



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 OCTOBER 2020 VOL. XXXV #10

President's Message

While the weather outside in glorious San Diego is not exactly the cool and crisp winds of autumn, it is indeed Fall and that means it is time for some brisk Ring 76 traditions. And as I have always said, there is no tradition like a new tradition, so in keeping with the theme of 2020 RIng 76 will be presenting the new traditions we have come (will come?) to love.

The next meeting will be on October 12th and will feature you, the members, performing your favorite seasonal magic. October is when the magic really arrives and we are all looking forward to seeing what RIng Members have to show us. It is a ZOOM meeting per the state of California and you will receive login instructions in your email. This is a performance night and you can present live or prerecord something.

November will be another ZOOM lecture. We have had great success lining up first-class talent and will continue to do so. If you have a performer or instructor you would like to have lecture to the Ring please get in touch with any of the Board members.

December is usually our Holiday Pot Luck and Magic Show and we expect to still be in restrictions for meetings as large as ours. The Board of Directors is working on presenting an alternative and you will be getting more information on that later. If you have any ideas for our December Holiday Bash we are always eager to hear from you. It is your Ring and your input is always welcomed.

— *Richard Ustick*

Ring 76 2020-21 Calendar

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!

Editor's Message

Apologies that this news letter is a bit late.

Meanwhile, we are still looking for someone who may be interested in taking on editing MagiCurrents. Please contact me at Editor@ring76.com

— *James Thayer*

Coming Up !

Our next meeting is on Monday, October 12. The theme for our October meeting is... you guessed it – spooky magic. There will be some surprises and 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, which we plan

**PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS
HONEST SID GERHART RING 76
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER - JAMES THAYER, EDITOR@RING76.COM
PHOTOGRAPHER - JAMES THAYER**



to continue for our performance nights as long as we're meeting via Zoom. Email VP of Entertainment Greg Wauson (entertainment@ring76.com) if you would like one of the remaining performance slots. Members will receive an email invitation to this Zoom meeting. Feel free to invite your friends.

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.

Plans are being made now for our December meeting, traditionally our holiday meeting. We'll keep you informed as details are nailed down.

— Greg Wauson

Ring76 Meeting

Monday September 14, 2020

In Cyberspace

This was our sixth ring meeting held on Zoom. President **Richard Ustick** called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., and there were 23 members online. **Richard** announced that next month will be a performance meeting with spooky/Halloween magic. **Jeff Marcus** announced he is going to Colon, Michigan and will be visiting Abbotts and sharing his experience when he returns. No more announcements were made, and the meeting was turned over to **Greg Wauson**.

Greg Wauson heard from 3 people about the newsletter challenge. **Sherry Luft** was JUST behind **Mark Booth** in her response time, and **Josh Sherwin** responded correctly, as well. The answer was the "three of diamonds". Congrats went to **Mark Booth**. **Mark** announced he already spent it on a book called "Memoir of an Elusive Moth" by **Adele Friel Rhindress**, who was an assistant for **Harry Blackstone** in the 40s and 50s.

Greg Wauson introduced **Terry Godfrey** to share about his motorcycle trip to Sturgis. **Terry**

announced he and his wife **Laurie** rode a total of 3470 miles during their trip. **Terry** shared a video of him performing at the event with an effect involving the transposition of a silver dollar and a penny, with a surprise finish. **Terry** was able to meet and entertain the creator of a YouTube channel he follows, which led to him being included on his YouTube channel and being invited to entertain at a campground he owns, in Oklahoma.

Greg Wauson thanked **Terry Godfrey** for sharing, and announced that the performer/lecture for the meeting is one of the kings of street magic, and we all welcomed **Kozmo**.

Kozmo provided a wonderful presentation, lecture, and Q&A session. Details of the lecture follow.

— Matt King

Kozmo Lecture

Kozmo Lecture at Our September Meeting

All the way from upstate New York, Kozmo wowed us with his lecture at our online Zoom meeting on September 14. He has presented this lecture for 50 to 60 magic clubs for free, just to give people a break from the craziness and sadness in the world lately. He began by stating it would be an unusual lecture because he would not be selling anything and then told us his story. He said thirty years ago he got a job as an engineer at Cornell University, but he hated it. His real love was magic and he desperately wanted to perform magic for a living. He read up on street



Kozmo

performing and bought a hat and fanny pack because, well, it was the 80's. He walked around Ithaca New York, performing card effects, and people threw money into his hat. At the end of three hours he had \$130!

He realized he could be onto something here, so he built a new table and drove to Scranton, Pennsylvania. He performed 30 six-minute shows his first day and earned \$675! He kept at it, but in the winter there was nobody walking around. In January, he traveled to New Orleans and had only four dollars left. It was cold, raining, and no one was there. He knew he was in trouble. He saw a couple strolling with an umbrella, engaged them in conversation and they asked to see a trick. They gave him five dollars. Then another couple came along and it happened again. Then the sun cleared up and so did his prospects. After three days he had made \$1500! His wife was very supportive and actually encouraged him to quit his job. He summoned all his courage, went to his boss, and did just that. He sees it as the best decision he ever made and has now been a street performer for the last 30 years, traveling the world performing in parks and other public places.

