



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

JUNE 2011

VOL. XXV #6

## *June Meeting — Elections and Lecture!*

This month's meeting will be one of the busiest we have had in a long time. We will have not only a great lecture from Martin Lewis, but we will be electing a new Board of Directors, voting on an amendment to our constitution, voting for Member of the Year, and, a subject close to the Treasurer's heart, collecting dues.

Dues this year will remain at \$25 and, if you pay at the meeting, you will receive a free Ring 76 Souvenir T-Shirt that was printed for the 2010 IBM Convention which we hosted last summer. *(Editor's Note: Those who have paid prior to the meeting will also be entitled to receive a free T-shirt.)*

Each year the membership of Ring 76 votes on a member who has contributed the most not only to the Ring, but to the magic community at large. This person we call our Member of the Year. This is not to be confused with Entertainer of the Year. That person we have been voting on all year every time we have a performance night.

Member of the Year is the person that the Ring membership feels has done the most to aid in the Ring activities, promoted the Ring to the committee, and who instills the qualities we most respect as a member of IBM Ring 76. This will be a separate ballot from the other elections, and will go to Bob Meigs, who won the honor last year. No member can win two consecutive years in a row so Bob is out of the running this year, but gets the honor of counting the ballots and presenting the award to the new winner.

Speaking of elections, at this next meeting we will not only elect a new Board of Directors, but we will be

## *Dues*

Just a quick reminder that dues are once again due for your membership for Ring 76.

As last year, dues are only \$25.00 and will be due the month of June.

Those who fail to meet this deadline will have to pay \$30.00, so be sure to get your dues in on time.

You can pay at the June meeting, or mail your dues check, made out to **Ring 76**, to:

Richard Ustick,  
Treasurer Ring 76  
251 Thrasher Way  
El Cajon, CA 92020

voting on a Constitutional Amendment. It is very important that you vote on this as the Constitution and By-Laws are the framework by which the Ring operates. A copy of the proposed amendment has been on display at all the meetings for the last few months, and has been printed in the newsletter as well (including this one). If you have any questions on this, please ask a Board member. This is important and no member should be confused.

As I have said, this is a busy meeting and a great lecture. Please try and come a little early so we can get the business out of the way and start enjoying ourselves. See you there.

— Richard Ustick

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER — EDITOR@RING76.COM



## *President's Corner*



*Kenny has everything lined up for 2011...*

## *So You Think You Can Conjure . . .*

### *(May Meeting Report)*

Our May meeting was our Annual Stage Competition. President Kenny Shelton called the meeting to order at 7PM. Jeff Marcus, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, announced the slate of candidates for 2011-12 Board positions, as recommended by the current Board. This slate was announced as:

President: Kenny Shelton  
First VP (Entertainment): Syd Segal  
Second VP (Membership): James Thayer  
Treasurer: Richard Ustick  
Secretary: Bob Meigs  
Sgt.-at-Arms: Derek Ostovani  
Member-at-Large: Sherry Luft  
Member-at-Large: Howard Robinson  
Member-at-Large: Donna Greenbaum

Toni Perinne and Joe Mystic were nominated from the floor as additional candidates for the Members-at-Large positions. Elections will be held at the June meeting.

Bob Meigs, who also works in Special Events at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, announced that Ring 76 would again have a presence at the San Diego Ccounty Fair. The Ring will again put on a professional stage show on Saturday night, June 25, with performances at 6PM and 8PM. In addition, we will have a half hour of stage time every day of the Fair for any members who want to perform, and we will again be hosting the Abra-Kid-Abra magic camp.

Kenny explained that we would no longer be able to use the parking lot at our current meeting place, and asked members to be on the lookout for possible new meeting places.

Numerous guests were introduced, including Louis Pico, who is one of the founding members of Ring 76.

Belinda Kaesler then introduced the competitors in our stage competition.

