



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

AUGUST 2013

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Congratulations, Tamer!

Ring 76's Tamer Qafiti competed in this years IBM Close-Up Competition and came away with 2nd Place in the Youth Division! Tamer won a scholarship to the MacBride Magic and Mystery School. Please join me in congratulating Tamer!

—James Thayer



J.P. Jackson

As this edition of MagiCurrents was being prepared, we learned of the sad news of J.P. Jackson's passing on

August 8th. J.P. was a Past-President of Ring 76 and served the Ring in other capacities as well. He will be greatly missed.

We hope have a full article about J.P. in next month's edition.

—James Thayer



Silk Magic

Here is a great opportunity for our members to share their favorite silk magic effect, but why stop there. Let's see if we can create something new and original or maybe try breathing life into some old classics, or share an obscure gem that has been hidden away in a forgotten magic book. The materials used do not have to be made of "SILK" any cloth material is acceptable.

Here are some ideas:

Productions & Vanishes: You can vanish and produce silks AND/OR you can use a silk to produce or vanish other objects.

Penetrations: You can use a silk to penetrate objects AND/OR penetrate other objects thru a silk. This includes linking and unlinking silks.

Animation: Bring your silk handkerchief to life.

Color Change/Transformation: Have your silk magically change color or transform it into something completely different AND/OR Vice Versa.

Transposition: Have two silks magically change places AND/OR use the silks to transpose other objects.

Mentalism: What color is your handkerchief?

Transfers/Apearances: Images mysteriously appear on a blank handkerchief AND/OR images on a handkerchief become 3-Dimensional objects.

No need to worry about having some long presentation ready, it can be short and sweet. Also if you can't think of what to say, why not do it to music. The key is to dazzle the audience. And remember to PRACTICE ...PRACTICE... PRACTICE.

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER — EDITOR@RING76.COM



President's Message

Welcome to the first months Newsletter of the 2013-2014 fiscal year of Ring 76! I am proud to be serving as your president for another year! In our last year we unfortunately suffered the loss of Belinda Kaesler, and just recently, renowned collector and great man, J.P. Jackson. J.P. was a Vietnam vet who rode the Navy riverboat patrols during the war. He was one of the older guys who had stories to tell and knowledge to share. Many here in San Diego remember him from working at Brad Burts Magic Shop. You can leave your stories about him at this link here: <http://forums.geniimagazine.com/viewtopic.php?f=10&t=42821>



So how many people went to Magic LIVE? I know I did, and I saw several San Diegans there having as much fun as I did! It was truly a blast with some GREAT performances, including one by an old group called the Long Beach Mystics, (a little trivia fact for you: our very own Brad Burt AND Greg Wauson were members of the Mystics, along with some big names like Michael Weber, Mike Caveney, Kevin James, Dana Daniels and many more). There was also a surprise ending at the Finally party, you can ask those who went to find out the scoop!!!

Well we worked hard in our last board meeting to come up with this years schedule for you guys, which is posted here in the Newsletter, so I hope you all like it! We kept some of the popular ones and switched some of the ones we felt needed a changing. . I thought everyone did a wonderful job of performing at all our themed Magic nights, so let's keep it up! We continued to offset the lecture nights as to keep as many regular meetings as we can. Also, one change that we are making is that we are going to try and have our lecture nights on a Sunday, that way its not in the middle of the week so work will not interfere (hopefully) and we can try and have it

an hour earlier, so those that DO have work, can have an early night!

Speaking of lectures, our first lecture of the year comes to us from LA, and his name is David Gabbay. He does a great variety of Magic from cards to coins, rings, cups and balls, and everyday objects! He recently did a lecture with Penguin Magic and can often be seen at the Magic Castle. And as promised, the date will be Sunday, September 22nd. The time will be announced at a later date.

Last but not least, get ready for next months meeting with the classic theme of Silk Magic. So hopefully we have some great performances and tie in the use of a silk, and were not ALL THUMBS!!! See you all there!!!

DEREK OSTOVANI
Close-up/Stand-up Magician

(Continued from page 1)

To sign up please contact
salomonbarajas@yahoo.com

Please let me know what type of effect you are doing to make sure that no two acts are the same.

