



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

JANUARY 2021

VOL. XXXVI #1

President's Message

A warm greeting for this cold start to our New Year.

I hope that all of you had a good Holiday Season and that you had a chance to connect with family and friends as well as current conditions allowed. I hope that the joy you felt in the little things will continue through the cold winter months that are now upon us.

It is the new year and as we saw last time we cannot really see how our journey will proceed or where we will be a year from now. I am hoping that strides can continue to be made and that we can come back together to what I am sure is going to be a different sort of "normal" than we are used to.

In the meantime, your Board of Directors is continuing to come up with creative and innovative ways of serving



Dana Daniels

Ring 76 2021 Calendar

Jan 11 - Magic Videos

Feb 15 - Close Up Contest*

*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!

the Ring and the magic community at large. We continue to welcome ideas from you as to how to better serve your magical needs during this "interesting" time. We would also like to hear stories of how you used your talents to make this last holiday a magical one. Stories we could adapt for future Magiccurrents. Please send your stories to Ring76ibm@yahoo.com.

See you at the next meeting, Monday, January 11th.

— *Richard Ustick*

Coming Up !

January

This will be our first-ever video night and it promises to be a lot of fun. At this Zoom meeting we'll show videos of some of the most baffling and entertaining magic acts ever. Yes – we are talking about truly exceptional acts and we have already

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



lined up several videos to present. We'll show classic – as well as some little-known - videos of terrific magic performances. If you have some favorite videos you'd like us to consider, send them to [Greg Wauson](mailto:Greg.Wauson)

February

We weren't sure if there would be enough brave contestants during these COVID times for us to have our closeup contest as usual in February. But we do and IT IS ON! There are currently five entrants and still room for you! You may perform live OR as a recorded video, which will be played as your performance. First, second and third place finishers, as voted on by members, will receive \$50, \$25 and \$15, respectively. If you haven't yet notified Greg that you'd like to compete, contact him as soon as possible at gw83@ring76.com.



Matt Fore

In addition to the contest, there will also be a roughly one hour lecture by comedy magician Matt Fore, who will be speaking on how to add comedy to your act. We'll give you more on Matt's background via email and in February's newsletter but suffice it to say that he is well-qualified to teach on this subject. The material he'll be sharing is

from his course, "Killing It On Stage – How to Slay Your Audience with Comedy, Gags, Lines, Structure, Callbacks, Segues and a Big Finish," a course designed to help entertainers take their shows to new heights.

— Greg Wauson

Review of Dana Daniels' Show

December Meeting

It's been said that if the audience likes you as a person, they'll like your magic. This was certainly true for the performance by comedy magician Dana Daniels at our meeting on December 14. Dana is a very likeable guy who also happens to excel in both comedy and magic. He's been voted "Comedy Magician of the Year" and "Stage Magician of the Year" by the Academy of Magical Arts. And master magician Lance Burton says **Dana Daniels** is "one of the funniest magic acts working in the business today." Dana was with us online via Zoom, which allowed his sidekick, Luigi the psychic parrot, to be part of the act, unlike at some of his shows when he's not able to travel with a bird.

He first showed a very nice intro video, then opened with a floating glass effect, toasted us and made the bottle vanish. Next was a funny routine using dental floss, made even better by his use of a second camera



which provided an additional angle. Then it was time for a card trick, assisted by visitor Rick Bruce. Dana introduced Luigi, who tried but was unable to find the selected card. Luigi next attempted an effect using cards with other images on them, such as worms and a cat in jail, which were much more attractive to a parrot. Sure enough, Luigi was then able to find the card Rick picked. During the byplay, Luigi laid an egg, which is especially hard for a male bird.



A clever use of technology to enhance the effectiveness of a Zoom meeting was Dana's use of FaceTime to display Miguel Garcia on his iPad as his virtual assistant. He then asked three people to answer three different questions, which matched his answers which were sealed in an envelope before the show started. Then he had another



volunteer pull out their phone to call someone during the show and performed the invisible deck. Next was a funny and enjoyable interlude, where Dana shared his screen to show videos of several times he had to improvise on stage. These demonstrated well that magic shows are real-time theater, which can be planned but never perfectly predicted.



Then it was back to live magic and volunteer Laurie Pearson chose one of three magazines and picked a page. Dana ripped out the page, and had Laurie choose a side and finally a word. He drew a face on a balloon to be his assistant who was able to discern the selected word. Another effect which played well was when a helper selected one of the four queens, which Dana showed to be of a different color back, and that the other three were blank.

Although some of the routines Dana performed were from his tried-and-true in-person stage act which he's been performing for several years, more than half of





them are new. All of them played very well on Zoom. Dana’s show for us demonstrated once again his professionalism and ability to entertain a crowd with his entertaining, funny and always clean material. From headlining his own show at Disney's Golden Horseshoe Review for several years, to performing on Harrah's stage in Las Vegas, on cruise ships or online Zoom shows in people’s living rooms, the reputation of Dana Daniels as a clutch performer is well-deserved.

Dana hung around with us after the show to talk about some of his experiences on the road, including a hilarious story of going through airport security with Luigi.

— Greg Wauson

Shavings From the Board

Happy New Year! Due to the holidays, there was no Board Meeting in December.

