



# MagiCurrents

San Diego Ring 76 February 2022 VOL. XXXVII # 2



## President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,

The annual *Close Up* contest this month!!!

If you bring your partner to our meeting on February 14th (Valentine's Day), we will have a little gift for them!

Don't forget every person that comes to our meeting gets a free door prize ticket. Plus, there are always *TWO* lucky winners! Also, you can purchase tickets for our *Opportunity Drawing!*

This month our Ring 76 Magic Shop will again have fine treasures for sale. See page 10 for details.

Doors open at 6:30 PM...

Don't forget to wear your mask!

See you at our 7th in person meeting!

**Mike Stilwell**



January Meeting photo by Mark Booth (MB)

## Ring 76 2022 Calendar

February 14th - Close-Up Contest  
March 14th - **Tricks you Don't Use\***  
April 11th - **Kid's Magic\***

\*Opportunity for Members to Perform

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

Also See the Trick of the Month on Page 9

**Congratulations to Alvin Revilas,  
the newest member of Ring 76.**



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## A Fun “You Fooled Us” Meeting in January

Greg Wauson

Our “*You Fooled Us*” contest at our January meeting is covered elsewhere in this newsletter but I wanted to make a few comments about it. I think **Mark Booth** summed it up well after the meeting when he said, “*This was a fun meeting!*” Certainly the focus of our meetings is on the performance and enjoyment of magic. Also, they should be *fun* and this meeting did not disappoint.



The variety in the types of magic presented in the contest was a big plus, in my opinion, the best gauge for the overall effectiveness of the performances was in their quality. First, each of the effects presented had a theme which could be stated in a single clear and simple sentence, such as “pieces are added to a puzzle whose size remains the same” or “an inspected coin penetrates an unopened soft drink can.” Next, they were each scripted well to maximize their entertainment value and achieve the desired result. **Michael Johnson’s** performance, for example, was about the mystery of the coin and the can and that was wrapped up in a funny presentation that poked fun at several members of the club. **Joe Mystic**, one of the judges, revealed a real secret of magic after **Michael** finished by saying his performance was right on the money because it wasn’t about the trick, but rather about the other “stuff,” the interaction with the audience. “Wow, I agree!” And that other stuff isn’t for sale. It comes with performing for a long time and putting in the effort to learn what goes into maximizing the entertainment value.

In the end, only **Mark Booth** and **Rich Robertson** succeeded in fooling the judges. **Vic Balasteros** almost did, in his entertaining performance which included a card being found in a wallet. All five of the contestants managed to get some stage time, more experience presenting their effects before an audience and the satisfaction of contributing to the art of magic in San Diego. Kudos to **Mark, Rich, Michael, Vic and Greg.**

## Close-Up Contest in February

We currently have five contestants who have thrown their hats into the ring for our February close-up contest on the 14th, so we are a go! Each of them will have ten minutes to amaze and amuse the crowd with their magical skills. We’re planning on having a video camera and large screen so all seats will have a great view of the action.

Three contestants will go home that night as award winners, but they won’t know which three until the results are announced at the installation banquet in July. That’s also when the cash prizes will be awarded: \$50, \$30 and \$20 for first, second and third, respectively.

Here are the rules:

1. Each contestant will present their act just once before the entire audience.
2. Each act will have a strict ten-minute limit, with a one-minute warning at nine minutes. When the **1<sup>st</sup> vice president Greg Wauson** calls, “Time!” the contestant must stop completely. Any contestant who continues to perform after time has been called will be disqualified.
3. Ring 76 members will determine the award winners. Each member may cast one vote. First, second and third place finishers will be determined by the number of votes each contestant receives.

This promises to be a fun time with quality performances. We’ll see you there!





## You Fooled (and Entertained) Us a Success in January’s Meeting

Sherry Luft & Matthew King

This month was our annual “You Fooled Us” contest. The meeting was called to order by President “**Magic Mike**” Stilwell at 7:02 PM. There were six guests in attendance: William Spalding, Fran Dolan, Joanie Braunstein, Linda Sanchez, Barry Wallis, and Julia Simms. Member “**Vic Terrific**” announced his



Guests at the January meeting

daughter is having a baby tomorrow. It was announced that “**Magic Mike**” Stilwell, “**Joe Mystic**” McGrievy, **Dale Law** and **Greg Wauson** are performing at the Immaculate Conception Church luncheon on February 7, 2022. **Dale Law** pulled the winners of the door prizes. The winners were **Sherry Luft** and **Michael E. Johnson**.

