



# MagiCurrents



San Diego, California

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

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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## Joe Monti Lectures March 9th Ring Swap Meet Sale In April



Ring 76 welcomes Joe Monti as our guest lecturer at the March 9th evening meeting. This Magic Castle Parlour of Prestidigitation award nominee and Castle performer since 1982 will amaze you with incredible magic you can learn just by attending his lecture.

Joe has been the main star of the multi-year hit revue show "YES" in Honolulu, Hawaii for Outrigger Hotels. He created two major special effects, in addition to writing material, for the blockbuster movie "SPAWN".

Featured as MC and Comedy Magician on two top-rated National TV shows, *Elimi-Date* & *The Fifth Wheel*, Joe has performed for people like Les Moonves, Michael Eisner, Barbara Streisand and Lily Tartikoff. He also worked with John Leguizamo for the Tony Award winning Broadway show "FREAK" and has been the only corporate comedy

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Next month's meeting is devoted to our annual swap meet. This meeting is an opportunity for Ring 76 members (only) to sell their unwanted magic and buy someone else's magic treasures.

If you have some magic and would like to sell it at the April 13th meeting, here are some things you need to know. Table space is available by advanced reservation only at \$10 per half-table and \$20 for a full-sized 6-foot table with no guest sellers allowed. Space will be sold on a first come, first serve basis and will be limited at the discretion of our



J.P. Jackson

treasurer as he assigns the tables. Sellers are the only people allowed into the meeting hall prior to the official 7:00 pm meeting time. Jack's Magic Place will be open from 3:30 on to allow the sellers time to unload and set up.

Ring 76 treasurer Dick Ustick is in charge of assigning tables to our members-only sellers. Do not wait until the last minute to make your table reservation. Notify Dick early because there is always more demand for tables than space available. If you are a seller we urge you to get in early on

*continued on page 5*

# February's Close-Up Competition Hard To Score

58 members and guests were at the February 9th meeting to watch five members participate in the annual Close-up competition. Circulating among five tables were Dr. Jeff Pearson, Jonathan Tsai, Mago Ruly, Donna Greenbaum and Loch David Crane presenting their original routines.

Dr. Pearson gave us his "blue" act starting with blue sponge balls into Card to Wallet and a nifty Card Transposition. Jonathan Tsai gave us top-notch card routines on the level of Lennart Green and a silk into rubber frog metamorphosis thrown in to break up his card manipulations. It all worked quite well.

Mago Ruly showed us more card effects then used a calculator asking one volunteer to enter random numbers and

random operators (+, -, x & /), the total of which equaled his cell phone number. Donna Greenbaum used rubber bands, linked two paper clips attached to a dollar bill and a wooden block escape from a rope. Loch David Crane's act highlighted the election of President Obama showing us an effect from his book on the Magic Square ala Ted Anneman and finished with a Magic Circle.

Considering those attending had to battle rain-slicked streets to be at the meeting, the turn out was quite large and the reception these five performers received was well worth the trouble to be there. Winners will receive cash prizes at the awards ceremony in July during the Officers Installation banquet.



left - Dr. Jeff Pearson, right - Loch David Crane, below left - Jonathan Tsai, below right - Donna Greenbaum, below center - Mago Ruly



MORE PHOTOS  
ON PAGE 5



from left to right: Jonathan Tsai, Loch David Crane, Donna Greenbaum, Dr. Jeff Pearson and Mago Ruly



## Daylight Saving Card Force As remembered by Jack White

When I was 14 or 15 my favorite place to hang out on a Saturday afternoon was the Fun Shop, which was located behind the old California Theater in downtown San Diego. The Fun Shop was our local magic supply house in those days. Jim Riley worked there for a time on weekends. One of the things that caught my attention was a wire rack with instructions or manuscripts for various tricks. Each trick was sealed in an envelope that promised the "Miracle of a Lifetime." These little gems sold for 25 cents. Most of the instructions were just one sheet of typed 8½ x 11 inches.

One spring afternoon I spotted an envelope that read: "Daylight Saving Card Force" by U.F. Grant. Because we were about to go on Daylight Saving time, I spent my quarter and bought the instructions. Recently, while digging through some old instruction sheets, I found this old manuscript and performed it for myself. It impressed me so much I am sure that Gen Grant would not mind if I pass it along to you. After all, this manuscript is now 55-years old.

### Presentation:

The card you wish to force has to be second from the top of the deck. Shuffle the deck, keeping the force card second from the top. Hand the deck to a person near by and tell them to think of any hour of the day; if he thinks of, say, 3 o'clock then have him count three cards face down in a neat pile onto the table.

