



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 SEPTEMBER 2015

VOL. XXIX #9

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The September meeting will be held on the regular date (September 14th) at a new location:

**Denny's
4280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, 92117**

See details on Page 9

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEMBERSHIP
MEETING - August 17, 2015

President Kenny Shelton called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm., and began with the usual welcome, but there was something different this time. We were meeting in the Comedy Palace Main Room as a temporary reprieve to the Clairemont Senior Center we had been using (but no longer could afford due to rate increases).

Kenny thanked the Palace owner (George) and resident magician Nick Gentry as well as the members for being flexible on such short notice. The Ring is still looking for a more permanent meeting place.

The first order of Ring business was the membership ratifying two proposed By-Law changes prepared by the Board, principally Malcolm Campbell. The first was to add a provision to the Bylaws which established a means to amend them. The second was to bring the Ring's procedures for dealing with alleged member mis-conduct in line with The I.B.M. By-Laws.

After explanations of both revisions, the membership voted to approve the changes in the Ring By-Laws by a simple majority. There were 33 members in attendance and the motions passed with 21 ayes and 12 abstentions, and 22 ayes with 11 abstentions, respectively.

With the motions passed, the meeting went on to announcements. The Board is actively looking for a more permanent space to meet (including the Comedy Palace) that is accessible, affordable, and relatively convenient access for a membership spread out over a City of five million.

With that, the meeting was turned over to VP of Entertainment Richard Ustick to introduce the performers with the theme of Classic Magic (think Linking Rings).

First performer out of the gates was Malcolm Campbell performing a lovely gold Zombie after demonstrating that there was no "gimmick" in his

possession.

Charlie Gott followed Malcolm with his Gospel version of a flip-open production box producing one lovely silk after another.

Terry Lunceford then stepped up to the Classic Magic bar with a 3-ring Linking Ring Routine.

After Terry was Joe Mystic. Joe had intended to do a 3-ring Linking Ring routine as well, so he went back to his van and got three more and we were treated to his 6-ring Linking Ring routine. Joe followed that with a quick rope trick in the theme of shoe laces and disappearing knots.

Jacques Lord performed the MacDonald \$100 Ace Trick using Jasper and Terry as human card tables so all could see.

Alex Greenbaum was next with a Jumbo card effect and the "Hug/Kill" Equivoque made popular once more by Rob Zabrecky.

Dr. Jeff Pearson followed Alex with a quick public service announcement about the dangers of smoking using a cigarette and a quarter (It burned through the coin!) as well as performing a lovely torn and restored Dollar Bill.

Jeff Marcus took the stage with a hand-full of linking rings, stood center stage as if to start performing them, then tossed them aside and decided to do a 3-Fly coin routine with Eisenhowers and Chinese coins.

The final act was new member Ken Inteligator performing his own version of the Benson Bowl and sponge balls.

Our thanks go to the facility manager Tony Salek, for his invaluable assistance with arranging the seating and lighting, and operating the sound.

Next month's meeting theme is comedy magic.

That concluded the meeting at 8:30 PM, with the After Meeting moving to Denny's right around the corner for more magic and a late night snack.

