



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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Broken Wand

Bob Elliott

1934 — 2010

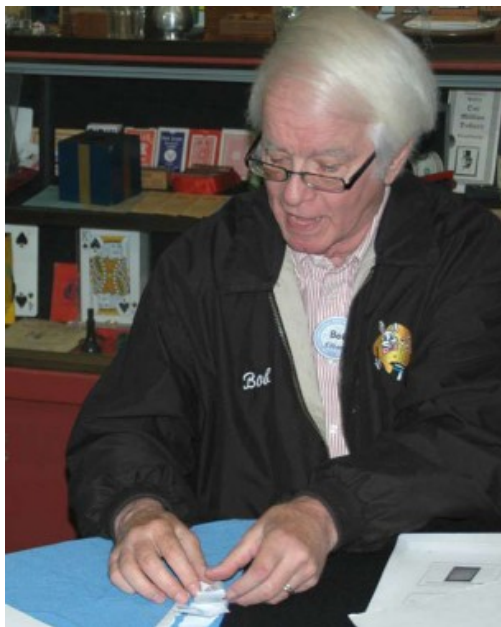
Magician Bob Elliott died peacefully December 7, 2010, at home in Oceanside, California. Born in 1934, Elliott the Great and his wife Happy were at the center of the New York magic scene for decades. They profoundly influenced some of the most famous magicians of the 21st Century.

They did more than counsel magicians. The Elliotts provided food and shelter. Bob picked up magicians from airports and if necessary, bailed them out of jail. He booked lecture tours, taught the Harry Lorayne Memory Course, and hauled teenagers to magic club meetings. He helped run Tannen's Magic Camp, appeared on TV with Johnny Carson and Merv Griffin, and made the cover of The Linking Ring. IBM Ring 352 in State College, Pennsylvania, is named after him.

Many years ago, Bob helped a young magician named David Kotkin get a \$10-per-hour part-time job teaching magic at New York University. After David Kotkin became David Copperfield, he hired Bob to perform for his birthday party. Bob's friends included billionaires, superstars, celebrities, and anyone who happened to be standing next to him. What's amazing

is that Bob only considered himself an amateur magician. "Amateurs built the Ark," he was fond of saying, "...while professionals built the Titanic."

Bob always had a day-job, apart from magic, with two kids, Jennifer and John. He held a degree in Metallurgical Engineering. He worked for the Manville Corporation, while wife Happy was a licensed stock broker at Bear Stearns and Company.



Bob Elliott at a Ring 76 Teach-In

After relocating to Oceanside, California in 2005, Bob continued his giving way by sharing magic wherever he traveled, at magic club meetings, charity events, youth camps and even supermarket check-out lines. He was a favorite at the offices of Dr. Jeff Pearson in San Marcos. Countless silver dollars were plucked from the "Cash-Ears" of local kids. And Bob always let kids keep any money he found behind their ears.

On June 22, 2007, Bob received an Award of Distinction from IBM Ring 76 in San Diego. David Copperfield sprung the surprise, via audio conference

from Las Vegas, and Ring 76 President Terry Lunceford presented the Trophy. Celebrities from around the world contributed to the Testimonial Program, including Criss Angel, Michael Ammar, Jack White and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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President's Message

Well say good-bye to 2010 and say hello to 2011. The next meeting is Open Stage Night. The one rule is NO CARD TRICKS so your minds have got to get to thinking. The holiday dinner was great and the show with Chazz the Magician was too. I hope everyone likes the new place. They have a stage for us to use and a dressing room as well.

We lost three great guys this year, J.C. Wagner, Jim Riley and Bob Elliott. Please keep them in your hearts as you perform the art that we all love. Lets make this new year a another great year.

— Kenny Shelton

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One of Bob's favorite lines was, "I only steal from the best!"

Bob's legacy lives on through a website at www.MagicianBobElliott.com, with stories about his influence from magicians around the world.

A Broken Wand ceremony for Bob will be presented at the January meeting of Ring 76.

— Michael E. Johnson

Holiday Potluck

Here is hoping that all members of Ring 76 had a happy holiday season, and that the new year will continue to bring pleasure and camaraderie in our magical community.

