



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

APRIL 2021

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President's Message

It has been an interesting year as we pass the anniversary of becoming an "online" Ring.

Last April was our first virtual meeting and at that time we thought it would be a few months before we were back to normal. How wrong we were. What amazed me was how strongly Ring 76 pulled together in the face of a condition none of us were prepared for. From organizing Board meetings to carrying out Ring activities our magic community has risen to the challenge in ways that can make all of us proud. We had our meetings, had virtual lectures on magic, presentation, and online magic and presentation, managed to hold our competitions, and got the newsletter out on time each and every month. We missed out on potlucks and Installation Banquets to be sure, but we still held together and supported each other through this remarkable era. We had good times and great losses and this will be a year that we will reference for some time to come. However, we stayed together and that is why I feel is our biggest accomplishment.

Restrictions are being rescinded and gatherings are being allowed once again, however, I am still not sure when we will meet in person. In the meantime, the Board has come up with a host of other activities we know the membership will like, just read the newsletter to see what those are. Once again I need to remind you that this is your Ring and the Board is always eager to listen to your suggestions for future meetings. We have ideas and always welcome yours. It will be some time before we gather again but we are Ring 76 and will continue to be so.

— *Richard Ustick*

Ring 76 2021 Calendar

Apr 12 - Teach-A-Trick*

May 10 - Stand-Up Contest²*

Jun 14 - Performance—Theme TBD*

*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!

Coming Up!

April: It's time for talented teachers to try to tutor the tribe with their top-notch tricks. In fact, eight of them are signed up to demonstrate their effects and coach us in how to perform them. We'll then also be able to amaze our families and friends with these feats of prestidigitation. This is always a fun time to learn some new magic or ways to present it and get to know some of our members better. We'll see you there in Zoom land on the 12th.

May: And for my next magical effect, a vanish! Yes, we may be about to see the disappearance of... wait for it!... the standup contest at the May meeting. Or maybe not. It's up to the Ring 76 members. The board is all about providing high quality content at each of our meetings and we have decided to continue the tradition of featuring a contest of standup magic at our May meeting. But there's one

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caveat: We need a minimum of five members signed up to compete by April 12. As of the first week of April, only two have stepped forward.

There's still time for others to enlist, but if the deadline is not met, we'll present a different theme for this meeting. Be assured we'll again be bringing something of value to you, our members. We'll keep you posted.

June: This will be the final performance night of the year, with a theme which is yet to be announced. Members will be able to entertain and earn votes. The deserving individual with the most votes will win the coveted entertainer of the month award, along with a \$20 Amazon eGift card. The votes will also count toward the entertainer of the year award, which will be revealed at the installation banquet in July. The June meeting is also election night.

— Greg Wauson

March Meeting

08Mar2021

In Cyberspace

Secretary **Matthew King**. Meetings held every 2nd Monday, currently via Zoom.

This was our twelfth ring meeting held on Zoom. President **Richard Ustick** called the meeting to order at **7:07 p.m.**, there were **23 members** online. He announced there were some special guests in attendance, then **Gary Salisbury** surprised everyone with some sketch comedy utilizing video filters and different faces/costumes as different family members. **Richard** announced the theme for next month's meeting is "**Teach-A -Trick**", **May** is our Stand-up Competition, and **June** is our yearly election. **Richard Ustick** turned the meeting over to **Greg Wauson**, who announced the order of the performers for the evening.

The first performer was **Mike Stilwell**. He placed 3 Aces in 3 different parts of the deck. He then removed 2 of them, but the 3rd had vanished from



Mike Stilwell

the deck and reappeared inside the card case. He announced the effect was from the Linking Ring issue with **Dazzling Diane Lane** on the cover.

Matthew King performed "Future Shock" from the Linking Ring using different colored envelopes with slips of paper representing fortune cookies. **Laurie Pearson** assisted, and the options were narrowed to one envelope. All other fortunes contained misfortunes, and the selected envelope was the only positive outcome.



Matthew King

Rich Robertson took over for **Greg Wauson** and introduced the remaining performers.

Joe "Mystic" McGrievy performed an effect called "NFW". He shared a video of his performance and



Joe Mystic

he made 4 faceup jokers turn face down, one at a time. When he turned them over, they had all turned into Aces, in a surprise finish.

