



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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President's Message

Time, for the most part, is a false construct.

We recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing, as if the forty-ninth anniversary somehow made the event less historical, or that we should ignore the event until the seventieth-fifth time the earth circles the sun. We celebrate our first birthday, our thirteenth, and our twenty-first, but do not find our thirtieth birthday worth bragging about and don't you dare bring up forty. We know the gifts to give on our first wedding anniversary, the fifth and the twenty-fifth as these are landmark events in time. But we have to look up what to give our spouses of the seventeenth anniversary as if we do not love them quite as much as we should have. We choose what events to mark and let the others quietly slip by.

I bring all of this up because the Ring 76 Board of Directors had its first meeting the other day and it was the first meeting that I chaired as the Ring's new President. As is tradition, we settled the events of the past year and we planned on meeting the needs and setting the directions of the next passage of time before us. Great ideas are in the works as well as great efforts to bring Ring treasures into the current century. You will all be pleased by what we have chosen to undertake but in all modesty, the Ring does not burn like a phoenix at the end of the year only to be reborn from its ashes after each election. Your Board, like life itself, takes what has happened yesterday, tweaks it where it can, and hopes to make a better day tomorrow. Just like the last Board of Directors did and just like the next one will.

Ring 76 2019-20 Calendar

- Aug 12 - Kid's Magic*
- Sept 9 - New-to-Me Magic*
- Oct 14 - Halloween Magic*
- Nov 11 - Food Magic*
- Dec 9 - Banquet and Fool-Us Contest*
- Jan 13 - TBA
- Feb 10 - Close-up Contest*
- Mar 9 - Panel Discussion
- Apr 13 - Teach-a-Trick
- May 11 - TBA
- Jun 8 - Election, Dues, and Money Magic*
- Jul 12 - Installation Banquet
- Aug 10 - Kid's magic / TBA*.

*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 Greg Wauson,

So, as I know you will join me in looking forward, in anticipation, to the exciting challenges this Ring faces, let's us forge ahead realizing that, like the Bard said, "What is past is prologue."

— Richard Ustick

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PHOTOGRAPHER - JAMES THAYER**



Minutes of the July 7th Ring76 Meeting and Installation Banquet

Clairemont Senior Center

Entertainment VP **Richard Ustick** and President **Robert Vinson** called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. This is our annual Installation Banquet (held on a Sunday rather than our usual Monday evening), which was catered by Porters BBQ. There was a big thank you to Porters - the food was delicious and abundant. Members and guests arrived at 5pm for socializing, and there was an opportunity to browse raffle items and buy raffle tickets.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board and Robert Vinson had invited **Jack White** and his wife to the banquet, and they were introduced to the newer members of the Ring by **Jeff Marcus** and given an ovation of applause. Jack had done more for the San Diego IBM Ring than anyone in recent history, and he was also the



Jack White



Mark Booth - Entertainer of the Year

IBM International President; unfortunately he had suffered a spinal stroke, and it then became too difficult to attend Ring events. The Ring is appreciative for all that Jack has done, and we appreciate his coming to the banquet.

Richard Ustick announced the winners for the Ring's voting recognitions and annual contests. Entertainer



Robert Vinson - Member of the Year



David Chiu and Gary Salisbury

Tip of the Hat Winners

of the year: **Mark Booth**. Member of the year for contributions to Magic in the San Diego Community: **Robert Vinson**. The Tip of the Hat award for going the extra-mile with contributions to the Ring went to **Gary Salisbury** for the fantastic Fool-Us awards and for his work on the library, and to **David Chiu** for stepping up to help with many things throughout the year. The winners of the 2019 annual close-up contest competition were: **Greg Wauson** (first place), **Winton Gibbons** (second place), and **Ken Intriligator** (third place). The winners of the 2019 annual stand-up contest competition were: **Joe Mystic** (first place), **Mago Ruly** (second place), and **Winton Gibbons** (third place). The 2018-2019 Board had their picture taken, and then the 2019-2020 Board came up to be sworn in by Regional Representative of the IBM, Jeff Marcus. Jeff's swearing in quickly went from serious to hilarious.

