



# 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)

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## Find New Treasures at the April Meeting Swap Meet

This 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.

All the tables have been sold for the April 13th meeting and here are some things the sellers need to know. Sellers are the only people allowed into the meeting hall prior to the official 6:30 pm meeting time and they **MUST** be stationed behind their tables not later than 6:15. If any seller cannot make the deadline their table space may be resold at the discretion of treasurer Dick Ustick so make sure he is informed if, for any reason, you as a seller are running late. Jack's Magic Place will be open from 3:30 on to allow the sellers time to unload and set up and it is advised to do so as early as possible.

A major Ring acquisition via Greg Wauson should be of interest to all swap meet browsers. Greg has given a huge collection of magic items to Ring 76 at the bequest of the family of Lou Pergolizze, a local magic enthusiast who passed away recently. Pictured to the right is part of the collection to be found at the Ring 76/J.P. Jackson combined swap meet table this year. These items will be priced to sell quickly. Not all merchandise in this collection will be for sale at the swap meet. The Ring will withhold some items for use in the auction later this year. 100% of all proceeds from the sale of these items will benefit the Ring 76 treasury directly. For more details about this acquisition please read the story in News Briefs elsewhere in this issue.

Once again, those who purchased table space must be at their tables at least 15 minutes prior to the opening of the doors to the public. With someone attending the facilities from 3:30 p.m. on, there is no excuse to be late or not have your merchandise on your table ready to sell. We'll see you there!



# Joe Monti Lecture a Big Hit with Ring 76

Sixty members and guests attended another Ring-sponsored lecture as the March meeting got under way. Just before we introduced our speaker, TVP Jeff Marcus conducted a Broken Wand ceremony for two of our members – Diane Lane and Mort Loeb – who passed away last year. Afterward, it was our pleasure to host Joe Monti (producer of Criss Angel's Mindfreak fourth season) and we were thoroughly entertained.

Joe began with a borrowed-ring-jumping routine showing us its instantaneous journeys to different fingers. The next effect was a Torn-and-Restored card trick that will most likely be used by many observers because of its simplicity and impact. After that he presented what he calls the Sniffle card (developed during a stint working at the noisy Studio 54 discothèque) in which a visibly migrant center diamond on a jumbo card slides onto another diamond to conform to the onlooker's selected card. This was followed with a coin purse frame that produced silver dollars used for Coins Across. Just before the break, Joe gave us his

famous 3-card Monte (or is it Monti?). The special jumbo cards provide an eye-catching puzzle useful for comedic stage or parlour presentations.

The second portion of the lecture gave us a silver dollar-Chinese coin transposition into a fortune cookie kicker that was quite clever. Then came his Ultimate coin vanish that could give the Harada Hold move a run for its money in that there was no pain involved. This was followed by an odd bit called Card in the Naked Foot. Imagine showing the wrong card selected, placing it face down on a chair then tapping it with your bare foot to reveal the selected card. Joe then closed with his wonderful Cups and Balls routine using only three balls. The sleights were logical and flowing with no discernable difference in presentation; an excellent lesson in the ancient art of street magic.

At the end of the evening everyone appreciated the talent of Joe Monti and the knowledge gathered.



Joe with mentor Bob Elliott & his wife, Happy

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"WOW, Dad! ! And he does it without computer graphics!"



# M a g i c B o o k R e v i e w



by

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

Thirst for magical knowledge? Three Remedies.

by Joel A. Moskowitz, M.D.

November 07, 2008

Symptoms: Do you suffer from a sincere desire to entertain? Do you realize that all actors are magicians (and the best magicians are actors in the role of magicians)? Actors are able to convince audiences that they are viewing real life instead of sitting in a theater looking at a stage or a movie. The elements of suspending disbelief, and of exciting emotion, are common elements to all successful thespians. If you suffer from a yearning to surprise, to tickle the rigidity of logic, to stimulate out-of-the-box thinking, the following remedies are prescribed.