..... jacques lord, secretary



Classic Magic Night

A Tribute to Ageless
Magic Effects



**EMCEE AND V.P. OF ENTERTAINMENT
RICHARD USTICK**



**OUR HOST AND SOUND AND
LIGHTING TECH
TONY SALEK**

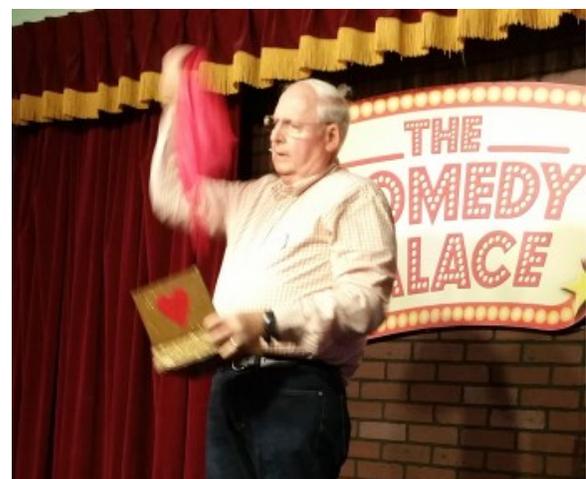




MALCOLM CAMPBELL



CHARLIE GOTT





TERRY LUNDSFORD



JACQUES LORD





ALEX GREENBAUM



JEFF MARCUS





KEN INTELIGATOR



JEFF PEARSON



**AND, THE PERFORMER
OF THE MONTH:**



SAN DIEGO RING 76, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



JOE MYSTIC!

Congratulations, Joe for running rings around the competition.



ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



Have a piece of ridiculously corny magic or some hilarious patter? Have an effect that you can't do with a straight face? Here is your chance to draw some gaffaws, chuckles, snickers, giggles, snorts and titters from your fellow Ring members *on purpose*.

September's contest theme is Comedy Magic with the emphasis on *comedy*. The rules are simple: No restrictions on the type of magic or length of the performance. It may be something you've spent months polishing or an impromptu bit that strikes your fancy. Do it solo or enlist an assistant or two from the audience. Just get up there and do something to get a laugh. It's a chance to have some fun, and also a chance to be named Performer of the Month and gather points towards Entertainer of the Year.

Year of the Performer

The Board decided that this year will be the "Year of the Performer" so we have a few more opportunities for our members to show their talents than past years. The themes of the meetings are on the calendar on Page 10.

Performer of the Month

Each performance meeting, the Ring members are asked to vote for whom they think did the best performance that night. These votes are kept all year long and are used to determine our Ring 76 Entertainer of the Year. However, the Performer of the month is announced after each meeting. Congratulations to Joe Mystic for being our first 2015 -16 Monthly winner of Performer of the Month at our August meeting.

September Meeting News

As you are aware, the Ring is currently looking for a new home. As a result, the next few months may be a little disjointed and it is important that you watch your email in-boxes and READ the newsletter to keep up on Ring events.

For example, the September meeting will be in a different location than our last one. In September we will be meeting in the Back Room of the Denny's at **4280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA 92117-2720**. This is the same Denny's many of us went to after our meetings at the community center last year. If you want to come early and have a light dinner, you are perfectly welcome, or you may stay and eat and socialize afterwards. One advantage of meeting here is that we don't have to travel for the after-meetings.

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Comedy Magic month

If you are interested in performing in September, please contact me, Richard Ustick, VP Entertainment, at the new email address Ring76ibm@yahoo.com. I will be happy to get your name on the evening's roster. And remember, while the theme is Comedy Magic, any magic is welcome although only performances which fall within the stated theme will qualify for awards. If you have a new routine you have been dying to show us, feel free to do so.

Halloween Magic

Mark your calendar for a special October meeting will be held at the Pumpkin Station in Del Mar, across from the Race Track on Monday, October 12th. We will have a brief business meeting and then a performance competition with the theme of Halloween Magic and Mentalism. The public, including children, at the Pumpkin Station will be free to watch the performances. Keep that in mind as you think about what you want to do that evening. Remember, no fire of any kind is allowed.

Upcoming Ring Events

On September 13th, the Ring is hosting a lecture by renowned Magician Chris Capeheart, the location is to be determined.

Chris Capeheart is an accomplished master magician. He is respected throughout the world by his peers, applauded for his skills by the most famous of magicians and sought after for repeat performances by clients. From his street performer beginnings to his stage illusionist career, Chris has delighted audiences across the country and in England. His lecture is sure to be entertaining and informative.

This is a Ring Lecture so it is free to all Ring Members in good standing. The magic public is welcome to the lecture but there is a \$20 cover fee.

