



MAGICURRENTS

San Diego Ring 76

November 2019

VOLUME XXXIV #11

President's Message

Fellow Ring Members,

The Holiday Season is upon us and two of the most exciting Ring events are happening back to back.

I am referring to the annual Ring Swap Meet in November and the always popular Holiday Pot-luck in December.

Details on these events are to be found in this newsletter, so I won't be redundant here. I just want to say that you, as Ring members, are the key to both these meetings being enjoyable, profitable, and successful.

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Notes on Entertainment

Our next meeting, on November 11, will be a **swap meet!** This is an event we always look forward to since it's a good time for buyers and sellers. You can load up on magic books, props and accessories for bargain prices. Or you can clear up some space at home by selling the magical wonders you haven't used for a while and give others the opportunity to amaze with it. Either way, you win! This is also a good opportunity to bring along your friends or relatives who have an interest in magic so they can go home with new material to

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

Senior Center in Clairemont
4425 Bannock Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117

Ring 76 2019-20 Calendar

Nov 11	Swap Meet
Dec 9	Banquet and Fool-Us Contest*
Jan 13	Food Magic*
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

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to
V.P. of Entertainment Greg Wauson,
ru9@ring76.com

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



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President's Message continued from prior page

Let me explain;

The Swap meet is where you can get some excellent bargains on some great magic. It is also the place to sell your treasures for some much needed holiday cash. Therefore it is important not only to have a wealth of sellers for the evening but a wealth of consumers as well. To fulfill that need it is your responsibility to invite friends and family or members of your other community groups to participate in this occasion. The public is welcome to our Swap Meet but the public has to know about it. The Board will be notifying local Rings but you have access to other people who might be interested in what you have to sell. So please invite your friends and family to our Swap Meet for the more people we have there the greater the chance you have to make a deal and sell your wears.

As for our December Holiday Party, it is pot luck so please plan ahead as to what you are going to bring. Each year we have a wide assortment of festive fare and we want to sample your family favorites. If you have any questions then contact a Board Member and they can answer all of your questions.

See you at the Swapmeet in November,

Richard Ustick
President
IBM Ring 76

Charlie Gott lives on Delfern street about one mile east of Kaiser hospital on Mission Gorge Road in Allied Gardens. Charlie is unable to drive at night and would appreciate rides to clubs. His



Notes on Entertainment continued from prior page

learn and also see how friendly the folks in our Ring are.

The doors will open at 6:30 for sellers to start setting up tables. Sellers who are Ring 76 members can rent each table for \$10; they're \$20 for non-members. Contact Greg Wauson at **gw83@ring76.com** to reserve tables.

Greg Wauson

First V.P. (entertainment)

IBM Ring

Kudos to **Mark Booth**, our October Entertainer of the Month!





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IBM Ring 76 Members Only Facebook Group

Member **Mark Booth** has started a new Facebook Group specifically for Ring 76 members. It's an online place for members to share their passion for the art of magic with their fellow Ring 76 members. Photos, videos, articles about magic, upcoming magic events and performances, etc. Articles & stories regarding the art of magic and/or IBM/Ring 76 discussion.

The Group is hidden and private so it cannot be found using search on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account and you'd like to be a member of the IBM Ring 76 Members Only Facebook Group, please drop an email to Mark at markbooth@cox.net and he will invite you to join the group.

The Facebook Group is open to all Ring 76 members that are in good standing (current with their dues). Since the Group is private, only members of the Group can read what is posted in the Group and see who else belongs to the Group.





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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday October 14, 2019

North Clairemont Recreation Center

Vice President for Entertainment **Greg Wauson** called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm (President **Richard Ustick** was out-of-town). Greg asked for the guests to introduce themselves. One was **Mike Adams**, who came together with **TJ Souter** (who is in the fifth grade, and a budding magician). Another was a UCSD college student named "**Steele**," who comes from China and plans to join Ring 76; Steel wowed us after the meeting with some interesting effects. Newsletter editor **Winton Gibbons** introduced his youngest son, **Lucas Gibbons**, who attended MagicLive and might join Ring 76, together with brother **Ian Gibbons**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg outlined the meetings for the next couple of months. November will be fully devoted to the swap meet, and Greg encouraged members to spread the word about the swap meet and help bring in fresh people including non-members. The sales tables are \$10 each, and can be split among sellers. December will be the Holiday Potluck, and the entertainment will be provided by the members having a FoolUsToo contest. Last year's FoolUsToo contest was great entertainment, and five out of ten contestants successfully fooled the panel of judges and received as an award a beautiful wooden plaque, that was designed and hand-crafted by club Librarian **Gary Salisbury**. Greg emphasized that this is your Ring, so please contact any board member with any suggestions.