First VP of Entertainment, **Greg Wauson** introduced **Alvin Revilas** who auditioned for membership. **Alvin** chose to perform "The Lego Trick", a close-up effect. His volunteers were **Richard Ustick** and guest Fran Dolan. **Richard** chose a number from one to six and it corresponded to the color red on a magic wand made out of Legos. He waved the Lego wand



Alvin Revilas auditions for membership

and said the magic words "Lego Kazaam" and all the pieces in the box were red. Then it was Fran's turn. She waved the multi-colored wand and in the box were suddenly different colored Legos. **Alvin** was voted in as a club member.

**Greg** described the rules of the "You Fooled Us" contest and announced the judges, “**Magic Mike**” Stilwell and “**Joe Mystic**” McGrievy. The arbitrator was **Miguel Garcia**.



Judges *Magic Mike & Joe Mystic*—MB

First up was **Rich Robertson** with a math effect which he called a memory trick. On an easel were three rows of single numbers, which **Richard Ustick** volunteered and chose two rows, one with numbers 1,2, and 3 and another with numbers 7, 4, and 1. **Gary**

**Dismukes** wrote them down, scrambled up the numbers, chose two and multiplied them. There was a possibility of 48 numbers. Then, **Rich** had 14 numbers on a separate sheet and **Gary** chose one on his calculator. **Rich** had **Alvin** write down the numbers and choose and circled a digit without **Rich** knowing. **Alvin** read all the digits except for the one he circled. **Rich** guessed the correct missing number, which was nine. **Rich** fooled the judges!

*Continued on Page 4*

*You Fooled Us continued from page 3*



Rich Robertson

the story. There were wooden pieces representing parts of life like love, friendship, family, etc. in a wooden frame. **Mark** took the frame off and talked about how complex life is with different parts, as he took apart the pieces of the puzzle. Then he added an additional wooden piece, described as a “problem” or life “challenge.” He “rearranged priorities” and all pieces still fit together. Then, another problem arose (another piece added to the puzzle). He found a solution and rearranged all parts of our “lives”, including the extra piece. Finally, **Mark** placed the wooden frame back on the puzzle with the extra pieces and it still fit perfectly. **Mark** fooled the judges!



Mark Booth—MB

Next up was **Michael E. Johnson**. He started off with roasting several club members: **Richard Ustick**, “**Magic Mike**”, and “**Joe Mystic**”. He performed a coin trick. On the table were six cans of Sprite, a bowl, tweezers, a sharpie, and a bag of

The second performer was **Mark Booth** who performed the "Puzzle of Life", including music and his pre-recorded voice describing

nickels with different dates. What was he going to do with it all? He put the nickels in the bowl and guest Fran chose a nickel and used a flashlight to tell us the date. She signed her initials on both sides of the coin and chose one of the sealed cans. **Michael** was able to magically make the nickel appear in the chosen can. It was opened, poured into the bowl, and she verified it was her signed nickel. **Michael** didn't fool the judges.



Michael E. Johnson—MB

**Greg Wauson** was the 4th performer with a "Bank Night" effect using four numbered cups. He called it a "random game to win \$100." In front of each cup was a crumpled napkin. **Dale** was the first “contestant”. He picked up each napkin and placed them each in a different cup. **Dale** shuffled some playing cards and dealt them face up. He stopped on a three and took the napkin out of cup #3 which read "You won a penny". **Greg** removed the cup. The next “contestant” was **Alvin**, our newest member, who picked up the remaining cards. He shuffled, dealt them face up, and stopped on an Ace. He opened the napkin in cup #1 which read "wrong kind of bill, SDG&E", a utility bill. **Greg** eliminated that cup. Bill, a guest, chose between the two remaining cards.



*Continued on Page 5*



*You Fooled Us! Continued from page 4*

Bill chose cup #2 which the napkin read "have a drink on me" and included a tea bag. The last remaining cup was #4 which contained a \$100 bill. **Greg** didn't fool the judges.



