



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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Installation Banquet

This July, our Ring meeting will feature our annual awards and installation of new officers. Usually it is a banquet, however, this year the Board decided to go a little more casual. With the expenses of the I.B.M. convention, and the state of the economy in general, instead of a formal banquet, this year the Ring will have a pot luck dinner.

The meeting will take place on Sunday, July 18th starting at 5:00 in the afternoon. It will be at the home of Bob Meigs, 1402 Via Mil Cumbres, Solana Beach, Ca, 92075.

As this is a pot luck, all guests are expected to bring their favorite summer fare. It should be enough to feed about ten people. If you are not sure what to bring, then call Richard Ustick at 619-589-1913 or better still, e-mail him at rustick@flash.net.

Along with the Installation of the new Board, the Close-up and Stand-up contest prizes will be awarded. In addition, Member of the Year, Performer of the Year, and Honorary Lifetime Membership awards will be presented.

For fun, there will be live entertainment by Joel Ward as well as a host of raffle prizes. Donations are

welcome for the raffle. If you have something that you would like to donate, please contact Belinda Kaesler at belindamagic@yahoo.com

We hope to see you there.

— Richard Ustick



Joel Ward

Born and raised in Cardiff by the Sea, California, Joel started his own business at age 10 and started to perform at children's birthday parties. By age 15, Joel became a World Champion Teen Magician after placing 1st at the International Brotherhood of Magicians annual competition, the World's Largest Magic Organization. That same year Joel was picked out of hundreds of magicians to appear on television with Master Magician, Lance Burton. The show, "Lance Burton-Young Magicians Showcase," was filmed at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Joel Ward currently lives in Los Angeles, California and performs for national television broadcasts, corporate clients, casinos, cruise ships, and others.

Directions to the Banquet

Directions are very simple. Take the I-5 freeway to Solana Beach. Exit at Loma Santa Fe drive. Go east to the top of the hill and turn left at Via Mil Cumbres. Bob's house is just on the right.

The address is: 1402 Via Mil Cumbres

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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Ring 76 – Take a Bow!

The 2010 IBM Annual Convention ended just hours ago! And what a convention it was – owing in large part to the efforts of just one of IBM's many Rings – namely, OURS! Yes, Ring 76 played a HUGE role in this convention, and all of our many volunteers should feel justifiably tired, but very, very proud.

Ring 76 helped move them in, and move them out. We ran an airport shuttle service, performed one of the "Big 3" events, put on hospital shows, sold tickets, competed in contests, judged contests, sold shirts, cleaned stages, taught magic to kids, raised money for the San Diego Blood Bank, and even provided coffee and doughnuts to the registration desk

Thanks to all who helped! I'll hold off on listing names until the next Magic Currents, because without doing some research, I would surely overlook



someone. But a few of our members simply MUST be recognized – and applauded! Richard Ustick was

EVERYWHERE, doing EVERYTHING! Don and Donna Soul dutifully worked our shirt table **THROUGHOUT THE CONVENTION**, ultimately putting our shirt sales effort in the black.

President-elect Kenny Shelton organized our Tuesday hospital shows, and tirelessly raised money for the San Diego Blood Bank. Terry Lunceford hosted a grand pre-convention party, and then organized, directed, and performed in the Big 3 show put on by Ring 76 members for three consecutive days. Jack and Lynn White were at the head table for a very lengthy Banquet and Cabaret Show, and attended the President's Party after. They also attended one of our Big 3 shows. All of you went WAY beyond what anyone could have expected!

The three evening shows at the Balboa Theater in the Gaslamp district were absolutely superb! And Ring 76's Big 3 stage magic and illusion show was also top-tier. Unfortunately, convention attendance was way down, and money was tight - which was hard on the dealers, and also minimized our profits on T-shirt sales. But except for the low sales volume, you wouldn't have noticed. Audiences were great, the Balboa was nearly full every night, and the contests had plenty of entrants. We saw lots of old friends, made new ones, and both saw and performed some really great magic. The 2010 Convention will be the source of many good memories.

Take a bow, Ring 76!!!!!! You've earned it!

— Bob Meigs

June Meeting

In June, Ring 76 conducted a considerable amount of Ring business before enjoying a lecture by the inimitable Woody Pittman.

Due were due – and collected – at the June meeting, and most members paid upon arrival. The next item on the agenda was the election of Ring officers. Candidates in contested races briefly addressed the

(Continued on page 4)



Photos From the 85th Annual IBM Convention in San Diego





(Continued from page 2)

membership to explain their qualifications. In the opinion of this writer, this exercise revealed some great talent from which the Ring may draw, and I sincerely hope that all of the nominees, whether elected or not, will participate in Ring leadership.