Note: At the conclusion of doctor's recommendations and in agreement with these three authors, Doctor Moskowitz suggests the pupil of prestidigitation joins at least one of the leading associations of magicians: The International Brotherhood of Magicians and The Society of American Magicians in this country and The Magic Circle in England. Magic is universal and virtually every society has a club of similarly addicted magic enthusiasts. There the student may find, in addition to good fellowship, mentoring, the too often overlooked catalyst to mastering the art of entertaining by wizardry.

The Prescription:

Take Three Books, Add Personality, Diligence and Practice, Practice, Practice and you might become a Magician  
by Joel A. Moskowitz M.D.

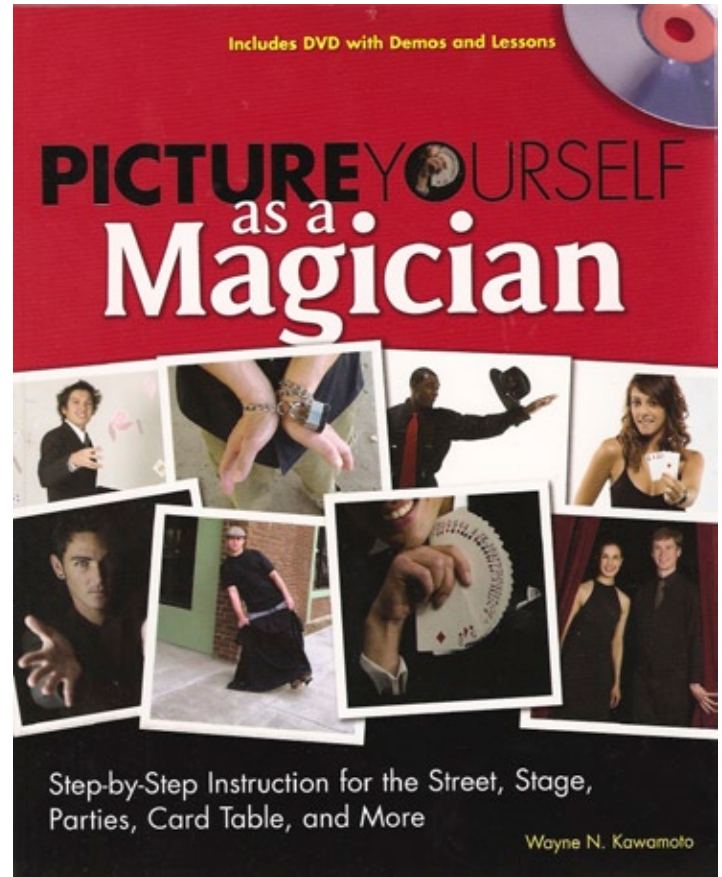
Vintage magicians may recall when first they became interested; the local library might have a few worn copies of tricks for children. These days for a modest sum, quality, highly illustrated, well-edited books of magical instruction (some with DVDs) are available. Three accomplished conjuring professionals with the gift of pen have made their experience available as follows:

First:

Wayne N. Kowamoto melds his undergraduate training in mechanical engineering and an MBA and with authorship. He has written consumer books on personal computers, reviewed video games and movies. Now a professional magician and teacher of magic living with his family in La Verne, he strives to rectify the dearth of appropriate magic instructional literature he encountered when first he began. Those texts were "...too childish, too advanced" with terminology foreign to him or requiring knowing techniques or skills identified only as, for example, "...the second Himber variation from a modification of a Daly card

twist, best employed by those familiar with finger flexibility of a serpent."

"Picture Yourself As A Magician" published by Course Technology, 2008, 330pp, softbound, \$29.99 is designed for the intermediate student. While cognizant of the disadvantages of poorly illustrated, poorly described books for new magicians, Wayne N Kowamoto truly wants the novice to understand and learn.