Dr Jeff Pearson reminded members that

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MINUTES OF RING 76 BOARD MEETING

October 28, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Ustick at 6:56 pm. All board members were present: First V.P. (entertainment) Greg Wauson, Second V.P. (membership) James Thayer, Treasurer Joe "Mystic" McGrievy, Secretary Ken Intriligator, Sargent-of-arms David Chiu, Member-at-Large Rich Robertson, Librarian and Member-at-Large Gary Salisbury, Member-at-Large and past president Robert Vinson. Also present were North County and Military Liaison Josh Sherwin, Host Bob Meigs, and guest Mark Booth.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September board meeting were approved.

REPORTS

First VP of Entertainment Greg Wauson gave a recap of the October meeting. Terry Lunceford and Mike Stillwell's lectures were highlights, and there were ten performances.

Membership and Newsletter James Thayer's update: there are 49 paid members and 10 life members. James Thayer pointed out that there are two (provisional) new members: Wei Li and Eli Sanchez. With the two new members, the membership is up by one compared with last year.

Treasurer's report Joe went over the month's check register and other charges. The treasury funds remain quite low.

Sergeant of Arms David Chiu gave the attendance count from September's Ring

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General Membership Meeting Minutes continued from prior page

the North County magic club / meet up meets the first Thursday of every month at the CoCos in Vista; this meet up attracts some great young magicians, and also magic spectators, and all are welcome to attend. Also, Jeff does bar magic most Tuesday nights at the Grand Avenue Bar and Grill. Jeff also announced that **Shawn Farquhar** is coming to lecture at Illusions on November 3.

Craig Blackwood announced that Magic Mondays at The Lot La Jolla will restart, starting November 4. Plan to arrive at 6pm for dinner reservations (with walk-around magic), and the show will start at 7pm. Contact Craig if you are interested in performing a short set, or in doing walk-around. **Terry Lunceford** said that it was a great experience performing there last year; I enjoyed doing walk-around there, and the show.

AUDITION AND LECTURE

The first performance was the audition of **Eli Sanchez**, who was a member of the Twin Cities IBM Ring. Eli did a great torn-and-restored newspaper routine, with a fun presentation about getting his news first from Facebook and then from Twitter. Awesome performance, Eli, and welcome to Ring 76!

Next Greg announced that we will have a short lecture by our own **Terry Lunceford**, who has lectured at places worldwide, including at the Magic Castle, and the Magic Circle in London. Terry started off by performing his Pocket Card trick: two audience members were invited to choose a card (one was a two of spades and one was a seven of spades), and return their

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meeting. There was a good turnout: 24 members and 6 guests.

Library report and discussion Gary Salisbury presented his report. There were no book sales in October. Gary wrote several reviews for the newsletter, is working on donations, and is working on the stream team and format conversion. This includes many VHS donations from the anonymous "Dr. X". There were donations from Nick Brown among others.

OLD BUSINESS

Facebook Group: Mark Booth needs the email addresses to invite members to the member's only group. Richard suggested having members email to Mark, or have a sign-up sheet at the meeting. There was a discussion about having members be able to invite other members, with moderator approval, and that Dr. Jeff Pearson is probably Facebook Friends with most members.

Donations: There are many donated items that the Ring can sell at the swap meet. The number of Ring tables is TBD, pending how many tables are used by others.

Charity performances: Bob pointed out that detailed background checks (including fingerprinting, a physical, etc) are required for performances for volunteers with the Boy's and Girl's club if one goes through the corporate organization. Sometimes this can be avoided by going through the local

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We challenge other members to also provide articles, reviews, stories, photos, or magic related comics.



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card to the deck. Terry had one card flip out from the deck and showed it to both and asked if they recognized it - it was a nine of spades, and both said no (Terry then joked "you've never seen a nine of spades before?!"). Terry then pointed out that it was close (spades, and $2+7=9$). He then ripped open the 9S and inside was a small 2S and 9S - nice! Terry then demonstrated how to split cards. Terry brought enough pocket card gaffs to gift one to everyone - thank you, Terry! Terry then entertained us with some wonderful stories about pranks and other fun times over his years in magic, including with JC Wagner, Mike Stillwell, and others. Among the guests at Terry's wedding were Harry Blackstone Jr. and Johnny Thompson. Terry has been working for 40 years at the Magic Castle, where he has performed in every room, and he is the only magician to have performed at there at the Bar for an entire week without repeating a trick. Terry is also the only performer to have won every category of performance award in the Ring 76 contests. Thank you, Terry, for the fun lecture!

PERFORMANCES

Entertainment VP Greg Wauson did a great job as the MC, including sharing a little bit about each performer (how they got their start in magic, and some of their favorite magicians and influences).

First up was **Mark Booth**, with help from **Laurie Pearson**. Mark brought some spooky things from Michael's and a photo of Houdini in a box. Laurie showed Houdini her chosen card, shuffled it into the deck, and was then instructed to slowly put the cards one at a time into the box. Suddenly,

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chapters. Joe noted that he and other performers have had background checks.

