



MagiCurrents

San Diego Ring 76

June 2022

VOL. XXXVII # 6

June Meeting to Feature Unique Lecture

Gregory Wilson to Lecture at Ring 76

We are in for a treat at our meeting on June 13. Here are two clues who it is.

First clue: It's one of the two gentlemen in the photo above.

Second clue: It's not David Blaine.

Yes, it's none other than Gregory Wilson! If you want to learn some great magic and have some big laughs, our June meeting is the place to be. And, yes, he will be with us in person.

Magicians such as ourselves may think of him as a top end magician, but he's deeper than that. Rather than limiting himself with a "magician" label, he prefers to describe himself as an entertainer. And that is one thing he does extremely well. He can do comedy, mentalism, finger-flinging magic and pickpocketing, but I have to admit that "entertainer" covers it best.



There is no one else like this guy. Who else has a website that states, "As a personal challenge, Gregory has secretly stolen the timepieces of professional observers from around the world — without being shot, beat up or arrested." And there you will find photos of him with security personnel in 25 different countries. Here's a photo of him with some characters who are clearly petrified as Gregory lifts one of their wallets.



Gregory is also one of the most prolific magic inventors on the planet. Wikipedia states he has "created nearly 500 original effects as of 2020." And the effects he creates are not your typical magic tricks. They're known as being unusually clever, baffling and, with Gregory's presentation, very entertaining.

See *Gregory Wilson* page 2

Ring 76 2022 Calendar

June 13th - Gregory Wilson Lecture

July 10th - Installation Banquet on Sunday

August 8th - Theme to be Announced

*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 5

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Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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



Gregory Wilson *Continued from page 1*

He's also a skilled teacher. His videos include *Double Take*, *Off the Cuff* and *On the Spot*. He is so smooth, he makes it look easy.

What a joy it is to watch this gentleman do his thing. Talk about fun – and magicians recognize the chops Greg has, from honing his craft for decades. Check out his website to watch a lot of folks be completely amazed: www.gregorywilson.com

See you on the 13th! - *Greg Wauson* VP Entertainment



Message from the President

Dear Ring 76 Members,

As the song goes, *Summertime and the livin's easy*.

That is particularly true for members of Ring 76 as this will be the best summer in a very long time.

We kicked it off with a great meeting in May and June will feature a lecture by Gregory Wilson. Of course, the height of the season is our annual Installation Banquet on Sunday, July 10th,

The June meeting lecture will be free to all members in good standing but \$20 to all non-members and guests. (which is 2/3's of our membership dues, which was pointed out to me by our V.P. of Entertainment!).

Not only will there be the lecture, but we will be voting for the new Board of Directors as well as the coveted **Member of the Year** award. The chance you have to show your appreciation to the Ring member you feel did the most to promote comradery and fellowship in the Magic community this past year.

The June meeting will be on the 13th and we want to get all the business out of the way so we can enjoy the lecture, so please come a little early as we will start promptly at 7 p.m.

See you at our 11th in person meeting,

Mike Stilwell, President Ring 76



Dues are Due

April Showers bring May Flowers. And May Flowers bring...moving men? No, they bring Ring 76 dues notices. And now it is June. Many have paid, but many more have not. If you've been putting it off, June is the time to get it done.

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 many 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>. Be sure to take the **Friends and Family** option so that the full amount of your payment will go to the Ring. You can also pay in person at the June meeting. Just find me and we can take care of it. If you are paying in cash, please include a slip of paper with your name on it, so that I don't accidentally attribute your payment to someone else. (I take great pains not to do this but why take any chances?)

If for any reason, you are not intending to renew your membership this year, please send me e-mail to <membership@ring76.com>. It helps us to know and we won't keep pestering you for your dues.

Thank you for your prompt payment, *James Thayer*.

Elections at the June Meeting

At our May Ring meeting, Election Committee members **Sherry Luft**, **Rich Robertson**, and **Alvin Revilas**, announced the Board's nominations for Ring officers in our next election, which will take place at our June meeting. Then nominations from the floor were allowed and new member **Misha Osinovskiy** nominated himself for Member at Large. If no one makes another nomination before the vote at our June meeting then all of the nominees will run unopposed.

Here is the list of nominations for the Board:

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, Misha Osinovskiy

Rich Robertson



May Meeting was a Stand-Up Event !

Meetings for Ring 76 are held every 2nd Monday at Immaculate Conception Church in Old Town San Diego.

President “**Magic Mike**” Stilwell commenced the meeting at 7:02 pm. Alvin Revilas took over the duties of Secretary as Matthew King was out of town.