The usual subjects found in books that purport to teach magic - i.e. cards, coins, ropes, street, table, party, stage - are not neglected. But, his tomb 'cuts a little deeper'. There are electronic tricks with your Ipad, with your Nintendo-DS! Entitled 'Virtual Magic', the electronic files that are related to each trick are included in the accompanying DVD. Wayne, also clearly expert in things electronic, writes that the DVD also acts as a data disc from which one can upload files to your iPod.

Many magic texts are like cookbooks; Recipes - copied one from the other with perhaps the slightest variance of the ingredients. These cookbooks often defeat the would-be chef by asking for a strange herb or something only found in Mozambique in the rainy season. So it is with books teaching magic, i.e., use the Daly variation of the Lorayne twist revised by Coe Norton at a secret meeting. Thankfully Wayne does not do that. He wants the reader to learn the necessary moves, gimmicks, etc. He goes further than that. Confessing that he was so nervous in his early performances that his hands would shake - his

remedy (and as a psychiatrist physician I would heartily second it): To counter stage anxiety, Rx know the procedure + practice + practice, etc.

Remember that one of the best tools of deception is for the audience to be entertained. Aphorism 333: Magic is a form of entertainment. Entertain your audience and they will not be studying your hands. They will be laughing, crying, shouting, exclaiming and applauding instead.

Wayne suggests that when a trick goes bad simply write it off and move on. Ever see skaters in competition fall on the ice, know that they lost points? What professionals they are! The show must go on!

Rx: If you want to learn magic from an author whose sincerity gleams from every page, who is willing to share personal experiences useful for the novice, who has combined the deficiencies inherent in attempting to study magic from books alone (where the moves can be drawn but not animated), by providing a DVD (where demonstrations and revelations are effectively illustrated), this book is positive therapy for the 'to be' performer of magic.

Second:

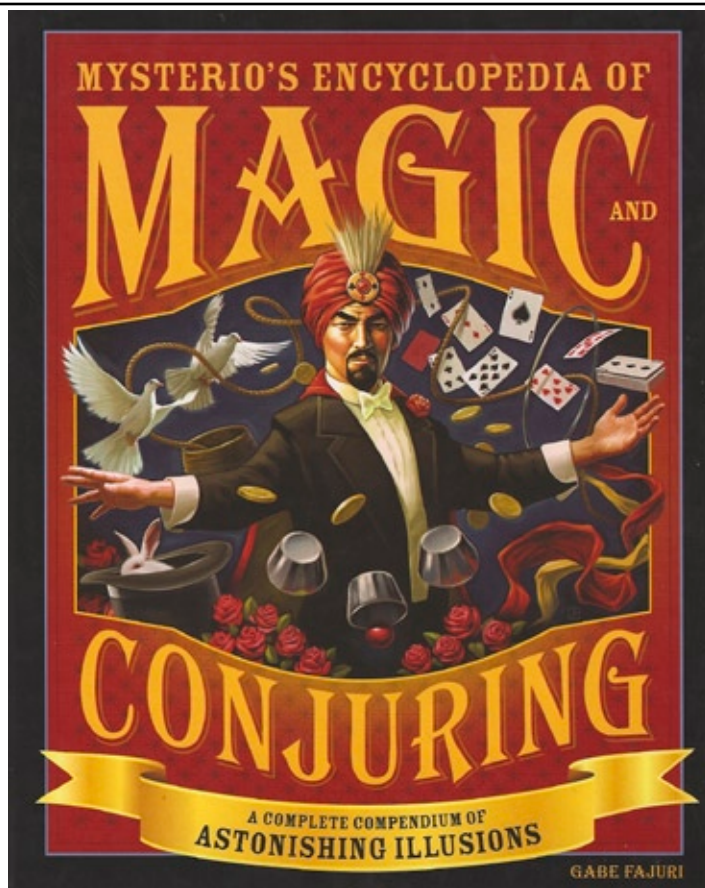
This book is not only compatible with Kowamoto's book described above, it should be combined with this next Rx and Rx three which follows:

Another treatment for the aspiring young magician is Quirk Book's 2008 collection of Alphonse Zenobius Rekulak advice to students of magic. A contemporary of Houdini, originally from the Ukraine, whose illusions were presented under the pseudonym of Mr. Mysterio, was preparing a 'how to' book but died before it was finished.

