



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 SEPTEMBER 2020 VOL. XXXV #9

President's Message

Warm greetings from your President.

Normally I would give the typical "end of summer and all its happy memories and the start of Autumn" message, but these are odd times and happy is not a common word. That said, I do hope you had some summer fun and I do hope the fall season looks somewhat promising.

To that end, you should be aware that your Board of Directors is working tirelessly to provide you with eh magical stimulation your "stay-at-home" brain craves. We will be providing a host of lectures, as well as our traditional Halloween/Harvest Magic in October.

Once again, if you have ideas or suggestions you can contact the Board of Directors or your President personally at RIng76ibm@yahoo.com/ I look forward to hearing from you.

I hope to see you all at the Zoom Meeting on September 14th.

— Richard Ustick

Editor's Message

Working with Zoom represents challenges for the "photographer". In Zoom-world, camera only shows what the camera shows. Rather than adapting the shooting conditions for each shot, one has to work with the limits of the frame, the lighting and the resolution of the camera. The results are not what I would choose, but sometimes, one has to accept that certain things are beyond your control. An apt metaphor for the world that we are currently living in.

Ring 76 2020-21 Calendar

Sep 14 - Kozmo Lecture

Oct 12 - Halloween Magic*

Nov 9 - Larry Hass Lecture

*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!

We are still searching for a new editor for MagiCurrents. If you think you might be interested, please contact me at Editor@Ring76.com and I will let you know what is involved.

— James Thayer

Coming Up !

Our next meeting is on Monday, September 14, and it promises to be one you don't want to miss. Our own Terry Godfrey will tell the tale of his and his wife's riding twin Harley Davidsons to Sturgis, South Dakota last month. When they arrived, he showed a gentleman just one magic routine, who then expressed interest in having Terry entertain for his organization. They are currently negotiating details. We'll show a video of that performance.

Then, it will be on to our guest lecturer, Kozmo! He's a very accomplished street magician, who was mentored by the legendary Cellini and has been

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KOZMO

performing in that specialized venue for many, many years. This type of magic performance involves a unique set of skills. Gathering a crowd of strangers is a real challenge, exceeded only by the difficulty of keeping the crowd. This is done by entertaining with top-notch, humor-filled magic with lots of audience participation – to such a degree the audience is then motivated to pay for what they just experienced! Magic busking isn't for everyone but Kozmo has a lot to share which we can benefit from. Members will receive an email invitation to this Zoom meeting. Feel free to invite your friends.

The theme for our October meeting is... you guessed it – spooky magic. This will be a performance night, where members will be the entertainers and your peers will vote for their favorite performer. The one with the most votes will be the performer of the month, which will be announced via email. This fortunate person will also be awarded a \$20 Amazon gift card, a first for Ring 76. We plan to continue this for our performance nights as long as we're meeting via Zoom. Start thinking now of what ghostly and mysterious magic effect you want to spring on us.

Then in November, Larry Hass will lecture for us. Larry is the dean of Jeff McBride's Magic and Mystery School in Las Vegas. He'll be presenting

magic we can do, which has been tightly scripted and fine-tuned with hundreds of performances.

— Greg Wauson

Ring76 Meeting

Monday August 10, 2020

In Cyberspace

This was our fifth ring meeting held on Zoom. Members, President **Richard Ustick** called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m., and there were 24 members online.

Jeff Pearson announced member **Josh Sherwin** moving to South Carolina. Member **Eugene Ball** recommended checking out **Jeff Hobson's** comedy workshop on August 16th. **Craig Blackwood** mentioned the opening of a magic shop in La Jolla and having a Zoltar machine. **Jeff Marcus** asked if it was from the Kellogg's. **Matthew King** asked about getting one, and it was mentioned that the **Kellogg's** might be selling one of theirs. **Richard Ustick** announced we need an editor and said it's easy, and just about assembling the information. **Joe "Mystic" McGrievy** indicated he was going to mute everyone, and just unmute yourselves when you perform.



Mark Booth (l) and Kathy

Greg Wauson took over the meeting as VP of entertainment. He indicated we have 10 performers tonight.

The 1st performer was **Mark Booth**. He used his wife **Kathy** as an assistant. **Jeff Marcus** assisted, and Kathy mixed up a Rubik’s cube until **Jeff** said STOP. There was an unanticipated unknown issue, and Mark asked to be revisited.