Toni Perrine opened with an intricate silk routine, all the while performing a fan dance. Loch David Crane followed with a Smash and Stab routine, customized for his Native American stage persona. Richard Ustick then delighted us with one his signature singing routines, Magic Man, which consisted of a plethora of magic tricks performed to a highly revised Piano Man.

*(Continued on page 7)*



## *Photos from the May Meeting*



*Toni Perrine*



*Loch David Crane*



*Richard Ustick*



## *Photos from the May Meeting*



*Malcolm Campbell and Granddaughter.*

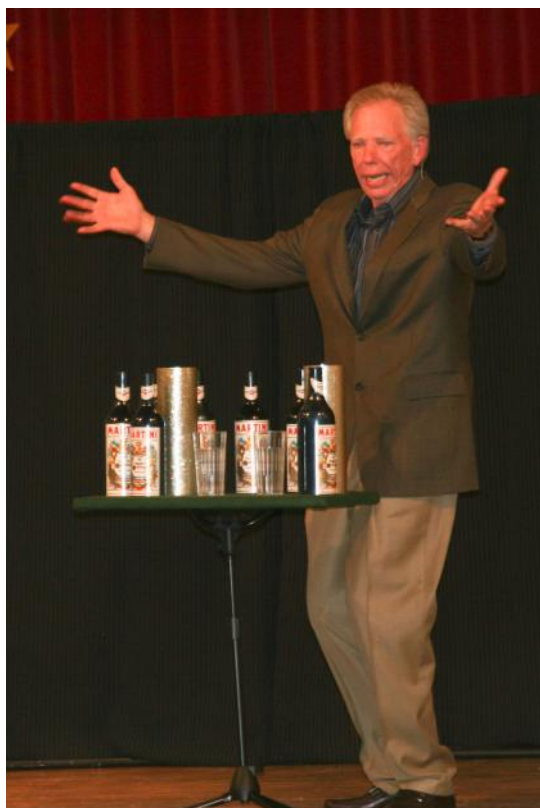


*Bob Meigs (center) with Belinda Kaesler and  
Lock David Crane*



*Joe Mystic (left) with Derek Ostovani*

## *Photos from the May Meeting*



*Terry Lunceford*



*Paul Draper (left) entertains with the assistance of Jeff Marcus*



*Ring 76 Stand-up Contest Performers*





## ***YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO LIFT THIS BOOK!***

***Annie Abbott "The Little  
Georgia Magnet" and the  
True Story of Dixie Haygood  
by Susan J Harrington  
and Hugh T Harrington***

***Reviewed by Joel A. Moskowitz M D  
15 May, 2011***

What do Harry Houdini, Robert-Houdin and Annie Abbott have in common? A weighty conundrum. Hint! These Mephistopheles wizards featured defiance of gravity in their wonderments. Robert-Houdin challenged strongmen to lift an object. We know that a secret magnet was the power.

Harry Houdini who was renowned for his physical feats. Paradoxically, he took to task those who would deceive the public with false psychic and physical powers. His book "Miracle Mongers and their Methods" exposed them.

The ability to seemingly violate the laws of gravity and physics had great audience appeal in the 19th century. A 15 year old, Lulu Hurst became the most famous woman of her era by seeming to violate physical truths: "Superhuman" strength gave the ability to throw heavy men across the stage; make chairs fly across the stage like acrobats; captured electrical forces which allowed her to cause a chair to shock a large male sitting on it such that he would jump up. Another stunt involved the use of umbrellas which when she held it allowed her to resist the efforts of several men to attempt to cause her to lose her balance.