Gabe Fajuri, Associate Editor of Magic Magazine, chanced upon a trunk in a warehouse in 2007. There, Fajuri found in the bottom drawer what Mr. Mysterio planned to be the grandiose "stupendous, incredible, gigantic, unparalleled, not to be equaled, Encyclopedia of Magic and Conjuring Secrets." Incomplete jottings of this egotistic wizard has been formed into a Hardback (339 pages).

Author/Editor Gabe Fajuri has added updated illustrated instructions to tantalize those who thirst to know "how to". Twenty nine pages of impromptu stunts are followed by 60 pages of card maneuvers, a mélange of thimbles, rubber band impossibilities, matchless match effects, penetrating salt shaker, gimmicked ways to float pencils, magnetized cards, etc.

More? Yes! The oldest deception (Cups and Balls) precedes cavorting coins, ropes aka cordage, mental marvels, (the latter Mr. Mysterio asserts is particularly effective in gluing the magician's wondrous abilities into the minds of his audience. Add portions devoted to illusions in the parlour and on the stage.



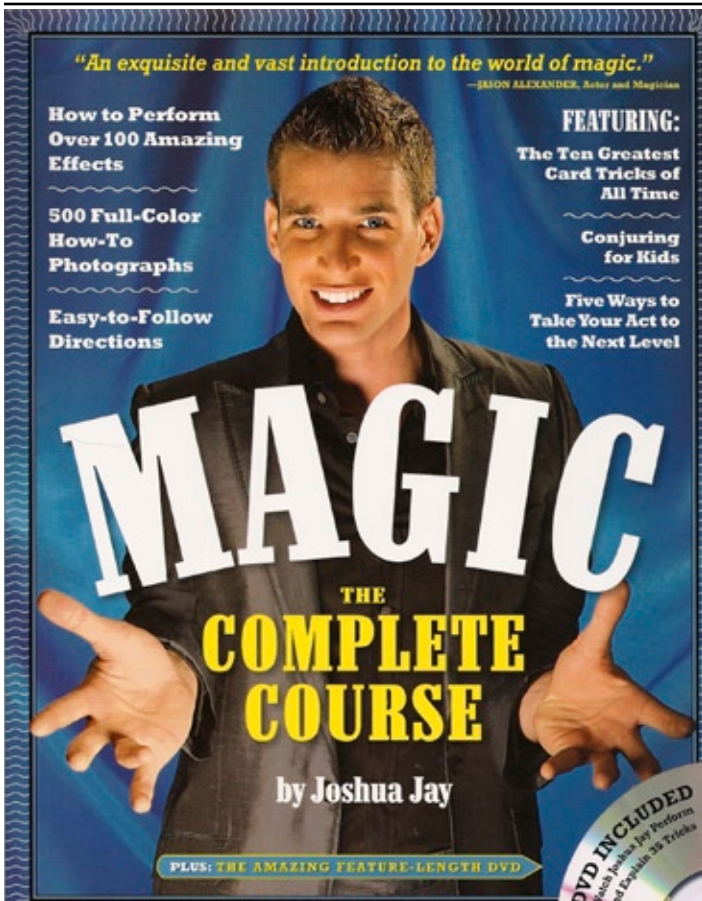
Top it off with the masterful editing of Gabe Fajuri and, although Mr. Mysterio's died in 1936 and never completed his work, Gabe has given it life as "Mysterio's Encyclopedia of Magic and Conjuring - a complete compendium of Astonishing Illusions".

