



# MagiCurrents

San Diego Ring 76 January 2022 VOL. XXXVII #1



## President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,

Potluck had so many yummy selections and the entertainment was over the top!

Everyone that attended either got a free Door Prize ticket, or maybe a 50/50 raffle ticket, a gift on their chair or a random gift wrapped item from our very own "Secret Santa" (NOT ME). One of our members and their partner hand wrapped over 70 gifts! Plus Our Secret Santa had a special bag of goodies ear marked for our board!

Super Big Thank You to our secret Santa!

January is our YOU FOOLED US contest! So dig out those magical miracles and try to fool your judges! Don't forget to wear your mask!

Doors open at 6:30..

See you at our 6th in person meeting!

*Mike Stilwell*



## Ring 76 2022 Calendar

January 10th— You Fooled Us Competition  
See details inside

February 14th—Close Up Contest

March 14th—To Be Announced

\*Opportunity for Members to Perform

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. of Entertainment, Greg Wauson.



Janet Leigh who played Bess Houdini

Published by the International Brotherhood of Magicians  
Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Publisher - Richard Ustick, Proof Reader Sherry Luft Email us at Editor@ring76.com



## Ring 76 Holiday Potluck A Grand Success

Matthew King & Richard Ustick

The Church Rec Hall was the same. There was no doubt about that. But it had undergone a surprising transformation. After nearly two years of isolation and meetings only on flat blue screens, the members of Ring 76 were once again gathering in the cold winter's night to celebrate the holiday season with the warmth and generosity of physical presence. The tables and walls held appropriate decorations, the various revelers wore red and green and blue and gold and stylish and outrageous fare as such that one might think the punch had been spiked far earlier that afternoon. Heaped along the tables to the one side of the room, to form a kind of trail of feasting, were turkeys, tamales, potatoes, great slabs of meat, steaming bowls of chili, large joints of ham, crisp green salads, exotic meats and breads from foreign lands, piles of rolls and butter, deviled eggs, apple and pumpkin pies, brownies, cookies, and pans of sugary confection that could only stagger the imagination. And at the door, dressed as Father Christmas himself, was Ring President **Mike Stilwell**, to greet all who came to enjoy the magical comradery.

“Come in!” He exclaimed to member and guest alike. “Come in! and enjoy yourself!”



Many members arrived early to set up the table and arrange the magnificent displays that adorned the hall that night. Attendees started arriving around 6:30 pm and President **Mike Stilwell** called the meeting to order at around seven. **Mike** announced he was wearing the late **Jeff Marcus'** Santa jacket, Jeff being one of the beloved members that we lost over the last year. **Terry Godfrey** announced we had special guest **Holly Baker** in attendance, who is the granddaughter of **Honest Sid Gerhart**, of whom our Ring is named. (more on her in the article on page 5). **Terry** mentioned she is the one who started his career at the Del Mar Fair, helped him with ideas, and they would go to lunch to discuss the theme. **Gary Salisbury** pointed out the display in the back of the room with memorabilia from **Sid** including his iconic hat, case, and business card. Also on display was our Ring 76 Banner, which was thought lost a few years ago, but was in **Holly's** possession. Welcome back. **Mike** inducted **Holly Baker** as *honorary* member of **Ring 76**.

**Mike** and **Gary** then moved to the awarding of door prizes. They pulled the tickets from the drum and **Richard Ustick** won a set of diminishing sponge ball, and **Terry Lunceford** won a set of Haunted Matchboxes.

As is traditional at meetings, **Sal Barajas**, **Alfonso Vasquez**, **Dale Law**, and **Richard Wira** all introduced their guests, and guests of **Holly** also introduced themselves. **Mark Booth** announced he brought his famous chili (always a welcomed guest). **Alvin Revilas** announced he will be joining National and then our Ring. **Terry Lunceford** announced he will be working at The Magic Castle at the end of January through February. **Gary** announced the 50/50 raffle is at \$258, and one person will win half of it, with the other half going to the Ring 76 library. **Mike** announced that he and **Bob Meigs** performed a demo show for potential Junior Wizards, and sign ups begin after Christmas break. **Mike** revealed to attendees that whoever has a playing card under their chair wins the centerpiece. Members and their guests enjoyed dinner and desserts at our annual potluck.