For example, we will say they think of 5 o'clock. They count five cards one on top of the other from the deck. After they do this you suddenly say, "Wait, I forgot. This trick works only on Daylight Saving time." Place the packet back on the top of the deck and count down one less, taking an hour off for daylight saving time. Your force card will now be on top of the packet and you can have the prediction of the top card in a sealed envelope or a duplicate card with another color back in your pocket. You can reveal the selected card any way you find most dramatic.

With Daylight Saving time just around the corner, this is a novel little item to add to your arsenal of magic effects. When I was 15, I really impressed my friends and a couple of teachers at school with this little effect. I guess times were a lot simpler in those days!

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### Joe Monti continued from page 1

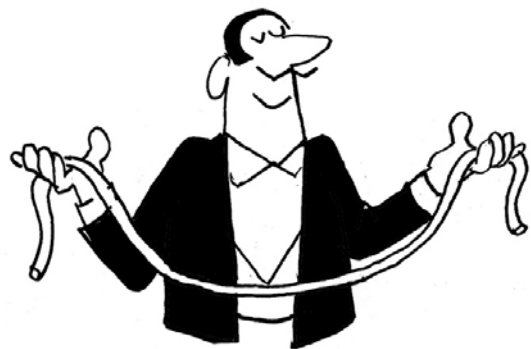
magician for Disney Imagineering in California 3 years running.

This is a chance to have a busy working pro share his expertise with you. It's an opportunity to walk away with a rewarding knowledge of unique performing skills. And best of all...it's FREE to Ring 76 members. So come to Jack's Magic Place, enjoy a fine lecture and give a warm welcome to Joe Monti. It begins at 7 pm at 4275 University Avenue in City Heights on March 9th.



## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



# Magic Book Review

by

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



Dip Into This

by Joel A. Moskowitz M D

December 17, 2008

Prospective readers need not fear that the author and publisher of "Cutting Up Touches" will be picking their pocket of the \$25.00 when they purchase this pocket sized volume (hardback 148 pp Squash Publishing 2007) about pickpockets. Subtitled "A Brief History of Pickpockets And The People Who Pick Them" is an authoritative elegantly written narrative. David Avadon, the author, is self described as the country's premier exhibition pickpocket.

Avadon plays Freud in offering his thinking about the psychological wonderment of seeing the artist "have supernatural control" whereby the pickpocket demonstrates his power to divest another of his valuables while leaving him "clueless". This, he writes, is the essence of magic in all its forms, whether it be mentalism, escapes or hypnosis or pickpocketing.

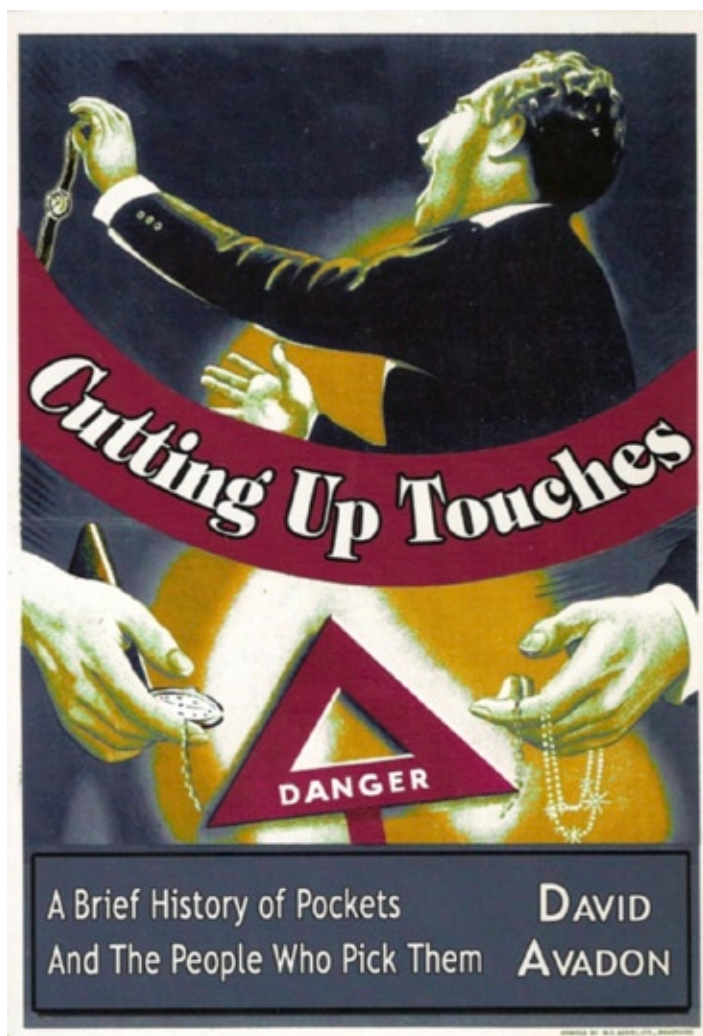
The classic painting The Conjuror in the 15th century (Hieronymus Bosch) is known as a representation of the Cups & Balls. In the back row a man, looking up at the sky misdirecting attention is meanwhile filching an unsuspecting spectator's purse. Remember the Artful Dodger and Fagin from Oliver Twist? Avadon provides a selection of books relating to The Dip. Colorful terminology is explained: Hook = pickpocket; Touch = lifting the purse; Cutting up touches = divvy up the spoils. A curious label for as especially deft hook is a "cannon". Jewish pickpockets in early 20th century were Gonifs (Yiddish for thieves). The word gonifs to the uninitiated sounded like 'gun' and the most powerful gun would be a cannon! Q.E.D.

