



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

JULY 2019

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Minutes of the June 10th Ring76 Meeting Clairemont Senior Center

Entertainment VP **Richard Ustick** and President **Robert Vinson** called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. The meeting start was a bit delayed because of discussions related to the election and some changes in the Board slate, and also the Library. In the meantime, members chatted, and also browsed and purchased items that **Tom Owen-Towle** brought.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The nominating committee, consisting of **Jeff Marcus**, **Greg Wauson**, **David Chiu** started the meeting, by



Richard Ustick

Ring 76 2018-19 Calendar

July 7 - Installation Banquet.

Aug 12 - Kid's Magic*

*Opportunity for Members to Perform

Our regular monthly meetings are at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month.

*The next meeting is on Monday, April 8th, at the Senior Center in Clairemont
4425 Bannock Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117*

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. of Entertainment Richard Ustick,

ru9@ring76.com

announcing the recent changes to the slate (Richard Ustick for President, Greg Wauson for VP for Entertainment, and Joe Mystic for Treasurer), and calling for any other nominations or volunteers for Board positions. Since there were none, the only positions that required an election was for Member-at-Large. The members present voted, and the result was later announced: **Rich Robertson** and new Librarian **Gary Salisbury** would be the Members-at-Large. Robert Vinson reminded the members about the upcoming magic show fundraiser this upcoming Saturday, June 15, at the North Clairemont Recreation Center (our usual

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meeting place). The tickets are \$10/adult and Treasurer Bob Meigs has generously offered to cover the cost of kid's tickets who attend with a paying adult. This is a fundraiser for the Recreation Center and they will reduce or eliminate our Ring's fees for meeting there based on what funds are raised. The performers will include **Joe Mystic**, **Magic Mike Stillwell**, **Matt King**. There was a call for a volunteer to manage the Ring's Facebook page, and Mark Booth volunteered. There was also a call for a volunteer to produce the Ring's monthly newsletter; membership VP **James Thayer** will produce the newsletter until a volunteer is found. Richard Ustick reminded members that next month's meeting is the Installation Banquet, on Sunday July 7 at our usual meeting place, and that the cost is \$25 per person and members should RSVP ASAP to get an accurate head count for the food. Robert Vinson has arranged for an authentic BBQ meal, with onsite cooking (including vegetarian options), and the food should be great. The entertainment will be **Randy Kappe**, Hypnotist. There was a visitor, **Jeremy McKay**, who introduced himself. Finally, there was a vote for Ring Member of the Year, to recognize contributions to the San Diego



Ian Gibbons

magic community. A big hand was also given to **Tom Owen-Towle** for donating to the library the remaining DVDs that he had brought.

PERFORMANCES

Entertainment VP Richard Ustick was the MC, who did a great job as usual with jokes in between the performances. The theme for this month was "story or historical magic".

Member-at-Large and newsletter editor **Malcolm Campbell** was the first performer. He recalled how the Board had originally planned a "no prop" theme, but later changed that for a different theme. He did a no prop story performance about a train and the number of people who boarded and got off at the various stops. The story illustrated misdirection.

Ian Gibbons plays water polo and brought a water polo ball and towel. A smaller practice ball floated around the towel (and was attracted to the water in a painting).

Secretary **Ken Intriligator** told a story about three birds, which were represented by three coins. There were some coin effects, including one with the assistance of **Sherry Luft**, to illustrate the story.



Malcolm Campbell



Ken Intriligator



Winton Gibbons

Winton Gibbons mentioned that he was interested in how many magic effects that are thought of as modern are actually hundreds of years old, and he illustrated some of them. A bottle of wine suddenly appeared. A wand was suspended on his hand in ways that defied gravity. The wand was put into the empty wine bottle, and then it floated out. A finger ring was placed on the wand, and it floated up the wand.

