



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 DECEMBER 2011

VOL. XXV #12

## *The December Meeting is one of Holiday Cheer.*

Our December meeting will be the traditional Ring 76 potluck dinner. Members are asked to bring their favorite foods be they main dishes, salads, side dishes, desserts, or breads. Each member should bring enough to feed ten people.

Members are also encouraged to bring their families and have them join us for the “Magic” of the season.

The Doors at the Lion’s Club will be open at 5:30 pm, so that members can set p their offerings at the buffet table, and have a light “meet & greet” before supper. Dining will begin at 6:30 pm. Our guest performers will be the Magical Misfits will perform at 7:30 pm.

The Ring will provide drinks as well as plates and cutlery. We have ample warming trays and serving utensils so food that should be warm, will be.

If you have any questions, please email the Treasurer, Richard Ustick, at [rustick@flash.net](mailto:rustick@flash.net).

— Richard Ustick

## *Magical Misfits*

The Magical Misfits are the comedy magic & mindreading act of magician Doug Brewer and mentalist John George. Doug and John George met nearly fifteen years ago while they were auditioning for membership to the World Famous Magic Castle in Hollywood. This chance meeting led to a friendship that has since developed into The Magical Misfits. They have been performing together for over eight years and have developed a high energy and fascinating show that blends their distinctly different approaches to the performance of magic.

Both John George and Doug have won many national and international awards by their peers. John George was the winner of both the International Brotherhood

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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## *President's Message*

I hope every one had a great Thanksgiving and had their fill of turkey and pie.

I'd like to thank the Ring members who came down and performed their magic at the Chargers Blood Drive. Please give a big hand to Charlie Gott, Toni Perrine, Mike Stilwell, Vic Ballesteros, and Loch David Crane.

Don't forget that the Holiday Dinner is coming up and we're going to be in for a great treat for the show. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or bread.

In January, our theme is Classic Magic Night. This was very popular last year. And, same as last year, NO card tricks! So start looking up the Classics and get ready to perform them.

Also coming up, the Close-up Contest is coming up. So start getting your routines down and have some fun.

There will be no Board meeting this month because of the holidays.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. See you all at the dinner!

*(Misfits — Continued from page 1)*

of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians National Close-up Championships. Doug was the winner of the 1998 Society of American Magicians National Close-up Championships in New Orleans. Both Doug and John George are frequent performers at the World Famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, California. Doug and John George recently had the opportunity to open at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, warming up the crowd for headliner Jay Leno.

They are excited to be performing for the IBM Ring 76 and look forward to meeting their fellow magicians and guests this holiday season.

— Syd Segal

## *Learning from a Master*

Our November meeting was a lecture by Aaron Fisher. For the half-hour prior to the meeting, Charlie Gott and Loch David Crane took advantage of the Ring's new "table rentals" for magic sales. President Kenny Shelton called the business meeting to order at 7PM. He announced the upcoming Chargers' Blood Drive and asked for volunteers to participate with close-up and strolling magic.

Richard Ustick announced the detail of our upcoming potluck Holiday Banquet. Tony Perrine announced that she is performing in Sound of Music at the Star Theater in Oceanside, and soon will be appearing in Camelot.

Syd Segal then introduced Aaron Fisher, our guest lecturer. Aaron demonstrated and explained a number of his personal routines, including Search and Destroy (a.k.a., the Nowhere Pass), Revolution, Secret Weapon, Panic, One Handed Popover, The Graduate, the Gravity Half-Pass, and Color Change. In addition to teaching some excellent sleights, Aaron had numerous valuable suggestions on stagecraft and volunteer management.

This writer would describe Aaron's technique as soft, smooth, and beautiful. And his suggestions on stagecraft should benefit performers of every style. We thank you, Aaron, for a memorable evening!

— Bob Meigs

## *Thinking Ahead for the New Year*

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on January 9th. It will also be the first full moon of the New Year as well. Known as the "Wolf Moon" it means that the night is perfect for Classic Magic.

That will be the theme of the night and all members are encouraged to bring their classic magic effects. It does not matter how old the illusion is, or how many times we have seen it, if it is a classic we want to see

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## *Photos from the November Meeting*

### *Aaron Fisher Lecture*







## *Photos from the November Meeting*

### *Aaron Fisher Lecture*





## *The Intersection between Mathematics and Magic*

*Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D  
November 22 2011*

*e to the  $x$ ,  $dy/dx$ ,  $e$  to the  $x$   $dx$   
cosine, secant, tangent, sine,  
three point one four one five nine  
square root, cube root, log of pi,  
dis-integrate them RPI.*

The cheer of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is much to be envied by those who love mathematics. But what of those who love magic and mathematics? The connection between math and magic is the subject of “Magical Mathematics” by Persi Diaconis and Ron Graham, published by Princeton University Press. The authors, both professors, have written a scholarly treatise which will enchant, mesmerize and baffle conjurers. This is not a tome for the number phobics. Most learned prestidigitators have at least heard of The Gilbraith Principal but not that it is related the ‘famous Mandelbrot set’? Nor that it also applies to the ‘theory of Penrose tiles’? You should avoid this book if your only interest is knuckle bending maneuvers which when presented to a lay audience astounds. But are thirsting for expanding your ‘know how’ in the world of Alex Emsley, Bob Neale, Henry Christ, Stewart James, Charles Thornton Jordon, Bob Hummer, and Martin Gardner the reader will be richly rewarded by this text.

