



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

MARCH 2011

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## *Proposed Amendment to the Ring 76 Constitution*

At the last Board meeting the Board of Directors proposed an amendment to the Ring 76 constitution. This amendment is to address the continued growth and complexity of the Ring.

Now well over fifty years old, the Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76 is no longer a small social gathering of local magicians held in living rooms. We have well over eighty active members and are one of the largest Rings in the country. With this growth has come more opportunities for its members, and more responsibilities for its governing body. The Board felt that the constitution should recognize this increased responsibility.

The proposed amendment will make the office of President a more dependable one. and one membership can have more confidence in. As the actions of the Board of Directors affect the membership, those actions, it was felt, should be helmed by an experienced member of the Ring. With that in mind, it is proposed that in order to be President of Ring 76, a member must first serve on the Board of Directors in some other capacity. This allows a member to understand the roles and responsibilities of the governing board of Ring 76 and what the offices entail.

There is an established procedure for amending the constitution, and it must be voted on by the membership. The amendment will be posted in the next few newsletters, be posted in hard copy at the next few Ring meetings, open for debate from all

members in good standing, and then be officially presented for a vote at this year's June election.

It is important to note that because this amendment will be voted on at the June election, it will have no affect on the current election cycle. The amendment, if passed by the Ring, will not take effect until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. This was done to avoid any confusion.

As stated, there is a specific procedure to amending the Ring 76 Constitution and this is but the first step. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact a Board member, either at the meeting or by e-mail. This is the Ring's constitution, and as such, is the responsibility of all of its members.

The proposed constitutional amendment is for Article V and reads as follows (changes are in **red**):

## Article V Officers

**Section 1a.** The affairs of this organization shall be conducted and managed by the following duly elected officers: President, Vice President of Entertainment, Vice President of Membership, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant at Arms. Along with these elected officers there shall be two additional members. One shall be a Member at Large, elected from the Active members, and the other will be the immediate past President. This will be considered the Board of Directors.

**Section 1b.** No person who is not an Active Member, in good standing, may be

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



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**considered as a candidate for elected office of Ring 76.**

**Section 1c. No person who is not an Active Member, in good standing, shall be considered for the office of President without first serving on the Board of Directors, in any established capacity, for a period of one term.**

**Section 1d. Sections 1b and 1c shall take effect on the First day of July following the ratification of these articles.**

— Richard Ustick

## ***UP CLOSE AND UNBELIEVABLE!***

February is our Annual Close-Up Competition. But the meeting began on a somber note as Jeff Pearson performed a Broken Wand ceremony for beloved member, Bob Elliott. Happy Elliott, Bob's wife of 38 years, was in attendance. Bob died in



December, but the Broken Wand ceremony was deferred until Happy could attend.

Then, the Close-Up Competition began. The Competition included ten contestants, each performing for a maximum of eight minutes, and rotating through eight performing stations.

Our performers were: Chuck Cook, Gary Dismukes, James Kellogg III, Derek Ostovani, Jeff Pearson, Tamer Qafiti, Mago Ruly, Sebastian, Leo Sy, and Greg Wauson.

From the frequent applause breaking out around the room, it was evident that the performers repeatedly amazed. In the opinion of this writer, the magic was beyond good – it was superb!

At the conclusion of the evening's competition, members voted for their favorite performer – not an easy task on this night! The winners of our several competitions will be announced at our July Awards Banquet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM – with, of course, a number of us continuing on to Rudford's.

— Bob Meigs

## ***Swap Meet***

The next meeting of Ring 76, March 14<sup>th</sup>, will be our annual swap meet.

Members of the Ring, are encouraged to dust off those unused magic treasures and give them a new home by selling them to magic enthusiasts.

The swap meet is also open to the general public, so if you have any friends who might be interested in getting some magic deals, we encourage you to invite them along.