NEW BUSINESS

Library software needs and status report: Gary suggests getting a paid version of PLEX pass software for the streaming project. It was suggested that it sometimes goes on sale. The expense was discussed, and Joe noted that the November meeting will be the last one where the Club gets a discounted rate for our meeting place. The Board discussed funding it from Library sales or from member donations. There was a vote to go ahead with this contingent upon raising funds outside of the general treasury. It was suggested to first go with the free version of the software before purchasing the paid version. There was a discussion of the bandwidth and the cost with Cox of running a streaming server. David Chiu offered to set up a trial beta version for the Board members. Josh offered to use his PLEX pass to test it out. It was voted that Gary, David, and Josh will follow up on that. Gary presented the rest of his library report, including the fund level.

Non-profit status: James gave Richard the copies of the filings of form 990 e-postcard with the IRS and form 199n with the CA state FTB. These filings need to be kept in a binder for future reference and as records for the group.

November swap meet meeting: The room is available starting at 6:30, when we could set up the tables. Joe pointed out that the original deal with Elinor for the room was for 3 hours plus 30 minutes set-up time. There will need to be a short business

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the box snapped shut. The card remaining on top of the deck was then revealed to indeed be Laurie's chosen card- wow! This was the winning performance.

Next up was **Ian Gibbons** who told a scary story about a walk in a graveyard as he showed paper tombstones one-by-one. First the tombstones were all blank, but then Ian's name appeared on one. Then they became blank again. Nice effect, Ian!

The next performer was **Malcolm Campbell**, who chose **Ken Intriligator** as his assistant. Malcolm asked Ken to choose either even or odd and either red or black, selecting a collection of cards. Then Malcolm asked for Ken to name his birthday month, and he counted down the letters to select the birthday card. Then the cards were put into rows and collected into a stack. After some mixings, with random choices, there were two cards from the stack. The two cards gave a page number from a book, and Malcolm correctly knew a line on that page. Nice performance, Malcolm

The next performer was **Ken Intriligator** (that's me), who chose our 5th grader guest **TJ** as his assistant. Ken made a request, relayed by Greg, for audience feedback and critique after his performance. Ken did a coin routine with an Eisenhower dollar and a dollar sided copper proof that looked like a Lincoln penny (they were described as being the spirits of Eisenhower and Lincoln, fitting with the theme), and a handkerchief. The routine contained parts from an effect by Kainoa Harbottle, the expansion of texture, and Rob Thomson. Afterwards, the members had a lot of great advice and

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portion of the meeting, during which sales will need to stop. Tables are \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. The number of tables that can fit in the room was discussed. There was a discussion about advertising the meeting to the outside public, including e.g. clown groups. Robert will look into clown and other groups, and Greg will contact other IBM rings.

December meeting: Potluck and Fool-us competition, with Gary's wonderful award. There was a discussion about whether or not performers should be allowed to mislead the judges with red herrings. Performers must discuss their routine with referee Jeff Marcus first, to go over what constitutes a correct solution from the judges.

Videotaping the meetings and performances: David Chiu offered to videotape performances for posting on the members-only streaming site. There was discussion of getting a release form.

Lecture at a Ring Meeting: Greg took a poll at the meeting, and there was support for having a lecture, and having it at a Ring meeting if need be. Greg suggested Danny Ray, who impressed Greg at the Magic Castle and who has family in our area. There was discussion about having the lecture at the meeting vs another night of the week. It was suggested to contact Jeff Marcus about other lecturer ideas. The treasury fund is getting low, so the Board will tentatively consider Danny Ray for January, but will wait until after the November meeting to determine if there are sufficient funds to allow it.

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helpful feedback.

The next performer was **Winton Gibbons** who chose **Dr. Jeff Pearson** as his assistant, together with a box from the Dark Web. Cards were dealt. Jeff was given the choice of holy or the devil (and chose the latter), and in the end the card matched Jeff's chosen card. Then Jeff's card was put into a folded hank, and the hank was opened and Jeff's card was gone.

Next up was **Matt King** (in scary, Halloween costume), who chose **Sherry Luft, Mike Stillwell, and TJ** as his assistants. Each selected a card. Then a deck was put into a glass, and covered by a large, glass container. One-by-one, the three cards rose out of the deck, and was given to each assistant, who confirmed the match with their chosen card.

The next performer was **Nick Benvenuto** who chose **Tom Owen-Towle** as his assistant to inspect a rope. Nick told a story about trick-or-treating as a child, and getting a big knot. With some magic, the knot dissolved!

