

MagiCurrents

San Diego Ring 76

April 2022

VOL. XXXVII # 4

April Meeting Theme to be Unique First time magicians will be asked to bring a trick but NOT perform.

If you're a magician I bet I can tell you something you have in your house. In fact, it's something in your drawer or closet where you store your magic tricks. Ready for it? I bet you have magic tricks you have never used!

Yep, I know what it's like to read that enticing ad for a brand new magic effect which *almost* guarantees you'll be able to fool and thrill everyone who watches you deftly perform it. Or maybe it's a video which demonstrates the magical effect showing an amazed audience. And maybe this piece of wonder even requires no skill



itself! Yes, you can be the life of the party!

You buy the trick and it finally comes in the mail. You open up the package... but wait! This can't be it! It's just a stupid piece of plastic! Is this really

what I got for my 25 bucks? Unfortunately, yes it is. So it goes into your "stuff I'll never do" drawer.

Well that's exactly what we're interested in at our April meeting! This is a new theme, we can call it Magic You Don't Use or how about Dogs in Your Collection! In fact, the worse the trick is, the better! Actually, any trick you don't use is fair game for you to bring and tell us about it. Maybe it's actually a great trick but will be difficult to perform and you haven't mastered it yet. There is no need to get anything performance ready for this evening. We're mainly interested in the tricks themselves and what you have to say about it. However, if you would like to perform in order to get stage time or try out a new effect, that's welcome too. If you want to bring a trick or perform, please contact me at gw83@ring76.com. --- Greg Wauson

Kids' Magic at our March Meeting A Rousing Success.

Thanks are in order to several people, including our seven performers who helped make our March 14th meeting on kids' magic a fun one for our members and many guests: **Joe** Mystic, Mark Booth, Mago Ruly, Matthew King, Vic Terrific, Mr. Funtastic and Michael Johnson.

A nice feature was having a bunch of kids there! I don't recall having more than just a couple of kids for any of our previous meetings where the theme is magic for children. I think several of the kids showed up from parents reading about the Ring 76 meeting in the church bulletin. A special thanks to **Richard Wira** for letting people at the location of our meetings, the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, know that we meet at their place of worship, and that there is an open invitation to join us. Richard arranged for us to start meeting there and it's turned out to be a terrific venue. Thank you, Richard!

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Ring 76 2022 Calendar

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

May 9th - Annual Standup Contest

June 13th - To Be Announced

July 10th - Installation Banquet on Sunday

*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 6

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Kid's Magic a Success - From page 1

There was a lot of variety in the magic effects that were presented. Joe performed a nice miser's dream routine, Mark demonstrated the hippity hoppity rabbits effect, Mr. Funtastic produced a bowling ball from a bag that appeared empty and Vic amused us with a bag that he kept turning inside out. Mago had fun with us, making us think the paper he was carefully folding was going to do something magical. Um... not so much – he put it under the table leg to keep it from wobbling. Funny bit!

Each of the kids received some magic tricks, including a magic coin slide and fortune telling fish. This was a performance night, meaning the members voted for their favorite performer. Congratulations to **Matthew King**, who received the most votes and is our March performer of the month! All votes collected will count towards the *Performer of the Year*, which will be announced at the Installation Banquet in July.

Greg Wauson, V.P. of Entertainment

President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,



We had a great turnout last month with 44 people composed of 23 Members and 21 Guests!

This month's meeting should be very interesting. We all have been disappointed when we have read an amazing description of a trick, with raving reviews only to

find out it's not for you or it's not exactly what was described. I believe in "Truth in advertising" but, it's not always the case!

In the magic world, the manufacturing companie's feet are not held to the fire by the Federal Trade Commission, so they are not held accountable. There's no return policies, because "You have purchased the secret." If you want real feed back, talk to your fellow magicians or ask about the effect on The Magic Cafe. So, Bring the description of the trick if you can find it, so we can see and hear how it actually looks!

Don't forget to bring some spending cash for our magic store, raffle tickets, books for sale from our library and of course out "*opportunity drawing*". See you at our 9th in person meeting!

Mike Stilwell, President

Ring 76 Reaches out to the Community

One of the continuing themes of Ring 76 is bring magic to the community. In that spirit **Joe Mystic**, with the help of **Mr. Funtastic** held a magic show for Nativity Prep Academy, just off College Ave near SDSU this past March. The show was also live streamed to numerous Nativity Prep Academies all over the USA, coast.