Vic Terrific—MB

The last performer was "**Vic Terrific**" with a one card effect. **Laurie Pearson** selected and signed a card. **Vic** made it disappear from the deck of cards and it was found in a **Wallet**. **Vic** took

her card and ripped a corner off, which then vanished. Where did the corner of the card go? **Vic** directed the members attention to the back of the room using a laser pointer. Why of course, it ended up on the mural in the back of the church hall on the horse. **Vic** didn't fool the judges.

Thanks went to **Richard Ustick** and **Mark Booth** for taking our wonderful photos!

**The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.**

## Congratulations to the two winners of this year's "You Fooled Us!" Contest . . .



**Rich Robertson**

**And**



**Mark Booth**



Rich Robertson Michael Johnson Greg Wauson Vic Terrific Mark Booth Mike Stilwell  
Joe Mystic Miguel Garcia





## What’s Coming Up

**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.

**March 2022:** This could be one of our funniest meetings in a long time. *The theme will be magic we bought but never used.* Think of those tricks described in glowing advertisements, promising to baffle anybody and make you the life of any party once you buy it. We all know sometimes reality turns out to be quite different. Or maybe you’re still planning to perform some special trick you picked up on Penguin or at a magic convention. This may be the motivation you need to bring it to life! Start thinking of something you can perform, or just bring, so we can enjoy it too.

## Newsletter challenge question:

The Ring 76 newsletter challenge has given several of our members the opportunity to win fame and fortune. We started it during the COVID lockdown to give our members a fun motivation to read the newsletter and the Ring 76 board feels it has done that pretty well. However, it’s normally been the same handful of players who have submitted their entries each month and we want to encourage more of you to play. So... we’ll continue to have it each month but we’re making some changes.

Starting with this newsletter, ALL Ring members who submit a correct answer to the question will be a winner. But in place of the \$10 Amazon eGift card, each member with the right answer will be awarded an extra ticket for the “door prize drawing” for magic tricks at the general meeting that month. Spot the answer to our question in the newsletter and email it to VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson ([gw83@ring76.com](mailto:gw83@ring76.com)), for your chance to win. Please put “Newsletter challenge” in the subject line of the

email. All Ring members are now eligible to win, including board members. Every member normally gets one ticket to the door prize drawing. If you submit by email the correct answer to the newsletter challenge, at least one day before the meeting, you will now receive two tickets instead of one ticket for the door prize drawing at the February 14th meeting.

Congratulations to our January winner, Gary Dismukes! He is the final individual monthly winner of the newsletter challenge.

### *Here’s our February challenge:*

What cash award will be given to the second place finisher of the close-up contest this month?

## Shavings from the Board

for January, 2022.

*Matthew King*



*The Ring 76 Board of Directors meets via ZOOM on the fourth Monday of the month (except December). The*

*meetings are to guide the activities of the Ring and are open to all members.*

The January board meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President “Magic Mike” Stilwell. After the approval of the minutes of the last meeting, the reports of the various officers was presented.

### REPORTS

Treasurer “**Joe Mystic**” McGrievy provided a breakdown of our bank transactions and expenses including the \$14 for our web hosting, \$10 for an Amazon gift card, and gained interest of \$.01. Our current balance is very healthy and shows solid management.

*Shavings Continued on Page 7*



*Shavings from Page 6*

We are still waiting for an update from the probate attorney regarding the estate of the late Ring 76 member **Loch David Crane**.

Ring Librarian, **Gary Salisbury**, reported **Tom Interval** donated five boxes of books and magazines for the library. Some of the magic books are for children which might be a good fit for the Junior Wizard program, and some may also be made available in the physical library (*more information on the Library can be found in Gary's Ex Libre column on page 8*). The media servers are up and **David Chiu** mentioned maybe using the newsletter challenge to get members to find the answer somewhere on the server. The petty cash balance is \$435.60. The Ring Plex Server continues to be under utilized by its members and the Board talked about ways to promote it. Gary mentioned holding a live demo during a meeting. David also suggested Ring members should send him videos of performances to add to the library.

First VP (Entertainment), **Greg Wauson** mentioned we had five performers at our annual "You Fooled Us" contest, and two of them "fooled" the judges. **Gary Dismukes** won the newsletter challenge and Greg received some funny guesses from members.

