



# MagiCurrents

San Diego Ring 76

May 2022

VOL. XXXVII # 5

## April Meeting a Qualified Success

Magic that Does not always Live up to its Hype.

President “**Magic Mike**”

**Stilwell** called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The theme of the meeting was “*Magic You Don’t Use.*”

“**Magic Mike**” thanked **Michael Johnson** for submitting a brief article about him and members **Greg Wauson**, **Terry Lunceford**, and **Matthew King** in the **Magic Castle’s** April Newsletter. **Mike** then asked for any guests to introduce themselves, and guest **MJW** announced that he learned about **Ring 76** from the late **Jack White**. “**Magic Mike**” announced that **Old Town Magic Shop** is looking to hire someone for their shop. He also reminded members to make sure they are current with their dues to the **International Brotherhood of Magicians**.

The next order of business was the Constitutionally required election committee for June’s Board of Directors election. **Mike** asked for volunteers for the committee and **Sherry Luft**, **Rich Robertson**, and **Alvin Revilas** responded. **Gary Salisbury** indicated the monthly opportunity drawing was a total of \$80. **Mark Booth** announced he is giving away his “magic he doesn’t use” after the performance. “**Magic Mike**” mentioned **Ring 76** is volunteering at a Wheelchair Regatta on June 5th and “**Magic Mike**,” **Greg**, **Alvin**, and **Matthew** have volunteered to entertain. **Mark** mentioned the installation banquet is July 10th at **Bob** and **Mary Meigs** home. There will be food, fun, and a chili cook-off. (See more information in this newsletter).

**Richard** commended **Sherry Luft** for editing the newsletter for him, and **James Thayer** for the fabulous photos in the last issue. He told members to feel free to submit any stories or articles. **James** mentioned that dues were due and should be paid by the end of June. **Jeff Pearson** recommended **The Prestige** theater for members to check out and he provided a promo code for 50% admission. **Alvin** announced he brought doughnuts to share with members.

**Gary** announced all duplicate library books were marked down 50%.



The floor was then turned over to the V.P. of Entertainment, **Greg Wauson**, who introduced a new Ring feature, *Getting to Know our Members*. The first member he announced was **Matthew King**. **Matthew** briefly talked about his career in magic, including about “cutting a woman in Sixths” at his audition for the **Magic Castle Junior Society** in the year 2000 at age 17, about recently re-joining the club and his audition during the pandemic via Zoom. Following this, **Greg** introduced “*Magic You Don’t Use*”.

See Meeting Page 2



### Ring 76 2022 Calendar

May 9th - Annual Standup Contest

June 13th - Greg Wilson Lecture

July 10th Sunday - Installation Banquet

\*Opportunity for Members to Perform

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

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Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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# President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,

Great turn out at our last meeting!

That was the first time we have ever done a theme like that, I'm sure we will do it again.



Elections are coming up (See article inside) so if you want to throw your hat in the Ring let our Election Committee know.

Also, remember that our Installation Banquet is coming up fast!! Sunday, July 10th will be fantastic again I'm sure. Tacos, Chili contest, Entertainment, Awards, and lots of Fun!!!

Stand Up contest in on for our next meeting. It's nice to have our own stage. If you plan to perform this year contest contact **Greg Wauson** (See article inside).

Don't forget to bring some spending cash for our Magic Store, books for sale from our library, and of course tickets for our opportunity drawing.

See you at our May10th meeting!

Mike Stilwell, President

## Meeting, continued from page 1

The first presenter was “**Magic Mike**.” He spoke about an effect he bought when he was 10 years old where the instructions said he would be able to turn something into a rabbit. He thought he was going to get a real rabbit and wasn't expecting a sponge (“**Magic Mike**” showed members the sponge rabbit). Another effect described making a 6” silk vanish, the metal apparatus was too small to hold the small silk. “**Magic Mike**” showed his first magic trick he ever purchased from **Al's Magic Shop** in Washington D.C. which was *Card to Matchbox*. He received a \$20 bill as a gift and was about to buy a magic kit, but he ended up with some other great classic effects. He then showed the description from a 1972 *TOPS Magazine* for the solid block penetration. **Mike** had **Matthew** demonstrate the solid block penetration effect. Then he told members the instructions say it is performed differently. He had **Richard** read the instructions, while performing the effect again as described. While this happened, it was shown that the effect is impossible to perform as

described. “**Magic Mike**” mentioned he found other interesting descriptions in the Abbott's catalog for the *Linking Ropes* and *Clippo*. He read the description of *Clippo*, which said that the newspaper can be handed to a spectator and thoroughly examined. He had **Richard** read the description of the *Linking Ropes*, and “**Magic Mike**” pointed out that the description was also inaccurate to the required presentation.