Past President **Joe Mystic** told the story of his first magic trick. He had a cardboard box, with Magic Show in kid's writing, and told us that it was from when he was ten



Joe Mystic

years old and he did a performance with five jumbo cards and, despite putting one into the box, he still afterwards had five. Next, the box was turned around and it had a younger kid's writing and the story

became more impressive: six years old, bigger audience, and three cards put into the box, with still five remaining afterwards. Next, the box was turned back around and the writing that was there before changed to crayon scribble and the story was even more impressive: two years old, six cards into the box, and still five afterwards. Finally, the cardboard box was shown to be empty.

Jeff Marcus told a no-prop story / math puzzle, where it seemed that \$1 was missing from the accounting at the end.



Jeff Marcus

Then he did a version of Vernon’s ace-cutting routine, with the story of the one-armed gambler.

Mark Booth talked about two 100+ year old magic effects, and about how he researched and acquired them, and showed and performed with them. The first, which has been called the Blue



Mark Booth

Phantom or Chinese Clock, involves six white and one blue checker, with holes in their center. They are threaded on a vertical metal rod, and then are placed under a cover. When the cover is removed, the blue checker has moved to a different position in the stack. The next item and effect was the Selbit (famed for the sawing a person in half effect) blocks (1906). Mark looked for a set and purchased one from someone on Magic Cafe. The effect involves four blocks, with numbers 1,2,3,4. When placed under a cover, the numbers were shown to reverse. The audience was asked to pick a permutation of 1,2,3,4 and the blocks were stacked in a different order. After the cover was placed and removed, the blocks moved towards the selected ordering.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40, and many of us went to the nearby Denny’s for dinner, dessert, and camaraderie.

— *Ken Intriligator, Secretary*

Shavings from the Board

Minutes of the Ring 76 Board Meeting

June 24, 2019



The meeting was called to order by President **Robert Vinson** at 6:45 pm. The board members present were: First V.P. (entertainment) **Richard Ustick**, Second V.P. (membership)

James Thayer, Treasurer **Bob Meigs**, Sergeant-at-arms **John Hunter**, Secretary **Ken Intriligator**, Member-at-Large **Rich Robertson**, Newsletter Editor / Member-at-large **Malcolm Campbell**, Librarian **Gary Salisbury**, and Member-at-Large **Joe “Mystic” McGrievy**. Guest **Sherry Luft** was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May board meeting were approved.



REPORTS

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Bob Meigs presented his June report to the board. The big item was the catering for the banquet. The ring purchased a Square credit card reader. There were several small checks that had not been cashed.

Library report: Gary Salisbury presented a detailed library report, including a timeline and inventory. Gary reported numerous issues that he is attending to. He is doing a fantastic job of getting the library in order. He has purchased flip bins to store the library. He has looked into the rules for legally backing up DVDs, and is attending to that. He presented the immediate needs for purchase for the Library, and he searched around for best prices. He will set up a card and pocket system for book and DVD checkouts. Gary has received donations for several ring members. Gary has additional, pending donations for the library, including a massive donation from a potential donor who will donate if the library is kept safe and accountable.

Membership Report: James informed the board that 50 members have renewed their membership. 8 members from last year have not yet renewed. Dues are \$30 until June 30. Starting July 1 they are \$35.

James also updated the board on the new google group email system that he has set up. He will set up a member's private access area as well.

OLD BUSINESS

June meeting recap: The meeting went well, with many performances and the election.

Community Center benefit show recap: It was very successful. **Joe Mystic, Mike Stillwell, and Matt King** performed. The Ring and the Community Center are very grateful. Robert will discuss with Elinor at the Clairemont Center about whether they will accordingly reduce our rent.

NEW BUSINESS

Installation Banquet (Sunday July 7): Robert has a downpayment receipt from the caterer. There

will be a raffle at the banquet, including some donated items that the ring is holding onto.

Randy Kappe the Hypnotist will perform. Meet-and-greet starts at 5pm. Dinner starts at 6pm. Awards and swearing at 6:40. Entertainment starts at 7:30. Depart at 9pm. Bob will bring regular coffee and Jeff will bring decaf. Rich will bring water. Joe will bring lemonade. Robert will bring cookies. Richard will bring some extra cups and utensils. Jack White plans to attend.