The 2nd Performer was **Craig Blackwood**, and he was performing from San Diego’s newest magic shop! La Jolla Magic Shop. **Craig** performed a very nice piece using quarantine and life stories while individually pulling and cutting pieces of floss until he had many pieces. He restored the pieces in a nice rendition of the Gypsy Thread, using dental



Craig Blackwood

floss.

Next, we revisited **Mark Booth**. **Kathy** mixed the Rubik’s cube, and **Robert** told her when to stop. There was an unknown error again, and Mark said to come back to him.

The 3rd Performer was **James Thayer**. He performed “The 4 Card Trick”. He showed 4 cards, then stated that it is called “The 4 Card Trick” because there is a 4 in there, and showed a 4 of spades, then showed all cards are 4s. Then asked what color the backs were, and he changed the color of the backs, and then back to the original



James Thayer

color again. Then ended with turning some of the card backs green!

Greg Wauson told a joke about blind skydiving...

The 4th Performer was **Greg Wauson**. He performed an effect using Elmer’s glue. He poured glue into his hand, and he molded it into a 3D printed horse! Then he gathered the invisible glue residue in his hand and produced a second little horse from his bare hands.

The 5th Performer was **Jeff Marcus**. He performed a



Greg Wauson

3 card monte routine with 2 red aces, and 1 black ace. He squared them up and one turned face down. Then back up immediately, then he placed the black ace on



What was Len Vintus’s favorite card?



The Hands of Jeff Marcus

the table, which magically had turned into the King of Diamonds!

The 6th Performer was **Jeff Pearson**. He showed a series of numbers asked people to get a piece of paper. Using spectators, he had multiple numbers called out. Then, he showed that all of his numbers added up to the audience created number!



Laurie Pearson

and the sides changed and switched between 11 and 3, and back and forth. Then switched between double 4's and double twos, and then they instantly changed to a 1 and 3, which was very visual. Then he showed, in succession, 1's, 2/3, 4/5, and double 6's!

Greg Wauson told a joke about his wife and a gluestick... **Richard Ustick** laughed.



Jeff Pearson (r) with Josh Sherwin

The 7th Performer was **Laurie Pearson**. She had **Josh Sherwin** shuffle some cards. She said she was going to test how lucky he is. She had him cut cards off of his shuffled deck, and set them face down on the table. He somehow cut to two of the 4 aces and was deemed to be half-lucky.

The 8th Performer was **Josh Sherwin**. He showed a slight with a die where the sides didn't add up,



The Hands and Dice of Josh Sherwin



David Chiu (r) and Summer

The 9th Performer was **David Chiu**. He performed the Chinese Linking Rings, and we asked for feedback following the performance. His routine involved his daughter and 4 rings. It was the classic of magic with a bit more interaction, where his daughter Summer made her ring penetrate through **David's** ring. **David** had asked for feedback, and **Richard Ustick** made an idea to make it more dramatic or have a little more buildup. **Matthew King** recommended always trying to complete a unique move, because the audience doesn't know what to expect and won't know if you missed.

The 10th Performer was **Mathew King**. Her performed a routine using small movie posters and numbered papers with photos of celebrities printed on them. **Joe "Mystic" McGrievy** selected a



Mathew King

number to be "best actor". **Matthew** showed all of the other options which could have been selected. He revealed the celebrity **Joe** had picked, and showed that his prediction matched with the movie posters, and the celebrities' name was also written on the back of the apparatus.

Greg Wauson told another joke about his wife. **Richard Ustick** laughed again.

Greg Wauson went over the performers again, and he indicated that votes for best performer need to be emailed to him. **Greg** acknowledged **Josh Sherwin** moving to South Carolina, and thanked him for this contributions to the magic club.

Josh Sherwin thanked everyone as a newcomer to magic, and has enjoyed the camaraderie and friendship with everyone, and he is looking forward to a reunion someday.