ENTERTAINMENT

Hypnotist **Randy Kappe** discussed hypnosis and discussed some self-tests that we could all consider and do, to decide if we are good candidates for



Ken Intriligator, Winton Gibbons and Greg Wauson

Close-Up Contest Winners

volunteers. The eventual volunteers included a couple of Ring members, including Gary Salisbury and Ken Intriligator (yours truly), along with several family member guests. Randy and the volunteers, I think, successfully entertained the audience. Thank you,



Winton Gibbons and Joe Mystic

Stand-Up Contest Winners



Outgoing Board of Officers (2018-19)



Incoming Board of Officers (2019-20)

Randy, for the entertaining performance (which was done free-of-charge as a favor to the Ring)!

Next came the raffle. Lucky winners included **David Chui** (twice!), **Jeff Marcus**, **Malcolm**



Randy Kappe (behind) and Volunteers

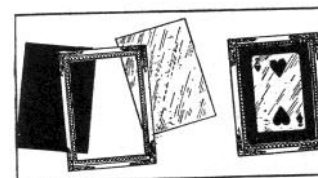
Campbell, **Greg Wauson**, visitor and prospective member **Jeremy** (thrice!), and **Ken Ball**.

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robert Vinson thanked those who contributed to the Magic Show Fundraiser, which raised over \$1,100 for the Community Center (and in return the Center will help the Ring with reducing the rent for the upcoming meetings). The magicians were **Jeff Marcus**, **Joe Mystic**, **Matt King**, and **Mike Stillwell**. Others who contributed to the show were **Josh Sherwin**, **Katrina Dismukes**, **Gary Salisbury**, **John Hunter** and **Richard Ustick**, There was a round of thank-you applause for **Elinor** of the Community Center, and to **Jack White**.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

— *Ken Intriligator, Secretary*





Shavings from the Board

Minutes of the Ring 76 Board Meeting

July 22, 2019



The meeting was called to order by President **Richard Ustick** at 7:19 pm. The board members present were: First V.P.

(entertainment) **Greg Wauson**,

Second V.P. (membership) **James Thayer**, Treasurer **Joe “Mystic” McGrievy**, Sergeant-at-Arms **David Chiu**, Secretary **Ken Intriligator**, Member-at-Large **Rich Robertson**, Librarian and Member-at-Large **Gary Salisbury**, and Member-at-Large and past president **Robert Vinson**. Also present were North County and Military Liaison **Josh Sherwin**, Territorial Vice President **Jeff Marcus**, Host **Bob Meigs**, and guests **Sherry Luft** and **Matt Feinman**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June board meeting were approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer’s report Past treasurer Bob Meigs presented his final report to the board. He closed the Ring’s bank account, and Joe opened a new account for the Ring as the new treasurer. There was a reduction in the balance from the expenses of the installation banquet, and awaiting depositing all of the checks. Other expenses included a few library supplies, and a charge for the website. The Ring will benefit from rent-free meetings (thanks to the magic show fundraiser) through December. Joe reported on how it was not possible to just switch the name on the account to reflect the new treasurer, and how the old account was set up as if it were an individual’s personal checking account. Joe had to open a new bank account for the Ring, which is now a (no-fee) corporate account (since the Ring is incorporated). This created a host of bureaucratic hurdles for Joe to deal with, and some

associated expenses to be reimbursed (including, for example, to allow for checks to be made out to “IBM Ring 76” instead of writing out “International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 76”).

Library report and discussion Gary Salisbury presented another detailed library report. His goal is to make it the best reference library in the IBM. He is setting up a policy and procedures manual. He will solicit new donations, and convert old VHS tapes to legal digital copies. He will improve communications about the library in a variety of ways. He is already getting a lot of feedback from members to his Library -grams. He is installing library cards to track the loans and help eliminate losses. He is in contact with Jack White about possible donations. He is also in contact with anonymous donor “Dr. X” who is considering making a massive donation. Gary purchased supplies for making the legal copies, the DVD jackets, and the checking-out material. He paid out of pocket these expenses, and the Ring voted to reimburse Gary for that. There was some discussion about how to ensure that checked-out material is returned.

Membership report James informed the board that there are 53 members who have renewed their membership. 5 members have not yet renewed and James has reached out to them. There was also some discussion about finding a volunteer to be the newsletter editor, and some suggestions were made (Mark Booth, or Winton and Ian Gibbons). James has updated the website to reflect the new board officers (some photos are needed). Gary sent a photo of the Ring’s old meeting spot, Valle’s restaurant, which is now on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

July meeting recap: The meeting and entertainment went very well. The food was excellent.