Mike had Gary pull the winning ticket for the 50/50 raffle and the winner was Mago Ruly.

With the business of the Ring dispensed with the members and guests moved over to the buffet line and food service was kept manageable with aided by Richard Ustick, Terry Lunceford, David Chiu, Brenda Wauson, and Adele Schwartz.



After dinner, Mike turned the meeting over to First VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson. Greg thanked all for attending, thanked the servers, and he introduced our entertainer for the evening, award-winning Johnny Ace Palmer. Johnny took the stage and provided a wonderful show for members and their guests.

It has been a rough period for all of our members and this was the first Holiday Potluck we had had in two years. It was great to have this chance to meet in person and to come together in food and fellowship and enjoy not only great entertainment, but quality companionship as well.

## Johnny Ace Palmer Big Hit at Ring 76 Holiday Potluck

Our performer at the December holiday banquet, Johnny Ace Palmer, has a magical resume second to none, including literally winning the world champion of magic award, the FISM Grand Prix. He was the first close-up magician to achieve this honor. So we know he's received the highest honors for his legerdemain skills, but how does he do entertaining a bunch of fellow magicians and their guests at an after-dinner show? In my opinion, and that of everyone I talked to after his performance, very well.

He drove down from Orange County and was the first to show up in the afternoon at our venue, to allow plenty of time for his setup. I checked in with him backstage as he was preparing and noticed there are a lot of pieces to his show. He pays a lot of attention to the smallest detail. I appreciated his flexibility with our schedule, which included dinner, followed by some special presentations.

It's been said a magician is an actor who plays the part of a magician. The part that Johnny plays is that of a very nice guy, which is not difficult for him since that is who he really is. His easy-going personality flavored his entire act with a casualness that made it easy for the audience to sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

Most of the effects he presented were familiar to many of us but it was his entertaining performance of them which made the show such a hit. He presented magic with canes, cards and paper money. His music was chosen well to set the mood for several of his routines.

We enjoyed his funny lines throughout, which was a tip we learned from Matt Fore, who presented a lecture on comedy magic to Ring 76 earlier in the year.

The element of surprise is the ace card available to magicians and Johnny played it well. Several minutes into his act he showed a silk scarf, bunched it up and out came a live dove! He twirled another scarf around his hand and out popped another dove!



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This was a nice surprise to me since he wasn't performing a manipulation or dove act. Then later in the show he magically produced a rabbit, which he made available after the show for everyone to pet. Gary the librarian raises monarch butterflies. I was hoping he'd include his trademark routine with the cups and balls, and he did. The big-time kicker for this effect is the surprise appearance of a baby chick under each of the three cups!

Johnny presented a very fun, humorous and sometimes baffling magic show and showed why he's so deserving of his reputation.



## What's Coming Up

**January 2022:** "You Fooled Us" contest. Talk about a challenge! **Joe Mystic** and **Mike Stilwell** will be our eagle-eyed judges as each contestant performs a magic trick for the audience. Joe and Mike will confer after each contestant does their thing and offer what they think is the most likely method of how the effect was accomplished. If they are incorrect, the contestant has fooled them and wins a beautiful plaque created by our own **Gary Salisbury**. If the judges are correct and the contestant did not fool them, the contestant has still had some stage time in front of a friendly crowd and hasn't lost anything. **Miguel Garcia** will have the final word as arbitrator regarding whether the judges' guesses will be accepted as correct and Greg will be the emcee. We may still have a slot available if you'd like to compete. Send Greg an email at [gw83@ring76.com](mailto:gw83@ring76.com) if you'd like to throw your hat into the ring.

**February 2022:** It is time to give you yet another opportunity to earn fame and riches! That's right, the Ring 76 February meeting will be our annual close-up contest. Those bold enough to take on this challenge will each dazzle the crowd for up to ten minutes with their magical skills. Each contestant will perform his or her act just once for the entire audience. In addition to a medal, the top three winners will each receive a cash prize.

Email Greg at [gw83@ring76.com](mailto:gw83@ring76.com) if you'd like to compete.



