



MagiCurrents

San Diego Ring 76

March 2022

VOL. XXXVII # 3



President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,

The theme for this month is KIDS' MAGIC so bring your kids, your friend's kids, or any other children you think will enjoy and an evening of magic. As a bonus, each child will take home some magic. Yes, we will give the kids a magic trick!

Following the current State guidelines, masks are now optional at our meetings.

Doors open at 6:30 PM and the meeting starts at 7:00 PM and we will have free Door Prize Raffle Tickets for all Adults! (2 winners) plus there will be magic for sale from our Magic Store and books for sale from our Library. And please remember our "opportunity" drawing!

A lot of guests at our last few meetings and many of them may want to join our fine organization. Please be sure to give them a warm welcome and introduce your self to new members and guests. They may have a lot of questions and you are the best person to answer them.

See you at our 8th in person meeting!

Mike Stilwell, President



Ring 76 2022 Calendar

March 14th - **Kids' Magic*** **Guests welcome**

April 11th - **Tricks You Do Not Use***

May 9th - Annual Standup Contest

*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 7

Ring 76 Close-up Contest

Here is what you missed at the February Meeting

February is our annual Closeup Contest, an event we eagerly await. We had twenty members attending and sixteen guests, which was an impressive number.

President "**Magic Mike**" **Stilwell** commenced the meeting at **7:03 pm** and immediately thanked member **Sherry Luft** for her help with the Ring 76 Magic Store and for proofreading the newsletter for **Richard Ustick**. He also thanked **Mark Booth** for setting up his projector and camera we needed for the night's performances, and thanked **Matthew King** for lending his lighting and backdrop for the close-up contest. **Bruce Wollitz** introduced **his wife** as a guest, and another guest, Jeff, introduced himself and his son J.J. **Richard Wira** and a guest won the door prizes. First VP (Entertainment) **Greg Wauson** announced the winners of the "**You Fooled Us**" contest and the two members who received a plaque for their accomplishment were **Mark Booth** and **Rich Robertson**.

Closeup Continued on Page 2

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Congratulations to Mark Booth & Rich Robertson, winners of January's "You Fooled Us" Competition.

Close-up from Page 1

Mike announced the theme for next month is *Kids' Magic* and turned the meeting over to **Greg Wauson**.

Then came the main event of the evening. **Greg** explained the rules and introduced the first contestant, **Matthew King**. He turned a card inside out, ripped it in half, and then restored them. He then had **Bruce Wollitz** select a card, sign, and return it to the deck. **Matthew** said the card jumped to his pocket, but he removed an incorrect card. He reached in again and pulled out the whole deck. In his other hand, in place of the deck, was the signed card. **Matthew** lost the card in the deck and had **Bruce** take an indifferent card and place it in the deck to locate his card. However, **Bruce** placed the card at an incorrect location. **Bruce** was told to look at the indifferent card he was holding, and it had changed into his signed card. **Matthew** then had guest Katrina assist. He spread a deck and had her mentally think of one card. He then cut the deck somewhere, had her



announce her card to the audience and revealed he had cut to her thought-of card.

The second contestant was **Vic Terrific**. He started with turning single dollars into \$100 bills. Then he asked guests Melinda and Carolyn to assist. They both picked a card and it ended up being the same card. **Vic** then located two wrong cards and had them place their hands on them. **Bruce** was given a magic wand to wave, which broke apart in his hands. The cards magically changed into their selected cards.

Up next up was "**Joe Mystic**" **McGrievy**. He chose guest Carolyn to assist. He turned a \$2 bill into two \$1 bills. He

folded one of the dollars up and it turned into a \$100 bill. Then he folded the \$100 bill and it turned back into a \$1 bill and folded the two bills together again and they turned back into a \$2 bill. He then told a story about the Whaley House and spirits. He opened a wooden box and brought out a small counter bell. **Joe** spoke about Violet Whaley and said she haunts the bell. He had Carolyn roll a die, and Violet invisibly rang the bell 4 times. Then **Joe** had her cover the die with a cup, so nobody knew the number.

Close-up Continued on Page 3

Close-up Continued form Page 2

The bell rang 5 times, the cup was lifted, and it was confirmed that the number 5 was rolled.

Following all of this was **Mago Ruly** who selected guest Julia to assist and pointed at his name on his IBM name tag. They both took tissue paper hearts and ripped them up. Then he placed the pieces together, opened them up, and they were restored and connected by a string of little hearts. Next, he had a deck of cards mixed up with images of



Mago Ruly

he failed to find it, he called her attention back to his name tag, which now had an image of her card on it.

