



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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## *I'm Back...*

### Editor's Message

That's right, I am back as Editor of MagiCurrents (Coincidentally, it is exactly 10 years since I edited my first edition of MagiCurrents.) Winton and Ian Gibbons found that they were unable to continue as Editor, so Richard Ustick asked if I would edit MagiCurrents in the interim. Reluctantly, I agreed. So without further ado, there are two things that need to be said. First, a BIG THANK YOU to Winton and Ian for their stint as Editor. Second, we are looking for a new Editor. If this is something that you would like to try, please contact me at Editor@Ring76.com and I can fill you in on the details.

— James Thayer

## *President's Message*

During these trying times, we are being told on all the media platforms to keep our distance but we are all in this together. That is particularly true of Ring 76 and I wanted you all to know that the Board has been working to keep our magical community together in new and creative ways. For example, just this last month the Board of Directors had its first virtual Board meeting via the Internet platform known as Zoom. On line and on the phones the Board was able to electronically gathered to carry out their obligations.

The next meeting on April 13th had to be canceled, unfortunately, and just when we will get together again is a mystery, however, V.P. of Entertainment Greg Wauson is organizing a virtual teach-in online with the same, easy to use, system the Board used. You will be getting emails

## *Ring 76 2019-20 Calendar*

**Apr 13** - Teach-a-Trick (Virtual Meeting)

**May 11** - Stand Up Contest\*

**Jun 8** - Election, Dues, and Money Magic\*

**Jul 12** - Installation Banquet

**Aug 10** - Kid's magic / TBA\*.

\*Opportunity for Members to Perform

***Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be having physical meetings until further notice. Where possible, we will have virtual meetings on-line. Read this Newsletter and watch your e-mail for further details!***

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. of Entertainment Greg Wauson,

on this and there is an article on it in this month's newsletter.

Many of you are on the front lines in this community health battle and many of you have been sent home from your jobs and told to shelter-in-place. We are aware that this has placed a very large strain on your lives in both cases. Your Board of Directors is striving to lighten the burden as we can and welcome any suggestions from you, the members of Ring 76. These are historic times and we will get through them if we help each other.

Keep Washing Your Magical Hands,

— Richard Ustick

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## Ring76 Meeting

March 9th, 2020

Clairemont Senior Center

President **Richard Ustick** called the meeting to order at 7pm. Richard announced the upcoming meetings: April will be teach-a-trick + bring-a-friend; May will be the annual stand-up magic contest; June will be elections, dues due, and money magic; July will be the installation banquet.

A guest, Anthony, who came with **Mike Stilwell**, introduced himself. Treasurer **Joe Mystic McGrievy** announced that **Derek Ostovani** and **John Hankins**' show "Completely Mental" will start on March 19, see [CertaintyTheater.com](http://CertaintyTheater.com) for information and tickets. **Terry Lunceford** announced that he will be performing at the Magic Castle from April 2-5. Terry also acknowledged and thanked longtime board member and host **Bob Meigs** for running magic shows at the Del Mar Fair for a long run of many, many years (unfortunately, it is not continuing this year).



*Robertt Vinson*

**Craig Blackwood** highly recommended **Eli Sanchez's** Magic Underground in the East Village, which meets on the first Wednesday of each month; Craig recently saw **Joel Ward** perform there, and it was exceptional. Eli had mentioned that there will be a discount for Ring 76 members. Next, a ring member asked if we should be concerned about COVID-19, which led to a discussion and airing of opinions. The meeting attendance was low, and that (together with the rain) might have been a factor.

### PANEL DISCUSSION:

VP for Entertainment **Greg Wauson** introduced the panel moderator, past president and member-at-large **Robert Vinson**, and Greg sketched Robert's impressive trajectory in magic performance - wow! The panelists were **Jeff Marcus, Bob Meigs, Mike Stilwell, Ken Intriligator, and Josh Sherwin**. Robert did a great job with moderating the panel, asking the panelists about topics including stage nervousness, how they decide about what routines to include, and what routines to let go of (even if they personally like them, but they don't get strong reactions), and how they make routines their own.



*Greg Wauson*



*The Panel: Jeff Marcus, Bob Meigs, Mike Stilwell, Ken Intriligator, Josh Shervin*

### PERFORMANCE:

Terry Lunceford performed a wonderful torn-and-restored newspaper routine, and a wonderful rope routine to music.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm, and some then went to the nearby Denny's for dinner, dessert, and camaraderie.