Mark Booth showed the Magic Café, and he described how to use Google to search for specific things, instead of using their search engine. This is very sensitive information, even though it is open to the public. Certain areas of the Magic Café, like items for sale, open up once you have enough posts or contributions to the Magic Café community. Then he mentioned "Wilson Magic" and the state of the art Bluetooth chip to be used with your smartphone or the inject app. He highly recommended members utilizing some of the groups on Facebook, and especially in the inject group. He mentioned even ProMystic has a support group for their products, and magicians are also advertising to help other magicians build a website for their effects, or helping them market.

Greg Wauson initiated a Trivia contest which resulted in a tie between **Robert Vinson** and **Jeff Marcus**. **Robert** was closer with his answer in the tie-breaker and was declared the winner!

Greg Wauson mentioned the November meeting will be a performance and lecture by magician **Larry Hass**.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

— *Matt King*



Gift Cards!

Your board is always interested in making membership in Ring 76 fun, entertaining, educational and sometimes profitable. This is especially important during these COVID days, when we are not able to meet in person. We are hereby announcing you can win – and in one case, earn – Amazon gift cards! What you spend it on will be up to you. These will be eGift cards, which you will receive by email. These have the advantage over physical gift cards in that you can't lose them and you can receive and use them without waiting for the snail mail. Here are the three ways you can now get your very own Amazon gift card:

- ♣ Newsletter challenge: \$10 gift card
- ♣ Performer of the month: \$20 gift card
- ♣ Signing up a new member: \$20 gift card

Newsletter challenge: This will be a monthly contest, starting with our September newsletter. If you read the challenge question, find its answer somewhere in the newsletter and are the first to send an email with the correct answer to Greg Wauson (gw83@ring76.com), the VP of Entertainment, a \$10 gift card will be coming your way. Easy, huh? And you will also receive your 15 minutes of fame by the email which will then be sent out, announcing you are the lucky winner! The challenge questions will not require you to have a background in magic to be a winner. The VP of Entertainment will carry the weighty responsibility of having the final determination of correctness of answers. Board members are not eligible.

Performer of the Month: We always appreciate our members taking the initiative to perform at our meetings and this is especially true during this crazy time when our meetings are via Zoom. To show our appreciation in a tangible way, starting with our October meeting, our next performance night, the performer of the month will not only win bragging rights, but will also be awarded a \$20 Amazon gift card. Who says not everyone can achieve fame and fortune?

Sign up a new member: We on the board are privileged to have you as members and are happy to report Ring 76 has a healthy number of members, even during this pandemic time. To keep that going in the right direction, we are now awarding a \$20 Amazon gift card for each member who brings in a new member. In fact, you'll earn a gift card for *each* new member you bring into the club.

Let a board member know what you think of the gift card idea. We think Len Vintus, the IBM's first member in 1922, would have liked it. Len's favorite card was the three of diamonds.

— Greg Wauson

Shavings from the Board

August 24, 2020

The meeting was via Zoom and it was called to order by President **Richard Ustick** at 7:10 pm. First V.P. (entertainment) **Greg Wauson**, Second V.P. (membership) **James Thayer**, Treasurer **Joe "Mystic" McGrievy**, Secretary **Matthew King**, and Member-at-Large **Robert Vinson**, Member-at-Large **Mike Stilwell**. Also present were Librarian and Member-at-Large **Gary Salisbury**, IBM Regional Representative **Jeff Marcus**, and Social Media rep. **Mark Booth**. Sergeant-at-arms **David Chiu** was not able to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August meeting were revised and approved.





REPORTS

President Richard Ustick congratulated Matthew King for winning performer of the month for August.

First VP of Entertainment Greg Wauson: The August meeting was a success and we had 10 performers at the August Meeting. **Greg** delivered the plaques to the members.

Second VP (Membership) James Thayer:
Membership, Newsletter, and website:

James Thayer indicated we have 62 members and will be going down to 57 at the end of September when un-renewed memberships expire.

Treasurer, Joe “Mystic” McGrievy’s, report:

Joe showed his excel spreadsheet regarding expenses and status. He indicated he forwarded **Gary Salisbury** the \$50 donation from **Mike Stilwell** for the library, he forwarded \$60.85 to **Greg Wauson** for awards and plaques, and all other checks have cleared. The Ring 76 current balance is \$1,488.56.

Secretary Report – Matthew King – Minutes from August 10, 2020 Zoom Meeting revised and approved.