Jeff Pearson was the next performer. **Jeff** shared a video of his performance which included the cups and balls, and he demonstrated how the principles of physics were employed in illusions.



Jeff Pearson

Terry Godfrey performed **Albert Goshman's** "Cards Thru Newspaper". He placed the Ace, 2, 3, and 4 of spades in the 4 corners of a newspaper, and one at a time he made them penetrate up

through the newspaper to join the others, which ended up with all 4 cards in one corner.



Terry Godfrey

The next performer was **Ken Intriligator**. In tribute to the late **Jeff Marcus**, **Ken** performed rubber band effects. He passed two rubber bands through each other, then again pulled two more visually through each other. He then stretched one out, placed a pen through it, and the pen also passed through the rubber band.



Ken Intriligator

Elissa Melor showed 5 lotto tickets, front and back, while talking about buying them. Then she shook them and they visually changed into different

denominations of U.S. bills, which she showed on front and back.



Elissa Melor

Craig Blackwood gave a review of a book called “Grandpa Magic” by Allan Kronzek. He mentioned it is entertaining, informative, and teaches adults how to perform fun magic for, and with, kids. He has the book in stock at his magic shop in La Jolla and he invited members to come hang out.



Craig Blackwood

Richard Ustick called on **Gary Salisbury** to discuss the library and numerous recent donations he has received and the Plex Server. **David Chiu** shared his screen and demonstrated how to access and navigate the Plex Server and collections.

Matthew King discussed the upcoming Ring 76 Magic Store, ordering instructions, and the availability of the items to members at heavier discounts before going public. **Richard Ustick** mentioned we may be soon having auctions during our meetings for certain items, as well.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

— *Matthew King*

Elections

April is the first full month of spring. It brings with it the longer days, warmer temperatures, filing of taxes, and of course the reminder that Ring elections are just around the corner.

This is your Ring. It is organized by the Board of Directors and that Board is made up of Ring members. There is no aristocracy here. Any member can run for office. Your ideas and input are not only welcomed but needed if we are to continue to be a vital and active member of the magic community.

The offices of Ring 76 are important but do not involve a lot of extra time. Board meetings are held virtually on the fourth Monday of the month (except December). The positions and their responsibility are listed on the Ring76.com website. You will have an opportunity to make the Ring into an organization you like. To change the direction you feel is needed. To enhance benefits and correct any deficiency you have noted while a member. You have the chance to make this your idea of a Ring. You have this chance that is if you are a member of the Board.





Elections are in June and if you have any questions please feel free to ask any Board members or write to the President at Ring76ibm@yahoo.com.

— Richard Ustick

Dues

April Showers bring...Ring 76 dues notices? Well, there is probably no causal link between the two, but nevertheless, it is that time of year again..

They are due as of June 30th and we hope as many members as possible will be able to renew by that date. The amount is \$30. We have two ways to pay.

You can pay by mail: make a check out to “IBM Ring 76” and send it to: Ring 76; c/o James Thayer; 9556 Babauta Road; San Diego, CA 92129.

You can also send your dues via PayPal by sending payment to <payments@ring76.com>.

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.

If for any reason, you are not intending to renew your membership this year, we will appreciate knowing this (and we will stop bugging you for dues.)

We are aware the Covid-19 pandemic has put a crimp into many members finances and that 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 so that you may remain a member of Ring76.

— James Thayer

Shavings From the Board

March 22, 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom and it was called to order at 7:05 pm. by President **Richard Ustick**. Also in attendance were Second V.P. (membership) **James Thayer**, Treasurer **Joe**

“**Mystic**” **McGrievy**, Sergeant-at-arms **Dave Chiu**, Secretary **Matthew King**, and Member-at-large **Robert Vinson**. Also present were Social Media rep. **Mark Booth**, Ring 76 Librarian **Gary Salisbury**, and members **Sherry Luft** and **Terry Lunceford**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February board meeting minutes were approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report, Joe “Mystic”

McGrievy: Joe shared his list of expenses and our current financial status. We purchased a Amazon Gift Card for the performer of the month, **Terry Godfrey**. We received a payment from **Mike Stilwell** from a magic purchase. The balance reflected in our bank is \$2,494.56.

Sergeant-at-Arms Report, David

Chiu: David indicated we had 22 members and 1 guest at the March meeting.