— Sal Barajas

And the Winners Are...

Thanks go to everyone who attended our Awards and Installation Banquet, because it was GREAT! Yes, once again it was time to recognize our top performers, install a new Board, see a great show, and conspire around dinner tables full of good food. And that's just what we did at the New Century Buffet on Sunday, July 14, from 5pm to a little after 8.

The restaurant was conveniently located, and excellent parking, good food, reasonable prices, and a passable room for a show. They were a bit slow getting us in and seated; but – hey!, when all else works, button it.

(Continued on page 8)



Photos from the Installation Banquet



The Outgoing Board of Directors



The Incoming Board of Directors



*Close-Up Contest Winners — Tamer Qafiti (3rd)
Greg Wauson (2nd), VP of Entertainment Sal Barajas,
James Kellogg III (1st)*

*Stand-Up Contest Winners
James Kellogg III (3rd), Anthony Maze (2nd)
Jacques Lord (1st)*



Photos from the Installation Banquet



Member of the Year — Jeff Marcus (r)

Entertainer of the Year — Richard Ustick (r)



A Tip of the Hat to Jim Whiting and John Hunter

Photos from the Installation Banquet



Andrew Goldenbersh



Fooling the Reader?

Review of Fooling Houdini by Alex Stone

Joel A Moskowitz MD, FAAP, FAPA

Some magicians, even prominent ones, are critical of Stone's Fooling Houdini. Other call it inquisitive, fascinating, a smart engrossing study of the secret world of the conjurer. This book is part memoir and, traditionally, memoirs tend to be inflated. With the guarded professionalism of a forensic psychiatrist, this book reviewer hesitates to guess at the author's motivation and veracity.

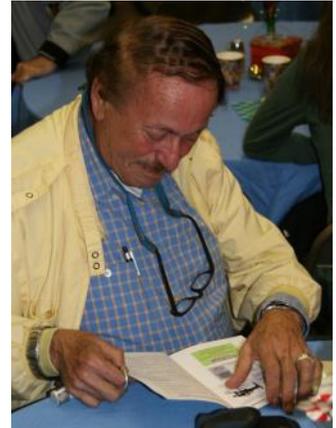
Absent that some who are offended by the personal reportage of Stone, I enjoyed this book. Dai Vernon fooled Houdini, so the story goes, by performing his Ambitious Card effect. Stone fools the reader by his cliches. Referring to his attendance of McBrides Mystery School in Las Vegas, Stone relates "Within hours of landing, I'd eaten at Burger King, scarfed down a Cinnabon with extra frosting, lost fifty bucks at craps, and purchased Ed Hardy T-shirt."

If one could wear glasses which would filter Stone's personal history when reading Fooling Houdini this is an informative well researched entertaining discourse. As an academic, I like to see what the author's sources have been. There are no references in his book. But! He writes that the references were so numerous and he wanted to refrain from felling a tree for more paper, the interested person is directed to www.FoolingHoudini.com - and there it is!

Failing to win a trophy at the Magic Olympics (Stockholm F.I.S.M. 2006 - I attended that as well but I didn't see Stone's competitive performance), he licked his wounds and migrated to a education in physics at Columbia University. Grad school was an environment, despite being an editor of Discover, that left him humble. That was not his reaction to magic -

conversely he thought his skills were enough to compete in the international Magic Olympics.

The bug of magic moved him to return via S.A.M. After taking the oath in Parent Assembly Number One (I was a member of that as well) He describes the Tannen syndrome (magicians gather on Saturday in this Manhattan store to baffle other magicians).

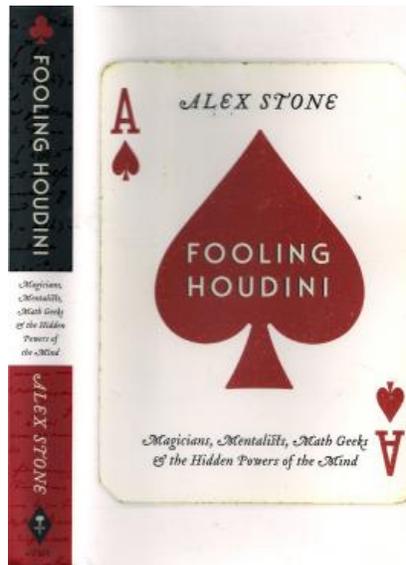


Another venue which New York magicians frequent is a local restaurant which allows conjurers a back room to eat and mystify. Actually, there were two. He recites an anecdote about a fist fight between Doug Edwards and Wesley James (alleged either the greatest underground magician or an asshole.) Wes was not an easy mentor. True or not, its interesting to read about FFFF, Obie O'Brien, Erdnase. He describes his path to sleights and progresses to stealing at casinos.

