



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

MAY 2016

VOL. XXX #5

The May General Membership Meeting and Stand-Up Competition will be held at the Nativity Prep Academy auditorium, 2755 55th St., San Diego, 92105. See details on Page 8.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello everyone, I'd like to start off by saying congratulations to everyone who participated in last months' meeting. The theme was Skit and Movie magic, and I think everyone did a wonderful job preparing their acts and bring so creative. Everyone did an excellent job.

Our next meeting is the Stand-Up Competition on May 9, and it will be held at Nativity Prep Academy, located at 2755 55th Street, San Diego, CA 92105. Directions can be found on Page 8 in the newsletter, It will also be sent via email before the event.

The April 10th lecture was very informative and beyond amusing. Martin Lewis was great; His color- changing rose was magnificent. I truly enjoyed his torn and restored paper.

I hope to see you all at the May Stand-Up competition. The June Meeting. will return to Denny's and the theme is Food Magic.

,,,,, kenny

Ring 76 2016 Calendar

- May 9 Stand-Up Competition
Location: **Nativity Prep Academy**
See announcement for details
- Jun 13 Food Magic*
- Jul 10 Installation Banquet
Location: **Sunrise Buffet**
See announcement for details
- Aug 8 Bag Night*
*Opportunity for Members to Perform

San Diego Ring 76 meets the second Monday of the month at:

**Dennys
4280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego 92117
(the 3rd block west of Balboa)
Upstairs Meeting Room**

Special events may be held at a more suitable location. See event announcements for details.

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. of Entertainment Richard Ustick, ring76ibm@yahoo.com.

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER - MALCOLM CAMPBELL, EDITOR@RING76.COM
PHOTOGRAPHY - JAMES THAYER, PROOFREADER - SHERRY LUFT**



MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 11, 2016

The meeting was convened at 6:55 pm by the First V.P. of Entertainment who announced that we had 12 entries for the competition phase of the meeting and needed to start promptly. After a few announcements, President Kenny Shelton arrived and continued the announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The announcements were:

Terry Lunceford successfully completed a run at the Magic Castle's W. C. Fields bar without repeating a trick! This is impressive!

Jack White is out of Hospital and at home and doing well. He loves hearing from us, so do not be shy.

Doc Eason is performing at the Red Spade Theater this weekend.

Kenny Shelton is busking in Balboa Park so come out and see him perform.

OLD BUSINESS

Election Committee Report The Election Committee read the By-Laws governing the upcoming election and presented the following slate recommended by the Board..

Jacques Lord – President.
First Vice President (entertainment) — Open
Second Vice President – James Thayer
Secretary – Richard Ustick
Treasurer – Bob Meigs
Sargent-at-arms – Open
Member-at large (Past President) – Kenny Shelton
Member-at-large – Malcolm Campbell

Bob Meigs nominated Joe Mystic as an additional candidate for President.

PROGRAM

V.P. of Entertainment, **Richard Ustick**, got right to it and introduced this month's theme, "Movie or Skit magic." This had to be one of the most difficult themes to discern and create an act, but Ring 76 magicians came through with a rainbow of colorful acts and skits. This may become a new theme in our rotation.

The fun started with **Bob Meigs**, a prop and costume driven story-teller who debuted his newest creation for the Del Mar Fair Crowds. Bob had a first-rate mad hatter outfit a la Johnny Depp, and created a narrative of Alice in Wonderland with shrinking heads, the Queen of Hearts, green tea turning into rose petals, and much more. This Secretary thinks it was his best effort ever!

After Bob's elaborate theatrics, **Jeff Sargent** took the opposite approach; a man and his cards telling a story of gambling and cheating. It was a short, effective, and entertaining, performance, proving our theme had a wide range bracketed by the first two acts.

Malcolm Campbell had a wild-west themed rope escape that he told me "was inspired by the \$8 leather coat I got at a thrift shop." Malcolm had an elaborate script with two actors and the improve nature of the act was as magical as the rope escape.

Terry Lunceford pulled out his fabulous bamboo prop he got from Martin Lewis ages ago. Using an oriental soundtrack, he matched form and story with the incredible bamboo roll or curtain. Sunsets, rainbows, fishing boats, fish, flags -- you name it — Terry formed it out of bamboo like magic as he recited his story of a Japanese fisherman.

