



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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*Photos from the May meeting:
Having fun is what we do!*

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76, CELEBRATING 60 YEARS, WWW.RING76.COM,
EDITOR MICHAEL E. JOHNSON, MJOHNS341@COX.NET, 760-747-4627**

May 11 Meeting Highlights



Jack White

Six of San Diego's finest entertainers battled May 11 for the right to be called Stage Magician of the Year by IBM Ring 76.

The meeting began with news about the club's election of officers in June. The Board of Directors announced a slate of candidates, and the members were encouraged to nominate themselves as well.

When no further candidates volunteered, 2nd Vice President **Michael E. Johnson** called for a vote and the slate of candidates were approved.

However, a later review of the Ring 76 Constitution found the vote to be premature, and thus unconstitutional. The actual vote cannot take place until the June meeting.



Chico the Wonder



Steven Rohmer

After club business, the magic began with a surprise guest appearance by **Steven Rohmer**, a travelling pitch magician from Florida. Steven demonstrated a mind-blowing levitation device that sold well after the meeting. You might say it flew off the shelves!

Next came the competition, as **Jack White** took the stage, with a strange beast named Chico the Wonder Monkey and an antique music machine called The Galloping Gertie. Both props were in remarkable condition considering their age. Jack had the crowd in stitches with three-card monte, a talking head and a card



Toni Perrine

(continued)

May 11 Meeting (continued)

stab. On the other hand, **Bob Ingalls** thought the Monkey stole the show.

Second, **Loch David Crane** performed a version of psychic silks with nylons, bra and panties. Fortunately, Loch provided all materials, so audience members were not required to disrobe.

Third, **Toni Perrine** presented her own Soap Opera with an endless production of cleaning products and puns. Most magicians got the jokes, even if they were unfamiliar with the

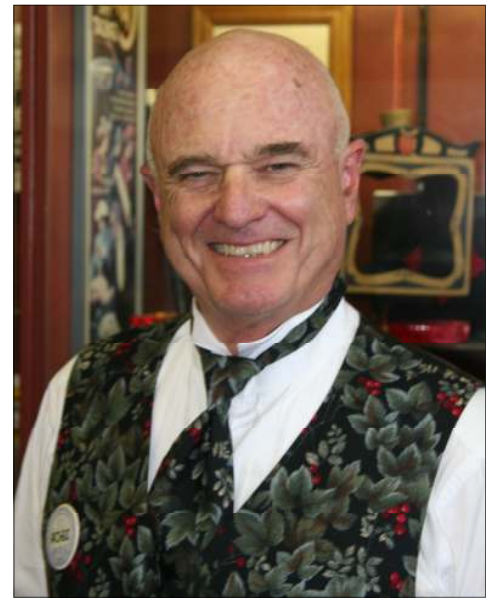
soaps.

Fourth, **Kenny Shelton** shared a spirited version of Cups and Balls, with the help of a beaming teenage volunteer, and some funny quips about the price of magic collectibles.

Fifth, **Jacques Lord** showed how to build a green home with a production box and various tools. The resulting house was so sturdy, it actually bounced.

Sixth, **Bob Meigs** closed the show in character as Dr. Samuel Hooker, doing the Spirit Box. After fiddling with technical difficulties with the sound system, the good Doctor sprang back with the joke of the evening, asking the crowd, "What does ERR mean?"

After the competition, Ring 76 members voted for their favorite performer. Ballots were turned over to **Richard Ustick**. The winners will be announced at the



Bob Meigs



Kenny Shelton



Loch David Crane



Jacques Lord



From the Editor:

June 8 Meeting Packed With Faves

The next meeting of IBM Ring 76 will be Monday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. in San Diego.

The theme will be "Favorite Tricks," and members are invited to perform their favorite magic trick on stage. This meeting is sure to be exciting, as many members have been yearning to take the stage in a fun, noncompetitive environment. Beginners are especially welcome. Professionals are welcome too, as long as they don't act like pompous know-it-all demigods.

To sign-up, just check-in with Entertainment Director **Kenny Shelton** before the meeting. All performers will be treated with respect and courtesy. Over the years, Ring 76 has fostered a climate of support and encouragement for beginning Magicians. Feedback is also available, if you ask. If you want feedback, to help your act improve, simply ask the audience before you perform. Or better yet, ask a veteran Ring 76 member for help. The older and crankier they are, the better the feedback they'll provide. Don't worry! Feedback is provided in private, and in confidence.