Second VP (Membership), **James Thayer** reported we now are at 54 members with **Alvin Revilas** being the latest.

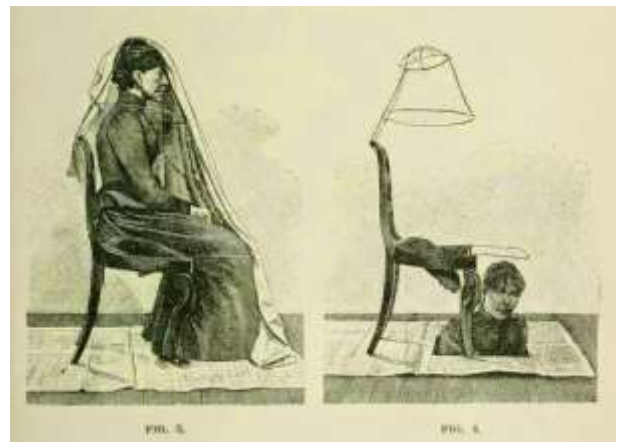
The Board continues to advertise Ring 76 as an active participant in the San Diego magic scene and **Mike** dropped off the new membership brochures at Gypsy Treasures. He also spoke with Old Town Magic Shop, but the owner will be out for some time. We discussed adding the flyers to other magic shops and theaters.

Under New Business **Mike** brought up the new TVP, **Cliff Gerstman**. **Matthew** discussed an e-mail chain with him and the possibility for Ring 76 to get another "Superior Quality Ring" award. **Mark** spoke about the July Installation Banquet and possibility of holding it at

**Bob Meigs'** home again this year. **Joe** asked **Greg** about the number of replies he gets for the newsletter challenge and mentioned maybe it's not getting as much attention as expected. **Mark** suggested whoever wins the newsletter challenge, will get a second ticket for a door prize. The Board discussed various meeting themes including "Tricks You Don't Use" for March. **David** shared a link and suggested having our after-meeting Denny's location host a fundraiser where 20% of proceeds would go to the club.



Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.





# 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.

## WHAT’S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

· **Library Donations-----ON GOING**  
Tom Interval donated 5 boxes of magic books and magazines to the library. Thank you, Tom!

· **Loch David Crane Estate -----PENDING**  
I am serving as the contact point between Ring 76 and the Probate Attorney for Loch David Crane. Loch’s hand written will specified that he wanted to leave the Ring some of his magic books. We are waiting for a Probate Court hearing before proceeding. The current will is being protested by some unhappy family members.

· **IBM Ring 76 Media Server-----ON GOING**  
As a point of reference to remind everyone, the current PLEX server 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).

The “Little Boy” test server is being temporarily housed at David’s home while he helps get it organized. He is currently adding those 300 DVDs we got from Bill Michalek. He has already encoded 175 DVDs and has 125 left. I have yet to get David the new lecture videos that we have acquired and the 120 DVD donations from Stan Sieler.

The “Fat Man” server is still on my workbench because I just haven’t had time to get it finished. If you would like to volunteer to help, just let me know.

Note: Do you have a way to convert VHS tapes to MP4 files? We would love to borrow or accept a donation of a device to do that.

· **IBM Ring 76 Magic Library-----ON GOING**  
The new library construction project is progressing slowly while I try to find time for it. In the meantime, everything is in temporary storage in my garage and available for access.

There are 3 items currently on loan.

· **Funding-----ON GOING**  
50/50 Opportunity Drawing - I was sick and not able to attend the January meeting so no 50/50 Opportunity Drawing was held.

Custom Magic Wand Sales - 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.com](mailto:librarian@ring76.com).

Since I was sick and did not attend the January Ring meeting, there were no wand sales.

Library Petty Cash - The current library petty cash fund is at \$435.60.

## 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.

*Continued on Library Page 9*





*Library Continued from page 8*

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.com](mailto:ring76members@googlegroups.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.