At \$24.95, the reader gets the sage advice that there is much to do to bring the secret from page to stage. Mysterio admonishes that those who would set upon a life as a conjurer heed key lessons he learned the hard way.

Mysterio insists four principles are obligatory: First, woo your audience. Do not treat them so they become "a panel of experts who exist merely to be confounded by the latest puzzle". Dai Vernon cautioned "confusion is not magic". Presentation is the second maxim, with grace and humor. The third rule: Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse (to) avoid even the slightest slip. The fourth essential and, in this doctor's opinion the most important, is to evoke surprise! The gasp, chuckle, smile, thrill, eye-widening astonishment are therapeutic benefits to those who are suddenly and unexpectedly amazed. As such, performing and appreciating magic is therapeutic for both the conjurer and his/her audience. We need to be less serious, to enjoy illogic and see the world as we once did as children with glee.

The Third Medical Recommendation: "Magic the Complete Course". This Workman Publishing, New York, publication at \$19.95 written by Joshua Jay is the third book being prescribed for those seeking enlightenment in the ways of magicians.





Touted as an exquisite and vast introduction to the world of magic by Actor/Magician Jason Alexander and lauded by Nobel Prize level magicians such as Lance Burton and Jack White, who dare resist this publication. The cover promises "The Ten Greatest Card Tricks of All Time" and it delivers.

A soft bound 278 pp large book, it flashes with informative color photographs topped off with an included 132 minute DVD featuring 35 effects performed and taught in great detail. It is a veritable antidote to the library of poorly written, confusing and incomplete books about magic.

Joshua knows of what he writes. While still a teenager, in 1998, Joshua Jay, the book's author, won the World Magic Seminar championship. He has performed world wide and writes a monthly column in the periodical Magic Magazine.

On the DVD Josh Jay teaches rhythm, timing, direction - all key components of the art of performing magic. Special sections range from how to wow children to being able to astound office mates.

With a bow to the electronic fascination of our time, tricks utilizing the telephone are offered. Another uses the internet to be able to predict a card.

The reader will learn about the PATEO force, an acronym for Pick Any Two, Eliminate One. A classic counterintuitive swindle in which you and your participant take turns eliminating objects. Despite your participant's total freedom of choices, you can force them to select any desired object.

Techniques by the bushel: lapping and the Ireland shuffle are but two of the myriad utility actions Josh teaches the student magician. Silverware, mental feats, money, stock market reports and much more are subjects for wizardry.

How to take the remedy is a component of all prescriptions. There was an archaic principle in medicine that for each ailment one specific treatment was appropriate. Newer thinking holds that for a condition such as thirst for knowledge so as to become a magician, a combination of resources is most efficacious.

These three splendid publications are my prescription to enlighten the student of magic of any age. Where possible, combine the above by finding yourself a mentor in magic, join a club (IBM, SAM, Magic Circle are three) where those, like yourself, are addicted to bringing wonder to the world. The joy of sharing, advising, learning from colleagues in the quest to be able to bring the finest magic entertainment to our audiences is a 'ride' well taken. Caveat: Moderation in all things.

The Ring 76 Library is now open! Members of Ring 76 can borrow a book or a DVD/PDF/AudioCD for one month. We have over 200 items available to borrow. They are listed on the website or you can contact the librarian, Donna Greenbaum, for the complete listing. If you are interested in borrowing from the library, Donna needs to be contacted by the Sunday before the meeting by phone at 858-793-0785 or by email at [dmgreenie@yahoo.com](mailto:dmgreenie@yahoo.com).



Dick Ustick and Donna Greenbaum build the book shelves.

## STAND-UP/STAGE COMPETITION

to be held May 11th. Start preparing your 10-minute act. We have space for eight Ring 76 member contestants only. You must sign up to enter not later than May 4th. To do so contact Kenny Shelton by phone at 619-517-1286 or at his e-mail [magician84@wildblue.net](mailto:magician84@wildblue.net).