Board Business: Bob suggests enlarging the board, to bring in the additional members-at-large; there was a discussion about the need to change the bylaws to allow for that, and the process thereof.

There was a discussion, motion, and vote to create a position for Josh Sherwin as North County and Military Liaison. There was a related discussion about bringing in new members and involvement with other clubs.

Robert discussed a donor who would like to donate funds (as part of their estate planning) to create a substantial prize for ring contests. The board is in favor of following up on this, to understand the specifics of the terms. Because the ring is a 501(c)(6) organization, there is no tax deduction for individuals who donate.

Malcolm brought documents that need to be changed on July 1, to keep our 501(c)(6) status. The articles of incorporation are fixed to be consistent with the tax boards, and the Board needs to that the club's bylaws are consistent with those articles. There are also tax and information filing requirements that need to be covered. James offered to take a look at what is needed.

NEWSLETTER

Robert will send his President's report. Gary will write an article about the Library, including a call for donated items. Richard will write about the installation banquet and the new Board. James Thayer will write about membership renewals and will help with the newsletter.



The board meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. Rich seconded the motion.

— Ken Intriligator, Secretary



Installation Banquet

Our July meeting will be our annual Installation Banquet. It will be on Sunday, July 7th at the Community Center where we hold our regular meetings.

The affair will start at 5:00pm in the afternoon with a meet and greet, followed with dinner at 6:00pm. After that will be the presentation of awards, the swearing-in of your new Board of Directors, then an evening of comedy, mystery, and intrigue by renowned Hypnotist Randy Kappe.

The meal is being provided by Porters and will feature a variety of BBQ meats, tasty side dishes and a delicious alternative for those who prefer vegan. Water, lemonade, coffee, and desserts will also be provided.

Cost is \$25 per person, and if you have not RSVP'd please do so now at Ring76iobm@yahoo.com. You have until Wednesday, July 3rd to let us know.

— Richard Ustick

The 2019-2020 Board

Election results from the June Meeting:

President: Richard Ustick

VP Entertainment: Greg Wauson

VP Membership: James Thayer

Secretary: Ken Intriligator

Treasurer: Joe Mystic

Sergeant-At-Arms: David Chiu

Members-At-Large: Robert Vinson (Past President), Rich Robertson and Gary Salisbury

The new board will be sworn in at the Installation Banquet on July 7th.

— Richard Ustick

Ex Libris

Hello and welcome to our newest newsletter feature, the monthly article called 'Ex Libris' (Eh-cks LEE-breese), meaning 'From the Book'. Generally you will see this term used on bookplates to denote that it came from the library of its owner, "*Ex Libris: Gary Salisbury.*"

This is where we talk about your library and do book & video reviews. Yes, your library! If you are a Ring 76 member in good standing, then this is your library. So keep in good standing by paying your dues on time.

Lots of things are happening and here are a few highlights:

- ♠ The good news is there is a lot of attention being given to the library and a commitment from the board to support improvements to it. Thank you Ring 76 Board of Directors.
- ♠ I have had possession of the library for about two weeks and am now currently underway cleaning, doing inventory, and trying to reconcile it with the library list on the web site. If you have anything checked out, please return it to me so I can inventory it. A new updated list will be posted on the web site as soon as possible.
- ♠ The old library was stored in dilapidated cardboard boxes that weren't protecting it from the environment so we have purchased new plastic flip-lid bins to hold everything in. 18 of





the 20 bins are full. (11 bins of books, 3 bins of DVDs, 4 bins of VHS tapes, and 2 empties.

- ♣ We are going to use a new check-out system that has been proven by libraries worldwide; the library card & pocket. Each item will get a new library card & pocket permanently attached to it. When you want to check out an item, you sign the card along with your phone number (*so I can robo-call you if you don't return it*) and I will retain the card. That serves as a record of what is out and who has it. We are getting rid of the old brittle and broken jewel cases the DVDs were in favor of new, more durable plastic storage container like this which will better protect the disks and facilitate using library cards & pockets.