Palmer has Chicks with chicks



# Ring 76 Potluck was an event enjoyed by all





## Who was that Blonde I saw you with ? Special guest adorns Holiday festivities.

At those year’s Holiday Potluck we had the pleasure of welcoming a special guest. She was **Holly Baker**, the granddaughter of Honest Sid Gerhart, of whom this Ring is named.

As time marches on most of us are unfamiliar with Sid, who he was, or most of the early history of I.B.M. Ring 76. The Board felt it was time to remedy that situation.

### THE LEGEND OF HONEST SID GERHART

*By Gary Salisbury*

As everyone knows, our beloved IBM Ring 76 was named after one of its founders, “Honest Sid Gerhart” but “Do you know the rest of the story?”

How did our missing Ring 76 Banner play a part into finding Honest Sid’s granddaughter, Holly Baker, and how did that lead to discovering Honest Sid Gerhart’s props forgotten in an attic for over 50 years?



*Honest Holly Baker and the Honest Sid Gerhart Memorial Tribute produced by Gary Salisbury*

What was the “autograph board”, who signed it, and where is it today?

In order to understand who he was, what he was all about, and what legacy he has passed down, we need to rediscover facts from old documents and interviews with those who knew him. Read on with avid interest as there will be a test later with a reward.

### THE HISTORY OF IBM RING 76

*From www.ring76.com:*

The first organizational meeting of the Ring was held on December 12, 1948, at Valle's Restaurant, a prominent eatery since the late 1920s. Valle's was located on Kalmia, between 4th and 5th streets in the Uptown area of the city. The restaurant was razed in the 1960s and today is the location for apartments and condos. Those present were the original signers of the Ring's Charter and included: Tom Oliver, Ted Angell, James E. Thompson, Stewart Wilson, and Kevin Berry. Members included: Howard Valle, Richard Stahl, Howard Chernoff, R.W. Hafler, Edward Harrison and Bill Risling. Like all good magic meetings, once the first order of business for the evening, selecting the officers, was out of the way those assembled began doing tricks at the dinner table for each other. This caused quite a stir among the patrons of the restaurant. However, one of the owners of the restaurant, Howard Valle, was a member of the new I.B.M. Ring, so nothing was said about the magical disturbance.



*Valle's Restaurant and the Fifth Ave. Auto Wash, circa 1929 (photo provided by Gary Salisbury)*

In 2003, Ring member Ed Estrin presented then-president Don Soul with a long lost document of historic significance. Among a pile of papers containing magic instructions and illusion blueprints he had collected was a typewritten sheet titled "Temporary Authority to operate as an affiliated Ring of the International Brotherhood of Magicians." It is dated December 6, 1948. The paper grants authority to operate as I.B.M. Ring 76 and is signed by C. James McLemore, Supervisor of Rings, I.B.M.

The second meeting was again held at Valle's Restaurant on January 16th, 1949 but it was decided that all subsequent meetings would be held at the various members’ homes. Howard Chernoff hosted the first meeting on the first Monday of the month. February 7, 1949, was the third meeting and was held at the Chernoff home in La Jolla.

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Visiting La Jolla for the winter, from the mid-west was I.B.M. member F.W. Thomas.

Thomas was a prominent amateur magician who presented an impromptu magic lecture featuring some of his sleight of hand skills to the delight of the new Ring 76 members. Thomas also signed up that evening as a new member of the newly formed Ring. He paid his \$1 annual dues and attended the next several meetings at various members' homes before returning to his home Ring in the mid-west.

Howard Chernoff was a prominent and influential businessman, known throughout the United States for his charitable efforts. He is best remembered in San Diego history books for his work as a trustee for the San Diego Zoo and being an outspoken member of the San Diego County Grand Jury. In the early 1970s, he single-handedly rounded up an endangered species of small wild horses known as Przewalski's horses, and brought them to the Wild Animal Park in the San Pasqual Valley where they enjoyed such a successful breeding program that today they are no longer on the endangered species list.

During a television news interview in the early 1970s, Chernoff told reporter Jack White that he had a lifelong interest in magic. He told White he became a "magic dropout" in 1952, because of new demands on this time in the business world brought on by the Korean War. He added his interest in magic never waned and he hoped to one day again become part of Ring 76. But that wish was never realized.