We had a good example of that camaraderie this last month at the annual Ring 76 Holiday Potluck. It was held at our new location, the Lion's Club on Utah street, and was well attended by members and their family and friends. The entertainment was provided by Chazz the Magician, with his assistant Kiki, and his stage manager Richard.

The Ring Board members arrived early, to set up the decorations, and were met by Vernetta and Robert, of the Lion's Club, who already had the

tasks well in hand. Belinda, our V.P. of Entertainment, made lovely table decorations and was also responsible for the evening's show. The new facilities proved to very accommodating and easily handled the eighty or so members and guest who gathered.

The food was scrumptious with members bringing a whole host of main dishes, side dishes, salads, rolls and desserts. We were able to serve it in an efficient manner given the long hall and the ample number of tables. As the night went on, seconds and third helpings were enjoyed by some of the more eager members and guests. It was a holiday feast that even Scrooge would have admired.

After dinner Chazz the Magician gave the Ring a show. It is always difficult to perform before your peers, but Chazz did a wonderful job keeping professionals and guests alike entertained.

After the potluck broke up, the usual host of characters cleaned the hall up and got it ready for its next assignment.

This first meeting at the Lion's Club went very well and showed that the hall could handle one of the largest meetings the Ring has. In the next few months it will host a regular meeting, our close-up contest, and our swap meet. The increased elbow room was appreciated for the holiday potluck, and will continue to be so for the first half of the new year.

— Richard Ustick

Breakin' In the New Stage

The North Park Lions Club, our new landlord, recently asked what the Ring would charge to do a short show at their Holiday Lunch on December 15. In light of the Lions Club being the world's largest service club organization, and they were offering us a very sweet rental arrangement, and the fact that we wanted to try out the new stage, we negotiated the price down to pro-bono.

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Photos from the December Meeting



A good turn-out!



Table Centerpieces



Yes, Virginia, there was food!



Kenny, Belinda, Chaz, and Richard



Chaz, Kiki and Richard



Kiki and Chaz



CAN DO/ CAN DON'T

*a review of CAAN CRAFT by
J.K.Hartmann/ Gordan Bean*

*by Joel A Moskowitz M D
December 29, 2010*

Medical Doctors resort to short-cut abbreviations to write descriptive histories and prescriptive instructions; Magicians/Mentalists have resorted to the same. J.K. Hartmann and Gordan Bean have copywritten (2010) a 96 page hardback compilation of enchanting variations entitled: CAAN CAAN, CAAN CON; CAAN GAME; CAANARD; CANN TU; J-CAAN; CAAN KICKER; CAAN KIN. All are in pursuit of the holy grail of card magic: Any Card At Any Number. This is not the much admired and yet to be exactly duplicated "The Berglas Effect" but audiences will be bewildered and astonished nevertheless.

J.K.Hartmann's publications date back over three and a half decades and have been praised over the years. This is no exception. The collaboration of Gordan Bean (gaffed methods) and J K Hartmann (ungaffed, even impromotu workings) is deftly illustrated by Tony Dunn. This work, in part, stands on the idea of Tomas Blomberg yielding a potpourri of delectable wonders. The recipes are flavored with additional sleights: 'Cut N Run' is a very easy false running cut (usual for the 'placements' necessary and "Controlled Charlier Shuffle" which results that the deck is ultimately in the same order.

Yes, the mythic Berglas Effect is that the performer has a hands-off description of what the audience sees. These eight masterpieces are not that. Nor is it of the style utilizing a Reverse Svengali, ala Max Maven's "Sventalism" described in Jim Steinmeyer's "Conjuring Anthology". Although CAAN Kicker utilizes a special card with imprinted instructions that tells the 'reader/spectator' to announce to the other spectator what moves he/she must do. This is an almost impromptu mystery.

Aha but where is the catch? The first three marvels require a STACK! Now this will be off-putting to many magicians. Even many mentalists who simulate higher brain function will eschew this requirement. Relax. The deck is stacked but need not be memorized. Consequently, the stack, if in view for more than a moment, might be detected by an owl eyed spectator. You will, however, need to calculate the position of the named card.