Dr. Jeff Pearson was next with a card effect set to the music and format of the old Dating Game with Bob Eubanks. Kings and a Queen paired up for a date to remember.

Charlie Gott surprised us all with some Gospel magic involving the Good Friday Story, and Daniel and Artemis and Joseph of Arimathea; the

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scale of his story was biblical. Twentieth Century Silks were the Shroud of Turin in Charlie's capable hands.

Ken Intrilligator had us all singing the Gilligan's Island theme song as he made coins named after the characters vanish from the island only to return when Gilligan got lonely! Great effort Ken!

Jacques Lord defied our preconceived notions of what he was capable of, and channeled his inner 5-year old with parents at a restaurant doing all of Jay Marshall's Table Crap in 4:27 to the frenetic music of Jan Hammer and Billy Cobham's "Quadrant 4." He called the act "Children are a gift from Heaven. Taking them to Denny's is Hell."

Joe Mystic performed a nifty egg bag routine with a standard brown paper lunch sack and our own Katrina Dismukes as his foil for a lot of great comedy banter.

Craig Blackwood finished up a great night of skit and movie magic with Joe Mystic as his volunteer going through a spell-shuffle routine using Harry Potter School emblems and tearing them only to have them pair up after a random shuffle spelling process. Joe passed the test (Natch!). Great job Craig!

Next month – The Stage or stand up competition! This will be held at Nativity Prep School, not Denny's. We will have a full stage with plenty of room for whatever you would like to do on stage. Look for announcements and maps in your email!

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

..... Jacques Lord, secretary

Your Ring Needs You !



Ring 76 is one of the largest and most active Rings in the Nation.

From our lectures to our show, our youth programs and our newsletter, we are respected and contacted by IBM members around the world.

That sort of effort takes two things, a dedicated membership, and the Board of Directors that the membership elects — many of whom have served in various capacities over many years.

At the last meeting, the Election Committee was introduced and the slate of officers was presented. But the slate is not full. We need members to fill the empty positions and that means Y-O-U!

If you are interested in knowing more about the Board of Directors, what it does, and what is needed, please contact any Board member or Richard Ustick directly at Ring76ibm@yahoo.com.

The Ring does not run itself nor does being on the Board take up a lot of your valuable time. But it is important, so contact a Board Member today and ask how you can help the Ring you so enjoy.



SKIT MAGIC PERFORMERS



Bob Meigs



Jeff Sargent



Malcolm Campbell





Terry Lunceford



Jeff Pearson



Charlie Gott





Ken Intrilligator



Jacques Lord



Joe Mystic





Craig Blackwood



And the Winner Is :

