



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

MAY 2020

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President's Message

Governor Newsom has extended the general lockdown for our state until the end of May so it is with a heavy heart that I have to cancel the physical meeting for Ring 76 that was to be held on May 11th.

I am pleased to tell you that your Ring Board has been working diligently to keep the magic community active in this difficult time and to that end, we will be having an online lecture. Your Board is also working out the details of future meetings via the Zoom platform. Keep an eye on your email and read this newsletter for additional information.

As Magic is a performing interest it has been particularly hard for us during the last couple of months so I hope you will make an effort to join your fellow Ring members at these online meetings. We also welcome any suggestions you may have on how we can keep our community connected. We are hoping that we can resume regular meetings by July or August, but we will have to wait on the dictates of the State and Local authorities.

Thank you and see you at the lecture.

— Richard Ustick

Carisa Hendrix Lecture

Carisa Hendrix Lecture for our May Meeting!

Since the coronavirus lockdown is still in place, our May meeting will be online using Zoom, as it was for April. We are featuring a special guest lecturer: Carisa Hendrix! I saw her "Lucy Darling" act at the Magic Castle in

Ring 76 2019-20 Calendar

May 11 - Carisa Hendrix Lecture

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,

February and I quickly realized her artistic depth and high entertainment value. She's a fast-rising star in the magic world and is a hit with her performances and lectures. Check out the five-star enthusiastic reviews, many including "best lecture ever," of her [first lecture on Penguin](#).

Carisa is on the cover of Genii Magazine this month; the feature article tells the fascinating story of her background as a magician and variety artist. She has won numerous awards, has earned entry into the [Guinness Book of World Records](#) (2014) and [Ripley's Believe it or Not](#) (2015) and is the star of the Super Channel documentary [Carisa Hendrix: Girl on Fire](#). Carisa is this year's recipient of the prestigious Allan Slaight Award and was recently nominated a second year in a row for Stage Magician

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Carisa Hendrix

of the Year at the Magic Castle. She is also the co-host of the [Shezam Podcast](#), a weekly feminist podcast about the world of magic and variety entertainment.

The title of her lecture is 'The Power Scripting System'. Here's what she says about it: "It can take years to get a script from wordy procedure to a fun and engaging signature performance. Learn how to polish your script to provide the most impact in even a short set. Easy to apply tips and a couple new magic tricks that you can use these scripting tools on immediately."

This lecture is free to Ring 76 members, who will be sent email invitations to the Zoom meeting. Non-member guests are welcome, for a \$5 fee, payable on or before May 10. If you would like to be a guest, send me an email at gw83@ring76.com to coordinate payment. See you on May 11.

— *Greg Wauson*

Ring76 Meeting

April 13, 2020

In Cyberspace

This was our first general ring meeting held on Zoom (we had a Zoom board meeting last month). Members joined early to chat and discuss. Vice President for Entertainment, **Greg Wauson**, called



the meeting to order at 7:10pm. There were 28 people online. There a few guests, including **Robert Gordon**, **Derek Ostovani**, and the mysterious **Dr X** (who has donated generously to our ring - thank you Dr. X!). There was discussion about what will happen for the Stand-up contest next month, it will be discussed and determined by the Board at the upcoming (zoom) Board meeting.

PERFORMANCE and TEACH-A-TRICK:

Matt King was assisted by daughter **Ava King**. Matt demonstrated a napkin tear with palming, which is presented as a demonstration with a surprise ending



Greg Wauson



Matt King



Gary Dismukes

where the apparently ripped, swapped-out one was also restored.

Gary Dismukes demonstrated a card trick (Gemini Twins, from *More Self-Working Card Tricks* by Karl Fulves, in Dover Publication), with assistance from **Katrina Dismukes**. Gary noted



Jeff Marcus

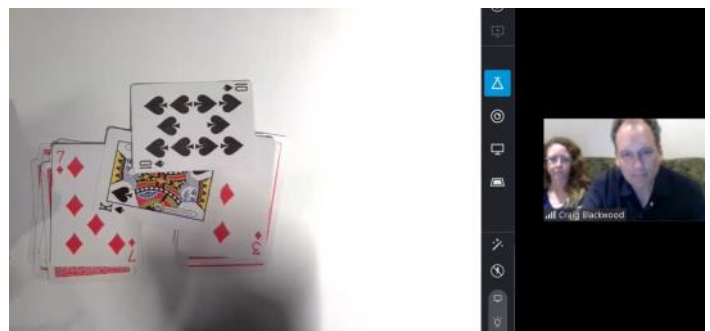
that there is variant by Allan Ackerman, in his Las Vegas Kardma book.

Jeff Marcus demonstrated a trick with a rubber band, where the rubber band passed through finger after finger.

Craig Blackwood demonstrated an interesting card trick that he learned from a YouTube link. He used a camera setup that used software that he developed for HP.

Dr Jeff Pearson demonstrated an impromptu torn-and-restored bill trick.