Mike Stilwell and Bob Meigs formed Wizards, Inc. to teach the students magic. Unfortunately the Covid epidemic slowed things down. However, as soon as it is reasonable safe, they will resume magic classes for this academy.

Joe Mystic performed his children's magic show with great success and audience appeal.



Joe Mystic at Nativity Prep Acade-

The children were all in awe as **Joe Mystic** produced a live rabbit at the end of his show.



Mr. Funtastic entertains Nativity Prep

Wizard's, Inc. also donated a birthday party magic show for an auction item. The proceeds go to Nativity Prep Academy. Joe Mystic will be the entertainer at that show also. That show will be at a residence in San Marcos on April 29.

This was just the latest in what we hope will be a number of magic shows for the greater San Diego area.





March Meeting was fun for kids of all Ages

President "Magic Mike" Stilwell commenced the meeting at 7:01 pm. This month's theme was Children's Magic. "Magic Mike" asked some guests in attendance to introduce themselves. Mark Booth spoke about having a chili cookoff and invited members to join in, and he also thanked Bob and Mary Meigs for hosting the event at their home again. Gary Salisbury had David Chiu's daughter draw the ticket for the opportunity drawing. The winner of the \$60 drawing was a lucky guest. Magic Mike turned the meeting over to First VP of Entertainment Greg Wauson who reminded members to vote for their favorite performance which counts towards the Entertainer of the Year.

"Joe Mystic" McGrievy was the first performer. He engaged the audience with the song "If You're Happy And



Joe Mystic & Guest - JT

You Know Ît". "Joe Mystic" turned a black cane into red, then turned it into two silks, then the silks turned back into canes. He stuffed a red silk into his fist, and it came out white. He stuffed the white in and it came out blue. Then he stuffed the blue in. and it vanished. Then the red, white, and blue silks reappeared, and he placed them in a bag

which then turned into an American flag. Then "Joe Mystic" showed a Rubik's cube in a jar, he shook it and it turned into M&M's. He asked for a volunteer and used guest Mila. He had her look inside a metal can. Then he continued to pull coins out of her ear, arm, chin and more until he had many. He had her count them and there were nine. Then he had her throw one and the audience heard it land in the can. Then Joe Mystic produced two Jumbo coins from her and, after pulling a sponge rabbit out of his hat, he placed it in a box and turned it into a live rabbit.

The next performer was **Mark Booth**. He showed a solid wood block, a wooden tube, and a small wooden cabinet. Then, he took the block and put it in the cabinet with the front visible through a small window in the cabinet. **Mark** indicated the block would vanish, as the audience saw it sliding back and forth. As a finale, the audience saw the block visibly vanish from within the

cabinet and reappear under the wooden tube.

Then, Mark showed an effect with a magician and his assistant, "Mr. Mysto" and "Silly Sallie", in a red and blue cabinet. He said they would magically change spots. He looked in the top and said they switched, and he'd make them switch back. Then he did it again to make them switch and showed them this time. Then he made them jump back by just turning them around. The audience asked Mark to turn them around, and when he did, there was a different picture on each that formed a rabbit.



Mark Booth with Mr. Mysto & Silly Sallie - MB

Next was Mago Ruly. He started with a comedic wobbly stand and performed to music. He fixed the stand and magically produced a tabletop for it. Mago then asked one of the kids to assist him. He magically made a cape and matching hat for the assistant to wear which matched his vest. He then showed a "Book of Magic Spells" and laid a large yellow feather on it.

The feather magically rose into a vertical position, and then back down.

Next, **Mago** showed an image of Mickey Mouse with the surrounding color in black and white.

When he pulled the image out, it had changed into a colorful image.



Mago Ruly & Guest - MB

Matthew King was up next. He had guest Colton assist. Matthew showed the audience a jumbo playing card, and then Colton stood on it, then selected a card from a jumbo deck, while the audience could see that all the cards were the same. Colton somehow selected an indifferent card and, after two magic wands broke apart and one kept popping the ends off, the cards ending up matching. Then he had another guest, Trevor, select a card, sign it, and shuffle it back in the deck.