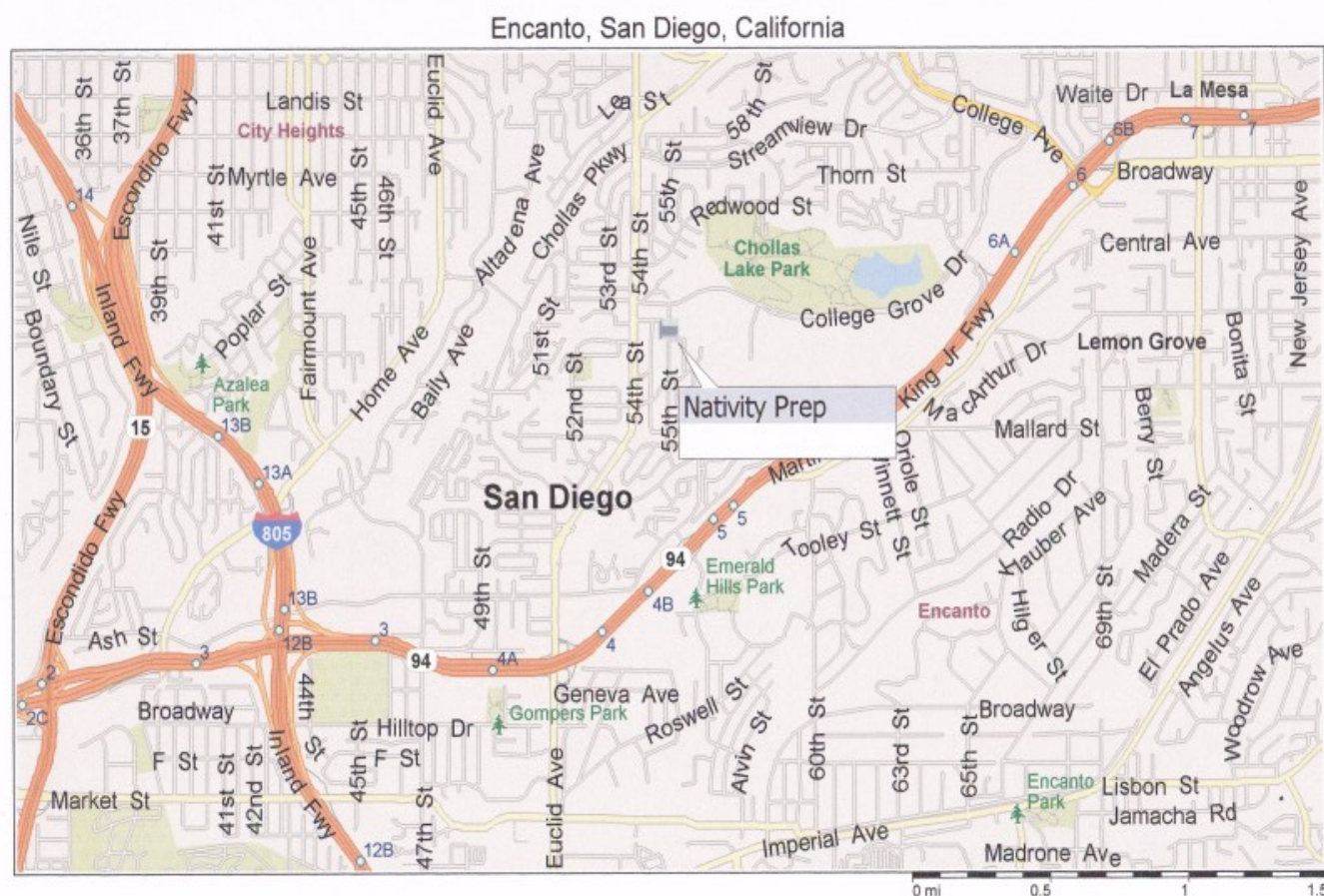


Congratulations, Bob Meigs !!!



Nativity Prep, the site of our May meeting and Stage Magic Competition is located in the Encanto area at 1255 55th St. near the intersection of College Grove Drive and 54th St. It is on the campus of the Holy Spirit Church which is easily seen. Drive in from 55th St., go past the church straight through the parking lot to the auditorium on the right.

From 94, take Euclid north. Follow 54th St. as it bears to the right at the fork in about 1/2 mile, to College Grove Drive (1 mile). Turn right, then take the first right (55th St.). The Church is on the left.





IT'S SHOW TIME!



Our annual Stage Competition will be held at the general membership meeting on May 9th. To accommodate the performances, we will meet at Nativity Prep Academy, 2755 55th Street, San Diego, 92105, (next to Holy Spirit Church) where we will have a large auditorium and a full stage.

The business meeting will start promptly at 7pm with the competition beginning immediately after the meeting.

Any member in good standing is welcome to compete before the membership and a panel of judges. However, due to time constraints, we have slots for only ten contestants with a strict limit of ten minutes for each show. Exceeding the time limit automatically disqualifies the performer from the contest. Full rules and regulations can be found on our website, www.ring76.com. The V.P. of Entertainment will have copies at the meeting.

As with all competitions, if you wish to compete, you MUST contact the V.P. of Entertainment, Richard Ustick, at ring76ibm@yahoo.com before hand.





How To Win The Stage Competition

By Terry Godfrey

I'd like to make some suggestions to help the stage contestants have a better chance of winning the stage competition. I'm going to be comparing the contest to my showcase experience at fair conventions.