— *Ken Intriligator*

## *Teach-A-Trick*

### April Meeting Online!

There's enough bad news around with the coronavirus crisis; now for some good news: Our April meeting will still go on! For some unknown reason, our government forgot to include magic

club meetings on the list of essential services during the pandemic, so we can't meet in person. Not to be dissuaded (25 cents, please), your illustrious Ring 76 board has decided our April meeting will be online! Yes, our first ever online meeting will be on the regularly scheduled evening, **Monday, April 13, at 7:00 pm**. We'll use Zoom, the popular and easy to use remote conferencing service. More about that later in this article.

The theme will be the always-popular "teach-a-trick," but this time will feature a wider variety of material than in the past. Usually we have four performers who each teach a trick or routine and have fifteen minutes or more to thoroughly explain the finer points and give the audience time to practice. For our April meeting, we've selected ten different performers who will each present an effect or concept, and then explain it, in five or so





*Terry Lanceford*

minutes. We will watch and hear each presenter from the comfort of our homes and be able to ask questions or make comments real time during the presentations.

How will this work with Zoom, you ask? You first need to go to <https://zoom.us/download> to download and install the free app for the device you will be using to participate in the meeting. Having a microphone on your computer is recommended; without it you will still be able to watch and hear the presentations but other participants hear you. (A camera is necessary if you want to be seen but this is optional.)

Ring 76 members will receive an email invitation to the meeting from the Ring 76 VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson, with the date and time of the meeting, the meeting ID number and the link to click to participate. To join the meeting, click on the link a few minutes before 7:00 pm on April 13. If you're not a member and would like to attend as a guest, send an email to Greg at [gw83@ring76.com](mailto:gw83@ring76.com) to receive the email. Feel free to email Greg with questions that you might have.

So don't leave home and go to our usual location under the guise of shopping for groceries – you

may be the only one there. Keep these benefits in mind:

- ♣ Online meetings will become increasingly popular – learn Zoom now
- ♣ No dress standards – your Hello Kitty pajamas are just fine
- ♣ Eat as many cookies and drink as much milk as you want during the meeting!

— Greg Wauson

## ***Stand-Up Contest?***

You may be wondering about our annual stand-up contest in May, given the uncertainty of everything in this pandemic environment. The Ring 76 board has considered the options and has firmly decided to... wait and see. Although it's currently increasingly likely the shelter-in-place-at-home rules will still be in place on May 11, there is a glimmer of hope that we will be able to meet in person. In that case the contest would still be held on that day. However, if the lockdown has not been lifted by then, we will either cancel the contest for 2020, postpone it to a future meeting this year, or have the contestants compete using a Zoom online meeting. We will let you know as soon as we've decided.

In the meantime, if you're considering competing, we encourage you to build your act as early as possible and hone it so it's ready by May 11. If the contest takes place in person on that date, you'll be in great shape! And if the contest is postponed or canceled, you will have invested in yourself and your entertainment skills to become a more polished performer. Send Greg an email at [<gw83@ring76.com>](mailto:gw83@ring76.com) if you'd like to discuss it.

— Greg Wauson

## ***Elections***

While the current Shelter-in-Place orders have put a hold on the Election season, please be advised that we at Ring 76 are still open for business and that means it is still election time for us.

Your Ring does not run itself. It is directed by a Board for the members. The meetings, the speakers, the education, and the magic performed is organized and scheduled by members of Ring 76 elected to the Board of Directors every June. Any member, in good standing, can run for a Board position and I encourage every member to consider it.

Meetings are held once a month, on a Monday night two weeks after the Ring meeting, and last only a couple of hours. Events are planned and Ring needs are discussed and, hopefully, satisfied.



This is your Ring and you have the right to be on the Board of Directors and shape events that you would like to see. All you have to do is contact any Board member and we will notify the Election Committee.

Elections are held in June so if you have any questions, we can answer them for you now.

Become a member of the Ring 76 Board of Directors. Your Ring needs you.

— *Richard Ustick*

## *Shavings from the Board*

### Minutes of the Ring 76 Board Meeting

March 23rd, 2020

The meeting was via Zoom (because of COVID-19) and it was called to order by President **Richard Ustick** at 7:10 pm. The board members present were: First V.P. (entertainment) **Greg Wauson**, Second V.P. (membership) **James Thayer**, Treasurer **Joe “Mystic” McGrievy**, Secretary **Ken**



**Intriligator**, Sargent-of-arms **David Chiu**, and Member-at-Large **Rich Robertson**. Also present were Librarian and Member-at-Large **Gary Salisbury**, IBM Regional Representative **Jeff Marcus**, and North County and Military Liaison **Josh Sherwin**.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February board meeting were approved.