Greg then introduced the next contestant, **Michael Johnson**, who opened with reminiscences about contests past and showed one of his previous medals, which he then vanished. **Michael** then put on a Viking hat with horns, removed his suit to show he was wearing a primitive vest, and played some music. He grabbed 3 phone books and ripped them in half in a show of super strength. In a bit of comedy, his horn fell off his hat. He then used two guests as volunteers and made a coin appear in someone's ear, then vanish and reappear. Then the coin vanished and reappeared



Joe Mystic & Carolyn

Princes and Princesses on them. He had the deck cut multiple times, dealt the cards into piles, and they had all magically come together. Then, **Mago** made the backs of the cards turn into multiple colors. As a finale, **Mago** had her pick a card and when

in the other volunteer's sleeve. Then **Michael** made 2 jumbo coins appear, and then a 3rd jumbo coin. Finally, an even larger jumbo coin was pulled out of guest Trevor's ear.

Next on stage was **Mark Booth**. **Mark** chose guest Carolyn. He showed a Rubik's cube puzzle in a bottle. Then he pulled out 2 Rubik's cubes and had her mix one of the cubes. **Mark** took the cube, placed it above his head, and he was able to solve it without

even looking at it. Then they both mixed up their cubes. She chose either one of the cubes for him to solve. **Mark** placed the cube above his head and started solving the chosen cube. When he mentioned he was done solving it, the audience could see it still appeared mixed. **Mark** then revealed the cube now matched the other mixed-up cube on the table on all 6 sides.

Our last contestant was **Alvin Revilas**. He chose guest Jeff and his son J.J. to assist. He gave them both a deck of cards and had them remove the Aces and place a lucky card between them. He had them shuffle the remaining cards and place the stacks of Aces on top. Then he had them cut the cards multiple times, then deal the cards into two separate piles. **Alvin** asked them to choose a pile to add some cards. Then **Alvin** had them deal them into 2 piles again, then into 4 piles. The top cards of their piles ended up being the 4 Aces.



Michael Johnson

Close-up Continued on Page 4

Closeup Continued from Page 3

Greg asked members to vote for the winner of the contest, which will be announced in July at our Installation Banquet.

Gary Salisbury had guest Carolyn draw the winning numbers for the opportunity drawing totaling \$41. The winner was guest, Mrs. **Bruce Wollitz**. With that the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



Matt King & guest Katrina



Vic Terrific



Alvin & guest Jeff



Mark Booth & guest Carolyn



Kids' Magic in March

Many magicians today got the magic bug by watching a magic show when they were kids. There are a lot of biographies of famous magicians who got interested in legerdemain by attending a performance of Harry Blackstone Sr., or some other magic great, as a child. But it didn't have to be a famous magician, possibly just someone entertaining the students at their elementary school. Or maybe the magic hook was set for a youngster just watching Uncle Charlie make a silk scarf disappear after dinner. In any case, the sense of wonder that magic brings to children is what we'll be about at our meeting on Monday night, March 14.



Entertaining children with magic is a different animal than performing for adults. For one thing, kids are not shy when they think they see how Mr. Magic is accomplishing his miracle and will often yell out how they believe the trick is done. Enter the sucker trick to take advantage of that! At least one sucker trick will be done at the meeting. But even with the best sucker effect, the magician needs to be careful not to alienate the audience by embarrassing the little monster, er, loud and precocious kid. There are countless books and videos devoted to kids' magic. But in addition to knowing what to do, there's no substitute for performing before a live audience. You can get some stage time by performing a trick at our March meeting. And no pressure, but it's always especially welcome to hear from one of our members who seldom performs, saying he or she will take the stage. As of this writing, we have five entertainers scheduled, so there's still room for you! Send Greg Wauson, VP of Entertainment, an email at gw83@ring76.com, if you'd like to show us that cool kids trick you've been working on.

This will be a performance night; members will cast their votes for performer of the month. And those votes will also be included in the cumulative count towards our prestigious award for performer of the year, which will be revealed at the installation event in July.

Feel free to bring kids to the meeting, since the magic will be geared to them. We were pleased to hear that an announcement was made to those who attend church at our venue, Church of the Immaculate Conception, that our theme on the 14th will be magic for kids, and they were encouraged to attend and bring along any youngsters. In the past, our kids' magic nights have had very few kids there; this might be an exception. Who knows – maybe a little boy or girl will show up at our meeting and become the next Lance Burton or Carissa Hendrix!

What's Coming Up

March: Kids magic- See the article on our theme for the March meeting to the left. The bottom line is magic for kids' events is the bread and butter for many magicians, including the pros. If you'd like to perform your favorite trick for kids, or a new one you've never done, here's your opportunity! **Send an email to Greg Wauson, the VP of Entertainment, at gw83@ring76.com, and you'll be added to the lineup.**

April: Tricks You Do Not Use - This could be one of our funniest meetings in a long time. The theme will be *magic we bought but never use*. 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!