At the April 4th meeting of 1949, one of the topics of discussion was a Magicians' round table that would be held on Saturday night at Valle's Restaurant. The new round table would be made up of Ring 76 members and members of the older San Diego Magic Club.

During the January meeting in 1950, Ted Angell was elected president of the Ring and several new members were introduced. One of the new members was Len Cardoza, who is still an active member of our Ring today. Len Cardoza is then our longest surviving active member of Ring 76, having become a member in 1950.

Throughout 1951 and into 1952, Ring 76 continued to grow in membership and its meetings continued to flourish. It was during this period that San Diego was enjoying new growth and a bit of a rebirth. The Korean War had begun and local military installations were reopened; industrial plants to build aircraft and arms opened their doors again throughout the county. They were all retooling and restaffing for the winds of a cold war that was sweeping over the world. Suddenly there was no longer time for a local magic meeting. No one knows or remembers exactly how it happened in late 1952 and early 53, but the Ring very suddenly lapsed into a period of lethargy. The leaders of the Ring were also at the time leaders in the community and they channeled their talents and interests in directions

other than magic. By March of 1953, even fragmented and occasional Ring reports from San Diego stopped appearing in the Linking Ring magazine. It was clear that I.B.M. Ring 76 had been abandoned by those who International President Smith only a few years earlier had charged with "carrying on the art of magic."

In 1956, the Society of American Magicians opened an Assembly in San Diego and a whole new list of names suddenly began to appear as members of that magic group. Prominent among those names were Pat and Art Hannum, George Edwards, and Sid Gerhart.

After World War II, Navy veteran Cecil "Sid" Gerhart and his new wife settled in San Diego where he opened a neon sign business. Magic occupied all his spare time, as a collector, a teacher and a performer. "Honest" Sid's comedy magic act was that of a traveling medicine show pitchman. Many of the props he used were on display at Jack's Magic Place.

In late summer of 1958, Art Hannum and Sid Gerhart decided they needed another night of magic club meetings every month. The two of them decided to reactivate the old I.B.M. Ring 76 charter and in December 1958, the Ring opened for business again with new leadership and a new period in history. In November 1958, Ring 76 was re-chartered. Founding member Sid Gerhart was instrumental in keeping the Ring active, through good times and bad, until his death in 1975. In honor of his efforts, Ring 76 is known as "The Honest Sid Gerhart Ring".

In September 2002, Ring 76 was presented with the Ring Quality Award.

*Ring Quality Award*



## Who Was “Honest Sid Gerhart?”

*From Magic Notes from Jack White (January, 2001):*

The photograph below is how most of us who knew him, remember “Honest Sid Gerhart” the Flim-Flam man who did a pitch for the elixir that will cure everything from “aching teeth to tarnished silverware.” Or his “Taming Wild Fleas,” a program people were just itching to see.



*Honest Sid Gerhart*

In real life Cecil Gerhart was anything but a “Flim-Flam man”. He was a successful businessman who operated a company known as S.O.S. Neon. As a young man growing up in Indiana he learned the neon sign business inside and out. Sid was a very creative artist and in much demand at creating and servicing electric signs in San Diego County.

He, his wife, and young son migrated from Indiana to the West Coast and San Diego in the late 1940’s following World War II.

Fritz Lotze, who was a close friend of both Sid and Helen’s, says that when their son was just a boy of eight or ten, he became interested in magic. Sid took “PX” that is how the Gerhart’s son was always

known, to a magic shop. Sid found the tricks mildly interesting.

As PX progressed with his new hobby, Sid encouraged his interest. At about age 14, PX found girls and deserted his interest in magic. Sid took his son’s props and books and began playing with them seriously himself.

About that time, the Gerharts found there was an organization called the Society of American Magicians and they had a chapter in San Diego. Sid joined the organization in the mid-1950’s and was introduced to an entire new sub-culture of people known as amateur magicians.

One couple Sid met in the S.A.M. was Art and Pat Hannum and they shared Gerhart’s enthusiasm for magic and doing shows. They also found that a ring had been chartered for the International Brotherhood of Magicians in San Diego in the late 1930’s and had been dormant since the War years. So they reactivated IBM Ring 76. Now these magic addicts had a second venue for their hobby every month.