Stone treats the reader to his experience at McBrides Mystery and Magic school in Las Vegas. The author's descriptions are picturesque. Other students of McBrides school might have another view.

Graduating from Wes to Richard Turner, admired by even Dai Vernon, as better than Allen Kennedy (who taught Vernon how to do the center deal). The sharpest card sharp of all time was Blind! Conquering birdshot chorioretinopathy which ravages the retina at age nine, Turner succeeded and became a master of card mechanics.

(Continued on page 7)



(Fooling Houdini — Continued from page 6)

With only that it deals (double meaning) with cards, chapter five launches into a dissertation of the workings of three card monte on the streets of New York. Stone tells the history of this scam. Gyp is from the gypsies who, in Europe, are the originators of the three card scam.

He ran afoul of the Exposure Police when he divulged magic secrets in a Harpers magazine article. He was about to be expelled by the SAM Parent Assembly. He argued that he was not going to go slowly; resisting the charge. But when it came time to renew membership they wouldn't accept his dues. He remained a member of the national SAM.

Stone visited The Magic Castle. To those who have not been there, they will get an apt description of the Victorian atmosphere. He commented about Irma the invisible pianist who will play requests with alacrity.

Subsequent chapters are devoted to Stone creating a magic club at Columbia University; sliding away from physics education; how magic interfered with his experiences with amore; on mentalism theory; Stones admiration for Persi Diaconis and the interface of math and magic; another attempt to compete effectively (audience management) at an IBM meeting.

Some readers will be offended that the author rationalizes his divulging, or explains that even in Maskelynes time, competing magicians would steal Maskelynes effects.

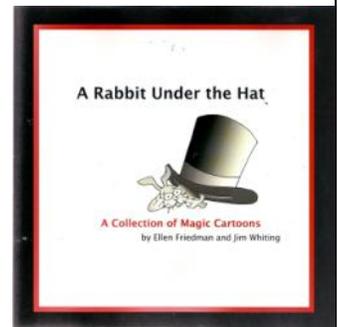
Others will enjoy the roller coaster narrative about things magical as one (the author) aficionado experienced it. This is not for those who are seeking the latest version of Ambitious Card but calmer minds will accept that this as an Ambitious story. Dr. Moskowitz prescribes this (for select persons) Rx Rx Rx (4/5) Dr Moskowitz recommends that it be taken one chapter at a time.

This month we have a bonus review from Dr. Moskowitz!

Smile! You are reading a book about a rabbit and a hat!

***Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D
August 08, 2013***

Quick, quick...Order your copy now before it disappears from stock! It is, after all, a book about magic. A maxim reveals that a picture is worth a thousand words. A Rabbit Under the Hat a collection of Magic Cartoons by Ellen Friedman and Jim Whiting is a excellent representation of a synthesis of magic and cartoons. Satire of the magicians complex art may miss the lay-persons intellect. But the knowledgeable conjurer surely will at least smile and shake his/her head in appreciation of the subtle humorous message. It is a collaboration between a gag writer (Ellen Friedman) and a deft artist (Jim Whiting). They employ the comments which accompany the toons to describe each of their experience with magic. Reference to Ring 76 may, at first, be mysterious to the non-magician. Friedman and Whiting invite the reader into the wizards lair. The art sometimes teases, makes fun at the foibles of the legerdemain/ man. Magic is a hobby, a vocation, an addiction which intrudes into every facet of the compulsive devotee of conjuring...relationship with ones spouse, ones grandchild, ones boss, ones physician etc etc etc.