First, let me explain to you how a showcase works at fair conventions: There are several fair associations. Each association has a group of fairs and members who serve the fair industry. I serve the fair industry by providing entertainment.

The associations I'm involved with are the Arizona Fair Association, Oregon Fair Association, Western Fair Association, and International Association of Fairs and Expositions, which is the largest. Each association has a showcase at their yearly convention.

The idea of the showcase is for performers to display their talents in front of potential buyers of entertainment and to get booked at fairs. The expense of being involved in a showcase can be substantial and it is very stressful being up in front of a lot of bookers.

I've showcased a lot and competed in a few magic competitions. I've won a couple of competitions and I've booked myself at lots of fairs through the showcases. I've also emceed showcases.

I've had a lot more bad showcases than good ones, but, I've finally figured out the solution to having an excellent showcase. The same idea will apply to any magic competition.

I think it is wonderful that so many members of Ring 76 compete and perform at the club meetings. This is a great place to perform and make mistakes. We all need a place to work on material in a safe environment and the club is perfect for that.

By far, my most successful showcase was at the Oregon Fair Association Convention in 2006. I will tell you exactly what I did so you can apply the same principles to any competition.

At that convention, I booked five fairs for that year. three fairs the next year and even one fair three years away from the convention.

One of the things I learned was that, over the years, I had been performing only my outdoor fair act at the conventions. The fair act is a great act but it was developed from working at fairs and festivals, not a banquet room which the showcase venue more represents. Some of the jokes don't work quite as well indoors as they do at the fair. Also, a lot of the outdoor fair routines use children and there are few children at the convention.

I have an adult banquet act. I decided to combine the fair act with the banquet act. It would not be appropriate for me to perform just the banquet act and show up and do an entirely different act at the fair. When the booker would contact me about their fair, I would explain to them there were a couple of tricks that were not in the show. This way they would not be surprised at the fair.

This is how you should apply that principle to the stage or any other competition. You should really understand and think about the audience you are performing in front of and make good decisions on which routines will work best in that situation.

Choose from material that you've performed many times. However, some of your best material may not be appropriate for the competition.

You will probably be very nervous at the competition so you want tricks that you really feel comfortable with. Magicians and entertainers tend to live on the wild side a little bit, meaning that you might be tempted to try out a new trick at a competition, I would not do that. You could mess it up pretty badly. It could be a disaster!

I realize that most of the members are amateurs, so you don't get a chance to perform a lot. That is okay. Put your act together and do it several times for family and friends. When I'm working on a new routine I'll perform it for my neighbors where I live. One neighbor will even throw a party and invite a bunch of friends so that I can perform for them. The idea is to really get to know your material. Then,

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when you are nervous, you still will be able to perform well.

Figure out what might go wrong and have a solution. Practice that solution. You will thank yourself when that problem occurs in a live competition and you sail through it like it was part of the regular show.

By the way, even though I'm a professional magician, I've messed up a lot of tricks in my time. Just keep going through the act and try to act like nothing is wrong. If you do mess up so bad that the audience obviously knows you screwed up. Be honest and tell them that you did and laugh about it. So will the audience.

Practice your act in the costume you are going to wear during the competition. Make sure all the props fit into the correct pockets. Do this days before the competition. You will feel terrible if you put on the costume on hour before you come to club to find out the pockets are not right for the act.

Know the rules of the competition, especially the amount of time you are allowed. Whatever the time is, I would cut my act by one minute or even more. That way you won't by accident run over the time and be eliminated. If you are allowed 15 minutes, time out the act to 13 or 14 minutes. You might even consider keeping a timer or watch somewhere. On the back of my stage show bag I have a watch and timer that I can keep track of how long I've been on stage.

Since this is going to be a stage competition, there will probably be a microphone used. I would contact the people in charge and find out about it. If you have never used a microphone, practice with one. Go early to the meeting and try it on. Get use to wearing it.

I'm very picky about the microphone I use so I bring my own. If you like a certain type of mike, bring it along. Bring along all the necessary wires needed to plug into the sound system.