### REPORTS

First VP of Entertainment Greg Wauson gave a recap of the March meeting and panel discussion. There was interest in a future panel on kids magic. Terry’s performance was appreciated. There was discussion for the future for if the panel should go first or the performance first. It was decided that having the panel first is better.

Membership update: we remain at 61 members.

Treasurer’s report Joe and Richard went over the month’s check register and other charges.

Library report and discussion Gary Salisbury presented his report to the board. The PLEX server material is being ordered and it is progress, and should be up and running this month.

### NEW BUSINESS

Zoom meeting for the April meeting?: There was a discussion about if we could or should have the April meeting over Zoom. It was decided that we will try it, and Greg will write about it in the newsletter.



New Board: Everyone with the exception of possibly Ken (secretary) and Rich (member at large) agreed to run to continue in their current office. Of course, everyone is welcome to run. Jeff Marcus will contact the rest of the nominating committee (Matt King and Tom Owen-Towle).

May Stand Up Contest: We will keep it as TBD whether or not it will happen.

Magic Currents Editor: We need to find one - please volunteer if you are willing to do it!

Instillation Banquet: Greg is in contact with Carisa Hendrix (Lucy Darling) and Gregory Wilson to possibly perform at the meeting (if it happens). There was a discussion about how much we could pay a performer. A couple of members said that it's important to have an outside performer. Greg will let them know that we're interested, but cannot commit given the current uncertainty.

## NEWSLETTER

Richard will send his President's report. Gary will send his library report and history of magic column. Greg will write up something about April zoom meeting. All contributions should be sent by April 4 to editor@ring76.com.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

— Ken Intriligator

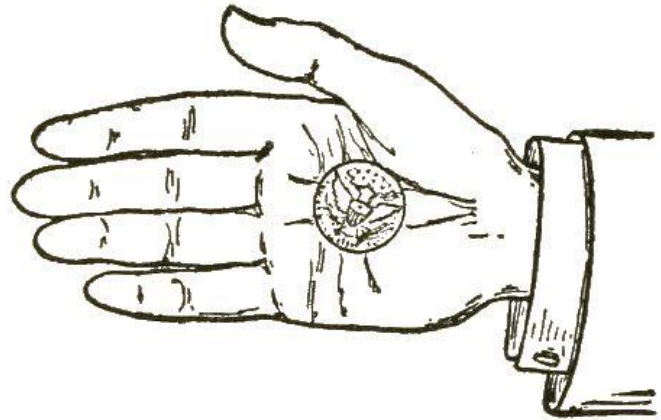
## *Trick of the Month Club*

### Misers Dream

In Miser's Dream, the magician produces coins from thin air (or anywhere), and drops them into a coin pail. This was a favorite routine of the great T. Nelson Downs, more than 100 years ago.

“The Dream” is based on the even-older trick - producing a coin from a child's ear. With the addition of the pail, the magician can repeat the effect with “coin-after-coin.”

The routine requires two magical “moves” – palming a coin, and a “bucket drop.” Virtually



every stage magician has performed this routine, and if you don't know how it works, you should!

### The Props

All you need is about 7 half-dollar coins, and a metal pail. Many pros use a tooth brush can as a “pail,” but even a tin can will do - so long as you can hold it with four fingers inside, and it makes a loud ringing sound (called the “clunk”) when a coin is dropped inside.

You also could buy a commercial Coin Pail, some with built-in “gimmicks.” But these pails are expensive, you don't need the gimmicks, and the pails usually look like champagne buckets – which are vestiges of the past. This is why many pros today use a tooth brush can.

The gimmicks allow for stealing additional coins, hiding “droppable” coins inside the pail, and faking the “clunk.” Our version of Miser's Dream uses no gimmicks, so you need only the handful of coins and an un-gimmicked pail. (Later, however, we describe a “coin ladder,” which is an alternative to the pail.)

### The Set-Up

Stack 6 coins on the finger-tips of your right hand, palm up. Tip the stack over backwards, so the bottom coin remains at your finger-tips, and the overlapping coins extend toward your palm.

Slide the pail horizontally over your fingers and the coins, grasping the upper side between your fingers (now inside the pail) and your thumb. The coins now are hidden, yet you can move the pail freely.





Hide another coin in your left hand in a finger-palm position. You're ready to go! This set-up is easier than it sounds, and with a little practice, you'll be able to do it unnoticed as you pick up your pail.