NEW BUSINESS

Library needs: Gary reported that the VHS to DVD recorder broke. He suggested replacing it with a better quality version. Josh discussed the possible quality gain and pointed out that it is not possible to get better than the original VHS quality. Josh is working with Gary to do the conversions on the



DVDs. A used replacement would cost around \$100 to \$200. Robert Vincent might have one that the Ring can use, but it will take some time to find it. Josh uses an El Gato video dongle and has a DVD recorder. The ring decided to put off buying a recorder for now. Gary also suggests buying some hard drives for checkout to hold the Harlan Tarbell course material that the ring purchased; the Board decided to defer this expense to the future. There was also discussion about how to prevent copying. Guest Matt Feinman advised about possible copyright legalities. Jeff Marcus will talk with some club members who are copyright attorneys. Gary discussed selling duplicate material at the Ring meetings, and other possible ways to raise funds for the Library.

Non-profit status: Joe and James discussed the required updates (to keep our 501(c)(6) status) to the State about the Ring officers. It was filed two years ago, and now we are required to file another one. Every two years is the minimum, but it should also be updated annually with the new officers. This Statement of Information (SOI) needs to be filed at the end of July.

Apart from this, we need to file Form 990 is needed, and James points out that the Form 990N (e-postcard) is sufficient, and will be due by the end of October. Joe is willing to do the SOI. Richard suggested that James and Joe take care of the Form 990, and also write up this information for the future board's reference.

Inner-Circle performance suggestion: Bob wrote up an idea for a performance, together with (perhaps partial) explanation that members might consider doing at ring 76 meetings. His objective will be to treat the audience as magicians, rather than just spectators. Jeff Marcus had some suggestions. Joe suggested that Bob should coordinate it. Bob will write it up for the newsletter.

Mentorship and feedback after performances: Josh suggested that he would have more interest in performing at Ring meetings if he could get feedback afterwards. These things can go at the

end of the meeting. The V.P. of Entertainment can plan for this based on how many people are performing. Greg will write an article for the newsletter.

Upcoming meeting themes: August: Kid's magic; September: new-to-me magic; October: Halloween; November: food magic; December: banquet and Fool-Us contest; January: TBA; February: Close-up contest; March: panel discussion; April: teach-a-trick (and bring your friends); May: TBA; June: Election, dues, and money magic; July: Installation banquet; August: Kid's magic / TBA.

The board meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. Rich seconded the motion.

— Ken Intriligator, Secretary

August Meeting

Kid's Magic

Outstanding kids' magician Silly Billy (a.k.a. David Kaye) has said that performing for children is a lot like performing for drunks, because they are totally unpredictable and you never know what they may say or do. And here's a post on the Magic Café website: "My limited experience with kid shows tells me that slackers need not apply." Even with these challenges, your Ring 76 leadership has taken the bull by the horns and boldly determined that children's magic is the theme of our next meeting, on August 12th.

Performing at kids' parties is the bread and butter for many full-time professional magicians. Yet, in the immortal words of Rodney Dangerfield, those who perform magic for kids often don't get any respect. But a prestidigitator who thoroughly entertains a group of kids demonstrates a real skill. As we know, it's not mainly about the trick; it's the presentation. One section of Silly Billy's book, *Seriously Silly*, is very insightful as it goes into some detail in describing what the author has found works in performing the same trick for different ages of kids, including teenagers and adults.

Consider dusting off that old kids' magic effect, or coming up with a story line for the new trick you



recently picked up, and share it with us at our next meeting. We're a friendly bunch and more than willing to act like kids for you. You can let us know how old you want us to be and we'll do our best to oblige. Or maybe you want us to be all ages of kids. In any case, please let the VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson, know if you want to be one of the performers at our August meeting. You can reach him at [<entertainment@ring76.com>](mailto:entertainment@ring76.com)

Our August meeting is one of the meetings which will count toward the Performer of the Year award. The members will vote on who in their opinions gave the best presentation of the evening and whoever gets the most votes through our June 2020 meeting will win the coveted title.