He then presented for us the tricks he typically uses to entertain his audiences. He performed his opener, a four-coin routine, and explained starting with a card trick would be a mistake since it wouldn't draw in anyone else who walked up later, as they would have missed the card being selected or signed. And using something visual like coins draws people in. After some coin vanishes and reappearances, he transitioned into an impressive



matrix routine which climaxed with the coins instantly appearing inside a jar. After placing some of the coins under the lid and making a joke about the fourth one reappearing, he asked who wanted to see a card trick, purposely leaving the audience hanging.



The newsletter challenge question is: “Ustick is our Ring 76 president’s last name. What is his first name?” Kozmo found from experience that ending his matrix with a mere joke about the fourth coin reappearing under the lid of the jar keeps people there. If the coin actually DOES reappear, then that signals an ending, and makes them think it would be a good time to leave.



In his complete act on the street, he performs the coin routine including matrix and the jar, described above, and also a signed card-to-jar “impossible location” routine, a chop cup routine with a hat and a signed bill in lemon as a finale. He walked us through how he performs the coin and card routines and some nice coin sleights. Kozmo then shared more of his audience control secrets. His goal is to attract six



couples or groups of people into each crowd to “come close and watch” and to learn one name from each group. He uses their names to forge a relationship with them, which makes it more likely they will stay until the end of the show and also more likely to give a higher amount of money. When he senses the crowd losing interest, he has found using their names will bring them back in and also using voice inflection helps keep the people involved. The beautiful thing about performing so many shows is that he has learned to tell by the audiences’ reactions where they start to lose interest and has then changed his act at those points.

He showed one of the colorful shirts he wears in performance, as well as the table and props he’s been using for years. He purposely allows the chop cup and other items to develop a rough appearance, in keeping with his persona as a “Fast-Freddy” magician. This plays well on the streets of New Orleans, his favorite performing location. He uses a sharper-looking table when he performs at the Magic Castle, keeping in mind the type of audience present. Both tables are 32” x22” and made with a car headliner foam, with the cloth pulled tight and stapled to the sides. Both utilize a keyboard stand.

When you entertain on the streets, bad things – as well as hilarious things - can happen. He spoke of a few audience reactions which backfired and about dealing with a drunk man who had no idea he was even on stage in the show! Kozmo told him he doesn’t speak alcoholic. He came back to multiple performances and Kozmo ended up tying him into the actual show.

Another time, Kozmo was walking down Decatur Street in New Orleans on a very hot day and noticed a big shade tree near a tall building and realized that every day in that spot there would be shade at 1:00 pm, making it an ideal performance location. There was a statue guy posing there in the shade and Kozmo paid him \$20.00 to go away. The next day a new guy was in that spot at 1:00 pm and he paid him \$20 also. He kept paying whichever

street performer was there \$20 to leave. One day there a was an older homeless guy there, dressed like Chuck Berry. The guy asked, “Are you Kozmo?” Kozmo said he was, the gentleman looked at his watch and said, “You’re late.” He was waiting for his \$20.

In addition to his income from street magic, he shared that until the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown started in March, he had been performing a touring show with Garrett Thomas. He showed us several photos of the gear for their show, complete with chairs, a trailer, lighting and sound equipment. In addition, a number of years ago he created Reel Magic, a monthly subscription service for magicians, in which top magicians share their tricks and insights. He showed how to navigate Reel Magic online and watch all of his different shows and access monthly episodes. He graciously provided all Ring 76 members with a free login and password to the website, www.reelmagicmagazine.com, which was valid for three days to try out.

During the Q&A with club members, Kozmo talked about the freedom which street performing has given him and the difference in the amount of respect street performers have in Europe as opposed to the U.S., where they are viewed as criminals or individuals with something wrong with them. He told us he was the class clown and fighting with his brothers developed the toughness of character needed to become a successful street magician.

This was a delightful lecture which we thoroughly enjoyed. We were amazed by how friendly and approachable he is, rather than someone who comes across as jaded and roughened from working on the streets. Kozmo hung out with us, talking and answering our questions until after 9:30. Don’t pass up an opportunity to attend one of his lectures.

Kozmo can be reached by email at:

kozmomagic@me.com

— Matthew King and Greg Wanson



Shavings from the Board

September 28, 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**, Sergeant-at-arms **David Chiu**, Secretary **Matthew King**, 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**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September minutes were not yet submitted. Discussion of the preparation of the minutes and notes from the lecture.

REPORTS

President Richard Ustick: Welcomed board members.

Secretary Report, Matthew King: Preparation of the minutes and details from lectures were discussed, and the process was streamlined.

First VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson: We received great feedback from the **Kozmo** lecture. The meeting was a success.

Second VP (Membership), James Thayer: **James** indicated we have 62 members and will be going down to 57.