Bamberg (from which may come the word bamboozler) is associated with a tale of pilfering on a train in the late 1800s. Herrmann the Great, of similar era, Burlingame related excited the multitude by undetected dips. Apocryphal of real these tales excited interest of theater patrons. French, Fred Berzin (1906) featured pickpocketing in his comedy act. But the Hungarian with an Italian name, Giovanni, purported to be a physician curing shell shock (WWI) with hypnosis was candy for David Avadon. Fame was associated with having relieved H.R.H. Edward Prince of Wales of his stickpin, claiming as well as having stolen Franklin Delano Roosevelt's watch four times, Churchill's suspenders which he returned, J. Edgar Hoover's suspenders which he, Giovanni, continued to wear. Jeff Marcus, Territorial Vice President of IBM, and Master Magician of Ring 76, reports having relieved the former head of the C.I.A.'s watch twice! Audiences are

particularly pleased when artists such as David Avadon are able to pilfer valuables from persons in government - turning the tables as it were.

Using his extensive library and his literary skills, Avadon who has interviewed some, researched many, presents the reader with a sharp description of celebrated and lesser known fingersmiths. His book is also a reference for the aspiring dipster. He lauds Ricki Dunn's "The Professional Stage Pickpocket" (Nielsen Magic 2006) where before his death he spent two years recording all his techniques and routines. As a scholar, Avadon devotes a chapter to 'writing wrongs' - errors in reportage by other authors including James Randi and John Fisher but humility induces him to confess that he, as well, have made gaffs in print. He admits that he was wrong when he wrote that Borra had never appeared in Ringling Brothers Circus. Dominique said he did.

Enjoyable, entertaining, elucidating, educational, affirmatives that are enthusiastically applied to "Cutting Up Touches".







## Message from the Ring 76 President

Last month we had a wonderful close-up contest! My congratulations to the performers that competed as they were ALL good. Thank you all for putting on a great show.

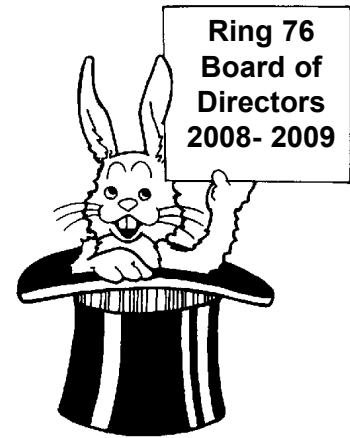
This month we have Joe Monti for our lecturer. I've had the pleasure of working with Joe for about a year and a half at the Magic Castle's bi-monthly special "Jammin' with the Pros". All I can say is you're in for a treat. Joe is one of the innovators in the Magic world. So respected in the business he was offered and is now producer of Criss Angels show. You won't want to miss this lecture!

We are looking into places to perform the Ring 76 public show and I'll have

more information at the upcoming meeting. We will be asking for volunteers to head up and participate in some committees in relation to this. Hopefully we will be able to make some money for the Ring and give everyone the experience of putting on a great show. We will have a place for everyone although not everyone will perform. We will need stagehands, sound, lights, ushers, etc. I can't wait because I know the kind of people we have in the club! Can you say FUN?!

On a personal note, quite a few people have been asking about the racing. Glad to say after 2 events I'm 1st in my class but I've got a target on my back. The US Nationals are in the middle of March and I'm hoping to sweep the trophies in my category. Well, one can always hope. Wish me luck!

