



# MEMBER NEWS

MAY 2018

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Volume 1 Number 6

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## ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY

### IT TOOK THOUSANDS OF YEARS, AND IT'S STILL NOT FINISHED!

It seems like a long time but it has only been a year since we began the actual physical work on our new building. When I started the challenge of turning a dilapidated old mansion in Hollywood into a Magic Castle I was thirty years old and life was a lot simpler. I had a small group of talented friends who helped me make it all happen. Fifty-five years later things have changed. Business is a lot more complicated. But we are still creating an impossible dream with the help of a small staff and dedicated talented friends.

When we decided to offer membership to our friends in December we thought we might be up and running in two or three months. We didn't expect the fires, floods and mudslides that turned our paradise upside down. Arlene has done a remarkable job of creating a team that has been working day and night to overcome obstacles and give our members a club totally unique in Santa Barbara.

This month we were able to meet with Santa Barbara Architectural Review Board (ARB) that must approve all new projects in our area before permits can be issued. Our architect Bill Wolf,

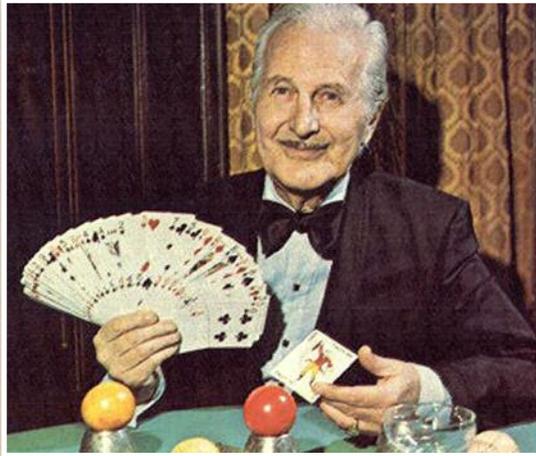
Arlene and I met with the ARB on April 23 and they approved our plans with a few very good suggestions.

I gave much more attention to creating a wonderful old world club atmosphere on the interior of the building. Now we are dealing with adding a beautiful veranda to replace an old open porch. That addition was the best way to solve the ARB requirement and also give a fresh new look to the building.

Once again we thank our Angel and Charter Members for their faith and patience. Charter memberships are still available. If you know someone who has received one of our invitations but has not responded, please encourage them to send in their acceptance card and, of course their payment. Charter members paying now will not be billed for annual dues until one year from our official opening date. "Angel Members" help us by paying their annual dues for the next five year.



## THE VERNON VERANDA



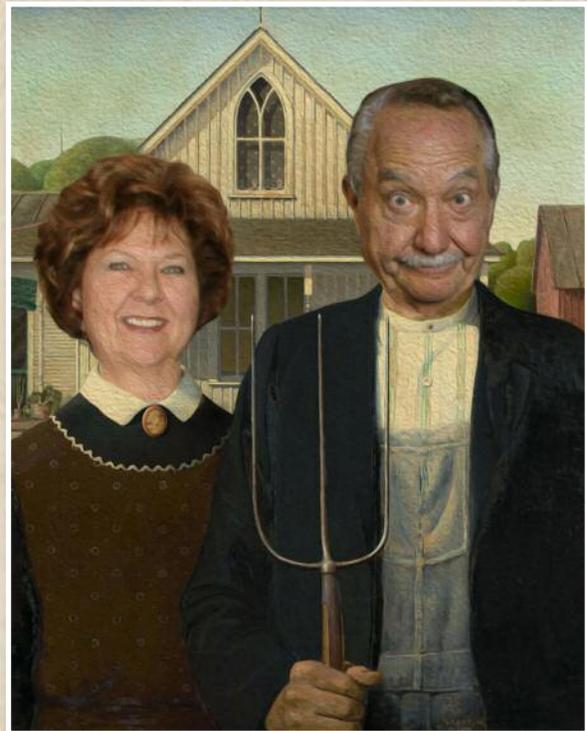
The original Café del Sol restaurant had a front porch with odd levels that was probably designed by a goat. Our approved design calls for leveling out the deck and providing a new exit and a handicap friendly ramp to our Valet parking area. Its raftered open ceiling is much in-tune with the concept of a summer palace on a lake of northern Spain. The Veranda will overlook the Angela Clark Bird Refuge Lake. The new veranda will be constructed by one of Santa Barbara's leading contractors. I'm looking forward to a summer mint Julep on the Vernon veranda.

*Dai Vernon, a.k.a. The Professor, had expert sleight of hand technique and extensive knowledge, particularly with card tricks and close-up magic, garnered him respect among fellow magicians. His influence was considerable in the magic world of the 20th Century, and he was a mentor to numerous famous magicians. He lived out his last years at the Magic Castle, a nightclub in Hollywood, California.*

## THE BAD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

Other than the expense of adding the veranda at this time and further delays in opening, the good news is that we can use the time to finish the air conditioning/heating while waiting for permits and interior work including performing facilities, lighting, sound, and gimmicks while improving the landscaping. Arlene will be working with our new business staff.

We would like to meet our members and will be happy to show you our club, if schedule permits. For an appointment send Arlene an email at [zamagic@aol.com](mailto:zamagic@aol.com) or call the Cabaret.



## THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

When we bought the Montecito property we noticed that some mangy looking trees had been planted too close to the building. As they got bigger they became a problem because they could damage the stucco building in a windstorm. We decided to replace them with Santa Barbara friendly palm trees. A tree expert loved the idea of providing us with beautiful young palm trees and dug five large holes, planting four trees. Before they could plant the fifth tree, the wildfires happened. One of the tree expert's best sources for mature palm trees was destroyed by the huge Ventura wildfires. Then came the mud and the tree truck got mired in the muck. The big hole was empty for three months but last week the 5th palm tree arrived and it looks great. Our dog Mac reported that it is a fine tree and will be one of his favorites.



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## WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Bonnie Gordon  
Joyce Shaar  
Dale Hindman

Steve Shule  
Fred Donald King