## Has This Ever Happened to You?

by Jack White

Celeste Evans played the top hotel showrooms and nightclubs with her dove and magic act from the end of World War II in the mid 1940s to 1989. In modern day magic Celeste Evans and Dell O'Dell were perhaps the most famous of women magicians. They both commanded high prices for their acts and played the top venues across the country.

With her form fitting gowns, Celeste Evans presented a flawless dove act as well as a beautiful manipulation act. Her husband was a prominent theatrical agent based in Chicago and he kept his wife busy working only the top dates from coast to coast. Now retired from magic and living in Florida, Celeste has

written a new book titled: "Has This Ever Happened to You?" Celeste wrote the book with Sammy Smith the Executive Editor of "The Linking Ring" magazine, the official publication of the I.B.M. It is filled with stories by more than 50 magicians, both professional and amateur, about unexpected things that have gone wrong during a show and how they got out of a bad situation.

Recently at the Chicago Magic Collector's Weekend, Celeste autographed a copy of her book for me. Celeste has included a few experiences of her own in the book. She goes on to say she always gets excited about contemporary magic when she sees an especially fine performance or act and she admires many of today's young performers.



Busier than ever, Ring 76 'Ringmaster' Jack White prepares to take on the most rewarding role of his devotion to magic, that of International President of the I.B.M., the honor of which to be bestowed at the upcoming convention this June 30th - July 4th in Nashville, Tennessee. Cartoonists Jim Whiting and Sherman Goodrich chose to commemorate the event in their own inimitable way.



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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

Just when you thought you would never see a real magic show on television again, along comes the show "Master's of Illusion." In San Diego the show airs on cable TV channel 13 at 8 p.m. on Monday night. Recently, San Diego's **Joel Ward** was featured on the program that also included such names as **Tony Clark, Jeff McBride, Johnny "Ace" Palmer, David Williamson** and a host of other performers. The show is produced in a real theater on stage with both close-up and stage performers. This is a happy return to good variety programming. When attending Ring meetings, be sure to set your TiVo.

For our members who enjoy attending the Magic Castle swap meet, the spring meet has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 2nd at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. The doors open at 9 a.m. and most everyone is packed up and ready to go home by 1:30 p.m. Non-members of the Magic Castle can get in for an \$8 fee. Members are free. If you have money left over after the Ring 76 swap meet on April 13th, then you might find another magic treasure at the Hollywood meet. So that no one is confused by the above date, the Castle Swap Meet was originally set for April but, because of a schedule conflict, has been moved to Saturday, May 2nd - mark your calendar accordingly.

A sad story to report: **Willard "Tony" Bradley**, 51, a San Diego magician & street performer in Balboa Park, is alleged to have stabbed his wife to death on Friday, March 20th, after she called 911 to report her knife-wielding husband had gone on a rampage. When officers arrived at Bradley's Paradise Hills home, he began confronting the police, stabbed a police dog and is alleged to have started to attack police officers that shot and killed the disturbed magician. By the weekend authorities had begun to unravel the complex life of Willard "Tony" Bradley. A sister of



Bradley's told police that her brother Tony's marriage was coming apart and had lost his job as magician and balloon artist at the downtown Planet Hollywood Restaurant when it closed in late 2007. A week before the knife-wielding incident, the sister reported that Tony's brother who lived in Kansas City, Missouri, had unexpectedly died and Tony was taking the death very hard. The sister believes that a combination of the three incidents pushed her brother over the edge and sent him into a crazed frenzy. In a check of I.B.M. records we do not find the name Willard "Tony" Bradley, anywhere, meaning he was not a member. That is too bad because within our Ring there are professionals who can council and help those going through severe change in their lives. That is one of the many benefits of being a member of an organization that is a Brotherhood; there are people who can help. Call upon them if the need arises!