Members also voted for the Member of the Year, but the winner will not be announced until the July Installation Banquet.

Next, Bob Meigs described the responsibilities of Ring 76 at the upcoming IBM Convention. He then passed around sign-up sheets for volunteers, and Michael Johnson announced an information session and “pep-ralley” for the volunteers to be held at 7PM on June 28 at Jack’s Place, following the June Board meeting.

Following the business meeting, Michael Johnson introduced our lecturer, comic-magician Woody Pittman. Woody performed his cruise ship routines,

“MagiToon”

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



“Hey! A gig is a gig.”

taking time to illustrate how the tricks were performed. Many of the tricks were simple classics, such as PB&J and Find the Lady, but they were made memorable by Woody’s unusual comic persona. One of his most popular – and most useful - sales items was his short dissertation of character development.

Then, of course, it was off to *Denny’s*. (Those of you who don’t make this “after-hours” stop are missing a good time!)

— Bob Meigs

Election Results

The Officers for the 2010-11 year are:

President: Kenny Shelton
1st Vice-President: Belinda Kaesler
2nd Vice President: Donna Greenbaum
Treasurer: Richard Ustick
Secretary: Bob Meigs
Sargent-at-Arms: Sherry Luft
Members-at-Large: James Thayer
Terry Lunceford
JP Jackson.

— James Thayer

“BELIEVE IN MAGIC!” Works!

On July 4, Ring 76 performed three shows at the San Diego County Fair. Mayor Jerry Sanders has officially proclaimed the week of July 4-10 the International Brotherhood of Magicians’ Magic Week in San Diego, and our Ring’s shows at the Fair, “BELIEVE IN MAGIC!”, were the official “kick-off.”

The first Believe in Magic! show was for children, at noon on the Albertson’s infield stage. Terry Godfrey, Donna Greenbaum, Alex Greenbaum, and Bob Meigs performed.

Two evening shows were held on the Showcase Stage – one of the Fair’s premium locations – at 6PM and

(Continued on page 7)



Photos From The June Meeting



A French Toast

“A Magic Life” by Benoit Grenier R
Reviewed by Joel A. Moskowitz MD

Benoit Grenier, who is French, pens his affection for David Copperfield in “A Magic Life”. The translation is artfully scripted by Rosalind Leveridge, wife of editor Mark Leveridge. This softbound 114 page book is published in England by Magicseen. It is available for \$40.00.

Author Benoit had to assure the great illusionist that no personal details would be revealed and no secrets disclosed. So why would a reader want to buy/peruse this biography? Little is in print about this magical master. Twenty television specials between 1977 and 2001 is amazing on its own. Consider this: a performer who can fill a 650 seat theater with minimal advertising, and at a ticket price that would be daunting to most. This book gives you more than a glimpse about this world reknowned magician.

How did David Seth Kotkin of Metuchen, New Jersey become “Davino-The Magic Boy”, who, in 1968, was the youngest to be admitted to membership in the Society of American Magicians (He was born in 1956.) How was he able to master The Dancing Cane, despite Tony Spina, of Tannen’s, initial skepticism about his ability. Mention should be made about the possible role of genetics: David’s father received a grant to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Art. Economic constraints caused his father to abandon his dream but undoubtedly he reveled in his son’s theatrical success.

Descriptions of David’s qualities, must include ‘driven’, ‘perfectionistic’. His thesis was ‘if you can imagine it...you can do it.’ As a youngster, he admired Paul Winchell & Jerry Mahoney and delved in ventriloquism. His passion was visible to his teacher who in the fifth grade asked him to M.C. the talent show. Seeking a new dummy, he chanced

upon Tannen’s and the rest is a meteoric history. He immersed himself in the subject “Magic”, attended conventions, learned Street Magic from Jeff Sheriden, His knowledge and expertise even at age 16 led to being asked to teach a course in magic and drama at a New York University. He took drama classes and analyzed the contemporary Broadway shows. Simultaneously, author Grenier, assures the reader, that David experienced the ‘usual’ activities for a youth of his age.

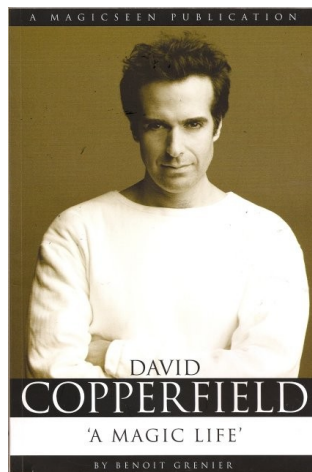
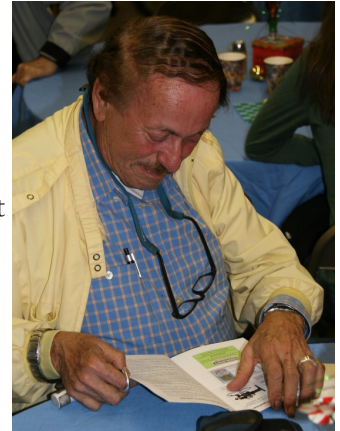
He attended Fordham University but after only three weeks, he decided to drop out and become a professional magician. David was

determined that he would excell. But “David The Magic Boy” would not do. A reporter friend suggested he use “David Copperfield”. Note, David Kotkin had not read the Dicken’s novel. *N. B. Charles Dickens was, himself, an experienced magician.*