She was so successful that many came to imitate her. Another Georgia girl, ultimately taking the name

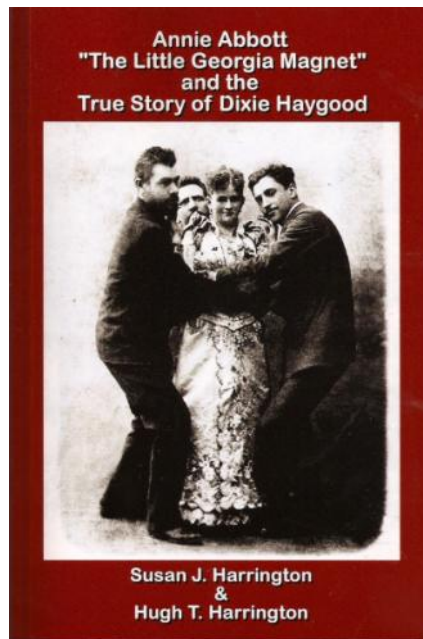
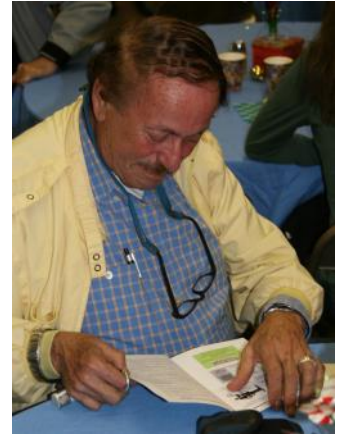
Annie Abbot, slight of build and hardly a hundred pounds, displayed similar impossible powers. She could, by a light touch, displace men who were many pounds heavier and conversely they could not lift her, even while she was standing on one foot.

The profusion of "Annie Abbotts" led a scholarly investigative team to set about to clarify the real Annie Abbott. Sue and Hugh Harrington, writing the cover story for the Georgia Historical Society Journal have a persuasive argument that the girl from Milledgeville, Georgia, Dixie Annie Jarratt Haygood is the original authentic Annie Abbott. Descendants provided scrapbooks and documents proof that Dixie Annie became Annie Abbott and gave birth to the magnetic act.

The Harringtons provide the most thorough exposition for the Annie Abbott innovative career. Susan J. and Hugh T. Harrington, won an award for their: "How the Annie Abbott Act Was Performed," The Linking Ring Vol. 83, No. 6, June 2003. Society, the Harringtons write, in the nineteenth century limited the role of women speaking publicly. As spiritualists they could travel and perform on the stage. They were also able to conquer the meek and weak female persona by exhibiting superhuman strength. The 'electric girls' Lulu Hurst and Annie Abbott (the Georgia magnet) and similar vaudeville performers

astounded by the fascination with electricity, a proposed mechanism for the uncanny ability of spiritualists to see the un-seeable and defy the laws of nature.

*(Continued on page 7)*





*(June Meeting — Continued from page 2)*

Malcolm Campbell then took the stage with his grand daughter and a large cardboard box, which the performers used as a sub-trunk. Bob Meigs performed a psychokinetic routine that fell flat (pun intended), as the audience thought the collapsing table was a prop malfunction, as opposed to the climax of the routine. Joe Mystic then entertained with his Magic Lounge act, including a Kub Zag. Our final entertainer in the competition was Terry Lunceford, performing a passé passé/multiplying bottles routine.

Following the competition, Paul Draper, a guest magician, entertained with a couple excellent mentalist routines.

The members voted for the winner of the stage competition, who will be announced at the Installation Banquet on July 10th.

And, after the meeting, many members moved on to Rudford's for another hour or so of coffee, commraderie, and magic. If you haven't been a part of our "after-meeting-coffee-krew," we invite you to join us!

— Bob Meigs

## ***Meanwhile, Back at the Fairgrounds . . .***

Ring 76 is increasing its presence at the San Diego County Fair even more! On June 3, Terry Godfrey; James Kellogg, Jr.; James Kellogg, III; and Bob Meigs all performed at the Media Party providing local media with a taste of the coming Fair attractions.