June is our annual *Stand-up Contest*. **Magic Mike** started with announcing the Election Committee candidates and asked if there were any floor nominations. **Misha**

Osinobskiy announced he would like to be a *Member-at-Large*. Any member in good standing can serve on the Board of Directors and the Election Committee can accept floor nomination until the official vote at the June meeting.

Members were reminded to pay their membership dues at or before the June meeting. Dues are \$30 until June 30th and then a late fee is attached making them \$35. **James Thayer**, the Vice President of Membership, is responsible for dues collection.



Mark Booth & his Three Card Monte



Nick Benevento & His Ring & Ribbon Magic

Magic Mike announced the latest in our *Get to Know Us* segment V.P. of Entertainment **Greg Wauson** introduced at the April meeting. Each month or so a member of the Ring will step up and gives us a quick biography and what got them interested in magic. This month the honor fell to Member-at-Large and *MagiCurrents* editor **Richard Ustick**. Richard spoke of his early playing with dime store tricks, but that he got his real interest when he saw the girls Bill Bixbi was getting on is 1970s TV show, *The Magician*. When you are a teenage boy that is the primary reason you get involved with anything.



Richard Ustick & his origins in Magic

Mark Booth announced that 22 people RSVP'd for the *Installation Banquet* and he reminded members to RSVP. (See the Banquet Article on page ## for more information).

The winner of the monthly opportunity drawing was **Misha**, and with that **Magic Mike** introduced the performers for the evening, standing in for First VP of Entertainment **Greg Wauson**. As an opening, **Magic Mike** performed the *Pom-Pom pole*.

The first performer was **Mark Booth**. He performed a stage-size Three Card Monte routine inspired by Kim Hyun Soo.

Next was **Mago Ruly**. He produced multiple parasols from within silks, and then an emoji card.



Mago Ruly & his Parasol Production

Next was **Nick Benevento**, who demonstrated some ring and ribbon magic.

Magic Mike reminded members about our upcoming volunteer show for the Wheelchair Regatta and asked if any other members wanted to volunteer. He indicated that June would be a lecture-based meeting, and not a performance night.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



What's Coming Up

June: Gregory Wilson lecture! The one, the only – Gregory Wilson will present an in-person lecture at our June meeting. 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. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

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.

August: To be announced.

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 Payment Required to RSVP

Hosted at Bob & Mary Meigs Home in Carlsbad

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

Shavings from the Board

May 23, 2022

The Ring 76 Board of Directors meets via Zoom on the fourth Monday of the month.

As the business year of the Ring draws to a close the Board is busy taking care of all the last minute items needed to keep the Ring functioning smoothly.



The minutes from the last meeting were approved as were the reports from the officers. Treasurer **Joe Mystic** McGrievy reported that the treasury was in good condition and that dues were starting to come in from the membership (See Dues are Due, Pg ##). Sergeant-at-Arms Report, **David Chiu** reported that we had twenty three members and thirteen guests at the May meeting. The protocol for the upcoming

was clarified to insure proper balloting. First VP of Entertainment, **Greg Wauson** turned the report over to **Magic Mike** since he was unable to attend. **Magic Mike** said we had 3 entries, for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. **Greg** mentioned we initially had 6 people, but there were a few issues that arose, and we had ended up with three. Librarian **Gary Salisbury** then reported there have been no recent donations, and the estate of the late **Loch David Crane** is still pending. David spoke about the media server and the necessary software. **Gary** mentioned we received \$68.00 from the opportunity drawing, and there were no library sales. **Gary** spent \$100 on books at **Magic LIVE**, and the petty cash balance was healthy. Second VP (Membership) **James Thayer** reported that we are starting to get dues for the next year, and the last meeting was a good one for membership. We have three new members, **Joseph DePaul**, **Alejandro De Anda**, and **Dan Thomas**. We are currently at Fifty-Nine members.

Under Old Business, **Magic Mike** brought up the status of the Superior Quality Ring Award. **Matthew** stated the Ring had another charity event coming up and the application covers a 1-year period. He then indicated he would work with the TVP to submit the application.

Mark Booth showed the board a list of the RSVP's received to date for the Installation Banquet, with a total of twenty-eight. He mentioned he would be reminding members to RSVP and informing them of the deadline. **Greg** indicated he will not be present at the banquet, and **Joe Mystic** volunteered his sound system for the installation ceremony. **Mark** discussed the chili cook-off briefly. Awards and recognition for the upcoming Installation Banquet were discussed and **Richard Ustick** will be submitting the order to the usual sources.