By January 1974, David had his first role in a play based on Houdini. He was to perform, dance and sing. His vocal capability resulted in making audiences disappear! After this Chicago play had ended its run, he returned to New York City. He had no luck at first but

eventually hired for a production which co-starred Carl Ballantine, and Shimada. David needed to make Peter Graves (of Mission Impossible) appear. Subsequent success followed: Tony Spina hired David to star in Tannens Annual Convention and then....but I should leave you to enjoy the subsequent adventures of this most marvelous magician. This book is a ‘confection’ of affection. It is highly recommended.

The doctor prescribes: Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5)





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8PM. In the first show, Terry Lunceford opened with his Viper routine. Joe Mystic performed several routines, including an elegant Floating Table. “Perfesser” Howard performed a fire-act Bill-in-Orange, Jeff Marcus performed several effects, including his very-appropriate-to-the-Fair Helping Hand, and Jose Sanchez closed with a great Dove Act. The audience, to say the least, was HUGE!

Joe Mystic, Jeff Marcus, and Jose Sanchez performed again in the 8PM show, all with some variations in their routines. Bob Meigs also performed a classic Wakeling Sawing. Belinda Kaesler performed “Simple Pleasures,” and Kenny Shelton added variety to the show with a superb juggling routine.

There were a few glitches – a couple prop failures, some mike problems, and fireworks drowned out our closing minutes. But-in-all, it was a GREAT night! We had fun, the audience had fun, and the Ring was very well represented!

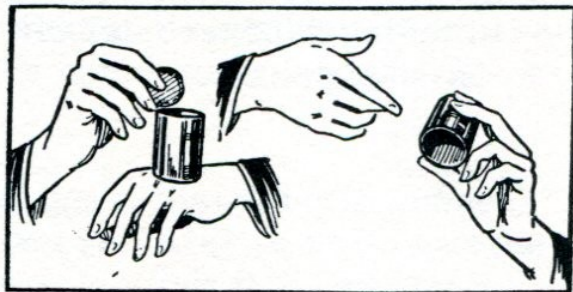
And, to repeat, the audience was HUGE!

— Bob Meigs

Dues are Overdue

Well, not for most of you...the members of Ring 76 have been very good this year at paying their dues on time! The Ring provides a many services during the year, and these services are made possible by your dues. So if you are among those who have paid, the Ring thanks you!

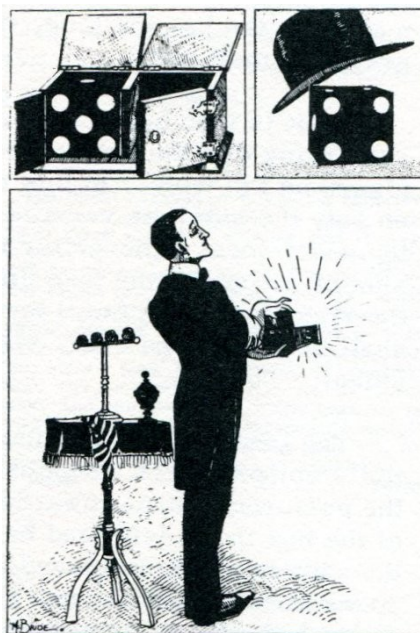
But there may be a few who are still holding out. If you are in this category, please contact Richard Ustick



at rustick@flash.net. After June 30th, the amount for dues went up to \$30/year.

Magic News Briefs

Toni Perrine is turning 85! Her daughter, Sharon Johnson, is hosting a potluck birthday party and members of the Ring are invited. The party will be held at Pine Ave. Park in Carlsbad (3300 Block of Harding St.) on August 1st at 4:30pm. Bring a chair or blanket and some edibles to share. Toni requests that you do not bring presents. Your presence will be her present! If you would like, bring your favorite schtick and show off your talents. RSVP by July 24th by E-mailing Toni at toniperrine@yahoo.com or calling 760-730-9405.



Ring 76 Calendar

- | | |
|---------|--|
| July 18 | Awards Banquet &
Installation of Officers |
| Aug 9* | Magic I Did Over the Summer |

* chance for members to perform