On November 1, 1958 Ring 76 was reactivated and became the “new magic spirit” for San Diego. Dr. Hollis A. Burge, who had an interest in magic, was the minister of the Baptist Church on 5th Avenue and was Pat Hannum’s father. He became a member of the ring and gave the magicians the basement of the church as a place to meet free of charge.



*(LeRoy Armstrong performing at ring reactivation program 1958.)*

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Dick Rowe was the first Ring 76 President, Art Hannum was Vice President and Pat Hannum was Secretary. Sid and Helen Gerhart were not officers that first year but it soon became evident they were the mortar between the bricks holding the ring together. Closing out the show for that first Ring 76 meeting was LeRoy Armstrong, who is still a ring member today.



In two short years Sid Gerhart would be elected President of Ring 76 and at the same time was serving as the First Vice President of the San Diego Society of American Magicians assembly.

Fritz said he did not know a single person in San Diego and Sid and Helen welcomed the Lotzes' with open arms. Fritz asked Sid when the next meeting of the Ring would be held. Sid gave him the date and the location, then told Lotze to be sure and bring a deck of cards just in case no one else showed up the two of them could go to a restaurant and do card tricks for the evening.

One of the reasons members did not go to the meetings is because each week there was at least one magic party at Sid and Helen's home. Below is a typical evening in the Gerhart living room. That is Sid and Helen sitting on the couch in the back of the picture. Sid felt magic was a social art and that magicians should socialize.

He and Helen provided the place for that magic social. In the mid-1960's the war in Vietnam was sending many wounded Marines and Sailors to the Balboa Naval Hospital. Sid got a group of Ring 76er's together and began presenting monthly and then weekly shows for the injured military personal. For patients who could not go to the meeting rooms where the shows were presented Sid organized a group of close-up performers to work at bedside.



*President Jerry Johnson (right) incoming President Sid Gerhart (left)*



*(Gerhart's living room and a party.)*

Above the outgoing Ring 76 President Jerry Johnson on the right gives the very ample gavel to incoming President Sid Gerhart who would keep the job as President for three, one year terms. (1960 to 1964). Fritz Lotze and his wife Shirley moved to San Diego in the mid 1960's. He had been an IBM member in Indiana and in the Linking Ring Magazine found Sid's name and called him up when he got to Southern California.

It was an effort that magicians who gave of their talents will never forget.

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*(Gerhart Kitchen 1968)*

The above photograph was taken in 1968 following a Ring show. This is the Gerhart kitchen where everyone seemed to gather. Will Staar is behind the post, Art Hannum in the back of the photo. Helen Gerhart is just behind Fred Schmeltz shoulder of Baltimore, Maryland.

Though you cannot see it in the photo, the plank on the front of the kitchen post carried the autographs and phone number of every Ring member, and/or magician that visited the Gerhart house. There was everyone's name from Blackstone to Zimmerman. If they came to San Diego, they had signed Sid's kitchen board!

That board and the signatures and phone numbers has survived all these years. When Sid died Helen gave the board with all the autographs to Fritz Lotze who happened to be remodeling his own kitchen at the time and found a place for it in his kitchen wall as a tribute to his longtime friend and fellow magician Sid Gerhart. Another annual event that was created during this period was the exchange dinner with Long Beach Ring 96. The first year Ring 96 came to San Diego and they put on the show for our ring. The next year we went to Long Beach and put on a show for them. Sid did his medicine show pitch and was a big hit. Chris Fair who was a junior magician from Ring 76 and had just been voted the "Top Young Magician in the

Nation" at the IBM National Convention, was also on the list of performers from San Diego.



*(Chris Fair IBM's Top junior magician in the nation 1960 Ring 76 member.)*

The exchange visits between San Diego and Long Beach continued into the mid-1970's. Sid had done his medicine pitch several times and decided it was time to change the routine. So he created the very funny and entertaining "Taming Wild Fleas" act that was as big of a hit as the medicine pitch act.

Sid Gerhart wanted everyone to participate in the Ring activities. Magic had been very rewarding to him and he was eager to show others how exciting this hobby could be for them as well.