Before the show, members will have an opportunity to officially vote on the slate of officers for the IBM Board of Directors for 2009-2010. Ballots will be provided. We will also vote on Ring 76 Member of the Year.

Most important, members can save \$5 on dues if they sign up and pay during June. Local yearly dues are \$25 if paid in June, or \$30 beginning July 1. Send your checks payable to IBM Ring 76 to **Richard Ustick**, 251 Thrasher Way, El Cajon, CA 92020. You must also maintain your membership with the International group to participate in the local club.



Michael E. Johnson

July 12 Awards Banquet At Cottonwood

The magic event of the summer happens July 12, when IBM Ring 76 holds our annual Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers. The event begins at 5:00 p.m. at Cottonwood Golf Course, 3121 Willow Glen Dr., El Cajon, CA 92019. The site phone is 619-442-9891.

For directions, use a map, for gosh sakes. Otherwise, from San Diego using Hwy. 94, travel East to the end. Stay straight on Jamacha Rd./Hwy. 54. Turn right onto Willow Glen Drive, and follow the golf balls.

If travelling from San Diego on Interstate 8, go East to El Cajon and take the 2nd Street exit, turning right. Stay straight all the way to Willow Glen Drive, then turn left. If you see Terry Lunceford's racecar in the parking lot, you're there.

This year several surprises are in store, including awesome entertainment, a raffle with magic prizes, Italian cuisine, and a chance to see how many members are wearing the same suits they've worn to the past ten banquets.

The cost is \$25 per person if reserved with **Richard Ustick** by June 30, or \$30 at the door. Let Richard know if you have special dietary needs, and we'll do everything we can to set you up feasting (or fasting). Cocktail hour is from 5:00—6:00 p.m., with dinner beginning around 6:00 p.m., and the awards starting about 6:45 p.m. Entertainment should start at 7:30 p.m., with everything done by 9:00 p.m. See you there!



Review by Joel Moskowitz, M.D.

Magic—A Scholarly Approach: “Performing Magic on the Western Stage - from 18th century to the present”

It wouldn't be a surprise that few magicians would select “Performing Magic on the Western Stage” as choice reading. With pronouncements such as “Male stage magicians of all times and places tend to imitate the female magic of birth,” it is not likely to persuade conjurers that this tome is worth the eyesight. They might be mistaken. But the need to wonder is hard-wired into the human psyche.

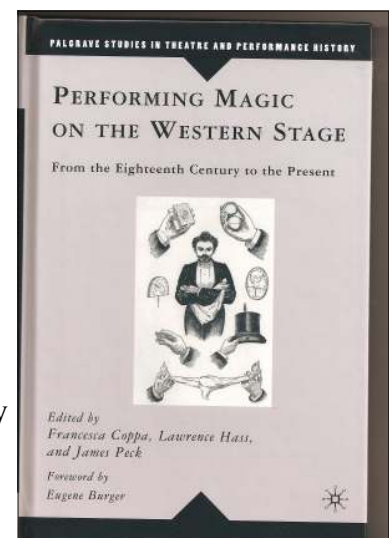
It is a function of our psychology that interest in the history and philosophy of our craft, whatever the area of specialization, is a later-in-life quest. Thus, young magic enthusiasts are interested in how we do it. Later many also would be interested in why we do it. This scholarly series of essays may offer provocative thoughts.

Whereas vanishing the elephant might be accomplished by diverse explanations and would be a subject for the usual magical text, this anthology may be more compared to the blind men and the elephant. Whether one is palpating the ear, the foot, the tail or the trunk, may bring a unique descriptive version of the pachyderm called magic. It may be a strength of the narrative that the various authors, in the main, are using their particular diagnostic tools to understand magic during the period identified in the title. Not bound by previous held prejudices, the observation of the child may be creative, enlightening and the foundation of a new appreciation of magic and the role it has played in humanity, and what it tells us about us.

Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania is the campus of groundbreaking-intellect Lawrence Hass, whose pursuit is to academically illuminate the illusions. Palgrave (the publishing house) has a series of collections devoted to elucidating the best scholarship on matters theatrical, “free of jargon”. Alas, the publisher is to be congratulated for sponsoring an exemplary erudite diverse examination of magic, but it is not free of jargon.