Library Report and Discussion, Gary

Salisbury: Gary indicated he has 12-14 boxes of donations and he is inventorying it. **James Thayer** mentioned having the updated inventory on the website. **Gary** purchased clear totes and labels totaling \$128.09. He asked for authorization of reimbursement and was approved. **David Chiu** is working on a script for a “how-to” video regarding using the Plex Server, and he should have it done soon. He inquired as to the best method to share it. Members decided to use an unlisted YouTube video. **Gary** asked members about sending in videos of





themselves performing for the category “Masters of Ring 76” on the Plex Server.

First VP (Entertainment), Greg

Wauson: Greg recapped the last meeting. **Terry Godfrey** won performer of the month and a \$20 Amazon gift card.

Second VP (Membership), James

Thayer: James indicated we remain at 53 members, and we can start reminding members of their upcoming dues.

OLD BUSINESS

Richard Ustick mentioned coordinating with **Joe “Mystic” McGrievy** to open a PayPal account. We discussed holding auctions during the meetings and the bidding. **Matthew King** said he will pick a few items to auction at the next meeting.

Richard Ustick indicated the election committee is in place with **Sherry Luft**, **Mike Stilwell**, and himself.

Greg Wauson mentioned we have 6 confirmed performers for our “Teach-A-Trick” meeting, and he would like to get at least 8. **Greg** asked about structuring the auctions with the performances. We discussed a silent auction and determined how to feature the item and the current bid. **Greg** mentioned having a short book review by **Gary Dismukes** at the April meeting. **Richard Ustick** mentioned having the book review before the performances.

Richard Ustick brought up the Stand-up Contest to be held in May, and **Greg Wauson** mentioned having a lecture the same night, but would be dependent on how many performers we have. **Richard** recommended a time limit for members to sign up. **Mike Stilwell** asked about giving a lecture on promotional items in June. **Greg** mentioned **Peg Marcus** may be having a private celebration of life for **Jeff Marcus** in May.

Matthew King brought up **Dave Chiu’s** previous idea of creating non-resident memberships for **Ring 76**, and he discussed including non-resident information in **The Linking Ring** minutes. He

also mentioned creating a combination meeting with in-person and virtual attendees, when meetings can resume.

Robert Vinson mentioned **Josh Sherwin** and his wife are expecting a baby. **Gary Salisbury** mentioned **Jeff Silver** (who is the Territorial VP for Southern Florida), and a friend of the late **Jeff Marcus**, indicated he would like to attend the next ring meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

— *Matthew King*

Newsletter challenge question

Who says there’s no such thing as free money? 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](#), 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 March winner, Ken Intriligator!

Here’s our April challenge:

What may disappear from our May meeting this year? The answer is somewhere in this newsletter.

— *Greg Wauson*



Ex Libris

By Gary D. Salisbury



Welcome to Ex Libris with the latest news 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.*”

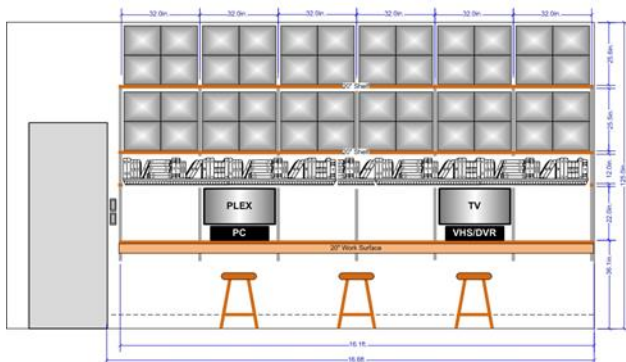
For a full list of the books and DVDs that we have available, please log into Arcanum. Instructions for checking out these materials may also be found there.

WHAT’S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

1-IBM Ring 76 Magical Arts Library:

This is a project to build a physical place to store your library at my residence. It would consist of shelving and work surfaces where members would have a place to research materials, view audio/video files, etc. It would also serve as an archive for legally owned videos now digitized on the PLEX server. There will even be a small portable refrigerator with beverages.

IBM RING 76 MAGICAL ARTS LIBRARY



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



cabinets that I might use instead. (Drum set not included.)

2-IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server:

The IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server 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. That is about 4TB online. The Magic Castle has a similar service for their members but theirs is 28TB online. Keep donating and we will beat them!