This is one of the biggest things I did to help me have a great showcase. I walked the stage a lot. I mean a lot. I wanted to get really comfortable on the

stage. I learned where the hotspots were. Hotspots are the strongest and most well lit locations on the stage. You want to be in those spots as much as possible. On the other hand, many wireless mike systems have "dead spots." Talk through the mike as you walk. If you find a dead spot plan to avoid it. Own the stage.

Bring your own tape and mark the stage floor so you know where to put your table and stands. Also mark the hotspots and dead spots so you know where you should stand.

Come really early and get comfortable on the stage. While standing on the stage, go through your act in your mind. Even pantomime it out physically. Own the stage. Own it.

At my showcase, I went around to all the tables and did one quick close up trick and joked around with people. I wanted them to like me before I even got on the stage. I don't think the club would care if you went around visiting with people.

Before you go on stage, take some deep breaths and get as relaxed as possible. Also joke around with someone back stage. The idea is, if you get someone laughing, you'll carry that feeling out onto the stage with you.

When you are on stage, love your audience. I have two moments in my show, sometimes more, when I love on the audience. One time it is just in my mind. I tell the audience in my mind I love them. I also verbally tell the audience I love them at the end of my show. The greatest entertainers in the world all love their audience.

I would not change my act even if another magician is doing a similar trick. Stick to the act you have planned. Your personality and presentation are more important than the trick.

Good luck at the competition. Slip me a twenty and I'll vote for you.

Godfrey the Magician



SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD

**Minutes of IBM Ring 76
Board of Directors
Meeting
April 25th, 2016**



The meeting was called to order at 7:27pm with Richard Ustick as acting secretary.

In attendance were Kenny Shelton, Richard Ustick, James Thayer, Bob Meigs, Malcolm Campbell, and Mago Ruly. Not present were Jacques Lord and Jeff Sargent. Ring member Joe McGrivey was also present.

The agenda for the meeting was approved with no additions.

Minutes for the last meeting were approved by voice vote.

Bob Meigs presented the Treasury Report which was approved. We continue to maintain a surplus due to the lack of meeting room rent.

Kenny Shelton presented the Library report. He will continue to bring selected items to the Ring meetings to encourage members to check out the books and videos available.

James Thayer presented the Membership report, citing 70 paid members. Ring dues will be due in June and members are already paying.

OLD BUSINESS

April Meeting It was generally felt that the last meeting went well and that “skit Magic” was a success. It was noted however that a time limit should be imposed on future uses of this theme as some members seemed to present too long a program.

Installation Banquet The Installation banquet, to be held on July 10th, was the next topic. Kenny Shelton presented the proposition from Cottonwood. While this facility has been used successfully before, it was felt by the Board that the quoted cost too high for the event. The Board decided to examine a venue proposed by

Joe McGrivey: Sunrise Buffet on 3860 Convoy St. San Diego, CA 92111. The room would be well suited to our needs and the price would be around \$15 per person with discounts for seniors and children. A motion to allow Joe to approach the management and secure the room was made and approved. He will report back to the Board..

Entertainment for the Installation Banquet has yet to be arraigned. The Board will contact Terry Lunceford to see if he has an entertainer in mind. The Board has authorized a payment of \$350-400 for the entertainer.

Nativity Prep Youth Program The Youth Program funded by our Honor Ring Grant and the Meigs Family Foundation under Bob Meigs’ direction at Nativity Prep is going well with only a few more classes for this semester. The Final show will be held in June. Grant funds have been utilized to reimburse members for materials used in the program.

Election The Ring Election is in June. The Election Committee was selected and presented the Board's recommendation of officers to the membership at the April meeting. Since that time however, Jacques Lord has had to withdraw his name from nomination to the Office of President. Joe McGrivey is currently the sole candidate for the office. As of the Board meeting, there are still no recommended candidates for Vice President of Entertainment and Sergeant-at-Arms. Richard Ustick will prepare an article on this for the next Newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

Martin Lewis Lecture The Martin Lewis Lecture was widely praised as one of the best in a long while. We had three guests netting the Ring an additional \$60.

Honor Ring Grant Malcolm Campbell and Treasurer Bob Meigs are preparing the final report

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on the use of the Honor Ring Grant funds. The Grant expired March 8 but the youth programs will continue.