*Terry Lunceford*  
*Ring 76 President*



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\*denotes past Ring 76 president

### Swap Meet continued from page 1

this deal. Contact Dick at (619) 589-1913 or by e-mail at [rustick@flash.net](mailto:rustick@flash.net).

If you have friends who are interested in magic but are not members, this is a perfect evening to bring them in as guests. Items for sale will include books, DVDs, video tapes, small magic and some things you wouldn't expect to see. Last year's swap meet offered many fine props at greatly discounted prices and this year's event promises to be even better.

A word to the wise: if you are a seller, keep your prices as low as you can without giving away your treasures. The whole idea is to get rid of your magic and buyers are looking for bargains so if you don't want to pack up your goodies and take 'em home again, keep your prices low and they will sell.



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

In the best short subject department at this year's Academy Awards (Feb 21st) was a little film from Pixar about a starving rabbit that tortures his magician owner for a carrot. The title of the short film is simply: "Presto." It did not win the award for best animated short subject but it is getting a lot of attention as a great little film. I am told it will be available on DVD soon.

**Bob Ingalls** just returned from a 5 day vacation in Las Vegas with his son, Chris. They stayed at the Luxor Hotel & Casino and took in several magic shows. Bob says he was warned by some of the employees of the hotel to stay away from the **Criss Angel** Show now playing at the Luxor. Bob says everyone he talked to said it was such a bad show that they were offering \$25 dollar discounts on tickets. Bob took his son to see the **Lance Burton** Show at the Monte Carlo instead and said it was a great evening of magic.

The bad economy has caused many magic dealers to offer a lot of sales to move their merchandise. Still others are selling off their surplus magic to get operating cash. In short, there are a lot of good deals right now if you have money to spend. In one week during late February, **Jack White's** e-mail was filled with 12 separate listings of sales of new and used magic, books and DVDs. One of the e-mail sales came from **Jay Lesley** up in the Orange County area who continues to manufacture unique magic tricks. His latest item is a very different and large "Thumb Cuff" escape effect. It regularly sells for \$50 but



is on sale for \$32.50. Jack has one and will show it at the March meeting.

**Philip Field**, a magician who has just moved to San Diego from Detroit, Michigan, recently made a very generous donation to our Ring library. He has given us a batch of DVDs that include: "Jason Alexander TV to Magician," "David Williamson with Silly Billy," "Troy Hooser and the Shell Raiser," "Star's of Magic with David Roth," "Reed McClintock's Classic Palming with Coins," and seven other equally exciting titles. It's a very nice addition to our library for the close-up worker. Thank you, Phil, for the kind donation. While we're on the subject of library DVD donations, **Don Soul** has contributed over 25 DVDs since October.

And on that note, **Richard Ustick** has recently purchased a new book case to house the book collection and **Jack White** has donated a set of laywer book cases with glass doors for books and DVDs. **Donna Greenbaum**, the Ring librarian, has been busy making an inventory of our collection and continually updates. Visit [www.ring76.com](http://www.ring76.com) and go to the Library section. It will soon reflect the ever-growing library items freely available to Ring members.

Ring 76 Webmage **Jim Thayer** has been in the hospital having a

## BRIEFS

heart valve replaced. Jim tells us it is a routine surgery and he expects to be back on his feet in about 5-weeks. In the meantime, if you would like to send him good wishes for a speedy recovery, e-mail his address: [jthayer@oldhundred.org](mailto:jthayer@oldhundred.org).

Italian magician & magic dealer **Dominico Dante** was staying with friends in Del Mar during February. He will have a table in the dealers room at the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas in Early March and will also have a table at the FFFF Convention in Buffalo, New York, in late April. In February, Dominico spent a day with **J.P. Jackson** and **Jack White** talking about collectable magic. **Terry Luncford**, **Bob Ingalls** and **Bob & Happy Elliott** will also be attending this year's FFFF convention, which is by invitation only.

Illusionists **Siegfried & Roy** headed back to the stage for a one-night comeback performance Saturday, February 28th, at the Bellagio Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. The charity event was the first appearance of the famous magic duo doing an illusion act on stage since a tiger attack ended the long running show 5 years ago. The charity performance was promoted as "the final bow" for Roy Horn and Siegfried Fischbacher, the German-born showmen responsible for one of the most successful shows in Las Vegas history. The performance at the Bellagio was a benefit for the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. The show was filmed by ABCs "20-20" News program and will air on March 6th on the ABC Network.

## Coming Attractions

April 13

Swap Meet

May 11

Stand-up competition

June 8

Dues/Election/Favorite trick

July 12

Installation banquet

Become a Member



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