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Matthew brought out a 4 ft. balloon, placed the deck inside, and shook them up. After failing to find the card in the balloon he called attention to a windowed envelope attached to his table with a card inside it. The card was removed and shown to be the signed card. Next, he had multiple kids help with mixing Rubik's cubes and returned them to any place within a frame. He showed a numbered list of 12 video game characters and had a number called between 1-12. The selection was Mario, and he turned

around the cubes showing they were mixed perfectly to match an image of Mario.



Matt King & Mario - MB

Next was Vic Terrific. He showed a woman's a purse, said



Vic Terrific - JT

he found it, and asked whose it was. Then he turned it inside out again and again, with it turning into a different bag each time. It finally turned it into a pot of gold for St. Patrick's Day.

Then Vic pulled out three ropes of different sizes and made them turn into three of the same size. Then he turned them into one single rope, then two ropes. He tied them into

a knot, slid his hand down the rope, and the knot vanished. **Vic** then drank from a shot glass, said it was "apple juice...fermented", and placed the glass in a brown

bag. Then he suddenly crumpled up the bag, making the glass vanish. As he tossed the bag aside the audience heard it hit the stage with a loud thump.

Then Vic said "I want to show you this" and he held up a sign that said "THIS". Then he said it was "bigger than that" and showed a smaller sign which said "THAT". Vic had guest Summer select a card and return it to the deck. Vic tossed the cards

into a bag, lowered a piece



Mr. Funtastic - MB

of rope inside, and when he pulled it out her card was tied to the rope.

Next was "Mr. Funtastic". He showed a black silk and asked if everyone saw a bright colored silk. Then the black silk turned into a rainbow one. He then took metal rings and a chain and was able to tie them on as he dropped them down the length. Then Mr. Funtastic took a rope, made it stiff, then made it limp again. Next, he had a silver pitcher and said he would make a flower grow in it. He had the audience say magic words, "Have a Banana" and a flower grew. Then he said he had a mega straw for a mega gulp as he produced a 6 ft straw. Then Mr. Funtastic surprised the audience by producing a bowling ball out of an empty bag. Next, he tied a knot

in a rope and made it vanish. He showed a yellow and blue rope, tied a knot in the yellow rope, and made it jump to the

blue rope. Then he pulled off the knot and put it back on. Finally, he untied the knot and showed the yellow knot had melted onto the blue rope.

The last performer was **Michael Johnson**. He performed to music and made two canes appear. Then he made a rope rigid, and limp again. He showed a wallet with money that vanished, reappeared in his hat, then he



Michael Johnson - MB

turned the money into Jumbo money. Next, **Michael** had a metal ring and made a ball vanish and reappear as he reached through the circle. Then, the ring turned into a square. Next, he poured water in his hat and when he turned it over the water vanished and a seemingly never-ending hat coil poured out. **Michael** showed a No. 2 magic wand (pencil), and he taught everyone three effects using pencils.





What's Coming Up

April: Magic Drawer-Queen Night? The theme of our April meeting will be one we've never done: *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. You can read more about this on page 1. Also, if you have something you'd like to perform for us, a friendly audience, that's fine too. In any case, it would be helpful for you to email **Greg** at gw83@ring76.com so we can plan for you.

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. Email Greg at gw83@ring76.com if you would like to compete.

June: Our theme for the June meeting hasn't been nailed down yet. Would you like a lecture or do you want this to be the last performance night of our year? We want to hear from you. Email **Greg** to share your opinion.

July: Our Annual Installation Banquet. This will again be held at Bob Meigs' home as it was last year. It will be on Sunday, July 10th and look for more details in the next MagiCurrents.



The Time has Come for All Good Members to Come to the Aid of their Ring.

By the By-Laws of Ring 76 we are required to form a Committee to oversee the election of the Board of Directors in June. The Board is to be made up of three to five members in good standing and will handle the floor nominations and voting procedures.

If you wish to aid your Ring in this important job notify the editor of MagiCurrents at Editor@Ring76.com

Dues are due Soon

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>. Please remember to make your PayPal payment to family and *NOT* business.

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, please let James Thayer know (and in return he will stop bugging you for dues.) If you have any questions, please feel free to contact James

Thayer at <jt4@ring76.com>.