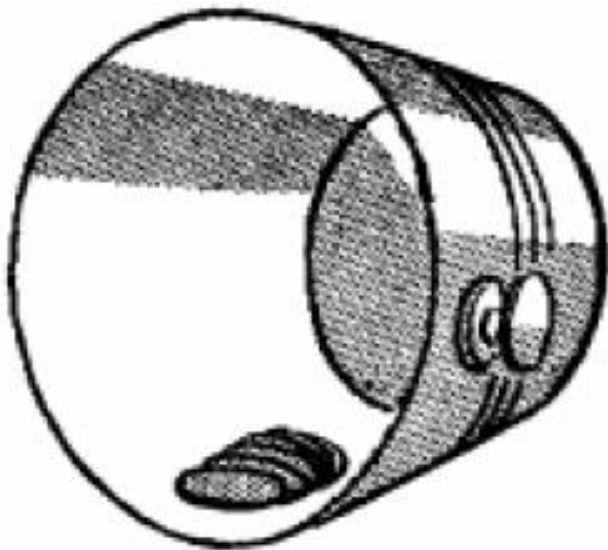
### The Performance

First, show the pail as “empty” (even though it's really not). Then, with your left hand, produce a coin from a child's ear. To “produce” this coin, simply slide it with your thumb until it's held between your left thumb and index finger. Extend your other fingers so the audience sees that you are holding only one coin!

Now pretend to drop this coin into your pail, but actually, return it to the finger-palm position! Use the middle finger of your right hand to push the bottom coin of your “hidden stack” into the pail. The coin from the “hidden stack” actually produces the “clunk” sound!

Bring your left hand up with the original coin again in a finger-palm position, and you're ready to go again!

Our set-up lets you drop 7 coins, which is plenty! In fact, the last 3 drops can be “invisible coins,” instead of a “produced” coin.



To switch to “invisible coins,” on the fourth drop, really drop the coin in your left hand into the pail. For the remainder of the routine, have audience members toss “invisible coins.” Pretend to catch these “invisible coins” in the pail, releasing coins from your right hand to make the “clunks.” For the finish, dump all 7 coins onto a table top.

### Using a Coin Ladder

A “coin ladder” is an alternative to the pail. With most coin ladders, coins drop through a series of glass or metal panes, producing a musical sound as they fall. This dramatizes the “drop,” and adds a musical effect to the routine. Of course, a ladder is both bulky and expensive.

If you use a ladder, I recommend one equipped with a “waterfall” feature, allowing you to release a dozen or more hidden coins all at once. This permits you to finish by having the whole audience throw invisible coins into the ladder at one time. Even if you don't always use the waterfall, it's nice to have this capability.

— Bob Meigs

## 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

- ♣ \* 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 and upgrade or replace the server for the Magic Video Streaming Server project. Again, I ask if you could help out by donating something for this? Anything at all will help.

### FEBRUARY & MARCH DONATIONS

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

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

- ♣ Larry Hass
  - ◆ Eugene Berger's Teaching Magic
  - ◆ Eugene Burger: From Beyond!
- ♣ Mike Stilwell
  - ◆ The Entertainer's Handbook
- ♣ David Chiu
  - ◆ \$25 from his 50/50 winnings
- ♣ Robert Vinson
  - ◆ Box of magic props that will be offered for sale to raise library funds.
- ♣ Gary Salisbury
  - ◆ New server case (\$135)
  - ◆ New server power supply (\$95)
  - ◆ New DVD drive (\$55)
  - ◆ New keyboard (\$45)
  - ◆ New mouse (\$40)

### WHAT'S NEW?

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. At last count, we had over 1,200 instructional and performance magic videos that will be available for viewing on the server.

Current Project Status: We currently have a prototype server running on a Dell Optiplex 7010 desktop. It is running Windows 10 Home that needs to be updated to Windows 10 Pro for remote access capability. We have PLEX Media Server loaded (paid version) on it. It is capable of doing 1-2 video streams concurrently. Our goal is to be able to do at least 5 concurrent video streams of 1080p video.

As many of you know, I started a fund raiser for money to buy either a new server or a used server or parts to build our own server. From that effort, we raised \$825. The hardware to build our new server





has been ordered and I will start building it as soon as everything arrives.

I do not have enough money left to buy a Windows 10 Pro license. That will cost about \$200 so if you can afford to, please reach deep into your pockets so we could get this project running, it would benefit you, the club, and be appreciated by all.

### MAGIC BOOK REVIEWS

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.

### LIBRARY CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

Members may contact me 7x24 either by e-mail at [librarian@ring76.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 from you.



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



Remember, we are always looking for product reviews. It doesn't matter if you liked it 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.