Members who plan on selling are strongly encouraged to contact Treasurer Richard Ustick at [rustick@flash.net](mailto:rustick@flash.net) and reserve a table now. The Lion's club is larger than our previous venue and we have more table space than ever before. Yet our table prices are the same as last year. A full table will only cost a Ring member \$10, and a half table

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## *Photos from the February Meeting*



*James Kellog III*



*Derek Ostovani*



*Jeff Pearson*



*Tamer Qasiti*



*Mago Ruly,*



*Sebastian*





## *Photos from the February Meeting*



*Chuck Cook*



*Leo Sy*



*Greg Wauson*



*Gary Dismukes*



*All the Close-Up Performers*



## *The Really Full Monty*

“3 card Monte” by Joe Monti  
Reviewed by Joel A. Moskowitz M D  
February 16, 2011

Joe Monti would not likely be performing “Three Card Monte” working from the surface of an upturned cardboard box on 5th Avenue in Manhattan. on 5th Avenue Manhattan. He cares nothing for the broad toss, or the hype move. Yet his “Three Card Monte” is a money-maker and not a mark gets scammed.

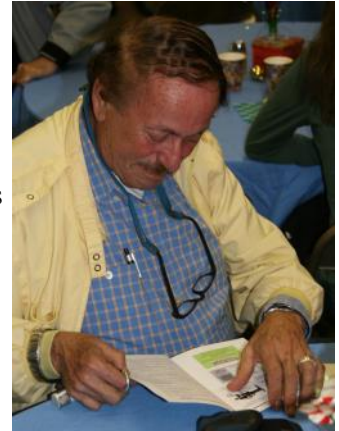
Mr Monti’s venue include parlour, stage, TV. His ideas have been sought by large theatrical productions: Cirque de soleil and Mindfreak as examples. This effect is not for amateurs. Acclaimed by his reknown peers: Tony Clark; Pete Biro, Criss Angel, Jeff McBride, Gay Blackstone and myriad of others, his talents include offering entertainment, and notably ‘clean comedy’, consulting, inventing, and instructing.



The essential elements of Monti’s “3 card monte” have an old history. Michael Skinner marketed “Ultimate Three Card Monte” which is similar but in a packet size. Joe’s version is way bigger and plays way bigger! It is also more expensive. The smaller apparatus is 8” x 12” and for vision impaired and people in the balcony, he offers a set 11” x 17”.

The price is at a professional expense level: \$112 or \$147 (but shipping is free). True the cards are not plain cardboard; designed for long time use but that is not alone what the buyer is purchasing. Master Magician Monti has honed an act which if studied, practiced and incorporated into ones own personality will achieve rave audience appreciation. People of all ages will enjoy.

Joe has included two DVDs: performance and explanation. There are versions accessible on YouTube. Some have criticized that a YouTube exposed performance was available. Joe explains that he made a video for one person who then released an unauthorized version on YouTube. Exposure is vexing but the public desires to be mystified, enchanted and made to laugh.



Joe Monti teaches the ‘how’. His ‘props’ provide the substrate. The product will be a public that wants to see ‘more’. And that may Joe Monti’s “Original Thumb Tie” but that is for another review.

Interested persons can reach joemonti@joemonti.com. For professionals preferably, Joe’s “3 card Joe” is prescribed (4/5) Rx Rx Rx

### *Ring 76 2011 Calendar*

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |                       |



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only \$5. (Non-Ring members interested in selling should contact Richard for space availability and fees).

Again, that will be March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Lion's Club on Utah street. Sellers should arrive around 6:00pm to set up. Doors will open at 6:30pm and selling will go on until 8:45pm. We must be out by 9:00.

— Richard Ustick

## Coming in April — Animal Magic

The April 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting will be another opportunity for all Ring members to show off their magic skills. This month's magic theme will be "Animal Magic."

You are all encouraged to present your favorite magic with an animal theme, but not necessarily a live animal. Not all of us work with doves, or rabbits, or ducks, and those of us who do work with tigers find it hard to cart them around North Park.