### ***Ring 76 2011 Calendar***

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Jun 13                               | Martin Lewis Lecture and Elections |
| Jul 10                               | Installation Banquet               |
| * Opportunity for Members to Perform |                                    |

*(Book Review — Continued from page 6)*

Times were hard for women. The Civil War had killed many men. They utilized their special talents to bring in income. Religious leaders objected to the role of women outside of the home and the church. Spiritualism was a new force which the English sought to contain and regulate by laws against such and witchcraft. A person found to have pretended to call up spirits, predict the future and of casting spells could be denounced as a con artist and vagrant with the penalty of fines and/or imprisonment. The Harringtons report that there were punishments under the Witchcraft Act as late as 1944. The law was only repealed in 1951 and replaced with The Fraudulent Mediums Act. Beware Mentalists!

Magicians avoided such charges by labeling their effects "scientific experiments". The manifestations of Annie Abbott came under scrutiny from physicians, and professors who could find no fraud or explanation. Uri Geller was able to bend the minds of The Stanford Research Group. It is generally believed by magicians that scientists are easy to fool. For that matter, investigative authorities finding no explanation make for excellent publicity. E.W. Barton Wright, the founder of Baritsu, an engineer, current with electrical phenomena wrote an article "How To Pose as a Strong Man" which was published in January 1989 described eleven parlour tricks akin to the feats of those made famous by Annie Abbott and her look-a-likes. One may find in books designed for amateur or young enthusiasts about magic similar revelations.

The Harringtons are to be congratulated for investigating the mystery of the true "Little Georgia Magnet". The reader will enjoy a detailed fascinating well researched history of a performer who marveled audiences world-wide. A paperbound book of 234 pages, it can be ordered from the authors at: [www.annieabbott.com](http://www.annieabbott.com) or found on Amazon. The retail price is \$20.99. The doctor prescribes this tale of a celebrated conjurer of yesteryear who is still copied today. Rx Rx Rx Rx (4/5).

*(County Fair — Continued from page 7)*

On Tuesday, June 7, Terry Godfrey performed a blindfolded drive from the Del Mar fire station to the Fairgrounds to publicize the Fair. This time, however, Terry will be driving a car provided by Bob Meigs, so if he bangs it up, he'll be in much greater trouble than if he'd driven that tractor into a ditch.

And, as we've stated before, we're doing a number of performances at the Fair. Terry Godfrey will be performing 3 shows everyday. Some of our pros are doing a stage show on Saturday night, June 25, at 6 and 8PM of the Showcase Stage, by the clock tower. Preceding this show, at both 5 and 7PM, is Mark Yuzuik's hypnosis show.

We also have a half hour of stage time every day of the fair at 11:30. Bob Meigs will be performing in this time slot, but any member of the club is welcome to take part of all of this time as a "guest performer." Just contact Bob at [thehauntedhotel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thehauntedhotel@sbcglobal.net).

## *"MagiToon"*

*by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman*



*"I've always wanted to be a strolling magi, but this is NOT what I had in mind."*

And, Terry and Bob are again putting on Abra-Kid-Abra, a half-hour magic camp for kids, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in the Kids Zone at 12:30. The format for the camp is well established, but any member who wants to participate or observe is very welcome.

Members participating in the stage shows or magic camp will receive free admission and parking. Again, please contact Bob Meigs for details.

*— Bob Meigs*

## *Installation Banquet*

As you know (or should know) July will be our Installation banquet. This is when the yearly awards will be given out for: Stand-Up Magician, Close Up Magician and Entertainer of the Year. Also the Member of the year will be awarded. This is an award given to a member not necessarily for performing but to someone who you feel has done a lot for the general benefit of the Ring.

The banquet will take place Sunday July 10th, at 5pm. Bob and Mary Meigs have, once again, offered their home as the venue. The home is in a beautiful setting and there is plenty of room to mill around and visit. Kudos to the Meigs for offering to host us at their house for both the banquet as well as each Board meeting.

The Board has decided to have the banquet catered this year. The catering will be by Bekker's West Coast Catering. They catered an event for us some time ago and it was extremely well received.