May: Stand-Up Contest. We are thrilled to present our stand-up contest once again! This couldn't happen the past two years due to the COVID lockdown, but it is back! It's not too early to give some thought to throwing your hat into the ring for this fun event. Each contestant will have ten minutes to entertain the crowd with his or her amazing illusions and Ring 76 members will then vote for their favorite performance. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place: \$50, \$30 and \$20, respectively. Winners will be announced at the Installation Banquet in July.





Shavings from the Board



The February Board meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order at February 28, 2022. The various officers presented their reports and each

was approved by a vote of the Board.

At our last meeting which featured our annual Close-up Contest, Sergeant-at-Arms David Chiu, indicated we had 20 members and 16 guests, which is an impressive number the Board agreed.

First VP (Entertainment), Greg Wauson: Greg indicated we had seven contestants in the close-up contest, and he was pleased to see different members performing. He has tabulated the votes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, and we will find out the winners in July. Only a few people have signed up to perform for Kids' Magic in March.

Mark Booth brought up the idea of having mini lectures on teaching magic and basic techniques. The Board then discussed the difference of revealing vs. teaching. As we have a large number of "civilians" at our meetings, the Board discussed the possibility of using pre-meeting time for members to discuss effects.

Second VP (Membership), James Thayer: James reported 2 new members, Alvin and Misha. We are now at 55 members and Mike mentioned two other local magicians he is going to reach out to about joining.

Old business was then addressed including the awards. We discussed as the medals we traditionally use, and now gone. The idea of plaques for the performance contests or trophies was talked about as well as Challenge Coins. Richard will be looking into the cost and practicality of each.

Mark Booth mentioned he spoke with Bob Meigs about the Installation Banquet. At the present we will

be holding the banquet at Bob Meigs' home, as we did last year. What food we will be serving and the cost to the members were the topics. The Board decided to try to keep the cost at last year's level. Entertainment is also being looked at.

New Business was then discussed.

Mike and others discussed sound systems for the Kids' Magic meeting. Matthew mentioned he will be bringing his and everyone is welcome to use it. Mike asked whether the door prize tickets should only go to the adults, and the Board agreed. David suggested a kids door prize, and Joe suggested just giving all kids a magic trick at the meetings. The Board also decided to discontinue the newsletter challenge. Mike mentioned that he and Matthew were talking about donating time to the San Diego Humane Society at their next fundraiser. The Board decided it would be a good idea. Mike discussed a new part of the meeting where members introduce themselves. Greg reminded the Board that the theme for April is Tricks you don't use.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

We Want to Hear From You

The Board of Directors works hard to present the members of Ring 76 with the best magic experience they can. Each year the Board comes up with great ideas and imaginative themes for the meetings, however, the Ring belongs to its members and not just the Board. In order to continue to make Ring 76 the premier magic organization in Southern California we are always looking for new ideas and suggestions. **We want to hear from you.** We want to hear what you would like to see in future meetings, everything from ideas for lectures and teach-ins to performance nights and what is new and different in our art.

Please give us your input by either talking to a Board member or sending an email to Ring76ibm@yahoo.com





Newsletter Challenge Wrap-Up

Well, it's been fun and, at least for several of our members, profitable. Lots of \$10 Amazon eGift cards were emailed to our winners. But the Ring 76 newsletter challenge is over; February was the last one. 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.

But since it was normally the same handful of players who submitted entries each month and we wanted to encourage more of you to play, we announced a change in the February newsletter. Every member who submitted a correct answer to the question would be a winner. But in place of the \$10 Amazon eGift card, each member with the right answer was to be awarded an extra ticket for the "door prize drawing" for magic tricks at the general meeting that month.

Unfortunately, only two entries were submitted, so the board decided the newsletter challenge has run its course.

Thanks to all of you who played the last many, many months. By the way, who were the two lucky winners in February? They were none other than GARY DISMUKES and RICH ROBERTSON. They each received an extra ticket to the door prize drawing last month but you'll have to ask them if their extra ticket enabled them to win the drawing. They're still winners in our books!

Old Town Magic 10% Off with this card
 2611 San Diego Ave 10:30-5:30 Everyday
 Fun, Easy Magic For ages 3-100
 Where the Magic Happens in Old Town San Diego
 The Magician David 858-335-3897
 E-Mail OldtownmagicSD@gmail.com

Trick of the Month Club The Trick That Fooled Einstein (Adapted for "Pi Day")

The Trick That Fooled Einstein is a prediction trick using coins. It can be performed for anyone, and/or be taught to kids over 12. The trick requires no math skills beyond *counting money* and *simple addition*. As the outcome is set in advance, setting it at **\$3.14** works great on "Pi Day."