Richard Ustick reads instructions

The next performer was **Mark Booth**. He mentioned the late **Jeff Marcus** also had the effect he is performing. **Mark** asked who is familiar with *Mnemonic*. **Mark** showed members the *Stack Watch*. He said it was not what he expected and discussed the issues he personally found with it, and why it is an effect he doesn't use.

Next up was **Matt King**. He told members they'll see why he doesn't use it at the “end”. He performed a *Hippity Hop* effect, but with images that he called mummies. He introduced his “*Mummy*” and “*Daddy*”, in red and blue, respectively. He made them switch places, and then back. Members asked him to turn them around, thinking they were red/blue on each side. **Matt** said, “you really don't want to see that”, as he slowly turned them around to reveal both of the mummy's bare butts, in a surprise “end”.



Matt King & Mummies

“**Magic Mike**” discussed an effect with a *Red Bull* can he bought from the Ring 76 Magic Store to demonstrate, but the gimmick was difficult and unsafe

to construct, so he donated it as a door prize.

**Jeff Pearson** performed *The Silent Treatment*. He showed members cue cards one at a time, and members read them out loud. A card was selected by a member of the audience. As the audience interacted with the cards, they hinted that the magician, **Jeff**, had not spoken during the routine. Suddenly, one card came out of **Jeff's** mouth. He opened it and revealed it was the selected card. **Jeff** indicated it was an effect he hadn't yet used.



Jeff Pearson & The Silent Treatment

**Gary Dismukes** presented an effect using a netted bag. He had a spectator throw an invisible item at the bag and it suddenly appeared inside. He was able to make the item vanish and appear, and then **Gary** discussed the bag and the principle behind it.

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## Some Thoughts About Our April Meeting



Greg Wauson

I like variety. It's fun to try something new and gratifying when it happens to work out well. Case in point was our April meeting, with a theme we've never used: "Magic we have but don't use." There are many reasons the magician isn't doing anything with it, but the end result is the same: it winds up in a drawer, neglected, not seeing the light of day and not hearing the applause from

entertained audience. But not yet

thrown out like an old can of tuna.

We had some good laughs, especially at the expense of tricks whose reality didn't match up to their advertising claims. That was a funny story told by Mike Stilwell, who as a boy sent away his hard-earned money on a sponge ball-to-rabbit effect. But there were no holes in the box when it showed up at his house! How could the rabbit breathe? And magicians familiar with effects like "Clippo" and the "Brass Block in the Matchbox" found it very funny when their advertisements were read; clearly the writers didn't know what they were describing. At least that's the gracious explanation!

I enjoyed seeing some tricks I hadn't seen before. Gary Dismukes showed a clever change bag – made of mesh material. The "magic you don't use" theme also encouraged at least Jeff Pearson to get "The Silent Treatment" out of storage and develop a presentation for it. Well done!

One nice feature of this theme is it isn't necessary to develop a presentation for an effect in order to share it at the meeting. Thanks to everyone who presented something about magic they have and, for various reasons, do not use. From the feedback I heard, our members and guests really enjoyed the evening. I'm sure we'll come back to this theme again.

*Greg Wauson, V.P. Entertainment*



Gary Dismukes

## From the Editor's Desk The Importance of Ring Membership



As we come out of the COVID pandemic (ICU admissions down 10% and deaths down 32% in the last two weeks) it is time to reflect on many things we have always taken for granted

and that includes membership in organizations like Ring 76. I do not mean to exalt this fine group above its stature, making it the primary reason we should live and breathe, I only want to point out that this latest chapter in our social history has shown the importance of belonging to a group and interacting with people face to face.

Those of us in our middle youth remember a time not so long ago when social groups were part of the fabric of our lives. Our parents and grandparents would gather together in lodges, book clubs, hobby groups, fraternities, guilds, and other private and civic organizations that all met on a regular basis and all involved social interactions with real people. This was so common that it was a staple of television shows like *The Flintstones* (*Water Buffalos*), *The Honeymooners* (*Friendly Sons of the Raccoons*), *Happy Days* (*The Leopard Lodge*), and *Everyone Loves Raymond* (*Caribou*). Book clubs and church committees were also a plot driver as the average audience member could identify with the situation. Even *Gauche Marx* could use a throw away line like, "The principal animals inhabiting the African jungle are Elks, Moose, and Knights of Pythias." He knew the audience would "get

the joke."

Then came the lock-down. The two weeks we were told were necessary to "flatten the curve" and prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed. Two weeks turned into two years and the personal contact and interactions we took for granted become text messages, emails, working from home and flat screen ZOOM conferences. Our gatherings were online and impersonal. Hollow, fake, and lacking any sort of soul satisfying connection with our fellow human beings.