With the exception of Eugene Burger (who wrote the Forward and attributes the resurgence of interest in magic to the Disney organization) and Robert E. Neale, also a familiar to name in magic (“Illusions about Illusions”), both of whom bracket the ten chapters, and Lawrence Hass (one of the three editors and an author of a traditional themed volume “Transformations - Creating Magic Out of Tricks”), the other contributors come to the subject from their particular scholarship.

The anthology of ten essays include: “Life Magic and Stage Magic - A Hidden Intertwining” by **Lawrence Hass**, Professor of Philosophy at Muhlenberg College. He originated the exciting study called “The Theory and Art of Magic.” Professor Hass asserts that children do not “like magic.” This reviewer, author of the “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice or the Use of Magic in Child Psychotherapy” would respectfully dispute this. Myriads of magicians earn substantial income by performing “Children’s



Book photos from Joel Moskowitz

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Review by Joel Moskowitz (continued)

Shows.” Perhaps we are closer in agreement. For children, every early interaction with the world outside the womb is all wonderment and magic. In order to learn what is reality, as compared to the miraculous, begins at birth. This attempt to differentiate is a lifelong study for all of us.

Thus the assertion that children do not “like” magic may be more acceptable to this reviewer if it was meant that children do not like “bad” magic. The power of children to do magical things, i.e. in the crib merely thinking of being hungry...elicits the attentive mother to bring sustenance; now that is a powerful magic! Simple deceptions, aka the French drop will evoke a disgusted reaction “It is in your other hand!” Thus, children being expert conjurers themselves will not accept amateurish feints, but when the performance is congruent with their powers, it is gleefully appreciated.

Whereas many magicians are familiar with the name, Robert-Houdin (Erich Weiss chose to name himself after this French pathfinder), it is likely that few have the knowledge which Graham M. Jones, a trained anthropologist, whose many titles include being a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton, displays in this analysis of the role of what is generally considered to be the founder of modern magic. Author Jones reflects on this artist’s cultural legacy in contemporary France.

A professor of media/cinema studies affiliated with Staten Island College, Matthew Solomon presents his wisdom concerning Magicians and the Hollywood Cinema in the 1920s.

Francesca Cappa, one of the three editors, has a combined background in Film Studies and English. She focuses on what often are the hardest working part of the magical duo, the assistant, often a female. A close-up magician, when asked how it was that he didn’t do “box magic,” exclaimed, “I never could get the timing and gesturing in synch with blurting out “Tah Dah!”

James Peck, the third editor, is affiliated with the Department of Theatre and Dance at Muhlenberg. His subject examines the financial elements from eighteenth century to London to Las Vegas. He describes Isaac Fawkes, an early 18th century conjurer whose Egg Bag, Peck believes, spoke to “wealth generating powers of modern finance.” Peck concedes that his association between the coin generating aptitude of T. Nelson Downs and Siegfried and Roy’s wonderments may be “ambitious” as regarding the correlation with finance. But it is an interesting idea.

Mary Lawlor, authority on Native Americans, postulates, “The political dimension of the casino history is intricately attached to the sacred and manifests Silvia Frederici’s definition as that which emphasizes the connection between matter and spirit....” Her title “Indian Gaming: Sacred Sleight of Hand” requires delicate reading.

A doctoral candidate from NYU, Christopher Stahl discusses Ching Ling Foo in the context of urban capital, notions of race and global migration.

In the section “Intersection Illusions Performing Magic - Disability and Gender,” Karen Dearborn (founder of the Department of Dance at Muhlenberg) turned to Google to see what correlation might be found between disability and magic. She writes of Jim Passe, whose illusion included his being in a wheelchair, and Rene Lavand, the one-armed magician. When we think of stage magicians we expect that the magician, mostly male, will cut, dismember, impale a female and arrange for her to be reconstituted. Magic, thus, promises a remedy to traumatic bodily injury.

For Susan L. Schwartz, whose background is being the Chair of the Religion Department of (you know where), “Abracadabra” is a word derived from a Kabalistic formula. Magic is denounced, by some, as anti-religious, while others praise the Biblical stories where miracles/magic are ingredients. Schwartz writes (cryptically for this reviewer), “The association of women with chthonic (?) powers is

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Magic News Briefs

Ring 76 President **Terry Lunceford** had a stroke of good luck, instead of a stroke, when doctors detected a 99% blockage in one of his arteries. Within 24 hours of his diagnosis, he had a shunt put into his heart and he was back home recovering. Terry said he feels better than ever, and he was back to work that week, running his consulting business and manufacturing high-end magic props.