Laurie Pearson mixed up a small packet, front to back, and with a touch from **Dr. Jeff** the cards were all facing the same direction. Then it was repeated with a card chosen and reversed, and when the deck



Craig Blackwood



Jeff Pearson



Laurie Pearson

was turned over all cards were facing the same direction except for the selection. It was a packet that was made by a member of the North County Magic Club.

David Groh demonstrated a trick where a plastic cup is put into a shoe, and then taken out, and then



David Groh

water is poured into the shoe. The cup is put back in, and then taken back out full of water (black from food coloring) David recommended Scott Alexander's version, which we saw when Scott lectured for the ring.

Alfonso Vazquez demonstrated a trick with help from his daughter. There were six plastic eggs and the daughter chose 4. Each of the others was filled with candy a dollar bill, and then the one that she picked



Alfonso Vazquez



Terry Godfrey

was shown to contain a \$100 bill. It's similar to the force for hot rod.

Terry Godfrey taught the Tenkai pennies trick from Bobo. He showed an interesting way to get into the Tenkai (also called Goshman) pinch by having the coin in the classic palm position and using the pinky to lever it quickly into the pinch position.

We had a special guest, who was invited by **Craig Blackwood: Paul Draper**, who was making his fifth appearance of the day from a space that he set up his home. Paul talked about the millions of school age kids who are at quarantined home these days, and how on any day hundreds of thousands will be having a birthday. So he set up a page to



Special Guest: Paul Draper

help fund low cost (\$20) 30 minute shows for hundreds of kids daily. **Craig Blackwood** discussed this project, and how he and Paul are doing a show in connection with HP. Paul discussed some aspects of how to choreograph for the camera, and how to keep it interactive and involve the audience members at home with making the choices, and they are the ones who do something to cause the magic. Paul gave many valuable tips on performing for the camera, including how to adapt to some differences in misdirection in performing for the camera vs performing live. Paul is consulting for magicians on how to adapt to our new situation. Paul's website is <https://www.patreon.com/PaulDraper> and joining the site for \$5 helps to fund his shows for kids. Thank you Paul, and thank you to all of the presenters.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

— *Ken Intriligator*

Coming Up in June...

Our members have spoken and only three of you said they would likely compete in the stand-up contest if it were moved from May to June. So with that underwhelming amount of interest, the June theme will remain as MONEY MAGIC! That's right – show us the money! Is there a money trick you've always wanted to practice and perform? Or one you've been performing for years and want to show it to your fellow Ring 76ers? Now is the time to think about that effect with coins or bills because we want a lot of performers, including you! You're especially welcome if it's been a long time since you've entertained us. Send Greg an email at gw83@ring76.com to get one of the slots.

— *Greg Wauson*

Elections

Remember elections? Me, neither. It's an easy thing to forget with everything else that is going on these days, but we need to elect a new board in June. Normally, the Ring votes in person at the June meeting, and hopefully, we will do so again this June.



But just in case we are meeting virtually, we have a Plan B that will let us vote by electronically.

In the meantime, the Board has recommended the following slate of officers (as it is Constitutionally required to do):

President: Richard Ustick
VP, Entertainment: Greg Wauson
VP, Membership: James Thayer
Treasurer: Joe Mystic
Secretary: Open
Sergeant at Arms: David Chiu
Member-at-Large: Gary Salisbury
Member-at-Large: Robert Vinson

As you can see, we are in need of a Secretary.. And the we have the possibility of including one more Member-At-Large. Anyone who is interested can run for these or **any other position** that you would like. The one restriction is that if you would like to run for President, you must have served at least one term in another Board office at some time in the past. (If you interested in being President but haven't served on the Board before, stepping up to be Secretary or Member-at-Large this year is a good way build experience with the board.)

If you are interested, please contact the nominating committee via [Jeff Markus](#).

— James Thayer

Dues

Yes, it is that time of year again. Dues are coming due. As always, they are due as of June 30th and we hope as many members as possible will be able to renew by that date. We are aware, however, that Covid-19 has put a crimp into many members finances and membership in Ring 76 may be a difficult choice under the circumstances. Please let

us know if this is the case — we would rather not lose members and we are motivated to work something out.

In the meantime, if you can, we are prepared to receive dues payments. The amount is \$30. At the moment, paying by mail (make a check out to “IBM Ring 76”) is the best way. My address is: 9556 Babauta Road; San Diego, CA 92129. You can also send your dues to me via PayPal and I will forward the funds on to the Ring. Contact [James Thayer](#) for details if you wish to pay by PayPal.

And, as long as you are paying dues and you have not already done so, please let me know if we can include your phone number and/or e-mail address in the Ring 76 Contact List on Arcanum.

And if, for any reason, you are not intending to renew your membership this year, please let me know.

— James Thayer

Shavings from the Board

Minutes of the Ring 76 Board Meeting

April 27th, 2020

The meeting was via Zoom and it was called to order by President **Richard Ustick** at 7:09 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** and Social Media rep. **Mark Booth**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March board meeting were approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer's report Joe 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 prototype is up and running now, with a new processor on order for a faster server. Users need to download the free PLEX app and Gary will add them for access.