Secret Stuff:

I have been working with James Thayer on **ARCANUM**, the new secret section for member-only on-line library access. The first items to go on-line will probably be our collection of PDF files. Here is an idea I had for the user interface but James may have other ideas. It is all in the design phase right now but if you have any ideas, drop us an email. Stay tuned because this is going to get really exciting!

James is doing a GREAT job providing his skills for your benefit. We couldn't do all this without him. Give him a thank you the next time you see him.

June Donations:

Thanks to the generosity of a few members, we already have some donations to the library that we can now all share. Thanks again gentlemen for your generosity and setting an example for others to (hopefully) follow.

- 2 DVDs and 2 books from Tom
- 40 DVDs from Bob Meigs
- 160 PDF files from an anonymous donor (scans of magic books whose copyrights have expired)

Seeking Donations:

If you have any unused DVD-R or DVD+R disks you could donate to the library, it would be appreciated. Also, if anyone has a typewriter you could donate (or loan us) that would be great! I have a lot of typing on those library cards and pockets to do. And of course, we would welcome any financial donations ear-marked for the Ring 76 Library so we can purchase much needed supplies for the library. It is hard to run this like a business without a budget.

Reviews Wanted:

If you have watched a good magic video or read a good book about magic, please drop me an email so I can include your comments in the next issue of Ex Libris.

Library Check Out Procedure:

Members may contact me via e-mail at librarian@ring76.com or by cell phone at 619-569-6035 (test message or voice) to let me know which book(s) and/or video(s) they would like to check out. I will make sure the item(s) get to the next monthly meeting. There is a limit of 3 items per month. You will need to sign the library card attached to the item along with your phone number. We ask that you return the items to the library on or before the monthly meeting for the following month (for example: If you check out a book at the July meeting, it should be returned on or before the August meeting). If need be, you can keep the book or video again if nobody else has requested it but you must sign for it again.



Remember, my goal is to make your library the best in the entire IBM National organization but I need your help to do that. Return over due books and videos and donate to your library.

Non-urgent library related communications will always be done via Ex Libris newsletter articles but urgent library related communications will be done by a Ring 76 LibraryGram email to Ring76Members mailing list.

Have a magic month folks and we will see you next month when things are a little closer to fully operational. Feedback is always welcome. Remember, “I can’t fix it if I don’t know it’s broken.”

Are we having fun yet?

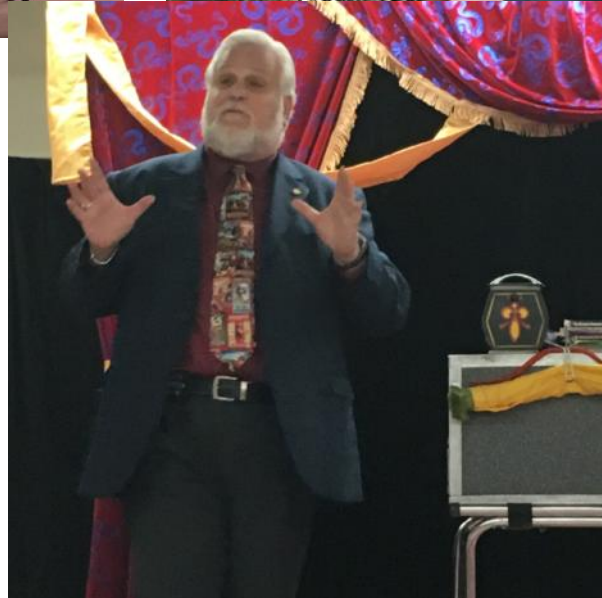
—Gary Salisbury



A Magical Day!

Photos of the Magic Show on 15Jun2019 by David Chiu.







NOTES AND REMINDERS



MagiCurrents offers paid advertising for magic-related items from non-members. The rate is \$60.00 per page per issue.

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 or service 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.

Currently the Library is in transition, but if you have an interest in borrowing a book or DVD, please contact the Ring Librarian at <librarian@ring76.com>. The contents of the Library can be found on the Ring76 website.

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 Wednesday before the publication date. If you want *your* newsletter on time, please be prompt!!

.... editor