The menu will be in a "Old fashion Barbecue" style and will include:

- BBQ Beef and BBQ Chicken
- Homemade BBQ Baked Beans
- Red Potato Sour Cream and Dill Potato Salad
- Creamy Cole Slaw
- Rolls and Butter.

The Ring will also supply beverages and dessert.

*(Continued on page 9)*





(Banquet — Continued from page 8)

The entertainment for the Banquet is still to be determined. Stay tuned for further information as it becomes available.

The cost for entire event is only \$15 per person.!!!

**IMPORTANT:** Please contact Richard Ustick (rustick@flash.net) and let him know if you will be coming. We MUST give Bekker's a head count in advance so they know how much food to make. I know many of you like to wait and see if you get a better offer and just show up if it fits your schedule but if we get a bunch of people showing up at the last minute without reservations, there won't be



### 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**

enough food. Contrarily, please show up if you do make the reservations since we do have to pay for your food whether you show up or not.

— Jeff Marcus

## *Violating the law Magic Style*

Ring 76's Bob Meigs and (Terry) Godfrey teamed up to astound media and the public at 11 AM on 7 June 2011 in front of the Fire Station at the San Diego Fair Grounds. It should be noted as well that they were violating the law! It is not legal to drive blindfolded in Alabama or any other State. But only Alabama has a silly law to make this assertion. Bob Meigs, Secretary of I.B.M. Ring 76, is complicit in that he lent Godfrey his precious classic Auburn for this venture. Conversation with the eminent

Secretary Meigs elicited his view that in these days of high technology, magicians will have an increasing difficulty in amazing audiences. Trusting Tim Fennell, General Manager of the San Diego Fair accompanied Godfrey on this daring adventure.

This history of this 'illusion' (dubious wording because it depends on not having a visual experience) may be traced back to 1885 when it was originated by Washington Irving Bishop, American stage mentalist, using a horse and carriage. His performance name was Wellington. He learned the trade as an assistant to J. Russell Brown, the muscle reader. Dunninger was the first (1977) to use a car. Others who performed the 'blindfold drive' were Kuda Bux, John Calvert and Banachek. Video of Godfrey's drive at the Maricopa County Fair can be found on his web site: [www.blindfolddrive.com/](http://www.blindfolddrive.com/). It would not be fair to have the reader think Godfrey only does blindfold drives. He appears regularly in Fairs all over - entertaining young and old - with miser's dreams, linking rings and novel, humorous, eye catching magic.

— Joel A Moskowitz MD



## *Constitutional Amendment Reminder*

A reminder that there is a proposed Constitutional Amendment that the Ring will be voting on in June. Refer to the March newsletter for further information about this amendment. 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 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.**

If passed, Sections 1b and 1c shall take effect on the First day of July following the ratification of these articles.

—James Thayer

## *Magic Notes*

Godfrey the magician is performing daily at the San Diego County Fair. The fair runs June 10th to July 4th. Fair is closed on June 13, 20, and 27th.

Godfrey performs in the infield in the same stage area as the Doggies of the Wild West. The stage is located by the Tunnel entrance to the infield.

Godfrey's show times are 1:30, 4:00, and 5:30. Each show is about 30 minutes long.

Godfrey will also be outside of the fairgrounds at the main front gate entertaining and directing people about 30 minutes till when the fair opens.



The Magic Lounge Show continues at it's new location: the "On Broadway" Event Center, 615 Broadway, San Diego.

This show takes place the first Friday of each month. Close up at the tables 7-8 pm and Stage show 8-9 PM. \$10.00 reservations and seating in advance (Phone 619-231-0011). \$15.00 at the door!!! Must be 21 years old. Come early for the magic and stay late for the nightclub. Come see Terry, Joe, Derek, Jose, and Mike in their new location!!!



*"Oh how the dear little children laugh  
When the drums roll and the lovely lady is cut in half..."*

— W.H. Auden, "The Sea and the Mirror"