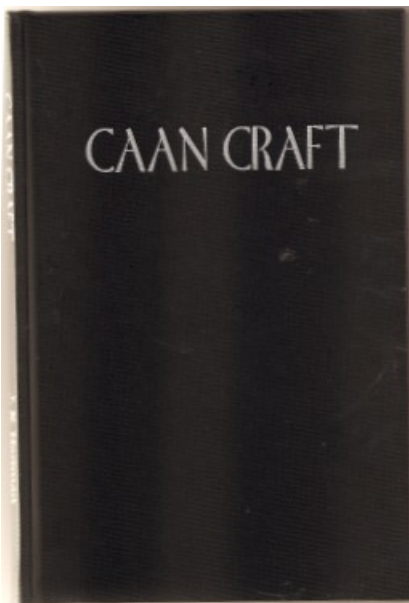


Another (ugh) essential is that the magician must be extremely adept at his/her false dealing. In fact, spectators are encouraged to be highly attentive that the magician shouldn't do 'anything funny'. But the power of the ultimate achievement, many will think is the worth the constraints.

Some of the devices include: holding out a card while the spectator cuts the deck; Hartmann's clever method for making a switch right under the noses of those who are watching; and Hartmann's Slipswitch whereby

magician accomplishes having the card at any number as he deals cards from hand A to hand B.

Though readers of this fine book may not be able to replicate the miracle of The Berglas Effect exactly, by perfecting their favorites from "CAAN CRAFT" they will surely impress spectators and fellow aficionados with their ability to divine 'any card at any number'. Students of this classic theme will find much to stimulate their thinking about diverse deviations suggested by these authors. This book is highly recommended: Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5).





(Continued from page 2)

Magic Mike Stilwell, who hasn't missed a classic force since he was nineteen, entertained with close up magic as the lunch guests arrived. The magic show followed the meal.

Kenny Shelton acted as emcee, and opened the show with his synchronized balls (a juggling routine). The rest of us watched from the wings, as Kenny progressed from juggling balls, to clubs, and finally, shovels – the man is really GOOD!

Next, in a madcap sawing routine, Bob Meigs bisected a "drugged" Belinda Kaesler. Jeff Marcus did his Disecto Pitchman Routine in his inimitable and entertaining style. Bob and Belinda returned with Whit Haydn's "Transportation Device" routine, and closed the show by levitating Vernetta, who runs the Lions Club facility. Bob Ingalls worked backstage, and also pitched in to share emcee duties.

Afterwards, the cast and crew adjourned to Rudford's, a nearby coffee shop which might become our new after-hours hang-out.

All in all, it was a good time – the show was well received and should help cement good relations with our new landlords, and we all had fun!

For those of you who may perform at Ring meetings, let me tell you little about the stage. It's about 20' wide and 12' deep, slightly above eye level of a seated audience, and has stair access both front stage left and back stage left. There is no front curtain, but there is a back curtain concealing the backstage access.

You can use larger props (we had both a Wellington Sawing and a Blaney Ladder Levitation on stage), but there are no wings to bring them on and off. There is a small storage area backstage at stage level, but props generally should be set on stage in advance. Stage hands can come and go easily from the backstage.

The Lions Club has a very nice sound system, with both wired and wireless mics, a CD player, and MP3 inputs.

And for those of you who join in the after-meeting gathers at Denny's, Rudford's has potential!

— Bob Meigs

Open Stage Night ***(aka, The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly)***

January 10 will be our first "regular" meeting in our new facility. For those who didn't come to the Holiday Banquet, this is the North Park Lions Club, located at 3927 Utah St. The Lions Club on the east side of Utah St., and is the second building north of University Ave. Utah crosses University at the first signal west of 30th St, about a half-mile west of I-805. The meeting start, at 7PM, and the theme is "Open Stage Night"

Almost anything goes on Open Stage Night from coin tricks to the Million Dollar Mystery. The one rule is NO CARD TRICKS. The new stage is larger than the one at Jack's Place, so this is your opportunity to use your larger apparatus. However, anything you might have done at Jack's is welcome here.





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We'll have a magic table or two on hand, and venue has a sound system with both wired and wireless mics.

