



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 NOVEMBER 2010 VOL. XXIV #11

Annual Ring 76 Auction!

It is time once again for the annual Ring 76 auction. This is one of the Ring's biggest events and fantastic deals are always to be found.

In order to make sure everyone, both buying and selling, has a good time, the Board of Directors has made a few changes from our previous auctions.

The auction will be at the regular November Meeting, on Monday the 8th. The meeting time will be as usual, 6:30 pre-meeting, 7:00 meeting, but if you plan to put your goods up for auction, we ask that you be at Jack's Place a little early. This helps us coordinate what is going to be auctioned and how many sellers

we will be having that evening. Only Ring 76 Members will be allowed to put their goods up for auction.

This year we are limiting each seller to eight lots only. This will allow more people to sell and prevent any one seller from dominating the event. A lot may contain one item, or as many as the seller wants, but each lot will be auctioned as a single unit. So if you have one Zig-Zag, that could be auctioned as one lot. If you have a dozen books on coin magic, you may sell all of them as one lot. Again, only eight total lots will be allowed per seller.

We ask that all sellers provide a list of the lots to the auctioneers before the auction starts. This is just a simple list of the lots you will be selling, the individual items in each lot, and the minimum bid you will accept for that lot. The auctioneer will start at your minimum bid and will not go lower. If there is no bid at that price then the lot will be retired and the next lot brought up. This year you can make your minimum bid what ever you want, but we will not be accepting any "Reserves." Your item will be presented with your minimum bid, and that is the lowest it will be sold for.

As before, the Ring will be taking 10% of the selling price with the proceeds to go to the Ring Treasury. All monetary transactions will be handled by the Treasurer and his assistants. Cash and checks will be gladly accepted, as well as credit cards. The Ring fee will be taken out before the final amount is paid to the seller.

If you have any questions please feel free to e-mail the Ring Treasurer, Richard Ustick, at rustick@flash.net.

— Richard Ustick



Skill-saw illusion up for bid. (Kenny not included)

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

WWW.RING76.COM EDITOR JAMES THAYER — EDITOR@RING76.COM



President's Message

The October meeting was another great showing of our members doing what they like to do. Nice job on all the costumes and putting your act around what you came in. The September meeting was another good one to seeing all the classic of magic. I was surprised, though, to see no cups and balls or rope routine.

November is our auction night and a chance to make some money. There will only be eight items per member to auction off. so bring the green and checks to get something that you'll might wont.

The San Diego Blood Bank is doing the Charger Blood Drive down at the Town and Country Hotel (where we had the IBM convention). I am hoping that several of you can put in 2 hours of your time to perform. There's no money in this and only the donation of our time to keep people entertained while they wait in line. Please let me know at next meeting if you want to do this cool event.

— Kenny Shelton

Halloween Magic

The theme of the October meeting was, of course, Halloween Magic. Several members arrived in costume – the best and most elaborate being Chuck Cook's Gothic Vampire.

President Kenny Shelton called the meeting to order at 7PM. Bob Meigs described the Ring's "new digs" at the North Park Lions Club. He also discussed several different types of shows the Ring might put on at the 2011 San Diego County Fair, and asked for an expression of interest. Jeff Marcus described many new CW illusions in stock at member James Kellogg's magic shop, 3 Generations of Magic, and suggested paying a visit. And then, the lights dimmed, eerie sounds arose, and the magic began ...

Bob Meigs opened with a Sefalajia routine he calls "The Strange Case of the Mediums' Gift." The multi-talented Richard Ustick followed with a very entertaining Haunted Hank. He performed the routine

dressed as a vampire, singing a original song to the tune of Monster Mash. Next, Bob Pozner performed a David Regal routine, called The Portal.

Toni Perrine, decked out as a Gold Digger, pulled everything including a giant pumpkin, from a briefcase. Loch David Crane and "Perfesser" Howard both performed mentalist routines; Loch's, locating a hidden object, and Howard reversed the routine in which the audience misses all the good prizes – this time, the audience member won the all the marbles (candy, actually).