*Gary Salisbury*

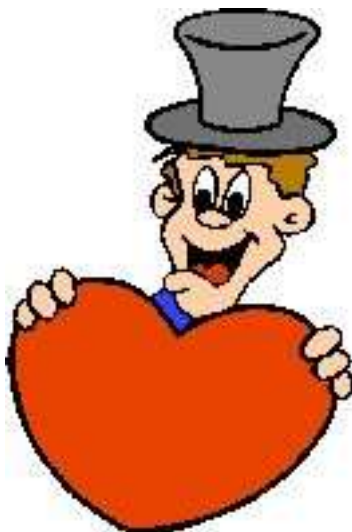


Email: [librarian@ring76.co](mailto:librarian@ring76.co)

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.)*



## Trick of the Month Club

This month, Stilwell's

“Show Me a Trick”

*Bob Meigs*

If people know you're a magician, someone will ask you to show them a trick. This is Mike Stilwell's response.

When someone requests a trick, produce a deck of cards, fan the deck, and have the spectator pick a card. Turning away while they show it around, you then have them place it face-down on top of the deck.

Quickly cut the deck two or three times, then let the spectator cut it. Say their card is now “lost in the middle of the deck,” but you will attempt to find it. As you go through the deck, let one card “accidentally” fall face-down on the table.

Announce the spectator's card as being something that it's not, creating the impression that the trick has failed. Say, “Oh well,” but as you do, turn over the face-down card on the table. This, of course, *is* the spectator's card.

**The Method.** When you produce the deck, note the **bottom card** – this will be your **key card**. After the spectator places their card on top of the deck, pull about half the cards from the bottom and place them atop the spectators card. This “buries” the spectator's card, and also places the **key card** directly above it.

Every time the deck is cut, this key card will be **immediately on top** of the spectator's selected card. When you go through the deck, simply let the **spectator's selected card** fall face down onto the table. The “business” is done – the rest is just show.

Next Meeting is February  
14th and will be the  
Close-Up Contest.  
Loved Ones Welcome.  
See you there



**RING 76 MAGIC STORE**



**FEATURED MAGIC**

**FOLDING PERFORMANCE TABLE**

BY MIDWEST MAGIC  
RETAIL: \$350

**MEMBERS PRICE \$150**

Rolling, folding, performance table with shelves! LOTS of life left in it, and ready to GO!



**ACT FAST!  
ONLY 1 AVAILABLE!**

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**OSCAR, DETECTIVE OF MARS**

BY JAMES NORMAN

THREE Hilaric the Magician did something which he himself couldn't explain. It violated all the rules of the theater; it was contrary to the etiquette of the colored profession... but he couldn't control it!

For fifty minutes he had exposed the blind New York audience to every trick and flourish in his repertoire. Then, seated with chorus girls disappeared from the stage; spirits spoke, which were read. The final climax was when Hilaric, the ball-room rhymer, vaulted from the stage in a burst of loud groans, and instantly responded to the notes of the upper balcony.

There had been a scattering of polka, horned apparitions.

Two steps brought Hilaric to the edge of the footlights. He was tall and well

pointed. His spirits, however, weren't so nice in his appearance.

"What's wrong with you people?" he shouted at the audience. His voice carried a sustained, agonized wail. "You get on if there was nothing new under the sun! Where are you from, Brooklyn?"

There was a sag of shocked silence in the theater. Then a voice from the gallery spoke.


"Why don't you get something new?"

Hilaric stared angrily at the one of them. Another voice took up the cry.

"Hey! Why not cover us a guy from Mars?"


"Whoa did it!" said another voice present.

Out of a magician's hat popped the lovable Martian, Oscar, right smack into the middle of a deadly situation



*Fantastic Adventures, October, 1940*

**THE PRESTIGE**  
MAGIC LOUNGE & SHOWROOM




**Grand Opening!**

New to San Diego! The Prestige Magic Lounge and Showroom has arrived in the Gaslamp Quarter!


827 4th Ave  
Formerly, Illusions Theatre and Bar

Experience a 3 course dinner prepared by Award Winning Chef John Hornbrook featuring delicious entrée choices including:

- Roasted Prime Rib
- French Onion Chicken
- Vegetarian Lasagna
- Gourmet Mac and Cheese



Dinner is served in our grand showroom. Spirits and specialty drinks available. Witness highly acclaimed, award winning magicians amaze and dazzle every night!



**SAVE 50%**

Use Promo Code:  
**Prestige50**

We are excited to be here and to celebrate we are offering 50% off EVERY night!

This promo code may end without notice. Cannot be combined with other offers.