— Greg Wauson

Magic Stories and Other Information Wanted

Do you have your own magic story to tell? Or perhaps you've been researching one or more magicians from the past and have come across some interesting tales? Or maybe you've been getting up to speed with a certain type of magic and would like to share your experiences with the club? Or you've found an effective way to practice and rehearse? We'd like to hear about it at our meetings! This is another way for you to get involved without necessarily performing an effect and help other Ring 76ers round out our magic knowledge. Contact Greg Wauson at [<entertainment@ring76.com>](mailto:entertainment@ring76.com)

— Greg Wauson

Performance Feedback

Get an immediate review regarding one of your performances at a Ring 76 meeting from a director for no charge! Well, it's not exactly a director that you've hired to work with you to refine your act; it would be from your magic brothers and sisters at the Ring 76 meeting. But the price is right – free! -

and you would probably be getting feedback from more than one person, ranging from relatively inexperienced magicians to full-time pros. It's been quite a while since any of the performers at our monthly meetings requested feedback from the audience. But this is one of the perks of being part of a magic club. If you're interested, let me know. I'll then notify the audience before your performance to watch carefully because you'd like to get comments which could help you improve.

Feedback could be shared verbally as a group – or shared as written notes on paper that only you and the person with the comment would see. You decide. And you could request feedback for specific areas: tips to make the presentation more entertaining overall, scripting, suggestions for handling of props, whether any sleights are sensitive to angles, whether you have any tells when doing some key move, etc. We all understand it is a challenge to stand up and perform, and even more of a challenge to request a critique. But keep in mind that you're among friends! We all want to improve our abilities to entertain our audiences and be better ambassadors for magic. We're here for you!

— Greg Wauson

Ex Libris

By Gary D. Salisbury



Welcome to Ex Libris, the monthly newsletter article about your IBM Ring 76 Library.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LIBRARY

The library's primary objective is to support the Art of Magic by having the best reference library in the entire IBM organization for our members to learn from.

We will make it the best by:

- ♣ Increasing quantity and quality of materials available to members.



- ♣ Implementing easier methods to check materials out.
- ♣ Improving communications to members about library issues.
- ♣ Implementing record-keeping and other methods to minimize loss.
- ♣ Develop & document a standardized set of policies & procedures how the library will operate.

JULY DONATIONS

Thanks to the generosity of a few, we have more do-nations that we can all share. Thanks again for your generosity and setting an example for others to (hopefully) follow. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Gary Salisbury: 3 DVDs and 1 CD

- ♣ Robert-Houdin—A Magician’s Life (documentary)
- ♣ GIN – The Harada Hold (an unbelievable coin effect)
- ♣ Simon Aronson – The Impossible Magic of Simon Aronson (card magic)
- ♣ Chandu, The Magician—166 Radio Episodes from 1948-1949.

Greg Wauson: 3 Books


- ♣ Mac King—Tricks With Your Head
- ♣ John Scarne—Scarne’s Tricks
- ♣ George Schindler—Magic With Everyday Objects

Jay Malone: Miscellaneous Items

- ♣ A case of 100 plastic VHS boxes
- ♣ Brother label printer

SEEKING DONATIONS

- ♣ We need more books and videos to build the library. Those have to come from donations because there are no funds earmarked for library acquisitions this year.

- ♣ If you have any unused DVD-R or DVD+R disks that you could donate, it would be appreciated. 
- ♣ We are also looking for a VHS/DVD re-corder to replace the club’s broken unit.
- ♣ And of course, we would welcome any financial donations ear-marked for the Ring 76 Library so we can purchase much needed supplies. It is hard to run this like a business without a budget.

VIDEO REVIEWS

Robert-Houdin, A Magicians Life:

The true story of a magician, a tale of mystery and science. He was a clockmaker, a creator of automata, the conjuror who founded the famous SOIREES FAN-TASTI-QUES in Paris - the magic show that revolutionized magic! This unique artist also displayed his talents abroad and made groundbreaking scientific discoveries in Optics and electricity! The documentary allows us to see his most celebrated stage illusions and inventions in 19th century setting.

The French conjuror Pierre Switon plays the part of Robert-Houdin for the screen.

I have already watched it twice and I enjoyed it so much that am ready for a third viewing. - GDS

BOOK REVIEWS

Tarbell Course in Magic:

The Tarbell Course in Magic is a notable encyclopedia of magic amongst professional and amateur magicians. It has eight volumes; the first five were part of the original home-study correspondence course compiled in 1928 by Dr. Harlan Tarbell, the remaining three volumes being added on later.