HISTORICAL DEMONSTRATION AND A TECHNIQUE LESSON

Bob Meigs told the story, with demonstration, of "the most important magic trick ever performed." Bob spoke about Mary Shelley's story of Dr. Frankenstein and his monster, and the old-time carnival side-show fakers who had machines to momentarily bring back the dead. Bob fired up the retro, electronic contraption, put a "dead bat" on the metal plate, covered it with a glass bulb, and then the bat jumped around a few times. Bob

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Website payment debit card: James got the card number from Joe for the new account.

Magic show fundraisers: Greg suggested having such a show. Joe said that there are theaters (e.g. North Coast Repertory Theater) that will do a 50-50 split on their off nights. Greg will look into this. Robert suggested that it could be possible to get company donations.

NEWSLETTER

Richard will send his President's report. Greg will write about the November swap meet. Mark Booth will write about the Facebook group. Richard will write about the December meeting banquet and the You Fooled Us contest. Gary will have library contributions. Michael Johnson has contributed by sending local events information. Robert will contact Jeff Marcus to get information about events from other So Cal Rings. The contributions should be ready by November 1, and sent to editor@ring76.com.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm. Rich seconded the motion!

The board meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Ken Intriligator

Secretary

Have magic to sell, stage equipment to rent? Looking for something to buy or rent? MagiCurrents offers paid advertising for magic-related items from non-members. The rate is \$60.00 per page per issue. Advertise it at no cost to Ring 76 members in MagiCurrents.



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told about how Dr. Claude Beck saw such a show, understood the secret, and that was the light bulb that inspired him to experiment with medical applications. In 1947 Dr. Beck saved the life of a 14 year old boy who had apparently expired on the operating table. The magic trick merits being known as "the most important magic trick ever performed" because it helped to spark the creation of the heart defibrillator, saving many lives.

Mike Stillwell taught a part 2 lesson on his one-handed shuffle. Mike performs at Dave and Busters from 6:00-8:30pm, and invited members to drop by to watch, or to contact him for pointers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm, and many of us then went to Denny's for dinner, dessert, and camaraderie.

Ken Intriligator
Secretary



You Fooled Us! in December

You asked for it and you got it! The entertainment for the **Holiday Pot-luck in December** is going to be the ever-popular *You Fooled Us* competition that the RING initiated last year. In no way infringing on ideas available on other forms of entertainment, this thoroughly original contest pits Ring Members against an elite and specialized group of judges to see if you can Fool Us with your magical abilities.

Highly entertaining, we know this will be the pinnacle of the Holiday season for most of us. If you are interested in competing



this year, and spaces are very limited, please contact Greg Wauson V.P. of Entertainment. Participants will perform a single effect in front of the Ring and a panel of judges. The judges will attempt to determine the method behind the effect. A moderator who will be given the method will decide if the solution the panelists propose is correct. The effects do not have to be large, expensive or, really, that complicated to baffle our panel of so-called "experts".

Each winner will not only have bragging rights but will be given a beautiful personalized plaque (pictured above), which has been designed by our own Gary Salisbury.

Every contestant will be given **eight minutes to perform a single magic effect in front of the Ring and two judges**. The judges will then have 90 seconds to confer and come up with their best explanation for the method. A moderator who has previously been given the method will determine if the solution the judges propose is correct. Send an email to Greg Wauson (gw83@ring76.com) to reserve your slot in the event.



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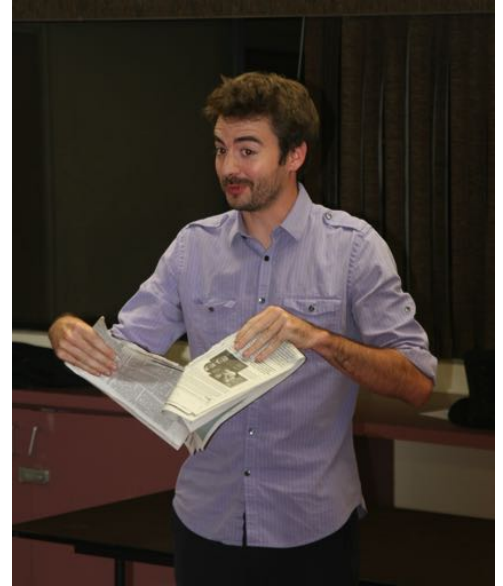
September Performances