October 25 will see Ring 76 hosting a Magic Workshop by renowned performer, author, and motivational speaker David Ginn. He is currently celebrating 35 years of full time performing, writing, lecturing, and teaching others how to entertain

children and family audiences. He lectures to magic and clown groups plus conventions for entertainers across the country.

This is a Ring Hosted event but not one of the Ring lectures for the year. The cost will be \$20 per family, paid at the door. Details as to time and location will be emailed to you soon.

..... richard ustick, vp entertainment

Ring 76 2015-16 Calendar

- Sep 13 Chris Capehart lecture (members free)
- Sep 14 Comedy Magic*
- Oct 5 David Ginn Workshop (\$20/family)
- Oct 12 Halloween Magic*
- Nov 9 Auction
- Dec 14 Holiday Potluck
- Jan 11 Technology Magic*
- Feb 8 Close-up Competition
- Mar 14 Kids Magic*
- Apr 11 Story telling (skit/movie) Magic*
- May 9 Standup Competition
- Jun 13 Food Magic*
- Jul 11 Installation Banquet
- Aug 8 Bag Night*

*Opportunity for Members to Perform

San Diego Ring 76 meets the second Monday of the month. New location for the meetings and lectures to be announced.

Note that the September meeting will be held on the usual date of September 14 at the **Denny's at 4280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego 92117.**



Shavings From The Board



RING 76 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 24, 2015

(Condensed for publication)

The meeting was called to order by President (and Librarian) Kenny Shelton at 7:00 pm.

Kenny requested that discussions be sequential and speakers go in order of raised hands as identified by the President. Present were President Shelton, VP Entertainment Richard Ustick, Guest Joe Mystic, Guest Lupe Shelton, Treasurer Bob Meigs, Guest Rich Robertson, VP Membership James Thayer, Sergeant-At-Arms Jeff Sargent, Member at Large and Newsletter Editor Malcolm Campbell, Secretary Jacques Lord, IBM Territorial VP Jeff Marcus. Absent (excused), Member at Large Mago Ruly.

Approval of previous minutes

July Board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bob presented the Ring 76 Treasurer's Report. The outlook for the remainder of the year continues to be favorable. Only a small portion of the Honor Ring Award has been spent on the Youth programs so far.

Library

No changes or new items to report this month.

Membership

59 active members, with 11 of those being honorary lifetime.

Old Business

Bylaw amendments. The secretary recorded the passage of the two By-Law changes put before the membership at the August 17th Membership Meeting. Adding the provision for Bylaw amendments carried 21/33; The revised member misconduct revision carried 22/33.

Holiday Banquet President Shelton reminded the Board it is never too soon to prepare for the Holiday

Banquet and find an entertainer to avoid last-minute panic. Jacques suggested Rich Cowley, a regular at the Magic Castle.

Chris Capehart Lecture The lecture is scheduled for September 13. A location has not yet been finalized.

David Ginn Workshop Scheduled for October 25th. Still need to finalize a location. Jacques volunteered to be host and meet David, help him set up, drive him to lunch before the show and be a point of contact on the day of.

Honor Ring Youth program grant progress

RADY Children's Hospital Cochlear Implant youth program came to a successful conclusion this August 1st. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled between Heather Rose and Jacques to discuss improvements and what worked so we can avoid reinventing the wheel. This outreach program will be repeated as the client was very pleased.

Bob Meigs has set a start date of Sept 10th with **Nativity Prep Academy** to initiate the School Magic Club activities. (See page 13) He will need several volunteers for Thursdays from 1-2 pm for a 9-week period. He got several volunteers from the board and his program will be off to a good start in a few weeks. There was a discussion of revealing secrets to students who will most certainly expose them to their peers and families. The resolution was that a) the secrets are not public domain, but they are commonly known; b) the students will be required to sign an oath or agreement, and c) the students will be instructed more than once on the value of secrets to magic and that it is to their own advantage to keep them. A similar effort was made with the Rady students and it was effective in that the students at least remembered they had signed an oath.

