totaling 44 in all directions...to honor President Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States. You may use it in your shows compliments of the author of "The Performer's Guide to Magic Squares from 5-105", professor Loch David Crane. This exciting effect may motivate students to like math when it's well presented.

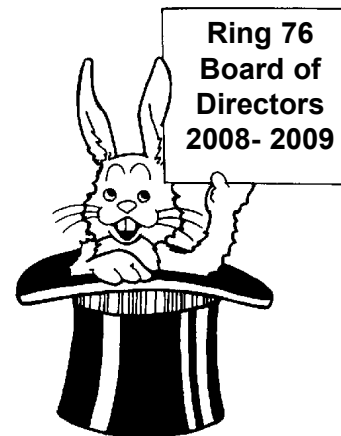
His book provides all the calculations so you can just copy a triple checked Magic Square and walk out on stage with confidence. Not even Annemann predicted this simple innovation. See it performed on Youtube [here](#) (click the word "here") or search for Loch David Crane on Youtube.com. Congratulations to President Obama.

**The Magic Square** totalling 44:

10	13	18	3
17	4	9	14
5	20	11	8
12	7	6	19

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



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

## NEWS

The always-busy **Joel Ward** just checked in from the road. He is currently doing 11-weeks with Feld Entertainment, the world's largest producer of family entertainment. Joel is doing his dove act with one of the Feld "Magic Show" units. Joel has also relocated his headquarters to Hollywood and has been part of the producing arm of the cable TV show "Masters of Illusion" that is currently airing Monday evenings at 9 p.m. on the My Cable Network. Joel Ward is a producer and talent on the show. All of this follows an extended tour on Princess Cruise Lines to Mexico and on to Central and South America, with Joel doing his magic act on the ship. Joel is a busy guy and his friends in San Diego at Ring 76 are all very proud of his accomplishments.

**Loch David Crane**, an alumnus of the **Jeff McBride** Magic School, has issued a challenge to all of his former classmates. The challenge is to come up with a series of magic tricks and illusions to promote the new President Barack Obama and his efforts to turn around the economy. If you have some ideas in this area contact Loch at [capnkirk@adnc.com](mailto:capnkirk@adnc.com).

**Jack White** was in Las Vegas January 24th for the International Brotherhood of Magicians mid-year meetings. Jack tells us that a very tight budget was passed for the year ahead. He says much business was discussed and, in spite of the economy, the organization is doing well.

**Jim Thayer** has become the new webmaster (or should he be called



webmage?) of the Ring 76 web site. Jim is still getting his feet on the ground with this project but reminds all members to send him photographs and stories about their magic activities so he can post them on the Ring 76 web page. Our web page is read by people around the world and offers a great opportunity to get your name and message before the general public at no cost. If you do shows and want people to know about your work, get some material to Jim so he can get the information on the Web. By the way, **Don Soul** is continuing to help Jim with the website until Jim is comfortable in the driver's seat.

**Bob Ingalls** and **Ralph Mauzy** were at the Magic Castle in Hollywood in January and had dinner with magic legend **John Calvert** who is 97 years young and still going strong performing and doing magic lectures. Calvert told Bob he is booked through July of this year all across the United States with his magic lectures. Calvert also told Bob that after his current lecture series ends in the United States, he will tour England where he has been booked for his 100th birthday. Also at the Castle that evening was actor **Tony Curtis** who, in 1951, played the part of Houdini in the movie of the same name.

## BRIEFS

**J.P. Jackson** left Southern California and balmy temperatures in the high 70's and low 80's to go to Chicago in mid-January where it was snowing and at night had temperatures well below freezing. J.P. attended a big magic auction that included a large portion of the residue of the **Jay Marshall** collection and library. As usual, J.P. found some apparatus and posters he could not live without. He reports that attendance for the auction was very low, partly because of the weather and partly because of the economy.

If you happened to drop by the LaJolla Trader Joe's store in late December you might have caught **Arlene Moskowitz** singing for the customers. The store was having a promotion that allowed customers to sing with their karaoke machine. Arlene is a trained singer and said she would sing without the accompaniment, did so and received a standing ovation. **Dr. Joel Moskowitz** says in addition to all of the applause she received a box of the best cookies he has ever tasted. Way to go Arlene.

A reminder that **Dan Sperry**, who has been appearing in Las Vegas at the "World's Greatest Magic Show", will conduct a lecture Tuesday, February 17th at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. Dan is a very accomplished performer and will present some street magic, close-up magic, mentalism, kid's magic, dove magic, and stand-up magic. Dan will also be presenting his award-winning dove act as the opening to his lecture. This will be a fun evening and an opportunity to learn some new magic. It's the place to be February 17th!



## Coming Attractions

March 9	Lecture: Henry Evans
April 13	Swap Meet
May 11	Stand-up competition
June 8	Dues/Election/Favorite trick
July 12	Installation banquet

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*In Memory of  
Diane Lane  
1957 - 2008*



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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](mailto:dsoul@san.rr.com) or written manuscripts may be submitted to Don Soul, 10068 Branford Rd., San Diego, CA 92129-3223.