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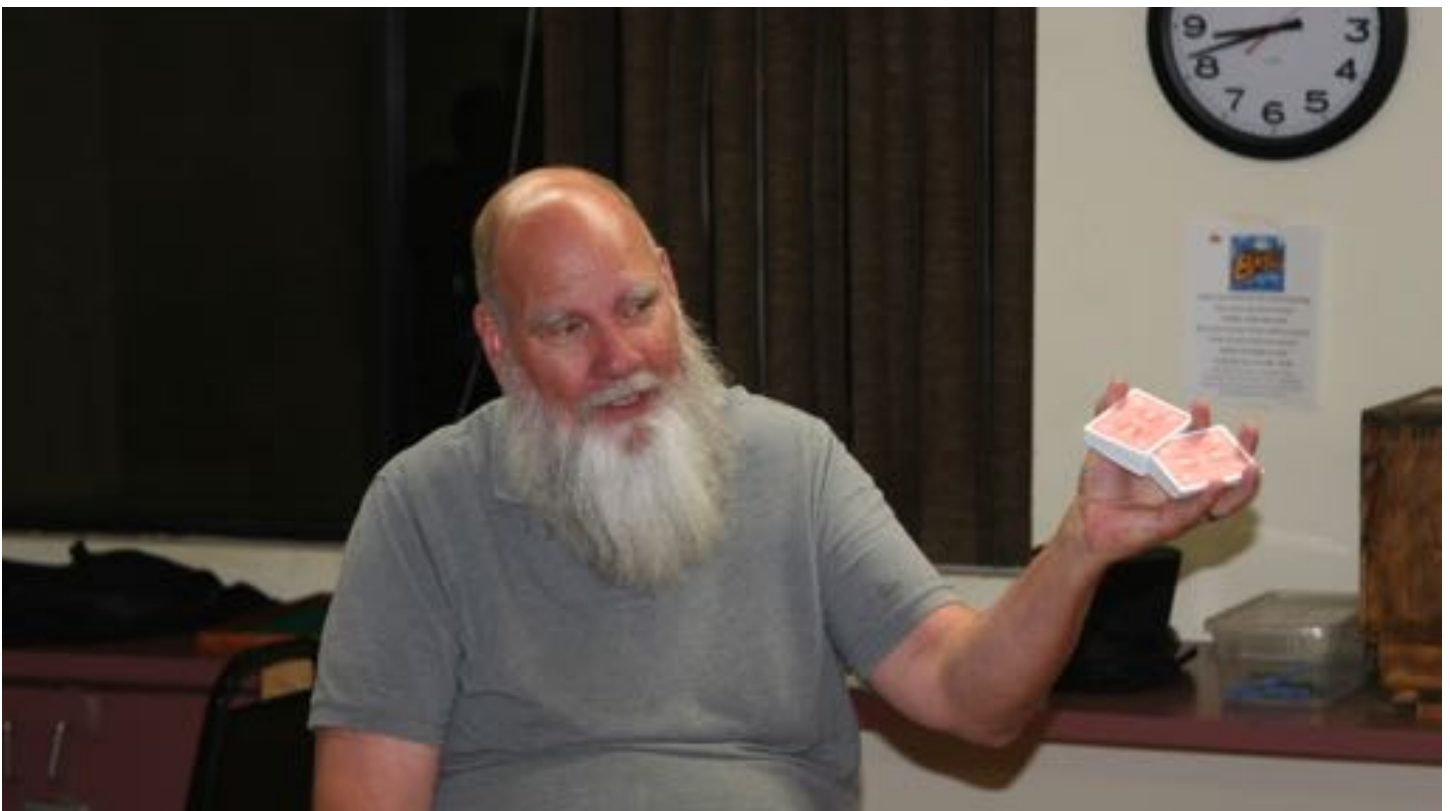
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This month's Performers



Thank you Mike! Time for us now to go out and perform it.





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Ex Libris

By Gary D. Salisbury



Welcome to Ex Libris, my monthly newsletter article about the IBM Ring 76 Library in San Diego, CA.

'Ex Libris' (Eh-cks LEE-breese), means '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.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LIBRARY

The library's primary objective is to support the art of magic by providing the best reference library in the entire IBM organization for members to learn from. It is here for you so please use it!

We will make it the best by:

- Increasing quantity and quality of materials available to members through donations and acquisitions.
- Implementing easier methods to check materials out.
- Improving communications to members about library issues.
- Implementing record-keeping and other methods to minimize loss.
- Developing a standardized set of policies & procedures on how the library will operate.

Donations WANTED

- Tarbell #2 Hardback Book. Donation or purchase? Looking for two volumes. It is for a good cause.
- We are still looking for a VHS/DVD recorder to replace the club's broken unit. Currently we are borrowing Robert Vinson's unit but should not take advantage of his generosity.
- 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.
- Currently we need money to buy software for the magic video streaming project and will not be able to move forward without this.
 - 1.Windows 10 Pro-\$185
 - 2.PLEX Pro - \$130



Can you help out by donating something for this? Anything at all will help. We currently have only \$1 left in the library petty cash fund.

SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

Thanks to the generosity of a few, we have a few more items that we can all share. Thanks again for your generosity and setting an example for others to (hopefully) follow.

Thank you, Gracias, Grazie, Merci, Danke, Arigato, 谢谢, 감사합니다, спасибо!