The average instructional guide for nascent magicians will have ‘self working’ ‘easy’ math based which will be sure to bore, evoke yawns as the instructions are to ‘deal these cards into piles etc etc’. But the first chapter explains the working of Hummer’s ‘Face-up Face-down Mysteries’ in minute detail from the mathematical premise. If you ever wanted to know the mechanism of ‘Royal Hummer’ this is for you.

If you have the perseverance to continue there are de Bruijn sequences which are not only applications for card tricks but for rhyming patterns in East Indian music, for robotic vision and for making secret codes.

Industrial espionage, decoding DNA are linked to a card trick. Graham and Diaconis with tongue in cheek ask “This De Bruijn stuff is cool but get you a job?” Clearly it has worked for them.

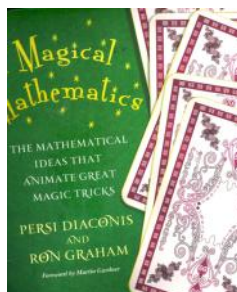
Shuffles have fascinated crooked gamblers, Dai Vernon and Ed Marlo and how they can be manipulated is described in Chapter 6. The Monge shuffle and milk shuffles and down under shuffles are all ‘related’.

Chapter 7 begins with a description of a first encounter by a 13 year old boy first visit to Louis Tannen’s magic emporium (likely this is Persi Diaconis’ own story) and his purchase of John Northern Hilliard’s “Greater Magic”. In that instructional set (still in print) is a trick “The Miracle

Divination”. Required are twenty-four pennies, nickel, a dime and a quarter. The patter involves loaning the spectators some change. With kindness for the less mathematically endowed, the authors have created a variation that allows the magician to unravel the information in one’s head, without consulting a chart or memorizing anything. The magician can divine the choices.

Graham and Diaconis pose the question “How Many Magic Tricks are There?” They refer back to the first two serious books about magic: “Discoverie of Witchcraft” by Reginald Scot which contained about 52 tricks and J Prevost’s La Premiere Partie des Subtiles et Plaisantes Inventions” containing some 84 tricks. Prevost’s book contains some mathematical tricks but Scot’s none. Their hypothesis is that most magic tricks can be traced back to these early works.

Pages from 153 to 219 (the book is hard bound and is 244 pages), are likely to be most appealing to



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(Aaron Fisher— Continued from page 2)

you perform it. The only rule is, “No Card Tricks.” We want to ring in the New Year with old tricks.

We will also be holding auditions for new members who want to show us that they are serious in pursuit of the conjuror’s art. Card tricks will be allowed for auditions.

Any questions please contact Richard at [rustick@flash.net](mailto:rustick@flash.net).

— Richard Ustick

## *February is our Annual Close-up contest.*

It will be held on Monday the 13th at the Lion’s Club and all members in good standing are encouraged to

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## *"MagiToon"*

*by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman*



“‘Show and Tell’ doesn’t mean I have to tell how I did it, does it?”

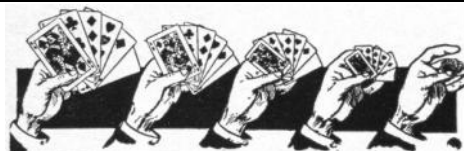
(Mathematics — Continued from page 5)

magicians. They illustrate this chapter with selections of Marlo’s actual notes and notes from Henry Christ, letter from Stewart James, tables, diagrams, photos of the great magicians of yesteryear. Chapter 12 leads with a descriptive quote: “A mathematician is a conjurer who gives away his secrets” John Horton Conway and that’s the name of that game.

You might want to know something about the authors who have combined avocation and vocation: Persi Diaconis dropped out of high school (age 14) to travel with Dai Vernon. He returned to City College of New York (this reviewer’s alma mater) and earned a PhD from Harvard (Mathematical Statistics). Martin Gardner tells that Persi, while in school, played poker on ships for income. “He had a fantastic second deal and bottom deal.” He was admonished that in his professorial duties he should describe himself first as a mathematician lest his students think of him as a conjurer primarily. He is on the faculty at Stanford University and is married to a statistics professor at that school, Susan Holmes.

Graham, an award winning juggler, has a section devoted to getting started in juggling and is ex-President of the International Jugglers Association. He is cited in the Guinness Book of Records for elucidating the biggest number in the universe, he speaks Chinese, and exercises daily on his trampoline. During his early years, he was part of a circus act and also performed in Cirque de Soliel. For his day job, he answers to being the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of UCSD.

This unique book Princeton University Press is to be taken in small doses. But it is highly recommended for uniting the pursuits which are so much a part of our universe through the centuries: magic and mathematics. Dr. Moskowitz prescribes this for inquisitive students of either or both pursuits. Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5)







(Contest — Continued from page 6)

participate. There will be more details in the next newsletter, but for now know that the contest involves cash prizes for first, second, and third place,



has a strict time limit, and a limited number of participants. You will be expected to move from table to table and do your routine up to eight times in a row.

More information to follow, and if you have any questions, see a Board member at this year's Holiday Banquet December 12th.

— Richard Ustick

## Magic Notes

Michael Friedland will be presenting a lecture at 3 Generations of Magic on Tuesday, December 13th, 2011 at 7:00pm. Admission will be \$20.

3 Generations of Magic is located at 741- B Olive Ave. in Vista CA, 92083

## Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar

Dec. 13	Holiday Banquet
Jan. 9	Classic Magic (no card tricks)*
Feb. 13	Close-Up competition*
Mar. 12	Auction
Apr. 9	Teach-A-Trick Night
Apr. 10	Lecture
May 14	Stage Competition*
June 11	Hi-Tech Magic*
July 8	Installation Banquet

\* Opportunity for Members to Perform



Call or email to reserve a seat:

James@3generationsofmagic.com or 760-842-1552

