



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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The Annual Swap Meet Has Met

Our February meeting was our Annual Swap Meet. President Kenny Shelton called the meeting to order at 7PM. Richard Ustick announced the theme of the April meeting would be animal magic. He also announced a proposed constitutional amendment that candidates for Ring President previously should have served in a Board position. This amendment, if adopted by the membership, would not go into effect until the 2012 elections.

James Kellogg III announced the Joe Monti lecture at 3 Generation of Magic on Saturday, April 2.

The next two hours were spent buying, selling, and swapping an INCREDIBLE variety of magic! We had a record eighteen sellers, although fewer buyers than in some past years.



Selling was halted at 8:45PM, enabling us to pack up and be out of the building by 9PM. Many of us, of course, moved the gathering on to Rudford's coffee shop.

— Bob Meigs

Nominations for the Board is just around the corner !!!

It's almost election time again. As chairman of the nominating committee, I want to make sure that every member in good standing has the opportunity to serve as an officer or director at large.

Here is the way it works.... The current board gives the nominating committee their recommendations for next year's slate. The nominating committee then takes other nominations or offers to run for office as well as nominations from the "floor" at the regular [May] meeting. The election is then held the following [June] month.

Everyone currently serving is willing to continue in their current office except for the office of first vice president. That position is the entertainment chairperson. They coordinate the entertainment at each meeting and usually also serve as M.C. They also are involved with getting outside entertainment for the banquet and lectures. Furthermore, they will preside in the absence of the president. We also have openings for directors at large. This is a great

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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position for someone who wishes to "get their feet wet" because they don't necessarily have a specific job like an officer. They just attend the board meetings, add their input and vote on issues.

Currently, every member in good standing is eligible to run for any office or director at large. A member in good standing is a member who's dues are current, both for the ring as well as for International. There is a proposed amendment to our ring constitution that before a member can be the president, he/she must serve in a different office or as a director for at least one term prior to running for the office of the president. The reason for this is that the board feels that the office of president should be held by someone with at least a year of board experience before occupying the highest office of the ring. Assuming this amendment is passed it will be implemented starting at next year's election.

Everyone is encouraged to attend board meetings to see what transpires at them. In other words, you don't have to be on the board to attend but you should be aware that, if you become an officer or director, you will be expected to attend the (twelve) board meetings which are usually held on the fourth Monday of the month. Please consider this commitment before running for office. That being said, we would like to see some new faces on the board.

If you are interested in running, or have any questions, please contact me (619) 562-3434 or jkmarcus@cox.net or be at the meeting to nominate someone or volunteer yourself.

— *Jeff Marcus*

Roberto Giobbi Magic Video Filmed in San Diego

The recent Magic-Con conference held here in San Diego (March 25-28) featured the renowned

Roberto Giobbi as both performer and lecturer. For those who aren't familiar with Mr. Giobbi's works and reputation, he's the author of the best-selling and critically



acclaimed 5-volume Card College series, as well as a number of other published books and DVDs. As a follow-on to his appearance at the conference, attendees were invited to participate in a video shoot that Mr. Giobbi was taping on the day after Magic-Con.

The video shoot took place at the 10th Avenue Theatre downtown. The original plan was for the taping to take about three hours, but it ended up stretching to five. The production team consisted of Dan and Dave Buck as producers and cameramen (D and D were co-organizers of Magic-Con with Syd Segal) and Jon Lovick (AKA "Handsome Jack") as director. An audience of 50-100 was hoped for, but there ended up only being about 20-25 who could make it (probably something to do with shooting it on a weekday). One advantage of the small turnout was that it created a more intimate and personal experience for those attending.

Given Mr. Giobbi's passion for card magic, not surprisingly the topic of the video shoot was card-related. The focus in this case was the specialized subject of deck switches. Although this sounds rather narrow in scope, he kept it interesting by framing the subject matter in the context of performing a series of routines involving audience members. In fact, the majority of the time was spent on doing two full run-throughs of the performance portion. The repeat performance seemed to result in a smoother effect overall and better interaction with audience members.