Toni Perrine of Carlsbad suffered a broken hip June 2 while playing a game of Pickleball in Calavera Park. It was her first time playing the game,



which is a combination of tennis and racquetball. Toni might be 83 years young, but she's not retired. She still performs magic and bellydances, among many talents. Ring 76 members are encouraged to send her positive thoughts and get-well cards to help with healing.



San Diego's own **Jack White** is gearing up for his term as President of the largest magic association in the world, the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Things kick into high gear at the IBM convention June 30-July 4 in Nashville, Tennessee, when Jack is named International President. From July 15-18, Jack will visit the Society of American Magicians convention in Buffalo, New York, the Midwest Magic Jubilee from Aug. 13-15 in St. Louis, Magic Live from Aug. 16-19 in Las Vegas, Magic in the Rockies in Colorado from September 10-13, then off to England for another IBM convention. In October he'll catch up on his consulting business, doing a film in Lone Pine. In November he looks forward to the Los Angeles Conference on Magic History. Next year, he hopes to visit every IBM Ring in

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Review by Joel Moskowitz (continued)

present in rabbinic sources....", and "Religion is transcendental while magic is worldly." Hmmmm.

Robert Neale concludes, "I would like to think that stage magic can provide us with an experience of fictional reality that uses illusion to remind us of our reliance on morale, and enlivens our battle with demoralization." Contemplate that!

Publisher Palgrave MacMillan, in 240 pages for circa \$85.00, has compiled in hardbound format a thinking-magician's variegated multidisciplinary examination of the philosophical, sociological, psychological, religious, financial and mortality aspects of stage magic in our Western Culture during the past few centuries. This is not a book to be read in one sitting. Nor can an interested reader hope to garner the richness by one reading. For those whose need is to understand magic beyond how it is done, this valuable collection of essays is recommended.



News Briefs (continued)

California.

Jacques Lord experienced a May month like no other. He got laid off from his San Diego job on May 5, he started a new job in Los Angeles on May 7, then he headlined a conference in Canada from May 12—15. The multi-talented Trixter was a keynote speaker for the Solid Waste Association of North America conference in Winnipeg, Canada. His resume made him ideal for the event: Engineer, Magician, and Green Home Builder.

The event was cosponsored by the Canadian Public Works Association. Jacques said the conference was “a ray of sunshine after a bleak week”. His clients were so impressed, they made him an honorary Canadian.

Alpine resident **Kenny Shelton** won first place in his division on the Golf Channel Amateur Tour in Palm Springs on May 31.

Former San Diegan **Richard Turner** will be headlining the Society of American Magicians convention July 15 – 19 in Buffalo, New York. For info on the SAM convention, visit www.magicsam.com.

The Gathering offers weekly food specials along with magic: Tuesday night features Spaghetti and meat sauce, Wednesday is prime rib, and Friday through Sunday features a chef special. **Tom McCartney** performs Friday nights, while **John the Bartender** appears Saturday through Tuesday. And don't forget **Dan Thomas** too! For info call 619-260-0400.

The Trick Shop in Temecula is moving to a new location and should be open June 10. From June 4—7, they are offering special discounts on their website, www.trickshopmagic.com. The new address is Felix Valdez #B-3, Temecula, CA 92590. For info, call **Chris Blankenship** at 951-506-0664.

Jay Sankey from Canada lectures in San Diego on Monday, June 15. The lecture starts at 7:00 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. Cost is \$20. For info call **Syd Segal**, 619-300-1344, or e-mail him at btl6380@aol.com.

Alex Greenbaum will be headlining at the Solana Beach Library teen summer reading kick-off on Friday, June 19, from 2:00—4:00 p.m. The library is at 157 Stevens Ave. in Solana Beach, located at the Earl Warren Middle School. For info call 858-755-1404.

Donna Greenbaum has been teaching magic to a

Calendar

June 8 Ring 76 meeting: Favorite trick,
Election & Membership Dues Night
June 19 MagiCurrents deadline
June 30 Banquet RSVP deadline
July 1... Membership dues increase to \$30
July 12..... Ring 76 Awards Banquet &
Installation of Officers
July 22..... Board of Directors meeting