Membership and Newsletter and website:

James Thayer's update: we remain at 61 members. James would like to find another editor. Any volunteers?

First VP of Entertainment Greg Wauson gave a recap of the April Zoom meeting and teach-a-trick. There were 26 or 27 participants, with good feedback. Greg did a zoom prep session with the presenters, and everything went very well. There were no glitches. Kudos to Greg! (There was a side discussion about benefits of having future board meetings on Zoom.) There was a discussion about having former members visit the meeting on Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS

May 11 Meeting: Greg has booked Carissa Hendrix, aka Lucy Darling, to give a lecture. Greg will write about it in the newsletter. Non-members could perhaps join for a fee by pre-pay on PayPal. There was a question about recording, but we will not since, we assume that it would not be welcomed by Carissa.

June Meeting: Will there be a close-up contest? Via Zoom? There was a discussion about pre-recorded vs live performances. There was a

question about possibly having the performers physically meet and perform live in the same space, and record it for the members to watch. This was seen as problematic for at least one potential performer. There was a discussion about the minimum number of performers. Joe can videotape performers in his warehouse. The board debated various options for the rules if it is videotaped (for example, full body should be visible). Greg will send an email to to the Ring to assess interest level.

Installation Banquet: It's too soon to decide about what will happen by July.

New Board and Election: James will look into ways to vote online.

Future of Ring 76: The Board would like to keep the dues at the current level, and give more in terms of Zoom lectures etc. if we are unable to physically meet. Dues can be paid via PayPal.

— Ken Intriligator

Trick of the Month Club

A Card at Any Number

ACAAN stands for "Any Card at Any Number." Nicknamed the "**Holy Grail**," this is perhaps the best-known card trick in magic. There are many versions of the trick, but of those I know, **this is the best**.



I don't know where I got it, nor its real name, but it came from the fertile mind the late, great, **Barrie Richardson**. So I just call it, "**The Richardson Effect**." It can be done with a borrowed deck, requires no set-up, fits in your pocket, works in any venue, produces a different result every time, is easy to do, and is a real "fooler"! What more can you ask?

The Richardson Effect

You can use a borrowed deck and let a spectator shuffle. Give a spectator a **free choice** from a face-down fan. While the spectator is showing the card to others (but not you), hold the deck in your left hand and slide-off the **top four cards** into your right hand. Hold them with the outside edges tilted slightly *down* so the audience cannot see *how few cards* are in this packet.

Tell the spectator to put the selected card back "*in the middle of the deck*," and extend the packet in your left hand. Place the packet in your right hand (four cards) on top of the spectator's card. It looks like the card is "*buried*" in the deck, but it is actually **5th from the top**.

Riffle shuffle the deck a couple times, leaving the *top few cards* (at least 5) intact. If you can do a "*false-cut*" (which does not change the order of the cards), throw it in – otherwise, just continue on.

Ask a second spectator to select a number between one and 52. (*Use your audience management skills get a number above 10 and below 30.*) Using the conversation with the spectator as "*cover*," make a **pass** with a packet of slightly **more than 5 cards** (perhaps 8 or 9) from the top of the deck to bottom. As you make this pass, **turn the cards over** so the deck now has *card backs* facing out on both sides.

This **pass** is the key to the trick - and fortunately, it is **easy to do**. Hold the deck in your left hand, thumb on top, with your right hand concealing the right edge. Turn slightly to the right, angle the right edge of the deck down, and jog a packet of 8 or 9 cards about 3/4 inch to the right. As your spectator is calling out a number (providing a bit of

misdirection), just **roll this packet to the bottom of the deck, faces up**. Hold the deck from the bottom with your left hand, palm up, to hide the upside-down cards on the bottom. With a little practice, you will learn to make this pass *virtually undetectable*.

You're almost done!

Start counting toward the selected number, placing the cards **face down** in a separate pile. Hold the deck in the **palm** of your left hand, counting cards off the top. **Five cards before the selected number**, say to the first spectator, "*I know what you're thinking. Maybe we've already passed your card. What was the card you selected?*"

As first spectator answers, turn the pile of counted cards face up with your right hand, and start spreading them out (more misdirection). Casually set down the deck in your left hand, **turning it over as you do**, and use both hands to spread out the already counted cards.

The trick is now basically over; you have *5 cards left to count*, and the selected card is now *5th from the top!*

Use your right hand to put the deck back in your left, **keeping it square**, with the front tilted slightly down, so you don't flash the cards on the bottom. Resume your count, this time dropping the cards **face -up**.

The chosen card appears at the designated number. **TA-DA! You have just performed the "Holy Grail" of card magic!**

— Bob Meigs





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.

I have ordered and received all the parts to build the new server except the processor. That is due in May 10th-18th. When it gets here, we will start the build.

MAGIC BOOK & VIDEO 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 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](#).

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.

— Gary Salisbury



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



Don't forget that Ring 76 has a private area just for members called [Arcanum](#). There you can find contact information for other Ring 76 members and numerous magical documents are available for download. Contact [James Thayer](#) for instructions on how to log in for the first time.