James Thayer - Treasurer



Thank You for the Fine Photos

MagiCurrents wants to thank all the members who provide photos of our Ring and Community events. In this issue you will find the photos marked **MB** for **Mark Booth** and **JT** for **James Thayer**. Because of their tireless efforts you get to see all of the fine events that happen at the Ring 76 meetings. If you have pictures of Ring events or Ring activities out in the San Diego area please send them to Editor@Ring76.com. We will try to get them into MagiCurents and see you get the credit.



Shavings from the Board

The March board meeting was held via Zoom on March 28, 2022 and was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by First VP

(Entertainment) **Greg Wauson** sitting in for
President "**Magic Mike**" **Stilwell.** Also in attendance were
Second VP (Membership) **James Thayer,** Treasurer "**Joe**

Mystic" McGrievy, Sergeant at



Arms David Chiu, Secretary Matthew King, Librarian and Member-at-large Gary Salisbury, Social Media Rep and Member-at-large Mark Booth, and Member-at-large Richard Ustick.

OLD BUSINESS

Richard showed a new possible replacement trophy or a replacement medallion. Joe indicated he liked the round medallion to keep it consistent with what we have been doing in the past. The Board discussed the prices and decided to order the medals. Greg mentioned the possible Superior Quality Ring Award and Matthew asked about getting more members to attend the meeting and checking on dues being paid. The board discussed submitting the application following the next charity event. The board discussed what constitutes being a Life Member of Ring 76. Mark discussed the Installation Banquet and indicated Richard had passed along a payment for our first RSVP. Bob and Mark exchanged some emails about some fun things to do during the banquet. Matthew shared a list of all donated items sold since he took on the project, which totaled \$2,211.50. Matthew discussed the store and sending some images to Paul Gross for input on value and purpose of some items.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg mentioned that the discussion about the April meeting was more of a show and tell and not a performance night. Greg took names of members that would be performing. Richard mentioned the nominations for the Board should be presented at the April meeting. He mentioned the stand-up contest would be in May, and the June meeting would be another performance night. Greg mentioned that "Magic Mike" will be donating his time at a Wheelchair Regatta fundraiser on June 5th. There are currently 3 magicians set to perform, Magic Mike, Alvin, and Greg. Matthew asked to be added to the list. "Joe Mystic" informed Greg that the magicians at the Prestige work Thurs-Sun and suggested they may be willing to do a lecture for us on a Monday, or on an off night. "Joe Mystic" mentioned Bob Sheets would be in town for a few weeks and he might be willing to lecture, and he would investigate it as an option.

Trick of the Month Club

The Trick That Fooled Einstein

(Pocket-Change Version)

This is the same trick as last month, but with a new look. It's an "adult-show version" of *The Trick That Fooled Einstein* — as most adults carry *pocket change*, whereas kids often don't. Instead of the spectator taking a handful of coins from a bowl, this trick is based on the amount of change in the *spectator's pocket*. Although it's the same trick, it takes on a *whole new look*

Select a spectator who has some coins in their pocket (or purse). Have them hold this change in a closed fist, so you cannot know the amount. But be sure your spectator does not have an "excessive" amount of change – say, not more than a couple dollar's worth! (This shouldn't pose a problem, because most people don't carry that much pocket change, and because more than a couple dollars' worth won't fit easily in a closed fist.)

Just as last month, you make three predictions:

- 1) I have as much as you . . .
- 2) ... plus ("x" amount) ...
- 3) ... plus enough to make **your** pocket change total ("y" amount).

(*You* determine the amounts for "x" and "y;" vary them for repeat performances before the same audience.)

You have a *change purse*, containing an amount of change known *only to you* - but with certain parameters. *First*, your change is equal to the combined amounts stated in your *second* and *third* predictions (x + y). *Second*, your change must exceed the spectator's by *at least* the amount of your second prediction. (If your change purse contains at least \$3.50, and you limit your second prediction to no more than 60 cents, *you should be safe*.) And *third*, to ensure that you can divide your change easily to match each prediction, it should include at least two *quarters*, *three dimes*, *four nickels*, and *nine pennies*.

Pretend to "weigh" the spectators' fist full of change by moving it up and down with your hand, as if this provides input for your predictions. (But this is only for "show" – the trick works as long as your change exceeds theirs by *more* han the amount of your second prediction.)