Through all of this Ring 76 tried to maintain the magic community as best we could. We tried to keep this organization alive and connected, reaching out to members, and the Board was always looking for the day we could again see real people, touch real coins, and watch real card slights. Over the past year we have returned to in person meetings and have welcomed friends and members that we have wanted to see so very much. We were not-so-gently reminded of the importance of Ring 76 to our mental health and social well being.

In the near future there will be many activities that will bring us together as magic family. The Stand-Up contest this month, lectures and teach-ins in the months to follow, and the Installation Banquet in July where we honor all that we have achieved this last year. I strongly hope that you will make an effort to attend these events as best you can, to become more of an active member, and that you invite others of your like-minded friends to join us. The personal interaction and camaraderie is as important to our health, in my opinion, as anything the CDC can suggest. -Ed



## Stand-Up Contest in May

**Greg Wauson**

Our annual stand-up competition will be held at the general membership meeting on May 9. We currently only have two or three contestants, but need to have at least five, so there is room for you! Contact **Greg Wauson at gw83@ring76.com** to throw your hat into the ring. Keep in mind even if you do not win, you will benefit from the stage time in front of a live and friendly audience! Here are the rules:

1. The VP of entertainment, or his proxy, will be the contest chair.
2. Any member in good standing is welcome to compete.
3. The order of each contestant's appearance in the standup contest will be determined by a random drawing prior to the commencement of the contest.
4. Contestants may choose to perform on the stage or on the floor in front of it.
5. Contestants are welcome to provide their own sound systems or coordinate with someone else to bring one.
6. Each contestant will have ten minutes to perform.
7. An announcer will state each contestant's name, initiating the beginning of the performance. The announcer will call out the nine-minute time, indicating one minute is left. Exceeding the ten-minute time limit will automatically disqualify the contestant.
8. All Ring 76 members at the meeting will be provided with a ballot upon which they will write the name of one contestant.
9. All ballots will be collected and counted by the contest chair. The total votes for each contestant will determine that person's score.
10. The cash prizes will be \$50, \$30 and \$20 for the contestant with the first, second and third most votes, respectively.
11. All decisions concerning interpretations of and exceptions to these rules will be made by the contest chair.

Good luck, or as they say in magic parlance, break a thread!



## Election News

Under the Constitution of Ring 76 every April an election committee must be formed to oversee the next election of the Board of Directors. The current Board will submit to the nominating committee their recommendations of candidates for nomination for the offices of the Board. At the last Board meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> this requirement was accomplished and **Sherry Luft**, of the Election Committee accepted the Board's recommendations. They are as follows;

President – **Mike Stilwell**

First Vice President – **Greg Wauson**

Second Vice President - **James Thayer**

Secretary – **Alvin Revilas**

Treasurer – **Miguel Garcia**

Sgt, at Arms – **David Chiu**

Members-at-Large – **Mark Booth, Gary Salisbury, and Richard Ustick**



These are the recommendations for officers for the upcoming year *but are not the slate for the next election*. Any member in good standing can give their name to the Nominating Committee if they choose to run for office. The Board organizes Ring activities but the Ring belongs to its members and you are responsible for a successful ring. If you are interested in being on the Board. please contact the committee through **Ring76ibm@yahoo.com** . We will be accepting nominations from the Floor at the May meeting.



Mr. Funtastick with Bitcoin





## What's Coming Up

**May: Stand-Up Contest.** We are thrilled to present our stand-up contest once again! 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: Greg Wilson lecture!** Our members voted at the April meeting to have a lecture at our June meeting. Although this was not binding, your thoughts matter and we do listen. So a lecture it is! The really great news is our lecturer will be none other than Greg Wilson! If you've never seen him in person, you are in for a treat. He has a well-deserved reputation as a master showman and he'll be presenting some new material for us.

**July: Installation banquet!** This promises to be one of the highlights of the year. The venue will be the stunning home of Bob and Mary Meigs. Bring your swimsuit and come hungry! We'll have a shave ice truck, a chili contest and tacos for dinner. And the entertainment will be provided by Las Vegas magician Alexander Great.

## Installation Banquet in July Promises A Great Time. RSVP Now !

We are just a couple of months away from our Installation Banquet! This year's event will be held on Sunday, July 10, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event is again being hosted at Bob & Mary Meigs' beautiful home in Carlsbad!

Something we are trying new this year is a Chili Cook-Off. Members who wish to enter the contest with their favorite chili concoction, please let me know that you would like to participate. So far, I am aware of 5 planned entries from: Mark Booth, Joe Mystic, Julia Simms/Michael Johnson, Mike Stilwell & Dave Chiu. It would be great to have more entries, the more the merrier! This will be a "People's Choice" contest, with awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Richard Ustick has volunteered to coordinate collecting and tabulating the ballots (thank you, Richard).