Pi-Day

Pi is the mathematical number used in determining the perimeter or the area of a circle. The computation of *Pi* can be carried to a never-ending number of digits, but math classes usually abbreviate it as **3.14**. Thus, schools often call *March 14* (3/14) **Pi-Day**.

The Trick That Fooled Einstein

The required props are a change purse containing **\$3.69** in small change (including at least 2 quarters, 3 dimes, 4 nickels, and 9 pennies), a glass bowl with about \$3

in small change; and a white-board with an erasable marker. You invite a spectator to come up and take a handful of coins from the glass bowl, and keep these coins in a **closed fist**, so no one knows the amount. You dump the contents of your coin purse (\$3.69) on a table (to be more visible to the audience, you might use a chair instead of a table).

Take the spectator's fist in your hand and pretend to *weigh it*. Write your first prediction (there will be 3) on your white-board and show this prediction to the audience. It is "*1) I have as much as you . . .*". Repeat the weighing process, and write and show your second prediction - "*2) . . . plus 55 cents . . .*". Repeat with your final prediction, which is "*3) . . . plus enough to make yours total \$3.14.*"

Have the spectator place her coins on the table, being careful to keep them separate from yours; count them, and announce the total. You then count an equal dollar amount from **your** pile, proving your first prediction. Now count from your remaining coins 55 cents, proving your second prediction. Count out your remaining coins - **OMG** - they total **\$3.14**! This proves your final prediction, and can be used as an introduction to *Pi*.

Trick continued on Page 8



Trick Continued from page 7

You're done! This is *The Trick That Fooled Einstein*. (Not really, but that's what it's called.)

How Does It Work?

Notice that you never told the audience how much change you **started** with. *You start with your final prediction* (\$3.14), **plus** the amount specified in *Prediction #2*. In our example, this is would be **\$3.69** (\$3.14 + \$0.55).

If you start by matching the amount in the spectator's fist (*Prediction #1*), and then make this amount total **\$3.14** (*Prediction #3*), you use \$3.14 – every time. *Prediction #2* only exists to make the trick a little less obvious. If you set aside another 55 cents, you have used all \$3.69, the amount you started with.

Just a Friendly Reminder

Ring 76 does not run itself. All the events, lectures, banquets, potlucks, and performance nights are planned and executed by the Ring's Board of Directors which in turn is made up of members *like you*. Ring elections are held every June and any member in good standing can be on the Board of Directors. Fresh ideas need fresh Board members. The Board meets once a month, via Zoom, on the fourth Monday and requires only a little extra of your time. Please consider becoming a Board member. If you have any questions talk to a current Board member or write to Ring76ibm@yahoo.com



Ex Libris

By Gary D. Salisbury



Welcome to Ex Libris, my monthly newsletter article about your 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.*"

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 Owen-Towle donated several boxes of materials that I haven't gone through yet.

Richard Ustick gave me several boxes of Ring 76 archive material for storage. This probably should be digitized and stored on the web server.

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 temporally 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 200 DVDs and has 100 left. I have yet to get David the new 120 DVD donations from Stan Sieler.

We also now have three new collections available for streaming:

- STUART CUMBERLAND - HOME STUDY MENTALISM TRAINING COURSE 1-8

Ex Libris Continued on Page 9



Ex Libris Continued from Page 8

- AT THE TABLE LIVE (2014-2019)
- MASTER CLASS (1-14)

Be sure to check them out as well as all the other new material David has been adding.

Currently there are 1,498 excellent magic videos available for your viewing pleasure.

Also, I am also soliciting for more video donations through multiple sources. I am working on getting the Reel Magic Magazine collection into the library. I made an offer to purchase Jeff Marcus’ collection so we will have to wait and see if the offer was accepted.



The “Fat Man” server is still on my workbench and I am using it to test its reliability. 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.

How about donating your DVDs to the library so everyone in the club can share them? You will still have access to them through the PLEX server – even on your smart phone!

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.



I purchased 5 flip lid bins at Costco for storing library items.

There are 3 items currently on loan.

Funding-----ON GOING

50/50 Opportunity Drawing – We made \$41 from the 50/50 Opportunity Drawing at the February meeting.

Custom Magic Wands - There were no magic wand sales at the February meeting. I might have to consider a price reduction if there are no interest. I also might consider a different venue such as one of the magic groups on Facebook.

Library Sales – We made \$48 in library sales at the February meeting by selling duplicate books from the library and used playing cards (that I had previously donated).

Ex Libris Continued on Page 10



Continued from Page 9

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.

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.

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

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.)

NEED TO SUPERCHARGE YOUR MAGIC?



Use the IBM Ring 76 Library to ensure your magic is running on premium!

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.



Ring 76 Close-up Contest for 2022

See you at the next meeting!



San Diego Ring 76, International Brotherhood of Magicians