Current Project Status:

The IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server is up and running so if you would like to try it out, send an email to: (librarian@ring76.com) with your real email address requesting access. I will send you a PLEX invitation, which you will need to accept, in order to gain access. Detailed instructions on how to log in can be found on the Ring 76 website by clicking on this link: <https://www.ring76.com/html/plex.html>

People who have tried it say it is nothing less than **FANTASTIC!**

3-Soliciting Library Donations:

I have been soliciting donations of books and videos from over 30 magic groups on Facebook and have



received promises to send us some material. 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!

MARCH 2021 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!

Gary Salisbury donated three audio books:

- ♠ ELLY GRIFFITHS-3-The Blood Card
- ♠ ELLY GRIFFITHS-4-The Vanishing Box
- ♠ ELLY GRIFFITHS-5-Now You See Them

Mark Booth donated several books.

Mike Stilwell donated several books.

Michael Berg has donated 3 boxes of magic tricks, books, and videos.

Lynn Stedd donated a box of Jack White’s magazines. She is going to keep his books for now.

Terry Lunceford has donated a box of magic VHS tapes.

Richard Costantinou, SAM Southwest Regional Deputy, of San Diego donated 178 VHS magic VHS tapes. (This was huge!)

Herb Briscoe of Landover, MD sent us 141 books, 18 VHS tapes, and 12 DVDs. He is contemplating some props for our Ring 76 Magic Store too.

John Coppin of Tucson, AZ drove over on 3/10 and delivered his magic book & video donation.

Curtis Frye of Portland, OR sent us 16 magic VHS tapes.

Carlos Vara of Miami, FL decided to pay his own postage and ship us his collection of German Magic magazines.

Mike Barrett sent us a box of old Linking Ring magic magazines.

Brad Burt of Sedona, AZ has promised us a donation but hasn’t had the time to clear it out of his garage yet. (He asked if we would pay shipping.)

Brian from Minneapolis, MN has 200 magic DVDs he is trying to sell off and has promised to send me what he has left after his sale.

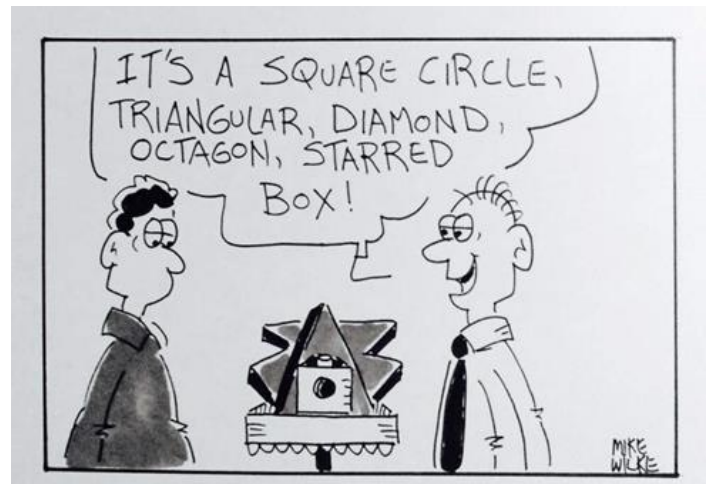


DONATIONS WANTED

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. We also need remote access software for managing the server remotely. If you





could help out by donating something for this? We need \$300 more but anything at all will help.

Think about this: 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.

LOAN STATUS

Six items still currently on loan. If you have something checked out, it would be appreciated if you could drop it off or make arrangements to have it picked up.



MAGIC BOOK REVIEWS

Here are reviews of the three audio books I donated this month from Goodbooks. These audio books are on the PLEX server so you can listen to them on your smart phone.

The Blood Card

(Stephens & Mephisto Mystery #3)

by Elly Griffiths

Elizabeth II's coronation is looming, but the murder of their wartime commander, Colonel Cartwright, spoils the happy mood for DI Edgar Stephens and magician Max Mephisto. A playbill featuring another deceased comrade is found in Colonel Cartwright's possession, and a playing card, the ace of hearts: the blood card. The wartime connection and the suggestion of magic are enough for him to put Stephens and Mephisto on the case.