The Board agreed to terminate the proposal to use IBM Honor Ring Grant **funds to subsidize IBM and Club Dues for Youth** to encourage their participation. This program has not gained any

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momentum and resources will be diverted to the other two programs.

New Business

Finding a Replacement for the Senior Center

Multiple venues were eliminated from consideration due to cost. It came down to The Comedy Palace as a suitable venue with great amenities but a property owner that was reportedly more interested in his bottom line than supporting our Ring (minimum purchases, donated performances that he would charge admission for, etc.), and the meeting room at Clairemont Denny’s was a reasonable price, convenient, acceptable amenities, and more stable in cost projections. The Board approved a motion to use the meeting room at Denny’s on Clairemont Mesa Blvd for the September meeting. Lectures and the auction meetings were also most likely to be held there. The October meeting will most likely be at the Del Mar Pumpkin Junction, once Bob Meigs confirms the arrangement.

Newsletter Assignments

Malcolm reviewed assignments for input to the newsletter. Jacques is contributing an essay on his experience at the Castle for the John Carney Workshop weekend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jacques Lord, Secretary

Focus On THE LINKING RING

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

This month’s issue is the first of two to focus on the 2015 I.B.M. Annual Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. It specifically covers the competitions, award ceremonies and special tributes.

Don’t miss reading through the material to get an idea of the fantastic opportunities attendees had to be entertained and educated.

..... editor

EX-MEMBER JOHN COULTER DIES

John Coulter who was a member of Ring 76 briefly after moving to San Diego in 2010, succumbed to leukemia in August at the age of 89.



John performed for a variety of audiences from the time he was a young boy. At the age of 22, he entertained Harry Blackstone, Sr.’s audience in front of the curtain between acts in Toronto.

Following retirement from Macmillian Publishing in 1988, he moved to Cape Cod where, under the stage name of “Comus” he specialized in mentalism and conducted séances.

He established a weekly stage show, “Magic by the Sea” which ran through the summer months until 2009 when he moved to San Diego to be near his children. While in San Diego, he entertained residents of several senior living facilities.



John graduated from King’s Point Merchant Marine Academy and served during WWII. After the war, he received a degree in English from Columbia College in NYC. He founded the Pro Arte Chorale in New Jersey which recently honored him at their 50th anniversary gala.





NEW YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO START SOON

Here we go, members of Ring 76. It's time for the Honor Ring to do the honorable thing! The second phase of our Youth Program is kicking into high gear!

Starting on Sept. 17, we will begin a 9-week program at Nativity Prep Academy, for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

The students will meet with the teachers on Sept. 10 to indicate their interests in a variety of "clubs" which the teachers will lead. Bob Meigs and Malcolm Campbell will be there to explain the Ring 76 Magic Club which will be one of those from which they may choose. Based on the students' interest and abilities, the teachers will assign a group of 10 -15 to each club.

Our program will use magic as a vehicle to develop participants' *confidence, public speaking and presentation skills*. Although learning magic is not the major objective, we will teach enough magic that participants will have a genuine performing arts skill to use and develop. Ending with a performance, the program will be similar to what we did at Rady Childrens' Hospital, but on a larger scale.

Over the next 9 weeks, we will introduce our group to a variety of simple magic tricks, teach each child a repertoire of tricks in which they show interest, coach them on presentation, and groom them for a show either at an all-school assembly or at their annual Holiday Party. Our sessions with the children will be approximately 1 hour long at 1PM, on the Thursdays of 9/17, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, and 12/17. This schedule will consist of 7 "instructional" sessions, followed by a "pro-level" show, and a "debriefing session," in which we will evaluate the program and plan future offerings.

The program is fully funded, and ample props are available. However, *we need volunteers* to assist in each of the sessions. All participants will perform routines in 6 of the meetings (2 through 7), so we will need at least one "coach" for every 4 or 5 participants. This probably will mean 3 to 4 members per session, but we'll know more after Sept. 10. No volunteer need be available for every session.