- Dr. X (anonymous donor)
 - 300 magic videos (valued at \$11,537)
- Nick Brown
 - The PENDRAGONS 4 DVD Set



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- Phil the Magnificent:
 - Pending – unknown collection from his grandson
- David Chiu:
 - A new 4TB Disk Drive for the PLEX server
- Gary Salisbury:
 - The Magic Misfits by Neil Patrick Harris (audio book)
 - The Second Story by Neil Patrick Harris (audio book)
 - The Minor Third by Neil Patrick Harris (audio book)
 - Cash donation to Library's Petty Cash Fund

• Library Book Sale at Swap Meet:



Be sure to check out the library tables at the Swap Meet at our next meeting. There will be some great deals offered there.



WHAT'S NEW?

• **ARCANUM:**

I have given James Thayer all the pdf files from the library that he will put in the new ARCANUM section of the Ring 76 web site. These pdf files are primarily scans of old magic reference books. The ARCANUM section of the Ring 76 web site will be a secret section accessible only to members. Look for them soon.

• **Magic Video Streaming Project:**

The Magic Video Streaming project is one where we will have all the magic videos we legally own available to members for streaming via a PLEX media server.

I have personally donated a server, David Chou has donated a 4TB disk drive, and Robert Vinson has donated an 8TB back-up drive. To put all this together, we still need an operating system (Windows 10 Pro - \$185) and the PLEX software (\$130).

If you could reach into your pockets and donate some money so we could get this project running, it would benefit you, the club, and be appreciated by all.

San Diego Ring 76

International Brotherhood of Magicians

AUDIO BOOK REVIEWS

-Available from your library-



The Magic Misfits by Neil Patrick Harris (audio book)

From beloved award-winning actor, Neil Patrick Harris, comes the magical first book in a new series with plenty of tricks up its sleeve.

When street magician Carter runs away, he never expects to find friends and magic in a sleepy New England town. But like any good trick, things change instantly as greedy B.B. Bosso and his crew of crooked carnies arrive to steal anything and everything they can get their sticky fingers on. After a fateful encounter with the local purveyor of illusion, Dante Vernon, Carter teams up with



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five other like-minded kids. Together, using both teamwork and magic, they'll set out to save the town of Mineral Wells from Bosso's villainous clutches. These six *Magic Misfits* will soon discover adventure, friendship, and their own self-worth in this delightful new series.

-goodreads



The Second Story
by Neil Patrick Harris (audio book)

Growing up in an orphanage, Leila was bullied for being different. But she turned her hardship into skill by becoming an escape artist—a

valuable trait when belonging to a group of magical best friends. When a famous psychic comes to town, however, Leila and her pals won't be able to escape the big mystery heading their way.

Whether chasing mad monkeys or banishing ghosts from haunted hotels, these six friends will do their best to keep Mineral Wells safe—but can they still protect themselves in the process?

Join the Magic Misfits as they discover adventure, friendship, and more than a few hidden secrets in this delightful new series. Whether you're a new fan of stage magic or a longtime expert at illusion, Magic Misfits is sure to delight even more than sawing your assistant in half!

-goodreads



The Minor Third
by Neil Patrick Harris (audio book)

The third magical book in the #1 *New York Times* bestselling Magic Misfits series from acclaimed and wildly popular celebrity Neil Patrick Harris!

Theo Stein-Meyer loves being part of the Magic Misfits. Armed with his trusty violin bow, he completes the team with his levitation skills, unflappable calm and proper manners. But when a girl named Emily begins to spend time with the group, Theo is surprisingly drawn to her. She seems to understand the pull he feels between music and magic, between family and friends.

Then a famous ventriloquist arrives in town, and the Misfits are sure he (and his creepy dummy) are up to no good. With their mentor, Mr. Vernon, suddenly called away and tension simmering among the friends, can they come together to stop another member of the villainous Emerald Ring? It's time for Theo to make a choice about where--and with whom--he belongs.

Join the Magic Misfits as they discover adventure, friendship, and more than a few hidden secrets in this unique and surprising series. Whether you're a long-time expert at illusion or simply a new fan of stage magic, hold on to your top hat!

-goodreads

BOOK REVIEWS

-Available from your library-



FOOLING HOUDINI
by Alex Stone
(novel)

From the back rooms of New York City's age-old magic societies to cutting-edge psychology labs, three-card Monte games on Canal Street to glossy Las Vegas casinos, *Fooling Houdini* recounts Alex Stone's quest to join the ranks of master magicians.

As he navigates this quirky and occasionally hilarious subculture populated by brilliant eccentrics, Stone pulls back the curtain on a community shrouded in secrecy, fueled by obsession and brilliance, and organized around



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one overriding need: to prove one's worth by deceiving others.

But his journey is more than a tale of tricks, gigs, and geeks. By investing some of the lesser-known corners of psychology, neuroscience, physics, history, and even crime, all through the lens of trickery and illusion, *Fooling Houdini* arrives at a host of startling revelations about how the mind works-- and why, sometimes, it doesn't.