Chuck Cook, in his grand costume, performed theme-appropriate rapping hand and haunted deck routines, and Terry Godfrey closed with a demonstration of his haunted wand, the Silver Sceptre.

As usual, we adjourned our meeting at Jack's Place and reassembled at the nearby Denny's for coffee, camaraderie, and ghosts of Halloweens past.

— Bob Meigs

What?

New Digs for Ring 76?

After 10 great years at Jack's Place, Ring 76 is moving (at least for a few months) into new location – the North Park Lions Club. The Club is located at 3927 Utah St., just one door north of the corner with University Ave., and Utah. (Utah is 4 blocks west of 30th St, about 3/4 mile west of 805, and maybe a mile and a half west of Jack's.)

"Why move," many will ask, "after all these good years at Jack's Museum of Magic?" Jack has NOT asked us to leave, and he certainly is NOT kicking us out. So why are we moving?

There are a couple of reasons. And, the move may turn out to be temporary. Ring 76 has grown too large to host its big events (the Holiday Banquet, swap meet, auction, and Installation Dinner) at Jack's place. Rather than trying to find a suitable place each time one of these events roles around, it will be much easier if we can do everything at one location.

(Continued on page 6)



Photos from the October Meeting



Bob Meigs



The many faces of Richard Ustick



Toni Perrine



Bob Pozner



Photos from the October Meeting



Loch David Crane



Chuck Cook



Perfessor Howard



Terry Godfrey



The Plot Thickens

by Oliver Meech

Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D

Date: October 15, 2010

It is often said that Britain and America are "two nations divided by a common language". Americans who purchase a book written by an Englishman (or Englishwoman) may need a translator but the 87 large format page softbound (with 86 photo illustrations) by Oliver Meech "The Plot Thickens" is worth the effort.

Oliver does give some hints: i.e. a 'fizzy drink' is a soda; a five pound note is \$5.00; 10p is a quarter; and A4 paper is letter paper. Oliver is left handed and out of respect for the majority, he has flipped the photos but alas then the card indexes are reversed. He apologizes but reminds that Leonardo Da Vinci was also a southpaw.

Another hurdle those of us who live in the 'colonies' may encounter are ingredients described in British instruction manuals might not be available on this side of the Atlantic. Meech does ask performers to obtain 'sealing wax' but few other essentials are not readily found Stateside.

Meech, in his 20s, respectfully provides bibliographic references, the lack of which is oft criticized by reviewers. His attributions are a testimony to his familiarity with those whose creations are the foundations for some of his effects. One might garner from the title "The Plot Thickens" that it is cookbook, a reference to burial plots; an emphasis on developing 'plots' for routines. The latter is somewhat correct. Whimsical Meech decides to test the reader by substituting clever 'names' for the generic 'spectator' with a chance to decipher from the narrative what the author had in mind. Cheaters can simply turn to page 75 for the answers.

There are 22 effects: The first, "Invisible Man" was stimulated by a writing of Paul Harris and evokes audience reaction aka Slydini's Paper Balls Over the Head crowd pleaser. Spontaneity is a feature of Cardboard Birthday Cake which can be performed if you carry a magic marker, and a deck of cards and happen to have forgotten to buy a gift; You might also consider having on your person a stack of business

cards and the ever popular rubber band for an 'out to lunch' stunt where you miss guess a date and fix it. A version with a deck of cards is unique.

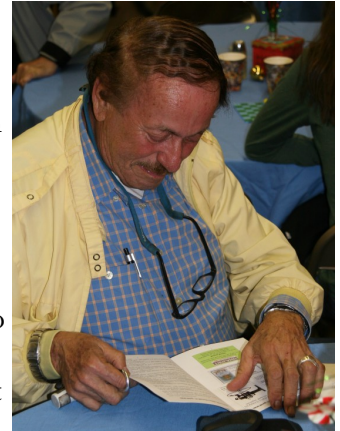
A visual discovery of the selected (forced) card can be done with any deck (so long as you arrange a stack). The magish gets it wrong over and over but the remaining cards on the table in a six by three grid are amazingly the 'chosen' pasteboard. If you are seeking novel ways (ok, it is not so novel) to discover a card, "Telling Your Ace from Your Elbow" is it.