This year's main menu will feature a catered Taco Bar. Both beef & chicken will be available, along with sides and fixin's. In addition to the chili that I will be entering in the contest (which will contain ground turkey), I will be preparing a second pot of chili without any meat for members who require a vegetarian option. We are also planning to offer some sweet treats before and after the main meal.

If you attended last year's event, you already know that Bob & Mary's home is a fabulous venue for our Installation banquet. There's plenty of shaded areas to sit and enjoy a lazy Summer day. Not to mention the gorgeous swimming pool available for all to enjoy.

Greg Wauson has lined up a terrific entertainer to cap off this year's event, he will be announcing that performer in a forthcoming email.

If this all sounds like fun to you, please plan to bring a check to the May membership meeting (Monday, May 9, 2022). The cost is \$15 PER PERSON this year. Please make your check payable to "IBM Ring 76".

Please understand, you must RSVP in advance. So go ahead and make out that check now, and be sure to bring it with you to the May meeting.

If you are not able to attend the May meeting and will also not be attending the June meeting, then please reach out to me and I will give you the address to which you can mail your check.

Any questions, feel free to ask and we'll see you at the May meeting!

Mark Booth



Mark Booth & the Stack Watch

## 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 from both **Mark Booth** and **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](mailto:Editor@Ring76.com). We will try to get them into MagiCurrents and see you get the credit.





### Dues are due Soon

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*

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## Trick of the Month Club #4: A Genie in Every Bottle

Bob Meigs

This trick has been around forever, as the *Prayer Bottle*. I renamed it to increase "kid appeal" - but the real value of this trick is that kids can **build it themselves!**

All they need is a dark bottle, a short piece of rope, and a piece of aluminum foil. Root beer comes in dark bottles, and aluminum foil is a common household item. The short piece of rope may be a bit more difficult to find – it should be reasonably soft, and about half the diameter of the bottle neck.

If you have the 3 materials, roll a piece of aluminum foil (about 4 inches square) into a ball that's almost as big as the bottle opening, but drops freely into the bottle. With the aluminum ball in the bottle, stick 2 or 3 inches of the rope into the bottle. Now, when you turn the bottle upside down and give a small tug on the rope, the rope and aluminum ball will wedge together in the bottleneck, allowing you to swing the bottle by holding only the rope.

At the beginning of the trick. Hold the bottle with your hand at the bottom, to hide the "genie." When the bottle is suspended, keep the rope toward the audience, again hiding the "genie."

Of course, patter helps make a trick fun. I ramble on about there being a genie in every glass bottle. This explains why so many drinks now come in cans or plastic bottles – it's not a glass shortage, it's a *Genie shortage!* Anyway, if you do encounter a real glass bottle, there's usually a playful Genie inside.



Presenters at the April 2022 Ring 76 Meeting

Mike Stilwell Greg Wauson James Thayer Doc Pearson Gary Dismukes Mr. Funtastic

Mark Booth Matt King



Meeting, continued from Page 3

James Thayer was the final presenter of the evening. He held a deck of cards in its box and then asked an audience member to name any card in the deck. They did, and James was able to make that card magically rise out of the deck while it was still in the box. He spoke about the effect and seeing it win at FISM over 20 years ago. He also spoke to members briefly about the handling and why he hasn't used it.

Greg Wauson showed multiple pairs of comedy scissors, where one of them the handles move, but the blades do not. Greg also demonstrated one pair of the Cut No-cut scissors where you can control whether or not the spectator can open or close them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

# Installation Banquet

## Sunday, July 10, 2022

2:00p.m. - 7:30p.m.

### Delicious Taco Bar & Sweet Treats

### Chili Cook-Off

### Swimming • Games • Magic • Fun

## \$15 per person

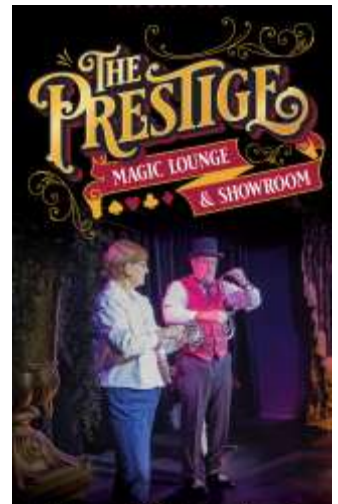
\*Advance RSVP Required!\*

Hosted at Bob & Mary Meigs Home in Carlsbad

Make Your Check Payable to "IBM Ring 76"  
and Bring it to the May Membership Meeting!



The End & and see you at the  
Stand-Up Contest on May 9th



## 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.