We also have to tell you about the death of another San Diego magic enthusiast, **Lou Pergolizze**, who died in early March. He was 87. Mr. Pergolizze was not a member of Ring 76 but in his younger years was a member of the Magic Castle. When he died, his family had no interest in his magic apparatus and began looking in the phone book for someone to give it to. They found **Greg Wauson's** name under children's magic, called Greg and he told them about the Ring Swap Meet. The family of Mr. Pergolizze then donated all his magic to the Ring. It will be prominently featured on the Ring 76 table and all priced to move quickly at the Swap Meet on Monday evening, April 13th.

## BRIEFS

If you are looking for some magic bargains there will be a lot of them at our annual Ring Magic Swap Meet!

Ring 76 people on the move in April: **Terry Lunceford, Bob Ingalls, Bob & Happy Elliott** are headed to Buffalo, New York, for the FFFF magic convention April 22nd to the 26th. That convention is by invitation only. **J.P. Jackson** and **Jack White** will be attending the Magic Collector's Weekend in Chicago that also begins on April 22nd.

**Syd Segal** has been very busy booking some of the biggest names in magic for lectures for San Diego audiences. On April 17th, **Kevin James** will lecture at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20. James is one of the most exciting names in magic and will offer some very exciting original magic for his audience. Coming May 4th is FISM World Champion of Magic, **Henry Evans**. For more information and to reserve your seat for these lectures contact Syd Segal by e-mail at: [bt16380@aol.com](mailto:bt16380@aol.com). Syd has even more big names booked for the summer and into the fall so watch for more information on future lectures.

In case you missed the last Magic Show at the Carlsbad Village Theater, 2822 State Street, downtown Carlsbad, worry no more because a second show will be presented on Saturday evening, April 11th at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance of the show, \$20 on the evening of the performance. The show will feature **Sebastian Figueroa** who recently returned from a two-month magic show tour in South America. The guest performer of the evening will be **Matt Marcy**, who has spent the last 15 years entertaining audiences from Hollywood to Holland. The master of ceremonies will be **Charles Arlington**, who starred in San Diego's long running hit play "Triple Espresso." Sebastian presented one of these shows earlier this year and it

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7*

was a complete sell out. This show is expected to sell out as well so get your tickets early. To order tickets or get more information please call 760-720-2460 or visit [www.magicofsebastian.com](http://www.magicofsebastian.com)

**Mago Ruly** reports the second Binational Clowns Encounter is set to take place April 7th – 9th in Rosarito Beach, Baja California. There will be lectures, arts & crafts and a competition with prizes for first, second and third place. Shows, exhibitors and dancing will also be offered. Registration fee is \$35 and dealers tables go for \$70. A stay at the Rosarito Beach Hotel ([www.rosaritobeachhotel.com](http://www.rosaritobeachhotel.com)) will cost \$45 a night. For more information contact [liyepayasin@hotmail.com](mailto:liyepayasin@hotmail.com).

And finally, here is a post-surgery report from member/webmage **James Thayer**: "The heart is doing very well. The murmur is gone and the valve repair seems to be a success. So what remains is recovering from all the collateral damage. The lungs are doing very well. I'm getting up the stairs without getting too out of breath but it's going to be awhile before I can go up the hills of Mission Trails or climb Iron Mountain. There's a bunch of holes in me that are healing up nicely. I've been getting out and getting, at a minimum, the doctor-ordered 30 minutes of exercise a day. Each day, I've walked a little further."

## Coming Attractions

May 11

Stand-up competition

June 8

Dues/Election/Favorite trick

July 12

Installation banquet



*In Memory of  
Diane Lane  
1957 - 2008*



MagiCurrents is published monthly by Ring 76 and is edited by Michael E. Johnson beginning with the May issue. We encourage articles, stories, pictures and news items of interest. All material should be submitted to Michael via e-mail at [mjohns341@cox.net](mailto:mjohns341@cox.net) or written manuscripts may be submitted to Michael E. Johnson, 197 Woodland Parkway - suite 104 PMB 492, San Marcos, CA 92069-3020.