Sergeant at Arms Report – Dave Chiu Absent

Library Report and Discussion – Gary

Salisbury – **Gary** shared his screed screen which reflected the various donations we have received.

Tom Interval is donating magic books. **Fred Goldberg** has donated books props, etc, but have not organized the handoff yet. **Robert Vinson** indicated he would photograph things and send them over to **Gary**. **Gary** indicated **Dan Thomas** had donated some books and videos and **Robert** and **Greg** had picked them up, and he wanted to check the status. **Robert** indicated it was just a few books but nothing really magic related. **Gary** indicated that **Paul** sent an email and said he had things to donate. **Robert** said he would give a call and see if they are coming in to Ring 76 or going to the ring in Long Beach. **Loan Status:** 13 items currently on loan. **Gary** indicated he sent **Greg** an

email to test the Plex server. Regarding the finances, nothing has changed, and the Library fund remains negative -\$8.58. **Josh Sherwin** has been converting the VHS to DVD format and **Josh** is leaving. He is giving things to **Jeff Pearson**, and he told him to go buy a drive at Costco and **Gary** will reimburse him. **James Thayer** mentioned that the catalog of items in Arcanum is out of date, and **Gary** said he would look into it.

OLD BUSINESS

James Thayer mentioned our web hosting and has not had much luck getting it at a lower price. **Joe “Mystic” McGrievy** mentioned adding it on his GoDaddy account at no charge. **James** mentioned needing to make sure the PHP transfer would work, and it sounds like it might, and that it would be ideal for multiple people to have access in case something happens to one of the members.

James recommended filing the necessary paperwork to add the new Secretary, Matthew King to our Statement of Information. Also, **James** mentioned we need to file the 990-N e-postcard with the IRS and 199N e-postcard with the Franchise Tax Board. **Richard Ustick** said he will try to do it online.

Gary Salisbury brought up a previous conversation regarding this project and that each member’s requirements needs to be documented with a process books which has all necessary information and passwords, and it should be figured out to safeguard club information.





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 do have PLEX up and running on the prototype server that is capable of a couple of concurrent video streams. If you would like to try it out, send me an email (gdis46@gmail.com) with your email address requesting access. I will send you a PLEX invitation, which you will need to accept, in order to gain access. Since this prototype server has limited bandwidth we may have to limit the users during this test phase so first come, first served. One requirement: I need you to tell if you see or experience any problems. That way we can solve them before the real server goes into on-line.

Josh Sherwin has been converting our VHS tapes to MP4 files but the project was interrupted because Josh is moving to South Carolina. He has handed off all the VHS tapes to Jeff Pearson in the interim. I will have to get them from Jeff and finish it up myself.

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.



We have not raised any additional funding for the library because physical meetings have been cancelled and we have gone to virtual meetings. That means no library sales table or 50/50 raffle.

Currently we need money to buy Windows 10 Pro software and some incidentals for the Magic Video Streaming Server project. If you could help out by donating something for this? We need \$300 more but anything at all will help.

If you have purchased a downloaded video lecture (such as Penguin lectures) and no longer need it, I have a suggestion. Donate it to the library and we will put it on our PLEX server. That way you will always be able to view it any time along with the rest of the club. The club would then officially own the copy however, once it is transferred over to the library, you must delete all copies of it from your system. This is no different than donating a VHS or DVD except the media isn't physical, it is digital.

AUGUST 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, спасибо!

Jack White: The library received several boxes of leftovers originally from Jack White, that went to to Jeff Marcus, that that then went to John Hunter, that then went to Robert Vinson, and finally back to Jeff Marcus to be delivered to the library.

* Tom Interval: The library has a pending donation of about a dozen magic books that I picked up 9/26/2020. Thank you, Tom.

* Fred Goldberg: The props, books, and videos donated were picked up by Robert Vinson. The books and videos are to go to the library but a hand-off has not been established yet.

* Dan Thomas: There were supposed to have been some books and videos donated by but I don't know what happened to them.

* Paul W. Lotze II (Edward D. Kirbus): I don't know what happened to this donation but he said, "I have inherited so many boxes of books on magic, magic



tricks and apparatus.” The books sould have done to the library by default.

LOAN STATUS:

13 items currently on loan. (Can’t get them back until we start meeting again after the pandemic restrictions are lifted.)

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.

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.