This magic volume series was originally designed as a correspondence course for budding magicians. Once they were collected and bound, the series has become an unparalleled reference standard for magicians. In its impact on the magic world, it is second perhaps in its influence on the art of magic only to Hoffman's Modern 2



Magic, and many professional magicians have based their careers on the Tarbell Course.

The entire collection comprises more than one-hundred lessons in every aspect of magic including micro-magic/close-up magic, escapology, mentalism and stage illusions. It is the most comprehensive literary work in magic history. The original five volumes contained sixty correspondence lessons with more than 3,000 illustrations.

In addition to teaching specific tricks, the Tarbell Course also teaches patter, marketing, the history of magic, ethics, advertising, routining, presentation, diction and elocution, magic theory, performance theory, acting, misdirection, timing and showmanship.

Volume 7 of the series was written by Harry Lorayne and compiled from contributions by other magicians; it is valued largely for its comprehensive index, subdivided by title, contributor, and properties, to the first seven volumes.

Volume 8 of the series was compiled and edited by Richard J. Kaufman and Steve Burton. It collected Tarbell's widely scattered and previously uncollected writings on magic, which Kaufman then fashioned into something resembling the first six volumes of the course. Since most of the book was written and illustrated by Tarbell, it is linked more closely to the rest of the course than Volume 7.

REVIEWS WANTED

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

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY EVENT

In order to help the library with much needed funding, we are going to have our first book sale at the next ring meeting on August 12, 2019, where we will be selling all duplicate copies of books, keeping only one copy for the library. We will also be selling a large selection of pamphlets, spiral bound books, and loose leaf note books so don't

miss this event. There is lots of good stuff here and it will be at rock bottom prices so the more you buy, the more you save. Come and support your library!

LIBRARY CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

Members may contact me 7x24 (who else does that?) via e-mail at librarian@ring76.com or by cell phone at 619-569-6035 (text message or voice) to let me know what you would like to check out. I will make sure the item(s) get to the next monthly meeting or you can pick it up at my home.

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, our objective is to build the best magic library in the entire IBM organization world-wide but we need your help to do that. Please return over-due books & videos and donate regularly to your library.

Non-urgent library related communications will always be done via Ex Libris newsletter articles and more urgent library related communications will be done by a Ring 76 LibraryGram email

Have a magic month my friends and we will see you next month.

—Gary Salisbury





San Diego Discovery Magazine did a full page piece on Ring 76's Magic Mike Stilwell!

PROMOTIONAL

And You Thought You've Seen *Real Magic!*

Magic Mike Stilwell combines magic with personality. A towering presence, bowler or top hat in place, a warm Cheshire cat smile across his lips, with his masterful, decades-honed expertise, he leaves both young and old in total wonderment and sheer delight.

Photography by Johnny Kodak



As one of the country's leading corporate magicians, Stilwell has many bookings years in advance, and understandably so given the quality of his masterful performance and the utter astonishment at his magical routine. Witnessing his slight of hand, while incredibly close to his audience, leaves one in amazement that it be true magic.

"Magician of the Year" in the year 2005, Member of the Society of American Magicians since 1974, the International Brotherhood of Magicians since 1976, the Academy of Magical Art since 1981 and Member of the Magic Castle in Hollywood, Magic Mike has fine-tuned his talents these past decades, earning high praise and respect among those in the profession, while often leaving them and certainly those not of the trade in awe.

Beyond the pure excellence of his magical performance, Stilwell makes the effort to learn about the event, who is guest(s) of honor, whatever special requests might play a role and thereafter, customizes his presentation to fulfill expectations.

His most recent book, "The Entertainer's Handbook ~ How To Be A Success In The Entertainment Industry" is found on Amazon.com. In addition, for those curious souls wanting to know how it all happens, Magic Mike offers classes.

Having performed across the breadth of the nation, he is most appreciative of the heartfelt reception given him these many years by San Diegans.

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(619)-251-2766
www.magicmikestilwell.com



NOTES AND REMINDERS

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

Ring 76 is still looking for an Editor for MagiCurrents. The job involves editing contributions and compiling them into the MagiCurrents newsletter. This task is performed monthly.

Contact James Thayer at jt4@ring76.com for more information.

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>](mailto: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