And then there are coins! Alas, one entitled "Touching Transposition" requires a 10p coin (we know that is a quarter) and also a sugar cube. When is the last time you saw a sugar cube? Another prop hunt is to turn to the web to obtain a royalty free Xray of a coin in someone's abdomen for "Xray coin". It is not advisable to swallow a coin yourself and go to your neighborly radiologist to snap a picture. An alchemist's version of Vernon's Spellbound makes use of silver coloured sealing wax - for the adventurous who like to construct there own spooky tricks.

The how for mind magic involves bubbles (not solid) where a prediction appears; using a dry marker (illuminated by Max Maven/Genii Forum) a poetic phrase is predicted; a spin the bottle routine - a prediction at a bar perhaps; a popular TV series "Lie to Me" works because the master diagnostician can read faces: 'I Spy' the professed ability to read 'eye movements' is the pseudo explanation for detection.

Oliver Meech is to be congratulated for giving creative thought to educate and stimulate the magician. Most of the effects are what may be stuffed into your pockets (you can wear the thumb writer if you prefer).

Happily, this reviewer recommends "The Plot Thickens" which can be obtained from the author: oliver@olivermeech.co.uk for ~\$22.00 (if you don't have it in pounds or pence) or Penguin Magic (where they have it for a bit less). Rx Rx Rx Rx (4/5)





(Continued from page 2)

Second, your Board believes Jack can use a little time to rearrange the contents of his building, and perhaps, to make a few structural modifications. Therefore, we are committing to the new location for four months – beginning with our Holiday Banquet in December. We will also meet there in January thru March of 2011. After this trial period, we'll evaluate the situation and decide what happens next. Your Board welcomes input from all members!!

Remember, the upcoming November meeting – the auction – will still be at Jack's Place. Our Holiday Banquet, Monday, December 13, will be the first event in the new location.

Let me tell you a little about the new place. It's big, with table seating for over 100. There is a sizable stage, impressive kitchen facilities, two very large restrooms, and off-street parking for about 25 cars. In short, it appears very well suited to all our needs, including our larger events.

Driving time should be about the same as Jack's, regardless of where you are coming from. For our after-the-meeting group, Denny's is still just a short drive, and we have yet to explore eateries within walking distance – of which there are several.

The Board has long been looking for an alternative meeting sites, and has asked the membership for suggestions. We thank Belinda Kaesler for bringing this site to our attention. Last week, Bob Meigs and JP joined Belinda for a tour of the facility, and everyone was very impressed.

JP negotiated a very affordable financial arrangement, which includes our putting on an annual fund raising show for the Lions Club. JP also had the idea of the four month trial period, rather than our making a long-term commitment.



Putting on a show for our landlord is not new – it was once a standard part of our facility agreement. The Board views this show as more opportunity than obligation. After all, aren't we a "performing" club?

The Board strongly encourages EVERYONE to attend the Holiday Ban-

quet and check out these new digs! The banquet will again be a pot-luck, with the ever-able Richard coordinating the food. Belinda Kaesler has lined up great entertainment, and the Holiday Banquet is bound to be a success.

— Bob Meigs

Holiday Banquet

The holidays are fast approaching and before you know it, it will be time for the annual Ring 76 Holiday Dinner.

This year we will be having our traditional pot luck celebration at a new location. The North Park Lion's Club will be providing more spacious accommodations for all the members and their families and guests. This meeting hall is located just minutes from Jack's Place and with its large parking lot is more suited to our needs this festive time of the year.

The pot luck will be on Monday, December 13th from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The Lion's Club is at 3927 Utah St, San Diego CA 92104 A map to the location will be in next month's Newsletter.

Entertainment will be provided by Chazz the Magician.

As stated above, this will be a pot luck affair. At the next meeting Richard Ustick will be passing out sug-

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

gestions to all the members so we do not end up with twelve plates of cookies and one plate of turkey.

Richard will be passing out suggestions, but if you know what you would like to bring then feel free to do so. Many of our members have traditional pot luck recipes that the Ring has grown to love over these many years.