Dr. Moskowitz prescribes this peek up the magicians sleeve and under the hat, domicile of countless rabbits, to those who at anytime were amazed by having a coin plucked from your ear. One hundred forty five pages of illustrated delight: Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5)



(Aaron Fisher— Continued from page 2)

The 45-minute show was provided by stage performer Andrew Goldenhersh, a.k.a., “Golden Hands.” And Golden Hands he must have had, because his loads and sleights were flawless. He also does great comedy, and closed with an amazing straight jacket escape that proved once and for all which came first – the chicken or the egg. (That probably won’t mean much if you weren’t there, so don’t miss these things!)

Now for the “business.” The winners were . . .

Close-up competition:

- 1st place – James Kellogg, III
- 2nd place - Greg Wauson
- 3rd place – Taner Qafiti

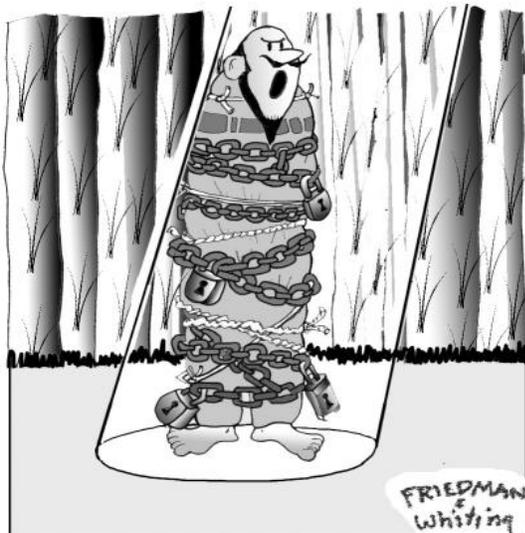
Stand-up competition:

- 1st place - Jacques Lord
- 2nd place - Anthony Maze
- 3rd place - James Kellogg, III

Entertainer of the Year: Richard Ustick

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



“And this most daring escape will take place entirely while the audience is blindfolded!”

Member of the Year: Jeff Marcus

A Tip of the Hat goes to Jim Whiting for contributing MagiToons to MagiCurrents and to John Hunter for bringing snacks to the Ring Meetings.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

And your new humble, but glamorous Board:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| President: | Derek Ostavani |
| VP of Entertainment | Sal Barajas |
| VP of Membership | James Thayer |
| Treasurer | Richard Ustick |
| Secretary | Bob Meigs |
| Sgt.-at-Arms | Sherry Luft |
| Members-at-Large | Joe Mystic, Jeff Sargent,
and Toni Perrine |

WOW! We should do this every month!

— Bob Meigs

Amnesty Approved for Ring Members!

Dues for Ring 76 are \$25 a year and were due in June. Most members have done their duty and have paid their dues promptly. For this we all say thank you. Others have been slow in coughing up their recompense and that fact has not gone unnoticed by your Board of Directors.

The good news, for those who have not paid, is that one final push has been approved, and you have until the next meeting, August 19th, to continue to be a Member in Good Standing. After that time, you will be removed from the roles of Ring 76. It is unfair that you should benefit from membership while not supporting the Ring.

So please bring your dues to the meeting, or mail them to Richard Ustick, Treasurer Ring 76, 251 Thrasher Way, El Cajon, CA 92020.

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(Amnesty — Continued from page 8)

If you have any questions, or are unsure if you have paid or not, please contact the Treasurer or any other Board Member

— *Richard Ustick*

Ready, Set, Go!

Here it is, folks! Twelve months of fun, challenges, goals, or obstacles, depending upon how you see our annual calendar. Save these dates – and don't just plan to be there, plan to be part of the action! Let's make 2013-14 a banner year!

Aug. 19 — The first of the five Entertainer of the Year (EOY) events, Smooth as Silk (Silk Magic)

Sept. 9 — Homemade Magic – you heard right, you make the props and come up with the routine! (The second EOY competition)

TBD — We have a lecture planned for September, but details will follow

Oct. 14 — We're Baaack! Yes, it's a dark and stormy night of Halloween Magic, and the third EOY event. And if you're not here, we have ways to find you!

Nov. 11 — The not-to-be-missed bi-annual Ring 76 AUCTION!