During these years Sid and Helen and the Hannum's were also active in the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians (PCAM) and in 1963 hosted the annual combined convention of the PCAM and the Magigals at the U.S. Grant Hotel.

The success of that event put San Diego on the magic map and attracted the attention of the IBM Convention Committee who would hold the first ever IBM Convention on the West Coast in San Diego in 1979. Sid and Helen Gerhart, year after year, welcomed new magicians to our community and made them feel at home in Ring 76 activities. One of those was Leo Behnke who in the 1960's was in the Navy and stationed here. He was often a guest at the Gerhart home. The meeting spots varied over the years, different people filled the job of president but always in charge and there to advise was Sid Gerhart.

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*(Sid & Helen Gerhart in their backyard.)*

For nearly twenty years, the Gerharts went to at least one or two magic conventions every year. When they would get home, they would have a party in their backyard and display their latest awards or prizes or magic tricks from the convention. Then, there was a barbeque and a magic show.

In 1972 the Gerharts did not attend any magic conventions, Sid was not feeling well. In 1973 he was diagnosed with cancer and after a brief illness he died. Magic in San Diego would never be the same. When Sid was ill, it was decided that Ring 76 would be named for the man who had given it so much life.

One afternoon toward the end, Fritz Lotze visited Sid and told him the membership had agreed to name the Ring “*The Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76*” however, Sid was too weak to acknowledge the tribute.



The mast head of the Ring 76 newsletter, that was in those days was called “The Spirit of 76”, bore his traditional

straw hat and magic wand along with the words “Honest Sid Gerhart Ring.”

No one would have been more proud of the growth and strides the ring has made over the years than Sid & Helen Gerhart. Two people who loved magic, magicians, and a good party.

(Editors note: We wish to thank the late Art & Pat Hannum, Fritz Lotze and the late Jim Riley for photographs and stories used in this tribute to Honest Sid Gerhart.)

My involvement started with an email from President **Mike Stilwell** asking me to contact a nice lady, named Holly Baker, who was looking for something.....

To be continued in next month’s MagiCurent.

Stay tuned.....

*Gary Salisbury*

*Ring 76 Librarian and Keeper of the Ring 76 Artifacts*



## Newsletter challenge question:

The famous Ring 76 newsletter challenge is your opportunity to win fame and fortune (well, at least a small amount of both. And remember, you’re closer to being a millionaire than Elon Musk is.) Simply be the first

Ring 76 member to spot the answer to our question in the newsletter and email it to VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson (gw83@ring76.com).

You will win bragging rights, your name in a winner’s email sent to all members and, last but not least, a \$10 Amazon gift card! Please put “Newsletter challenge” in the subject line of the email. All ring members are eligible, except board members and the previous month’s winner.

Congratulations to our December winner, **Rich Robertson!**

***Here’s our January challenge:***

As you know, our club librarian is Gary Salisbury. When he’s not working on club business or woodworking, he may be enjoying another hobby. What is it?



# Ex Libris

By Gary D. Salisbury



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

This is where we talk about your library and do book & video reviews. Yes, your library! If you are a Ring 76 member in good standing, then this is your library! So keep in good standing by paying your dues on time.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE LIBRARY:

The library's primary objective is to support the promotion of the Art of Magic by making it the best reference library in the entire IBM organization for our members.

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

### • **Library Donations-----ON GOING**

Richard Ustick donated a box of TOPS magazines to the library.

Gary Salisbury donated three large boxes of magic props to the Ring 76 Magic Store.

Joe Mystic has promised to donate a frame to hold the IBM Ring 76 banner we recently got back.

Michael Johnson donated some VHS video tapes to the library. They will be added to the stack of other VHS tapes I need to convert to DVD and placed on the PLEX server.

We survive on donations. Please take a look in your own libraries and see if you can donate any books or videos so we can share them with other Ring 76 members. All videos will be digitized so you can have 7x24 access to them.