May 9th meeting The program at the May 9th meeting will be the annual Stand-Up Competition. The meeting will be held at Nativity Prep Academy, 2755 55th St., San Diego, 92105 starting at 7pm. It will be limited to ten contestants and they will each have a time limit of ten minutes to present their acts. Bob Meigs and Jeff Marcus will contact various sources to secure judges for the event. Three to five judges are needed as per the rules of the event. Richard Ustick will do a write up for the Ring newsletter and Kenny Shelton will send out an email to all members with the pertinent information.

Community Awareness Program It was suggested at the last meeting that a committee be formed to examine ways to make Ring 76 more visible to the community, increasing our stature, and reputation, and becoming more service orientated. To those ends, Bob Meigs took up the task and presented a list of ideas to be considered by the Ring:

1. Expanding the current youth programs to other schools.
2. Providing entertainment at community events.
3. Hosting a "Magic Day" at Balboa park.
4. Entering a float in the Mother Goose Parade.
5. Joint ventures and exchange shows with other Southern California Rings.
6. Renewing our work with the Chargers Blood Drive.
7. Making the Holiday Banquet a more grand event.
8. Redesigning our website including promo-pages for the press.
9. Displaying the Ring 76 banner at the "After Six" magic show at the fair.

The Board was interested in a number of these ideas but it was thought that the membership

should be more informed. Bob Meigs will expand some of the ideas and do an article for the newsletter after further Board discussion. Membership input will be sought at the next few meetings.

The final order of business was assigning newsletter articles. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

Focus On THE LINKING RING

Each month, MagicCurrents features items in the current issue of The I.B.M.'s The Linking Ring in which we feel the members might be especially interested.

You might not know that The Linking Ring publishes an annual index of the material published in the past year. The index (Page 113 of the April issue) has listings sorted by many keys: Departments, Author, Subject, etc, so searching for something in particular is pretty easy. This year, a list of the issues in which the indices for previous years have been published is included. If you are thinking of discarding your older issues of The Linking Ring, you might want to consider keeping the index issues for each year.

Check out Andrew Woo's column, *Simple Diversions*. Andrew continues to share his original magic covering a wide spectrum of effects. editor

WANTED

About 5 years ago, a saber-saw-through-the-neck effect was sold at a Ring auction held at Jack's Place. If that member still has it, I would be interested in buying it. Contact me at timeformagic@att.net or (619) 203-9614.

Malcolm Campbell



BEHIND THE SCENES



A brief look at members' contributions to the success of the Ring, professional backgrounds and other interests.

Tom Owen-Towle is the third generation of his family to call California his birth place. Through his parents and grandparents, his California roots extend back to the 1880s. He and his life-mate Carolyn Sheets Owen-Towle are the active parents of four children and seven grandchildren, who are fifth-generation Californians.

Tom is one of several ordained ministers within the membership of Ring 76. He was ordained to the parish ministry in 1967, and has served multiple congregations, including one in West Berlin, Germany. Prior to their retirement, he and Carolyn served First Unitarian Universalist Church here in San Diego as co-pastors for 24 years.

He is the author of two dozen books on personal relationships and spiritual growth, his latest (and most likely last!) book is entitled "SELF: Caring for Our Best Gift."

Turning 75 this year, Tom continues to aspire to be -- in his words -- "a shameless agitator for justice and joy in his own life and all those whom he touches." He is a guitarist and singer who uses his musical talents as a ministry, currently singing with seniors in nursing homes. He mentors children and youth at risk, and volunteers at a San Diego homeless center which he co-founded in 1985.

Tom preaches once or twice per month as well as conducting workshops and retreats about the core themes of his books, especially on conscious aging, men's spiritual growth, and self-care -- nurturing the six zones of one's being: body, mind, spirit, heart, soul, and conscience.

Through serendipitous circumstances, he was introduced to magic in his early sixties, when a ministerial intern traded his knowledge of the conjuring art for guitar lessons. Tom's original

interest in magic was twofold: to combat his incipient arthritis and to amaze their grandchildren. Who says "you can't teach an old dog new tricks?"