However, we all have some animal themed magic in our collections, and now is the time to show them

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



Stockwell's Hobby is Magic

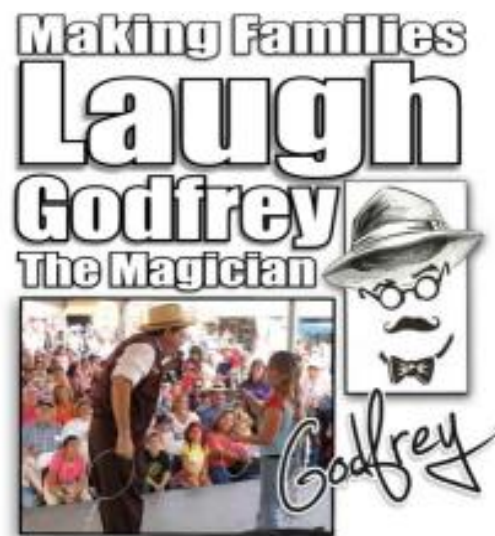
off. If you have any questions contact Richard at [rustick@flash.net](mailto:rustick@flash.net).

If you plan to perform, please contact Belinda at [magiclites@yahoo.com](mailto:magiclites@yahoo.com).

— Richard Ustick

## Magic Notes

Godfrey the Magician is going to be performing at the Pinal County Fair in Casa Grande AZ March 16 to March 20th.

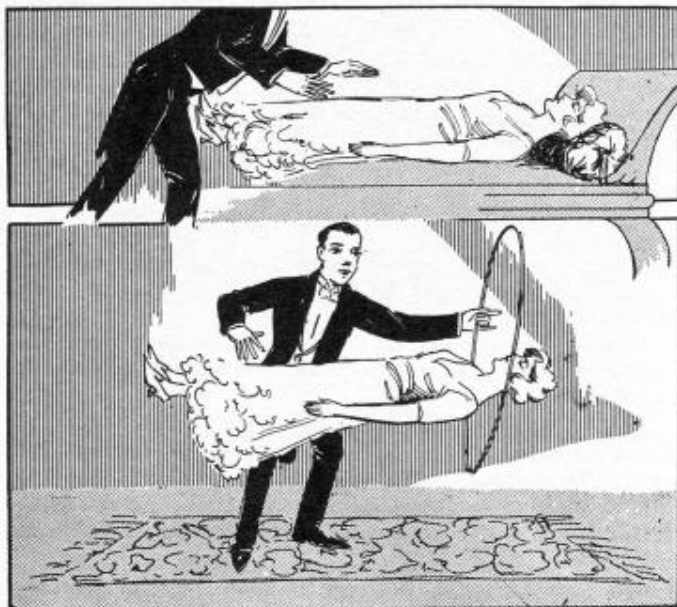


One man's "magic" is another man's engineering.  
— Robert A. Heinlein



In conjunction with its presentation of the traveling exhibition Houdini: Art and Magic, the Skirball Cultural Center has developed a major companion exhibition, Masters of Illusion: Jewish Magicians of the Golden Age. The pair of exhibits will be on view concurrently from April 28 through September 4, 2011. Spotlights innovators of magic's "Golden Age," which spanned 1875 to 1948, Masters of Illusion is the first museum exhibition to investigate the contributions of Jewish magicians to the development of modern magic.





Through more than 150 original artifacts, it highlights the accomplishments of Hardeen, the Herrmann and Bamberg dynasties, and more than thirty leading Jewish magicians of the day, including Harry Houdini. By considering Houdini's contemporaries and, in some cases, his competitors. Masters of Illusion helps put into context the life and legacy of the famed escape artist and addresses magicians whose stories have largely been forgotten.



Many secrets of art and nature are thought by the unlearned to be magical.

— Sir Francis Bacon



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](http://www.magic-con.org).



Magic becomes art when it has nothing to hide.

— Ben Okri



Toni Perrine is playing the part of the Sleuth in the Sunshine Brooks Theatre's production of "Murder To Death". The production will run from Mar 25th thru April 3rd. Showtimes are 7:30pm on Fri/Sat and 2:00pm on Sundays. Tickets are available at the box office (760) 529-9140 or [www.nvtheatre.org](http://www.nvtheatre.org)