— James Thayer

Newsletter challenge question

It’s time again for your opportunity for fame and fortune by taking on the infamous newsletter challenge. If you are the first reader to spot the answer to our question and send it in an email to VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson (gw83@ring76.com), you will become the proud



owner of a \$10 Amazon eGift card! Please put “Newsletter challenge” in the subject line of the email. All Ring 76 members are eligible, except board members and the previous month’s winner.

Congratulations to our December winner, Gary Salisbury!

Here’s our January challenge:

What is the name of Dana Daniels’ psychic parrot? The answer is somewhere in this newsletter.

— Greg Wauson

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 in the ring budget.
- ♣ 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.





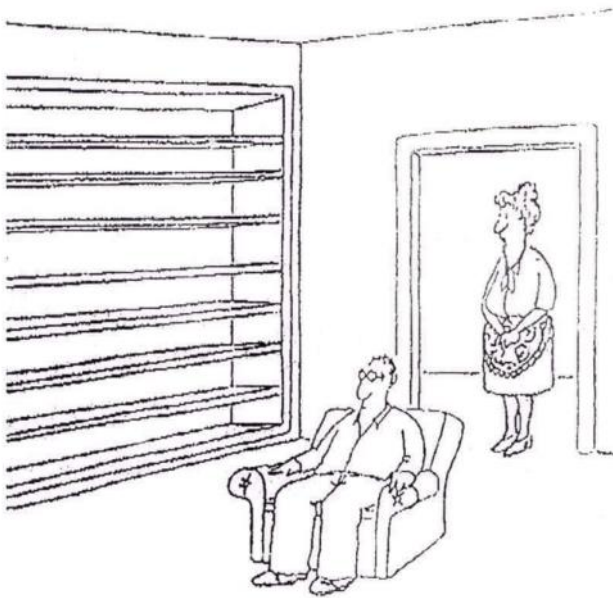
- ♣ If you have purchased a downloaded video lecture (such as Penguin lectures) and no longer need it, I have a suggestion. Donate it to the library and we will put it on our PLEX server. That way you will always be able to view it any time along with the rest of the club. The club would then officially 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.

DECEMBER 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, سپاسگزارم!

- ♣ Gary Salisbury The Linking Rings, A murderous trip to London! (2018) by John Gaspard (Audio Book)



"Gary dear, maybe you'd have more fun if you didn't collect magic books that were so rare."

- ♣ Jack White An unknown amount of books and magazines has been promised by Jack's wife, Lynn Stead. I was waiting for the holidays to pass before contacting her again for pick-up.

LOAN STATUS:

13 items still currently on loan. If you have something checked out, it would be appreciated if you could drop it off.

WHAT'S NEW?

Soliciting Library Donations:

I have been soliciting donations of books and videos from different magic groups on Facebook and have a promise to send us some DVDs. We might have to pay shipping in some cases but it would probably be beneficial for us to do so. I will evaluate this on a case by case basis.

If you have any magic DVDs or VHS tapes, why not consider donating them to the library? They will be digitized and put on the PLEX server so they would always be available to you any time plus be sharable to other club members. Sharing is good!

IBM Ring 76 Magical Arts Library:

I have put this action item on hold pending another solution, a donation of lots of cabinets.

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 are accepting Beta testers. We have the PLEX server up and running so 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. People who have tried it say it is nothing less than FANTASTIC!



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.

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



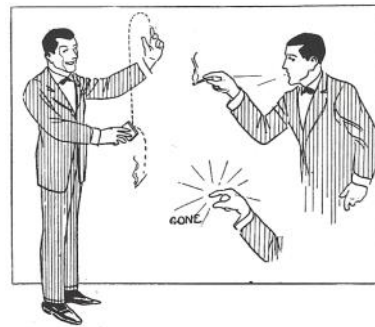
Chris Lorensen is selling a number of magic items. For Ring 76 Members he will entertain all offers. [Contact Chris](#) for a list of what he has available.



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

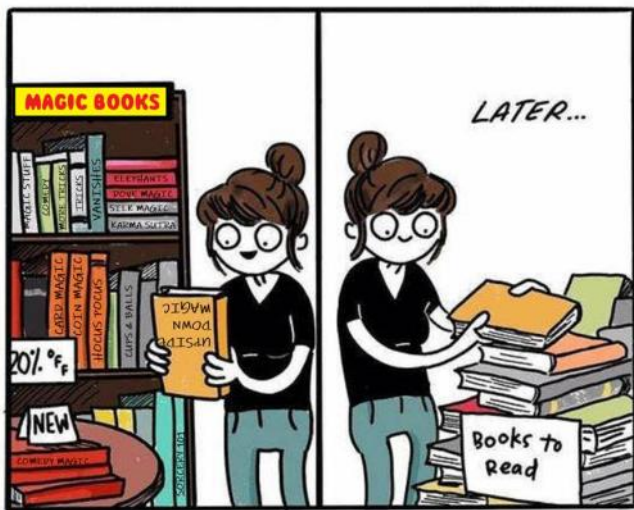


Don't forget that Ring 76 has a private area just for members called [Arcanum](#). There you can find contact information for other Ring 76 members and numerous magical documents are available for download. Contact [James Thayer](#) for instructions on how to log in for the first time.



Ring 76 is still looking for a new editor for MagiCurrents. It's a great opportunity to put your stamp on this organization. If interested, contact [James Thayer](#).

SUPPORT YOUR RING 76 LIBRARY BY DONATING



Now is the time to check out a book from your Ring 76 Library and learn something new. Email: librarian@ring76.com