



MAGICURRENTS

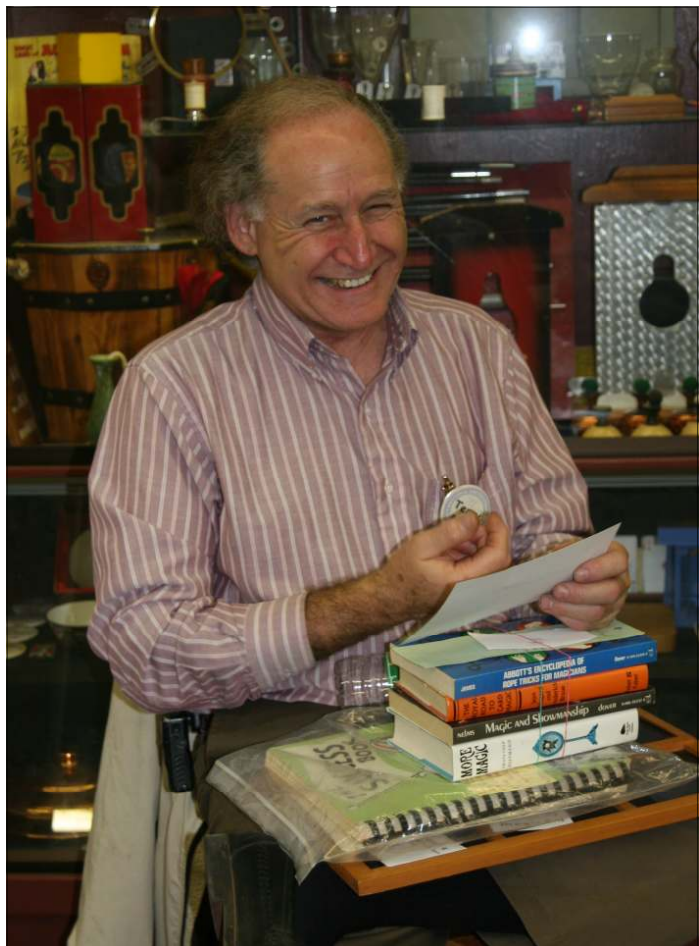
SAN DIEGO RING 76

DECEMBER 2009

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Terry Runyon (left) and Magic Mike Stilwell and Vic Ballesteros (right) bid in the November Auction.

Holiday Potluck Monday!

***Dec. 14
IBM Ring 76
Holiday Potluck
6:30 p.m.***



Godfrey Stars!

***Olivenhain Town Hall
423 Rancho Santa Fe Rd.
Olivenhain, CA 92024***

***It's east of I-5 near Encinitas Blvd..
Park in the dirt area near
7th St. & Rancho Santa Fe Rd.***

Bring a dish!

***RSVP to Richard Ustick, 619-589-1913
Directions: Bob Meigs, 858-481-5453***



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November Meeting Photo Highlights



Terry Lunceford

Congratulations to the many club members who bought and sold items at the annual Ring 76 auction November 8 at Jack's Magic Place. Auctioneer Terry Lunceford kept the merchandise moving. Treasurer Richard Ustick said the club made \$280, thanks to a 10% commission on all sales and a nice donation by Greg Wauson.

(continued)



Bob Meigs and J.P. Jackson



Kenny Shelton



James Thayer and Greg Wauson



November Meeting (continued)



Tony Perrine and Donna Greenbaum



Timmy Qafiti and Greg Price



Bob Meigs



Kenny Shelton and Terry Lunceford

(continued)



November Meeting (continued)



Three dozen members signed up to buy and sell.



Richard Ustick kept notes.



Mary Brown sold lots.



Sherry Luft helped lots.



Mago Ruly bought lots.



Some incredible bargains were found that night!

Favorite Photos

Jack White May 2009

Ring 76 members got a special treat at the May 2009 meeting, when Jack White debuted his newest magic act. Jack's enthusiasm for the magical arts is always contagious. He quickly had the crowd in stitches, roaring with laughter and amazement at his card stab. These days Jack is continuing with his physical rehab and looks forward to visiting the club soon.





Review by Joel A. Moskowitz, M.D.

“The Great Buck Howard” aka “Kreskin ... Confidential”

Published by AuthorHouse

I predict you will like this book....”Kreskin Confidential. The World’s Greatest Mentalist Speaks Out” Published by AuthorHouse. Whereas no verifiable surveys are provided, the boast cannot be readily refuted amongst peoples in Malaysia, Dubai and Cincinnati. OK, maybe Cincinnati.... But the title’s tone is congruent with the movie, “The Great Buck Howard”. The film was inspired and modeled after Kreskin the “marvelous”. Also the book’s public relations writer (himself?) takes credit for the primetime hit, “The Mentalist”.

Is this book Kreskin’s “tell all”? Those who have read and enjoyed the myriad of other Kreskin publications can be assured that he won’t tell all. Except when he provides the reader with tools for self development, mind over matter (i.e. “Kreskin’s Mind Power”) and “Commanding the Inner You.”

The film “The Great Buck Howard” is the story of an older terpsichorean who refuses to be a “has been” mentalist. His other talents are as a hypnotist, piano player and (“*ugh”) singer. He plays to half-filled theaters in towns of little note. John Malkovich (who plays Buck Howard) is aided by his promoter, Ricky Jay who (regrettably) doesn’t handle a single playing card. Curiously the credits list Tony Clark as the magic consultant. On his web site, Tony Clark asserts his proficiency as a movie consultant. In the realm of mental effects, he offers for sale his 1-2-3 Blindfold Bag which some have used to perform eyeless driving. Clark, appropriately, warns against this. His other products are mainly non-mental and one wonders why the Buck Howard producers chose Tony Clark, expert though he might be, rather than Ricky Jay who was presumably on the set should the producers need counsel on matters magic.