-goodreads

VIDEO REVIEWS

-Available from your library-



A Tribute to Houdini By John Calvert (video)

John Calvert had several things in common with Houdini. Not only was he a magician and sometimes escape artist, but he was also an aviator and an actor. He was also good friends with Bess Houdini, who touted Calvert as her choice to play Houdini in a Hollywood biopic.

In 1987, Calvert released a video called *A Tribute to Houdini*. It's a strange confection of random clips with Calvert the only constant. Calvert is very much a 1940s style magician wrapped into a very 1980s production, which makes this tape pretty weird and also kind of wonderful. The version I have must have been a later release. While the copyright is 1987, it contains a sudden segment about the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, with shots of Tammy Calvert flying through the skies above Berlin via video magic.

But what about Houdini in all this? The tape does open with photos and film footage of Houdini under synthesized '80s rock before introducing Calvert as the continuation of the

great escapist. It also makes comparisons between the men throughout.

But probably the most interesting Houdini-related element is when Calvert and an unaccredited assistant (a fine escape artist herself) do an "underwater Metamorphosis in reverse." Calvert says that Bess Houdini told him this was an effect that Houdini had been developing himself. I've never heard of this before, but it's pretty impressive, and this tape is worth owning just for a record of this unique feat.

The final half of the video are excerpts from Calvert's stage show "Magicarama" at the Orpheum Theater in Memphis, which at one point Calvert characterizes as a tribute to Dante (hey, wasn't this about Houdini?). But with a stage overloaded with assistants clad in every kind of conceivable costume, his show really does evoke *Sim Sala Bim*, and also reflects the anything and everything esthetic of this tape.

So while this is barely a "tribute to Houdini," this is still a worthy piece of Houdiniana and some weird '80s fun.

-Wild About Harry

REVIEWS WANTED

If you have watched a magic video or read a magic book (good or bad), please drop me an email telling me what you thought of it so I can include your comments in the next issue of *Ex Libris*.

PERSONAL HOLIDAY MESSAGE

This month is Thanksgiving, a time when we reflect upon what we are thankful for. For me, it is being thankful that you have chosen me to be your Club Librarian and a Member at Large on the Board. It is an opportunity for me to share the knowledge and skills I have learned



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over the past 50 year in business, in the military, and through my personal life. I hope that you are happy with the job I have done so far. If not, then please let me know because I am doing this for you.

In the meantime, have a Happy Thanksgiving to you and all your families.



Mandrake curves the turkey.

Library Check Out Procedure

Members may contact me 7x24 either by e-mail at librarian@ring76.com or by cell phone (voice or text) at 619-569-6035 to let me know what you would like to check out. (If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, there may have been a technical problem so call me.) I will make sure the item(s) get to the next monthly meeting or you can pick it up at my home in Blossom Valley.

There is a limit of 4 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 reference 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 communications will always be done via the Ex Libris newsletter article while more urgent communications will be done by an IBM Ring 76 LibraryGram emailed to ring76members@googlegroups.com.

Have a magical month my friends and we will see you again next month. In the meantime, email me with your thoughts about the library. I would love to hear them.

Gary Salisbury
IBM Ring 76 Librarian



Email: librarian@ring76.com
Cell: 619-569-6035

Objective: To build the best magic reference library in the IBM organization world-wide.

(Disclaimer: Much of this material is my own but I sometimes copy material from other sources, with and without credit, and then merged with my own commentary to give you a better, more thorough source of information. Thanks to all who have knowingly and unknowingly contributed.)

NEED TO SUPERCHARGE YOUR MAGIC?



Use the IBM Ring 76 Library to ensure your magic is running on premium!



MAGICCURRENTS

November 2019

San Diego or San Diego Magician Magic Events

Submit magic events to Michael Johnson at hellomichaelj@gmail.com.

November 8 - 10, Friday - Sunday, **Joel Ward** performs in the Peller Theatre at the Magic Castle in Hollywood at 8:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Joel is originally from Cardiff-by-the-Sea. Info www.joelward.com.

November 11, Monday **IBM Ring 76** meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center of Clairemont, 4425 Bannock Dr., San Diego.

November 16, Saturday, **Justin Willman** performs at 8:00 p.m. at the historic Balboa Theatre in downtown San Diego, 868 Fourth Ave., San Diego. Tickets are about \$50 each including fees and taxes. Get them through Ticketmaster. For info call the theater at 619-570-1100, or visit www.justinwillman.com.

November 16, Saturday, an evening of "music, magic and fun" will be presented by the European folklore group, **Enchanted Realms**, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee. Info 619-562-0833. Tickets are \$15.

November 18 - 24, Monday - Sunday, **Terry Lunceford** from La Mesa performs at the Magic Castle Library Bar. Info www.magiccastle.com.