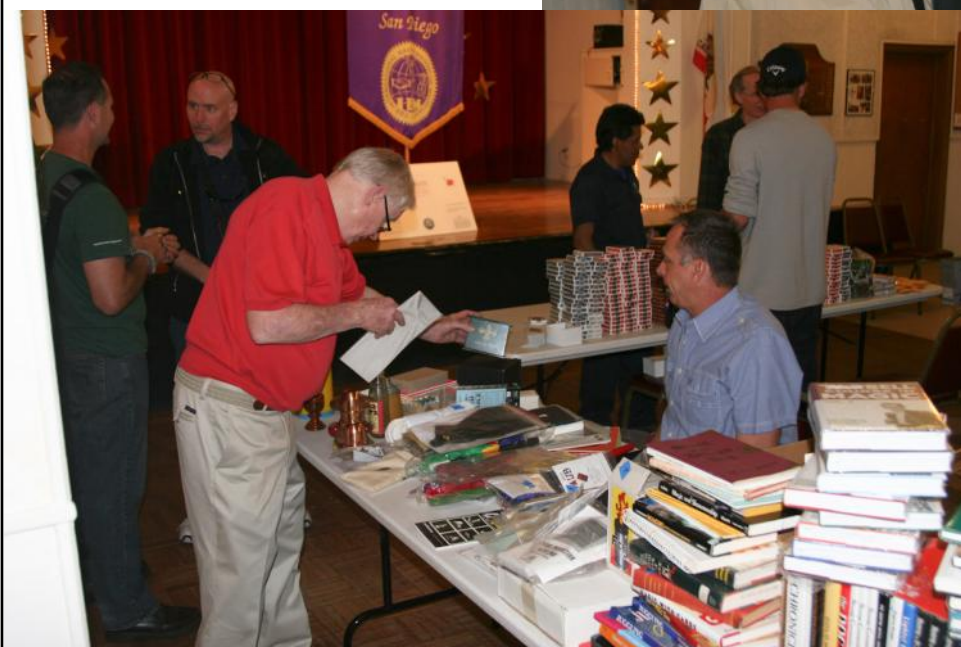
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Photos from the March Meeting





Photos from the March Meeting



SAN DIEGO RING 76, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

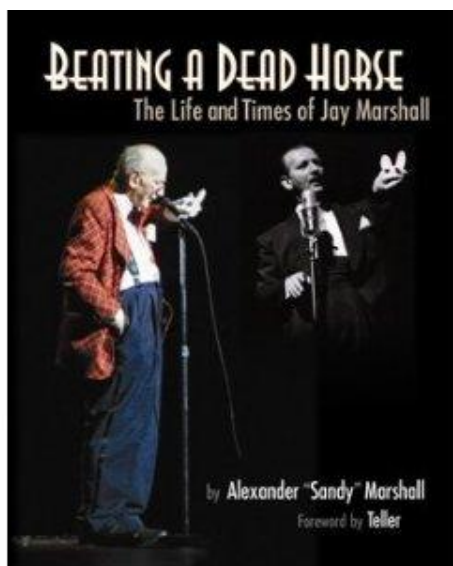
“Beating a Dead Horse..The Life and Times of Jay Marshall”

by Sandy Marshall

Reviewed by Joel A. Moskowitz M D

June 01,2010

Can you conceive of describing what happened to you on June 18, 1999? Or December 10, 1973? Or, for that matter, yesterday. Suppose someone or you yourself wanted to create a detailed biography of your experiences, adventures, escapades almost from the day you were born? Impossible? Yet the son of the eminent Dean of Magic, Jay Marshall, ‘Sandy’ Marshall seems to have done exactly that. In one of the most comprehensive life stories which has come to atten-



tion of this reader, Jay Marshall’s son has created a stunning tribute to the man most magicians and audiences liked but with whom Sandy had ‘issues’.

In over six decades as magician, ventriloquist, puppeteer, Jay Marshall interfaced with the greats of the conjurers and stage and entertainment personalities of his day. On page 518 of a shiny hardbound 526 pages is a compendium of names such as : Joe Louis, Cole Porter, Edger Bergen, Cary Grant, Buster Keaton and stretching to: Dai Vernon and Dr. Daley. Mr. Jay Marshall was in the entertainment business!

This Junto Publishing presentation is replete with antique photos of Jay and other luminaries Holden, Al

Baker, Jules S Traub (founder of Fun Inc, in Chicago). To newcomers to magic these icons will be as unknown as Martinka and Ed Sullivan. Vintage aficionados of magic will thrill to have the elegant prose of the son of Jay, Sandy (an accomplished writer, director, actor, award winning author).



Admonitions to take the gloves ‘off’ is an advice to get set to go to work. Jay put a glove on. He created a stage partner named “Lefty” from a glove a few fingers and some buttons. “Lefty” was the eminent example of “Packs small. Plays big.” In early TV, the show to be on was Sunday evening’s Ed Sullivan show. “Lefty” and his colleague, Jay Marshall, were star acts fourteen times!

This is a colourful, illustrated, exceptionally researched book. It is not only the story of a much admired performer, it is a history of the magicians who were show business. This affectionate biography is highly recommended. Dr. Moskowitz prescribes Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5).

Addendum: Jay Marshall’s Zen Teachings begins with: To hide a magic secret, publish it in some magic magazine. No one is going to expect anything of real worth there. Those who choose to disregard this praising review, will be the lesser for it.

Ring 76 2011 Calendar

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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Undoubtedly the final edited product will include a mix of the filmed performance segments. It's worth mentioning that there were a few minor glitches that resulted in reshooting of some sections, a luxury not available to truly live magic performances. Of course, the goal of the video medium is to provide the best overall quality of instruction and performance for the viewer, a lesson that many current magic DVD producers often don't seem to take to heart.