Edgar's investigation into the death of Brighton fortune-teller Madame Zabini is put on hold. Max is busy rehearsing for a spectacular Coronation

Day variety show - and his television debut - so it's Edgar who is sent to New York, a land of plenty worlds away from still-rationed England. He's on the trail of a small-town mesmerist who may provide the key, but someone else silences him first. It's Sergeant Emma Holmes who finds the clue, buried in the files of the Zabini case, that leads them to an anarchist group intent on providing an explosive finale to Coronation Day.

Now it's up to Edgar, Max and Emma to foil the plot, and find out who it is who's been dealing the cards .

The Vanishing Box

(Stephens & Mephisto Mystery #4)

by Elly Griffiths

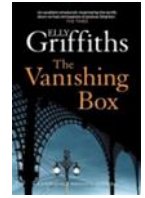
DI Edgar Stephens and the magician Max Mephisto discover once again that the line between art, life, and death is all too easily blurred. It's the holiday season and Max Mephisto and his daughter Ruby have landed a headlining gig at the Brighton Hippodrome, the biggest theater in the city, an achievement only slightly marred by the less-than-savory supporting act: a tableau show of naked "living statues." But when one of the girls goes missing and turns up dead not long after, Max and Ruby realize there's something far more sinister than obscenity afoot in the theater. DI Edgar Stephens is on the case. As he searches for the killer, he begins to suspect that her fatal vanishing act may very well be related to another case, the death of a quiet local florist.

Now You See Them

(Stephens & Mephisto Mystery #5)

by Elly Griffiths

The fifth gripping Brighton-based mystery from the bestselling author of the Dr Ruth Galloway series – a must-read for fans of Agatha Christie, cosy crime and TV series such as Grantchester and Midsomer Murders. One after another, young women go





missing in Brighton, but who’s to say they didn’t leave of their own free choice?

— Gary Salisbury

Ten years have passed since the events described in *The Vanishing Box*. Edgar Stephens is now a Superintendent and married to former DS Emma Holmes. Edgar’s wartime partner in arms, magician Max Mephisto, is a movie star in Hollywood, while his daughter Ruby has her own TV show, Ruby Magic.

The funeral of Stan Parks, aka Diablo, actor and wartime comrade to Edgar and Max, throws the gang back together. The reunion sparks all sorts of feelings. Bob Willis, now a DI, is dealing with the disappearance of local schoolgirl Rhonda Miles. Emma, frustrated by living the life of a housewife and mother, keeps thinking how much better she would run the case. She is helped by Sam Collins, a woman reporter also hampered by sexism at work. Sam notices a pattern with other missing girls. Edgar listens to the theory but doesn’t give it much credence. He is preoccupied with the threatened invasion of Brighton by Mods and Rockers on the May Bank Holiday.

The case takes a more sinister turn when one of the missing girls is found dead. Then Ruby fails to turn up for a rendezvous and it becomes clear that she too has disappeared. Emma takes risks to track down the killer herself while Edgar is working flat out dealing with violent clashes between rival gangs on Brighton’s seafront. With tension and anger hitting him on all sides, Edgar must keep the coolest of heads to track down the killer.

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. (librarian@ring76.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



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](#).



RING 76 AUCTION

It's AUCTION time! An additional screen will be joining our virtual meetings named "AUCTION". This screen will feature the items to be sold during our meeting, as well as its current bid amount. Auctions will run for approximately 15 minutes each, so don't miss out!

BID BID BID



To place bid, use the chat to send a private message directly to "AUCTION" with any amount above the current bid (in whole dollars). If you bid the same price as someone, but they bid first, you will be notified you are not the current high bidder. If you win, please provide your email address via chat. An invoice will be sent to you for payment, and we will coordinate either pick up or delivery of your item directly with you. Payments via checks are also accepted, and payments can also be sent via PayPal directly to Payments@Ring76.com.

Most importantly, **THANK YOU** for supporting RING 76, have **FUN**, and **GOOD LUCK** bidding!

NEXT AUCTION ITEMS:

MILK VANISHING PITCHER by VIKING MFG. CO. Retail: \$49 OPENING BID: \$10	EXACT CHANGE by GREGORY WILSON Retail: \$75 OPENING BID: \$15	THE DIAMOND SILK FOUNTAIN by JAY SCOTT BERRY Retail: \$100 OPENING BID: \$20
		