November 19, Tuesday, a **Unicorn Party** will be held from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. with "magic and rainbows and sunshine" at the Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Pkwy., San Diego. This program is for ages 3+ with crafts and treats. Info 858-573-5007.

November 24, Sunday, **The Champions of Magic** will perform at 7:00 p.m. at Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre, 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon. Tickets are \$49-\$59 for ages 21+, available through www.sycuan.com. The performers include Young & Strange, Alex McAleer, Kayla Drescher and Fernando Velasco.

Tuesdays - Sundays, the **Magic Shop San Diego** is open for business to amateurs and professional alike at 827 4th Ave., San Diego; info 619-738-8350 or www.magicshopsandiego.com. Hours are Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Friday - Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. *If you need something, shop local.*

Every Wednesday, November 6, 13, 20 and 27, **Magic Mike Stilwell** performs close-up strolling magic from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Dave & Busters in Mission Valley, 2931 Camino Del Rio N., San Diego; 619-280-7115. The magic free, but tips are always appreciated!

Tuesdays and Thursdays in November, you can visit **Queen Califia's Magical Circle** from 9:00 am. - 12:00 noon at Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway, Escondido. No magic tricks here; just a mind-blowing world-class sculpture installation by artist Niki de Saint Phall, hidden in a park near the North County Fair mall. Free admission.

Thursdays in November, **Magician Michael Johnson** teaches magic from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in San Marcos; November 7 Sleight of Hand with Borrowed Objects, November 14 How To Build A Magic Production Bag, November 21 Magic Performance Feedback Session; cost \$20 per class; info 760-533-0095



MAGICCURRENTS

November 2019

*Fridays and Saturdays in November, **Sebastian** performs his Parlor show "Intimate Miracles" at 8:00 p.m. in Old Town at the Red Spade Theater, 2539 Congress St., San Diego; 619-865-2973. Tickets for the show are \$32 each for ages 18+. Get them on-line at www.redspadetheater.com. The following dates are available: November 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30.*

*Fridays and Saturdays in November, **Illusions Theatre and Bar** offers their magic dinner show at 6:00 p.m. in the Gaslamp, at 827 Fourth Avenue, Diego. Tickets are \$119 or \$150 (VIP). The location is unique--a speakeasy hidden behind a magic shop. Book on-line at www.illusionstheatre.com. The following dates are available: November 1, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30.*

*December 2 - 8, Monday - Sunday, **Joel Ward** performs in the Parlor of Prestidigitation at the Magic Castle in Hollywood at 10:15 p.m., 11:15 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. Info www.joelward.com.*

*December 7, Saturday, a **Holiday Family Festival** will be held from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Village Walk at Eastlake, located at EastLake Parkway at Miller Drive, Chula Vista. The event promises Santa, "magic tricks and hand-blown balloon creations" and crafts. Free admission. All month long, the center sponsors a Nightly Magical Snowfall at 6:00 p.m., where kids get free holiday headbands and "magic glasses" to view the snow display.*

*December 28, Saturday, **A Magical Cirque Christmas** performs at 7:30 p.m. at the San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Ave, San Diego. For info visit www.sandiegotheatres.org*

*January 25, 2020, **Joel Ward** performs at Milt and Arlene's Larsen's place, the Magic Castle Cabaret in Santa Barbara, on Saturday at 8:00 and 9:30 p.m.; info www.magiccastlecabaret.com.*

*January 30 - February 11, 2020, **Joel Ward** performs at The Loft at Heavenly Village at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. in South Lake Tahoe. Info <https://thelofttahoe.com>*

*February 21, 2020, the **Magic City Hippies** perform at 8:00 p.m. at the Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach. Info www.bellup.com.*

*February 28 and March 1, 2020, **The Illusionists** bring their show to the San Diego Civic Theatre. Info www.sandiegotheatres.org.*

*March 8, 2020, **Shin Lim** performs at 7:00 p.m. at the San Diego Civic Theatre. Info www.shinlimmagic.com.*

*March 13, 2020, a play "**The Aging Magician**" is scheduled at the Balboa Theatre at 7:30 p.m.*

*March 25 - 29, 2020, **Joe Ward** performs at Marvyn's Magic Theater in La Quinta; show times are Wednesday-Thursday 6:00 p.m., Friday - Saturday 6:00 and 8:30 p.m., and Sunday 3:00 p.m.. Tickets available on-line. Info <https://www.marvynsmagictheater.com/index.html>.*

*June 27, 2020, **Anthony the Magic** presents "Welk Illusions 2020" at 7:00 p.m. at the Welk Theatre in Escondido; shows will be every Saturday through August 22. Tickets are now selling online at \$37 plus fees. This is his fifteenth year performing at the Welk Resort. Info www.anthonymagic.com.*