Anyone wanting to perform should contact Belinda to sign up. If you have props you'd like to set up in advance, we'll open up by 6 and have plenty of hands around to help. There is parking adjacent to the building, so anyone bringing in large props should come early and get a prime spot.

Ring 76 used to require prospective new members to audition – that is, perform a trick or routine – as part of the application process. Your Board has decided to reinstitute this policy. However, if the applicant's interests are in collecting or magic history, rather than performing, the applicant may substitute a discussion of these interests as their audition.

This policy will not be applied retroactively, so if you haven't performed, we're not coming after you. But any member who hasn't performed is strongly encouraged to do so, and Open Stage Night provides a perfect opportunity! Bring it On!

— Bob Meigs



Ring-76 2011 Calendar

- Jan 10* Open Stage Night
- Jan 31 Lecture—Chazz the Magician
- 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

Magic is Where You Find It

The Unexpected Magic Shop

The C.H. Hansen Retractable PencilPull® is a reel with a flexible soft plastic cup. It is intended to help carpenters keep track of their pencils. But it might find a use for the opposite effect: making pencils (and other objects) vanish. The reel has a clip on the back and the cord is black. The cup will fit items ranging in size from a standard No. 2 pencil to a Sharpie® pen. You can find it in the tool sections of Home Depot and Lowes for \$3.49.



— James Thayer

Magic Notes

Loch David Crane reports that he had his busiest Magic Santa Claus season ever. He performed numerous donated shows for servicemen and veterans and their families. Loch and the Star Trike

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appeared in several holiday parades as well as the San Diego Toy Run.



"One way can be learned by starting to see the magic in everything. Sometimes it seems to be hiding but it is always there. The more we can see the magic in one thing, a tiny flower, a mango, someone we love, then the more we are able to see the magic in everything and in everyone."

— Joshua Kadison



Shoot Ogawa will be presenting a lecture on January 18 at 5050 Murphy Canyon Road at 7pm. Shoot presents very elegant and beautiful magic and his previous lectures have been rated highly. The cost is \$20. Contact Syd Segal at 619-300-1344 or BTL6380@aol.com for information or to reserve a seat.

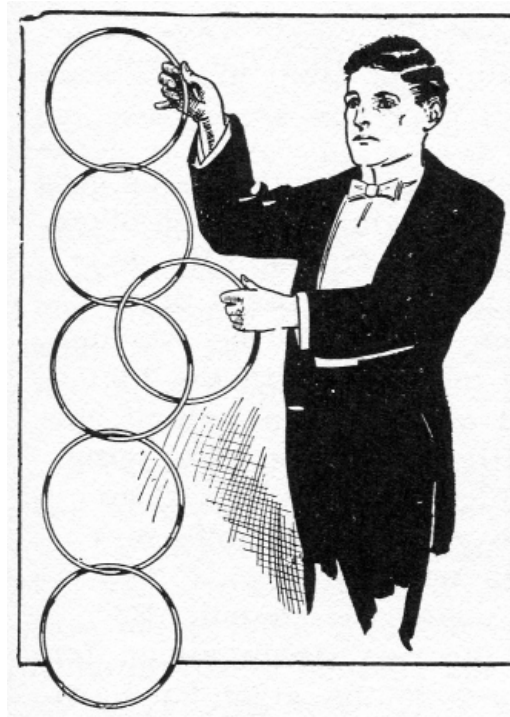


“MagiToon”

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



“Wow! So Harry Potter did grow up!”



Speaking of lectures, Chazz the Magician (who performed at last month’s potluck presenting his lecture on January 31st at the North Park Lions Club at 7pm. This is a Ring-76 sponsored lecture so there is no cost to members to attend. Non-members may attend for \$10.



"Love can sometimes be magic. But magic can sometimes... just be an illusion."

— Ali Javan



Magic-Con will take place again this year, Mar 24-27 at the Mission Valley Double Tree Hotel. There is an exciting line-up of speakers including: Mike Caveney, Roberto Giobbi, Helder Guimaraes (recent FISM Winner), Lennart Green, Mac King, David Regal, Bob Sheets and David Williamson. Contact Syd Segal at 619-300-1344 or BTL6380@aol.com for information and rates. The website is www.magic-con.org.