Although Tom rarely performs before our Ring, he is an ardent and grateful member. He is extremely thankful for the many Ring 76 members have mentored him along the way. He eagerly keeps the gift of magic moving by holding teach-ins with his grandchildren, sessions with children at the WOW (Wizards of Wonder) Club he launched, and with youth at a homeless center in a program of "portable joy" which Tom named HOPE (Hands On Play Everyday). Additionally, Tom has just completed leading a play shop for self-designated elders he calls the "Five S's": "Seniors Staying Sharp, Silly, and Serene".

Tom's hope is that his legacy includes the passing on of his love for magic and recognition of its value as a developmental tool for youth through his relentless efforts to keep his "marvels" circulating.

..... editor

Don't forget: Your story could appear here in the future. Don't be bashful! Contact the Editor (before he contacts you) for details.



PRODUCT REVIEW

Vanishing Bird Cage \$40.00

Sold By Hocus Pocus

By Malcolm Campbell



This 4" x 4" x 5" all metal bird cage is advertised with a warning that it requires considerable practice to operate.

If there were an award for the understatement of the year, this would surely get it.

First of all, it has little resemblance to a bird cage except for its wire-bar construction — no access door or carrying handle — and, in its vanished state, it could accommodate little more than a piece of tissue paper let alone anything resembling a bird.

Step one is to hold it in a natural position between both hands. Due to its extremely "flexible" structure, it would take an experienced juggler to hold it still enough for it to look like a rigid cube. Picking it up out of your case or from behind something is about as easily done as it would be with a block of warm jello. At the least, you would have to walk on stage with it setup between your hands.

The supplied "transport" mechanism, and the 3 lines of instruction, have yet to yield any clue to

its successful operation. Even if you should stumble on that, the instructions also say that the disappearance leaves you with limited use of your arms and you are advised to immediately leave the stage and correct the situation

So, at the moment, it looks as if performing with it would be best done by super-gluing it into a rigid structure, have the stage go dark, hand it to an assistant who carries it away, and showing your hands empty when the lights come back on.

Or, you could find someone in the Ring who knows the right way to handle it. Anyone?

DUES REMINDER #2

The due date for membership renewal is coming up soon so it's time to consider getting that out of the way for another year.



I am now accepting payments for the upcoming year. Dues will be the same as last year: \$30 for regular members and \$15 for youth members. Your dues are the Ring's major source of income to pay for our website, lectures, performers for our Holiday and Installation parties, library, banquets, meeting rooms and other expenses of Ring 76.

You may send your dues to: Ring 76; c/o James Thayer; 9556 Babauta Road, San Diego CA 92129. Please make your check out to "Ring 76".

If you wish to pay by PayPal, that can be arranged by contacting James at jt4@ring76.com. You can also pay in person at any of our meetings, but, please pay James Thayer so that your payment and membership can be properly recorded.

When you pay your dues, please notify James of any changes to your address, phone number and/or e-mail address. (The last one is the most important since this is where we will send your copy of Magicurrents and other Ring76 announcements.)

Remember, there is a \$5.00 penalty for not paying your dues prior to the July due date.

-- james thayer, v.p. membership



NOTES AND REMINDERS



Remember, we are looking for product reviews. It doesn't matter if you liked what you paid for or not, we want your opinion for the benefit of the rest of the members. If you're not a writer, we can arrange a short sit-down to gather the facts and write the review.

Have magic to sell, stage equipment to rent? Looking for something to buy or rent? Need a ride or have room for a passenger to an out of town event such as the Magic Castle?

Have a special skill another member might use? Need a temporary assistant?

Advertise it at no cost to Ring 76 members in MagiCurrents

LIBRARY REMINDER

Ring 76 has a large library of books dvds, even VHS tapes covering every phase of magic. All of the Materials are available for members to check out and use at home.

The "Library" link on our website leads you to a complete list. If you find something there that you would like to use, contact Kenny at magicjugglerks@gmail.com. Tell him what you want and he will bring it to the next meeting.

The intended publication date of each issue of MagiCurrents is the Friday 9 days before the monthly meeting. Sub-



missions from officers, reporters and other members are due the Thursday before the publication date. If you want *your* newsletter on time, please be prompt!!

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of MagiCurrents.

..... editor