In overview, the various switching approaches covered by Giobbi generally involve four basic elements: infrastructure, (the deck to be switched in, known as the "cooler", as well as its location), logistics (the details of how to ring in the cooler), technique (concerning the moment of the switch), and cleanup (how the "hot" deck is taken out of play). The cooler is generally a stacked or gimmicked deck rung in after the audience has seen effects that convince them that an ungimmicked and well-shuffled deck is in use.

“MagiToon”

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



“No, dear, those are NOT magic words!”

The maestro also provided a breakdown into four essential classes of switches. There are mechanical switches, which typically involve using either a specific switching device (e.g., Fantasio deck-switching box), or some natural prop available in the performing arena, such as a table or chair with hidden servante, or making use of an assistant. Then there are the so-called technical switches, that entail some form of sleight, but these are mostly of use in gambling situations. Next are the substitution switches, where rather than an actual switch, a new deck is introduced in some natural way. In the final category are the effect switches, wherein a cooler is brought into play subtly during the course of an effect, perhaps on an off-beat. This latter category is probably the most interesting from a methodological standpoint, and it was the source of the majority of the switches demonstrated for this video.

To Mr. Giobbi's credit, the deck switches used during his routines were all quite deceptive and done with admirable skill. That is, while some might be inferred by knowledgeable onlookers, they were deftly carried out and seamlessly integrated with his effects. Remarkably, there were a full seven switches incorporated within the handful of routines performed. Based on a brief audience survey, most only suspected that three or four had been done. Most notably, at least to this viewer and participant, were several of the effect-based switches, such as a vanishing deck routine where the reappearance of the deck in the card case serves as the switch, and a very clever way to substitute a deck as part of a double-deck red/blue coincidence effect. Those interested in learning the specific details of these and other switch techniques can look forward to the forthcoming DVD, hopefully to be available soon at a physical or virtual magic emporium near you.

[The author extends thanks to Larry Samuels for providing his detailed notes on the performance and instructional segments of this event.]

— Gary Dismukes



Ring 76 is going to the dogs!

. and cats or birds or whatever furry or feathered friend you have in your magic kit.

The April 11th meeting theme is Animal Magic. Members are encouraged to perform their favorite “Animal Themed” magic for the Ring.

This does not mean that the effect has to have an actual live animal. In fact, for easy of cleanup, the fewer breathing beasts the better. It simply means that your illusion should have something to do with the animal kingdom (though please limit the number of birds on coins).

So clean up your Card Ducks, de-lint those rabbit puppets, and sharpen your sharpies and get ready to vex us all with the tricks that even vets will appreciate.

— Richard Ustick



Dues are Due Soon

As the first days of Spring signal a change in the weather, they also remind us that the year is moving on.

Days come and days go and soon you have to realize that Ring 76 dues are due again. As usual, dues are due in June and they are still only \$25. You can pay early by sending a check, made out to Ring 76, to Richard Ustick, Treasurer, 251 Thrasher Way, El Cajon, Ca. 92020. Be sure to include your name (some checks have only business information) so you can be credited. Dues paid AFTER June 30 will be \$30, so early is always better than late.

— Richard Ustick

Constitutional Amendment

There is a proposed Constitutional Amendment that the Ring will be voting on in June. The details on this can be found in the last issue of *MagiCurrents*. Below is the Amendment and if you have any questions please contact a Ring 76 Board member.

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

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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 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

Magic Notes

“The house of magic has many rooms.”

— Eugene Burger

“But not all of them are decorated to the same level of taste.”

— Max Maven



Friendly Reminder: As stated in the Constitution and By-Laws of the I.B.M., and Ring 76, you must keep your membership in the International Brotherhood of Magicians current to be an active member of your local Ring. If you have any questions, please consult a Board Member, or Jeff Marcus, the Territorial Vice-President.



"Some say I do it this way, others say I do it that way, but I say I do it the other way."

— Harry Houdini



The Aldo and Rachel Columbini Farewell Lecture Tour comes to San Diego on May 4th, 2011. The lecture will be held at 5050 Murphy Canyon Road at 7pm. This lecture will cost \$20. This will be a unique evening with surprises, champagne, prizes, t-shirts, full color lecture notes, never-before-released DVDs, music and, yes, there will also be magic. Contact Syd Segal at 610-300-1344 or btl6380@aol.com for more information or to reserve your seat.



"Prestidigitation is the art of taking the impossible, adding to it a few possibilities, then doing something that can't be done."

— Arthur Bull



The Magic of Greg Wilson will be filmed for television on April 10th at the Sunshine Brooks Theater (217 North Coast Highway) in Oceanside. The time will be 10:00-11:00am. This show will be free, but there is a limit of 200 seats which will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.