After you've made all three "predictions," have the spectator count his (or her) pocket change. You now count out *your* change, showing in sequence that each prediction to be correct! It appears as if you somehow knew the amount of spectator's pocket change, which, of course, would be impossible!

Bob Meigs



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

<u>Chris Blackmore</u> has a donation of some books but I still have to coordinate with him to pick them up. He was going out of town.

Honest Holly Baker has some of her grandfather's magic props she is going to donate to the library which will go into the Ring 76 archives. They will be on display at the Honest Sid Gerhart Memorial Table at the next Ring 76 Installation Banquet.

IBM Ring 76 Media Server-----ON GOING

As a point of reference to remind everyone, the current 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 over 2/3rds the way through adding those 300 DVDs we got from Bill Michalek. I have to still get him the 120 DVD donations from Stan Sieler.

In the meantime, I am starting ripping some from my location to assist.

The "Fat Man" server is on my workbench. I had some video issues but resolved those and it is currently working fine. I am using it to rip DVDs for the PLEX server so it is hard at work serving the library.

I am working with James Kellogg in securing more video materials for the PLEX server. He also said he would donate a bunch of VHS tapes if we wanted them. YES!!!

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.

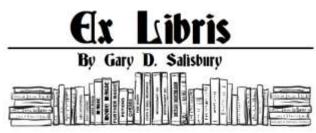
How about donating your DVDs to the library so everyone in the club can share them? You will still have access to them through the PLEX server – even on your smart phone!

IBM Ring 76 Magic Library------ON GOINGThe 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.

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

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

Library Donations------ON GOING Lucky Guest, Bridgette, was the winner of the 50/50 Drawing and donated \$40 of her \$60 winnings to the library. Thank you!

<u>James Alburger</u> donated 13 boxes of magic magazines and a box of magic props to the library. Thank you!

<u>Peg Marcus</u> donated an original autographed 8x10 picture of Honest Sid Gerhart that Jeff had to the library. Thanks!



Ex Libris Continued form Page 7

Funding------ON GOING 50/50 Opportunity Drawing – We made \$60 from the drawing at the March meeting.

<u>Library Sales</u> – We made \$12 in library sales at the March meeting.

<u>Custom Magic Wands</u> - There were no magic wand sales at the March meeting.

<u>Library Petty Cash</u> - The 2022 library petty cash fund is currently at \$550.14.

We now have the \$500 minimum needed for book and video purchases at Magic Live! Let me know if there is something new you think we should have in the library. Time is growing short. Get your requests in now! It will be on a first come, first served basis.

Loch David Crane Estate -----ON HOLD

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. This item is ON HOLD until we know more.

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 four 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.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: <u>librarian@ring76.com</u>

Cell: 619-569-6035

Objective: <u>To build the best magic reference library in the IBM organization world-wide</u>.

(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.)







There are sure to be some nice bargains to be had. Get there early to grab the best deals before they are gone.

Or you can rent a table to get rid of....er, share some of the magic items that are no longer in your repertoire, and make a few bucks in the process! Or, do both!

When: April 19, 6pm

Where: Portola Community Center

45480 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Why: Cuz

Costs: Buyer, Free* - Seller, \$20 per table (*Free to enter, not anything you might purchase.)

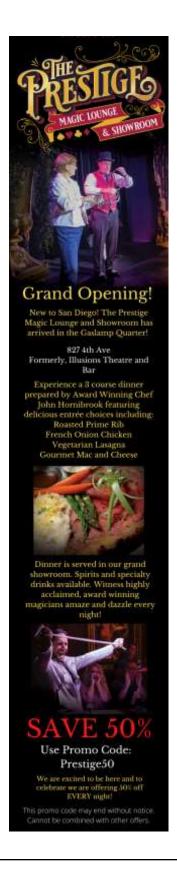
Consider car pooling to save on gas!



Remember,

The next meeting will be April 11th and the theme is *Magic You Don't Use*. It is a *show & tell evening* so we are not expecting you to perform these misrepresented marvels, we just want you to show the

props and tell us what the ads said to make you want to buy it. We all have them in our collections, now is the time to get some use out of them. See you there.





Ring 76 Kid's Magic for March See you at the next meeting!



San Diego Ring 76, International Brotherhood of Magicians