Dec. 9 — That Great, Grand, Festive Feast known as the Holiday Banquet!

Jan. 13 — We used to call it Classic Magic, but now it's ABC Night – meaning ANYTHING BUT CARDS!!!!

Feb. 10 — Fast Eddie's Close-up Competition

Mar. 10 — Musing of the Mind, an evening of Mentalism, and the fourth of our EOY events.

TBD — Sometime in March, we're planning our second lecture.

Apr. 14 — Look, Listen, and Learn . . . it's Teach-A-Trick Night!

May 12 — HELLZAPOPPIN' (Otherwise known as our annual Stage Competition.)

Ring 76 2013-14 Calendar

Aug 19	Silk Magic*
Sept 9	Homemade Magic*
Oct 14	Halloween Magic*
Nov 11	Auction
Dec 9	Holiday Banquet
Jan 13	Anything But Cards (ABC)*
Feb 10	Close-Up Competition*
Mar 10	Mentalism*
Apr 14	Teach-A-Trick Night
May 12	Stand-Up Competition*
Jun 9	Money Magic
Jul TBD	Installation Banquet

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

June 9 — On the Money! The last of our 5 EOY events, Money Magic, and speaking of money, DUES are DUE, and it's Election Night! Don't miss this one!

The San Diego County Fair, in which Ring 76 plays a major part, also starts in June. Details to follow.

July TBD — The great annual Awards and Installation Banquet. And, boy! - do the planners have a tough act to follow!

And remember – Every Ring meeting is followed by an after-meeting gathering at a local coffee show. Come, and double your fun!

— *Bob Meigs*

Turn Your Magic Into Money

Sell Your Unwanted Magic: Props, DVD's & Books

Step 1) Contact Richard Ustick and reserve a table for the August Meeting. His E-Mail is: rustick@flash.net



Step 2) E-mail a list and photos of your magic items with asking price for each item to Sal at salomonbarajas@yahoo.com

Step 3) Sal will then email members a list of your available items.

Step 4) Bring your items and table fee to the next meeting. Half Table is \$5 and a Full Table is \$10. You will be able to sell your items from 6:30PM-7:00PM

Step 5) Feel free to donate whatever is left over to Ring 76.

— *Sal Barajas*

Volunteers Needed for Charity Event

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Ride for Kids is asking for volunteers to do walk-around entertainment for approximately 250 people during the San Diego event on September 22 at Mira Costa College. Local motorcycle rider groups participate to raise money for the foundation. In addition, rides, entertainment and gifts are provided for local patients. Last year the local ride raised over \$50,000; Nation-wide, \$5.5 million was raised. The event is 100% volunteer with all goods and services donated.

Entertainment is needed from 8a - 10:30a when the ride starts, then from about 12:30p to 2:30p after the ride and during lunch. Several performers could be used during each of the time intervals. Lunch will be provided.

The Task Force contact is our son-in-law, George Parry, at (619) 339-1446. (I will be out of town starting September 7). The link to this effort is www.Ride4Kids.org. Pleased contact Malcolm Campbell, at malcolm-campbell@att.net with any questions.

— *Malcolm Campbell*

Magic Notes

Never used, Purchased this year,
Mac Magic Chair Suspension
\$450.00 or best offer.
Call Mike Stilwell Cell: 619-251-2766



Danny Orleans will be lecturing at 3 Generations of Magic. He will be presenting material from both of his current lectures: The Art of Presenting Magic to Children and Corporate Magic. The lecture will take place at 7pm on August 22nd, 2013. The cost is \$20. The address is: 741-B Olive Ave.; Vista CA, 92083

See <http://www.3generationsofmagic.com> for more information.



Magic In The Rockies will be held Oct 3-6 in Fort Collins, Colorado. This is their 20th year putting together this convention and they are holding it a month later than normal. This is an intimate gathering where you can arrive as a stranger but within 5 minutes you'll be among friends (*I've experienced this first hand.* — *Ed.*) But don't let the size that fool you. The line up includes Doc Eason, Eric Mead, Bob Sheets, Asi Wind, Michael Weber, Paul Gertner and many others. Details can be found at www.magicintherockies.org



Ring 76 at Magic Live!