### • **Magic Media Server-----ON GOING**

As a point of reference to remind everyone, the current PLEX server at David Chiu's house but is not the production server. It is a test system we are using to test the feasibility of a dedicated PLEX server. It is referred to as "Little Boy" and the production system is referred to as "Fat Man." (names from the Manhattan Project)

David is currently adding those 300 DVDs we got from Bill Michalek to the "Little Boy" server. I have yet to get David the new lecture videos that we have acquired. I also have to get him the 120 DVD donation from Stan Sieler but don't want to overload him.

The "Fat Man" server is still in pieces on my workbench. I have just been busy with Christmas projects but will get to it soon. It is going to be a very powerful machine, magically serving your needs, when complete.

If anyone want to volunteer to help convert VHS to DVDs & MP4 files, please drop me an email at [librarian@ring76.co](mailto:librarian@ring76.co).

### • **Magical Arts Library----- ON GOING**

The Ring 76 Library is physically located at my home in Blossom Valley and anyone is welcome to stop by and browse as much as you desire. It was stored on a heavy duty industrial shelving system in my 3 car garage.

I have a lofty goal to make the new club's library look like the Magic Castle foyer complete with secret door.

Construction is underway but going slow because I am doing this all myself. Volunteers are always welcome to assist. If you would like to help with construction or With our library inventory, email me at [librarian@ring76.co](mailto:librarian@ring76.co). I'll buy lunch.

There are 5 items currently on loan.

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• **Custom Magic Wands-----ON GOING**

I have started a new fund raising effort for the library and hope you will check it out. I am making premium grade magic wands and they will be on sale at each meeting at 50% off to members. I can also do made-to-order to your specs.

Please stop by and see what we have to offer. Place an order by sending an email to me at [librarian@ring76.co](mailto:librarian@ring76.co).

**LIBRARY CHECK OUT PROCEDURE**

Members may contact me 7x24 either by e-mail at [librarian@ring76.com](mailto: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.

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. The library is here so YOU can learn how to perform magic. Use it!

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](#) emailed to:

[ring76members@googlegroups.co](mailto:ring76members@googlegroups.co).

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*

Email: [librarian@ring76.co](mailto:librarian@ring76.co)

Cell: 619-569-6035

*Objective: [To build the best magic reference library in the IBM organization world-wide.](#)*

*(Disclaimer: Much of this material is my own but I sometimes copy material from other sources, with and without credit, and then merged with my own commentary to give you a better, more thorough source of information. Thanks to all who have knowingly and unknowingly contributed.)*

***Special Thanks to  
Mark Both and Matthew King***

Most of the great pictures you have seen in this edition of MagiCurrents were taken by Mark Booth and Matthew King. Each took time from their celebrations to make sure you had a good view of all of the proceedings. As Editor, I thank them both for all of their efforts and remind all of the Ring Members that it takes the whole Ring to make this publication what it is.



*Mark Booth*



*Matthew King*

## More Fun at the 2021 Holiday Potluck





# Good Food and Good Entertainment



## You Fooled Us Twice You Fooled Us Again?

A famous saying goes, “Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.” What does this have to do with Ring 76? Nothing really; it’s just our way to announce we will feature the popular “You Fooled Us” contest at our January meeting. Yes – as in January, 2022. This is simply a heads-up of something to look forward to, and for contestants, to prepare for.

Ring 76 has presented the “You Fooled Us” contest twice, with the last one being at the 2019 December holiday gathering. This is a fun event in which several magicians each try to fool judges with their magic. Each contestant will be given eight minutes to perform a single magic effect in front of the Ring and two judges. The judges will then have 90 seconds to confer and come up with their best explanation for the method. A moderator who has previously been given the method will determine if the solution the judges propose is correct. At this contest each presenter may be a winner. Those fortunate enough to fool the judges will not only have bragging rights but will be given a beautiful personalized plaque (pictured below), which has been designed by our very talented Gary Salisbury.



Send an email to Greg Wauson ([gw83@ring76.com](mailto:gw83@ring76.com)) to reserve your slot in the event.

## Shavings from the Board



There are no shavings this month as the Board of Directors does not meet in December. Please watch this column next month for updates on what the Board is doing to improve YOUR quality of magical life.



When Using PayPal to pay for your purchases with Ring 76, please use Friends & Family and **NOT Goods & Services**. Thank you.

See you January 10th for the “*You Fooled Us!*” Competition.