If you are not going to make it to the meeting in November, then you can e-mail Richard at rustick@flash.net. Remember, a main dish should be able to feed eight at least. Bread and salads should be able to feed ten to twelve. We need side dishes, salads, breads, desserts, and of course, main dishes. Richard will once again be providing a Turkey and the Ring will have serving ware, plates, napkins etc.

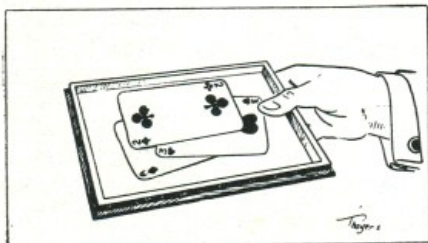
This is always our biggest event of the year so if you plan to attend, and plan to bring family, please let the Board of Directors know so that we can have enough table and chairs for all.

— Richard Ustick

Charger Blood Drive

For many years members of Ring 76 have volunteered to help out with the annual Chargers Blood Drive, sponsored by the San Diego Blood Bank. This year the event will be Tuesday, Nov. 30th from 10am to 6pm at the Town and Country Convention Center. As before, Ring 76 will be presenting a little magic to entertain the crowd. If you would like to volunteer for two hours (or more!) please contact Kenny Shelton.

—James Thayer



Ring 76 2010-11 Calendar

Nov 08	Auction Night
Dec 13	Holiday Banquet
Dec 14	Lecture
Jan 10*	Open Stage Night
Feb 14*	Close-up Competition
Mar 14	Swap Meet
Apr 11*	Animal Theme Magic
May 09*	Stage Competition
Jun 13	Lecture and Elections
Jul 10	Installation Banquet

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

Volunteer Magicians for Community Outreach

An open letter to the Ring 76 membership:

Dear Ring 76 Members,

I recently attended a board meeting and discussed with the board how we could reach out to the community and bring awareness to our club and possibly recruit new members. I am looking to organize a show to help San Diego realize that there is a thriving magic community here in San Diego. I would like to find out who might be interested in participating and putting on a few public stage and close-up performances. Also I would like to get some feedback and ideas from our members on how we as a club and you personally as magicians here in San Diego could benefit from this. You can e-mail me directly at sebastian@magicofsebastian.com I welcome every-

(Continued on page 8)

“MagiToon”

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



Every home has a “junk drawer.”
but never one like Valdaró’s.

(Continued from page 7)

one's thoughts. Let's get out and start entertaining some lay people.

Regards,
Sebastian
"San Diego's Premier Magician"
sebastian@magicofsebastian.com
http://www.magicofsebastian.com
619-865-2973

Magic Notes

Have a performance coming up? An interesting tidbit that you'd like to share with the Ring76/ Tales of brave adventures in far away lands? The motto of The MagiCurrents is

“All the news that fits, we’ll print.” Please send any contributions to Editor@Ring76.com

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

James Thayer will be undergoing heart surgery on Nov 4th. As a result, he will miss one of his favorite Ring 76 meetings of the year, the Auction. If a Thin-Sawing Illusion is up for bid, James would appreciate it if someone would bid for it on his behalf. Marieke, James’ wife, would greatly appreciate it if someone would outbid whomever is bidding on James’ behalf.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

“Love and magic have a great deal in common. They enrich the soul, delight the heart. And they both take practice.” — Nora Roberts

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

Ring 76 has just added a number of new, exciting DVD's to our collection. Please check the website for the complete list of DVD's. Members of Ring 76 can borrow a DVD for one month. Contact Donna at 858-793-0785 or at dmgreenie@yahoo.com by Sunday afternoon before the meeting. You can also arrange to pick it up at her house in Solana Beach, just call or email to make arrangements.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

“The magician and the politician have much in common: they both have to draw our attention away from what they are really doing.” — Ben Okri

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

Do you want a Ring76.com e-mail address? You can have a new e-mail account set up or the Ring76.com account can be an alias for an existing account. Contact James Thayer at Webmage@Ring76.com.