Sargent at Arms Report, Dave Chiu: **Dave** shared his screen and showed a graph of ring attendance for many of our past events, including the number of guests, number of members, etc.

Treasurer Report, Joe “Mystic” McGrievy: **Joe** showed his excel spreadsheet regarding expenses and status. Our current balance is \$1,450.57. We spent \$10.00 on an Amazon gift card, and \$14.00 for 1and1 internet hosting. **Joe** shared his screen and logged into the bank to show the balance is accurate.



Library Report and Discussion, Gary Salisbury: **Gary** shared his screen and showed that the library is currently kept in totes, with no dedicated workspace. **Gary** offered to donate 16’ of his garage to Ring 76 for the library, including modular cases to hold all books, DVDs, the Plex server, etc. He showed the pictures of the construction for the shelving. **Gary** mentioned there are currently 13 items out on loan, the plex server is temporarily on hold pending the transfer of tapes and DVD’s. The fund is still negative \$8.58.

OLD BUSINESS

Richard Ustick mentioned adding the name to the bank account and filing the necessary forms, but their website was temporarily down for maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Wauson mentioned **Kozmo** did not want to sell anything at his lecture, and it would be a nice thing for Ring 76 to send **Kozmo** a gift or tip of \$100 for his generosity. **Richard Ustick** agreed that it would be a good idea. A vote was made, and it was decided a tip/gift for \$100 would be sent to **Kozmo**.

Richard Ustick reminded board members that the theme for the October meeting is Spooky/Halloween Magic. **Richard** asked about allowing pre-recorded performances for the meeting, with the possibility of getting more members to participate. It was agreed to be a good idea. **Matthew King** mentioned getting members **Bob Meigs** and/or **Malcolm Campbell** to participate or to assist them with Zoom. **Greg Wauson** indicated he would reach out to them and see if he can help. **Greg** mentioned we have a lecture by **Larry Hass** in November.



Richard Ustick asked for any suggestions as to the December meeting. Greg Wauson recommended having a guest performance as opposed to a lecture. Joe “Mystic” McGrievy mentioned playing YouTube clips of our favorite magic effects, while watching them together. Richard liked the idea for the January meeting.

NEWSLETTER REQUIREMENTS:

James Thayer mentioned the newsletter requirements are needed by October 2nd. Matthew King asked about the program used to edit the newsletter and mentioned he may be able to help in the future.

Greg Wauson mentioned he can send Kozmo a thank you card on behalf of Ring 76. Matthew King said he will donate \$8.58 to the library fund.

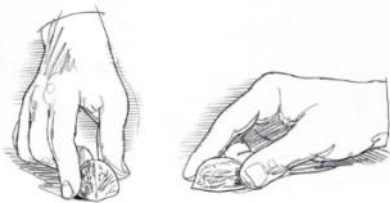
Jeff Marcus mentioned sharing his Colon, Michigan trip with the club.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

— Matt King

Newsletter challenge question

The answer is somewhere in this newsletter and you almost certainly already know it. The challenge will be to find the question, which is also somewhere in the newsletter. You will win a \$10 Amazon gift card if you are the first to send an email to VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson (entertainment@ring76.com), with the correct answer. Put “Newsletter challenge” in the subject line of the email.



Ex Libris

By Gary D. Salisbury



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

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!



- ♣ Mathew King - \$8.58 for the library petty cash which brings it out of the negative.
- ♣ Gary Salisbury – Space for the library.

STORAGE

Problem: Currently the library looks like this, all stored in 20 flip lid bins, sitting on the floor of my garage.



It is much better than sitting in rodent & insect infested cardboard boxes as it was previously but still is not conducive to what a library should be. There is no dedicated space to work on the library. There is no extra storage room and the club is acquiring more materials. There is no place for members to come to the library and do research either in books or videos.

Solution: Therefore, I have donated 16' of (environmentally controlled) garage wall space for the library and am in process of building shelving and work-surfaces.

This is the image that I see for our club library.



It is a industrial grade modular storage system capable of holding 48 flip lid bins. There is a 16 foot work surface that hold the PLEX server, a video player and small TV screen. There are three stools that fit under the 36” tall work surface. There is even room for an under-counter refrigerator for beverages. There will be three double gang electrical boxes on a dedicated 20 amp circuit as well as four recessed can lights with 150 watt LED lights.

Here are some progress photos:



I installed 6-20 amp outlets on a dedicated 20 amp GFI circuit and four recessed ceiling cans with 150 watt LED bulbs.



I then retextured and painted the wall. The heavy duty industrial shelving was installed next. I am



currently searching for shelving and work surface materials. I would like to do a laminate counter top for the work surface.

Hopefully, the project should be finished within the next few weeks.



When it is finished (and COVID is over) members will be welcome to come to the library and spend as much time there as they desire.

Estimated cost for the project is around \$1,000 that I am funding out of pocket.

LOAN STATUS:

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

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 do have PLEX up and running on the proto-type 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 proto-type 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.

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.