From Kreskin’s own website, we don’t learn much about Kreskin the person. This is parallel to the Buck Howard story. Buck Howard has no personal past beyond his assertions that he has appeared on Johnny Carson some 60 plus times. And sadly he is bounced from a scheduled Jay Leno appearance. Some reviewers have interpreted the theme for the Buck Howard movie to be a coming of age: Tom Hank’s son drops out of law school and find himself being a fetch and run for Buck. Buck seems to have no family. Likewise Kreskin.

They do share their platinum routine (which is not divulged), Buck (and Kreskin in real life) challenged his employers to band together his cash payment, secret it in the audience and at the end of the show, without confederates, he would walk through the assemblage and find his payment. Should he fail, he would forfeit his fee. The secret is not revealed either in Kreskin Confidential or the movie.

In this his seventeenth-plus book, Kreskin does tip other performer’s deceptions. Especially interesting was the revelation of a blindfolded mentalist who on stage is turned away from the audience but amazingly can discern what objects are raised above the heads of random audience members. Forget electronic bugs in ears or elsewhere. Instead think super-powered high-magnification binoculars. Yes: a confederate in the rafters whose voice is strikingly similar to the mentalist who is on stage. He sights the object and describes it through a microphone which the audience believes is coming from the mentalist whose back is to the audience. Clever?

J.C. Wagner had successful surgery



San Diego's own magic legend, J.C. Wagner, underwent successful surgery for cancer in November at Palomar Hospital in Escondido, and is expected to make a full recovery.

While in the hospital, he received words of encouragement from many friends, including the gang of five show to the left, Dr. Jeff Pearson, Syd Segal, Jamy Ian Swiss, Bob Sheets and Doc Eason. Yes, that's a deck of cards in front of J.C.

Dr. Jeff told MagiCurrents that J.C. will be undergoing chemotherapy next, but his outlook is great. Shortly

after he left the hospital, J.C. celebrated Thanksgiving at the Little Club in Coronado with a ham dinner.

Moskowitz Review (continued)

In a chapter, "You are not getting sleepy," Kreskin describes his thinking about hypnosis. A trance is not sleep. Sensitive folks will respond to suggestion (play along?). After all, the BBC came to Kreskin's home to film his collection on hypnotism, deemed to be the world's largest. Kreskin asserts that some (unscrupulous) performers encountering resistant subjects would compress their carotid arteries causing unconsciousness. If this was ever truly done it would be medically stupid. Forget the free publicity; a dead audience member is not good for your own healthy life as a performer.

Kreskin reveals the various methods:

- for quasi-Haitian Voodoo (stab a needle into a doll and the magician experiences pain in the exact same spot)
- mentalist goes into a closet while the guests choose one simply by tapping him/her on the shoulder and when the mentalist emerges he immediately detects who was chosen - carry a cell phone in your pocket set to vibrate and have a confederate trigger his cell phone to call you when you are in front of the person chosen
- how nosy magicians are able to peak under a blindfold (pun intended)
- a 'legitimate' telepathic quality - not explained but enthusiastically recommended
- divining a three-digit number of many such tossed in a bowl. Just write the same one down over and over and over so that the bowl has only one number which you know and which the blind-fooled spectator selects.

Finally, Kreskin has upped the ante from \$50,000 to One Million Dollars to anyone who can prove he uses any electronic gadgets to produce his miracles. Alternatively for \$19.95 you may purchase "Kreskin Confidential," a 204-page paperbound book that doesn't tell you how Kreskin does it, but how some other mentalists do. Buy this book and you will see that my prediction was correct. Recommended.



From the President:

Magic Youth Scholarship Program

At a Nov. 16 meeting, the IBM Ring 76 Board of Directors discussed the feasibility of setting up a special program to benefit youth in San Diego County, to be called the Jack White Magic Youth Scholarship Fund.

The purpose of the fund, initially, is to provide financial assistance to help kids attend the 2010 IBM Convention in San Diego next year. Money for the program could be raised by a benefit show in January, or donations. Several of San Diego's top magicians have already pledged their support. Once a minimum of \$1,000 is raised, the program can be launched.

All youth up to ages 17 would be eligible, as long as they attend school in San Diego County. Ring 76 youth members are also eligible, and the children and family of Ring 76 members, as long as they don't get involved in the selection committee.

The scholarship program could be launched in February, with a news release to the media and the school districts. To apply for a magic scholarship, kids would be asked to complete an application and write a 250-word essay titled "Why Do I Like Magic?". Applications must be signed by parents.

The deadline for applications would be May 2010. Winners could be selected in June by a committee of Ring 76 volunteers, with support from the Board of Directors, just in time for the 2010 International Convention from July 6 - 10, 2010.

The Board needs more feedback from the membership about this proposal. What do you think?



Ring 76 Calendar

Dec. 14, Monday	Holiday Banquet
Jan. 11, 2010.....	Jim Pace Lecture
Feb. 8*	Close-up Competition
Mar. 8*	Favorite Trick Night
Apr. 12.....	Swap Meet
May 10*.....	Stage Competition
June 14.....	Lecture, Election & Dues
July 11	Awards Banquet & Installation of Officers

* chance for members to perform

MagiCurrents

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