Volunteers may modify the program, based on what they consider appropriate. Nothing is cast in stone, but we have done adequate planning so that the program can fly without volunteers having to reinvent the wheel.

Malcolm Campbell is our Co-ordinator for Youth Programs, and can provide additional information. But if you want to volunteer, please contact Bob Meigs at carshows@sbcglobal.net. Bob is handling scheduling and session content.

NPA is located at 2755 55th St., in SE San Diego. The students are all "first generation" students, and are highly motivated.

So saddle up, Ring members! *IT'S SHOWTIME!*





JOHN CARNEY'S WORKSHOP AT THE CASTLE

August 25, 2015

The Castle and Board of Trustees of the AMA want to get more ambitious with the theme of workshops and educational opportunities, and so they put on the first FULL WEEKEND workshop with John Carney a few weeks ago. I attended for the price of \$225, including two breakfasts and two lunches. Gas and lodging were extra. No notes or hand outs were provided. Mr. Carney made it clear we had to take our own notes and he expected a LOT of note-taking.

The workshop went from 8 am to nearly 5 pm, both Saturday and Sunday and, at the end, I was exhausted. Why? Because it is hard work to learn to reset your internal compass, and then go forward in the direction that compass is now pointing. It is hard work to listen to an expert spill his guts while you try to capture the meaning and intent of all his words and feelings on paper. I ended up with 18 pages of notes.

John Carney is an extraordinary sleight-of-hand artist, if not the world's best. He has dedicated his life to making magic an art form, and it shows. Spend two days with John Carney (there were over a dozen students in the class) and you learn that he does not suffer fools and bad sleight-of-hand lightly. In fact, he passionately wants to rid the world of bad magic and bad magicians and to that end he schooled us. He showed us what he aimed for; and he showed us what others did that upset him. Then he asked us to perform "something we had been working on" so that he could make comments and suggestions in front of everyone. Who wants to go first?

At this point I must tell you that John Carney is a gentle soul, and a very positive coach. But when one of the world's greatest sleight-of-hand practitioners describes what really makes him mad about most magicians and then says "your turn," it is, to say he least, intimidating. But you knew this was going to happen. It was part of the class descrip-

tion. You came prepared to do something you were working on.....and now you know **you are that magician he described** as less than worthy of the art form. At this point in the class you can a) leave and give up hopes of being anything but a hack, or b) reset your internal compass, raise the bar, expect more of yourself and listen to John Carney giving you the guidance to achieve that higher standard. It was personally hard to hear that I am not the magician I thought I was. But now I have a map to get to a place where I could be better than I thought possible.

So here are the standout take-aways that I heard in the class as transcribed from my notes:

Practice with your head, not with your fingers. Sleight-of-hand is in the mind.

Magic (if it is to be an art form) is the **thoughtful design** of work that compels the audience reaction of awe and wonder (NOT "He is SO skilled!").

"You have to **earn** your applause and gasps." – John Carney

"You have to have something to say" – Director Mike Nichols

You can always improve. Do not close yourself off from learning and examining your tricks to make modest improvements. Ask yourself "What if I did this?" Dai Vernon was trying to improve his card moves on his deathbed! Both John Carney and our own Mike Stillwell were there as witnesses.

.....*jacques lord*

Focus On THE I.B.M.

By all accounts, the 2015 I.B.M. Annual Convention was a resounding success. The 2016 Convention in San Antonio, Texas has been set for July 2 - 5, 2016 and promises to be an outstanding magical event with opportunities to rub elbows with and learn from the best of the best.

Look for the entertainers, lecturers, competitions accommodations and costs to be announced in the next few months.

..... *editor*



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 DVD's, even VHS tapes covering every phase of magic. All of the Materials are available for members to check out and use at home.

Kenny Shelton, our Librarian, regularly brings a sampling to our meetings and those are available for immediate check out. But you may not know that 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. Submissions 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