See **Board** continued on page 5



Board continued from page 4

With that the New Business was addressed. **Richard Ustick** went over the procedure for the election of new officers at the June meeting. **Matthew** said he will contact the TVP to conduct the ceremony. **Magic Mike** brought up the problem of out of country Ring members have at the Border crossing and that a letter of explanation might make things easier for them. New brochures for the magic shops were suggested as they are good advertising for the Ring as well as membership applications. The Board agreed. **Magic Mike** then discussed the possibility of performing children’s magic at the **Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater**. The articles needed for the next issue of MagiCurrents were then discussed and any observations members might have had on Magic Live, the magic convention in Las Vegas many members had just attended. With that the meeting was adjourned.

decided. Any member of Ring 76 is welcome to call Godfrey on his cell phone which is 619-701-3245. He will be happy to help you find his show on whatever day you decide to attend the San Diego County Fair.



Terry Godfrey will be at the San Diego County Fair



Thank you to all the photographers for the pictures in this month’s newsletter. They include **Mark Booth, Greg Wauson, James Thayer, and Richard Ustick**. These pictures make MagiCurrents come alive and are always appreciated.

Magic Around Town!

Ring member **Godfrey The Magician** will be entertaining at the San Diego County Fair June 8th to July 4th. He is performing everyday the fair is open. The fair is closed on all Mondays and Tuesdays except for July 4th.

The theme of the fair this year is **Heroes Reunite!** Godfrey will be performing his magic show with the theme of *I’m a Magic Hero, So Are you*. The theme is to teach children and adults that they can be a magic hero even if they do not perform magic.

The word hero is an acronym:

H: Helping: Heroes help others and they also are not afraid to ask for help.

E: Education; Magic Heroes like to educate themselves, they enjoy reading.

R: Respect: Heroes respect all cultures, nationalities, religions, and themselves.

O: Optimism: Magic heroes are optimistic about themselves and about things they want to accomplish in their lives.

Godfrey The Magician will be performing four shows per day. The times and locations of the shows have not been

Trick of the Month Club #5: Elementary!

(also called *Pre-DECK-Ability* or *Shuffleboard*)

Effect The *Magi* lays a 3x5 card on the table, writing down. He then splits a deck of playing cards between two volunteers (say, *A* and *B*). The volunteers may shuffle their cards whenever they want, and pass packets of cards between themselves, after first turning that packet upside down. All the while, the *Magi* takes notes.

At the end, one player turns all of his cards over and passes them to the other player. The *Magi* then predicts:

1. How many cards are face-down.
2. How many of the face-down cards are **black**.
3. And strangely, that all of the black cards are **clubs**.

The first two predictions are correct, but someone will see that one of the black cards is a *spade* (say, the 4 of spades).

The 3x5 card placed on the table at the beginning of the trick is now turned over. It reads, “*Except for the 4 of spades.*”

Method This trick requires that the deck be prepared in advance. Any number of outcomes are possible, so I will describe the way I do the trick.

See **Trick** page 6

Trick continued form page 5



My “prepared” deck includes two packets, both including a joker. The **top** packet has 25 cards: 14 **red** cards, 10 **black**, and the all-black joker. The **black** cards include 9 **clubs** and the **4 of spades**. The bottom packet contains 29 cards, beginning with the colored joker, and followed by the remainder of the deck.

The cards within each packet may be in **random order**, except that the bottom packet **must begin** with the colored joker. This will allow for an innocent-looking ribbon-spread.

The trick begins with the *Magi* laying down the 3x5 card and ribbon-spreading the deck. He collects the cards and goes through them “to remove the jokers,” removing first the all-black joker, and then the colored joker. He then hands the packet **above** the colored joker to *Volunteer A*, and the packet **below** to *Volunteer B*. Both volunteers may shuffle their packets.

Each volunteer is told to cut off a packet **of any size, turn it upside down, and passes it to the other volunteer**. The volunteers then shuffle the cards received into the cards retained. **Now each volunteer has packet containing some cards face-up, and some face-down!**

This process may be repeated **any number of times**, with the *Magi* pretending to make careful notes. The effect is enhanced in the *Magi* occasionally asks a volunteer to ribbon-spread the packet about to be passed, and again pretending to take notes. (This should be **after** the packet has been turned over.)

To end the trick, Volunteer B turns over **all** of his or her cards over and passes them to Volunteer A. The *Magi* now announces (or writes):

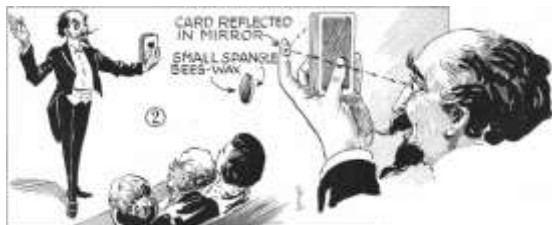
1. 24 cards are face-down.
2. Only 10 of these face-down cards are **black**.
3. Strangely, all of the back cards are clubs.

Someone will point out that one of the black cards is the **4 of spades**. At this point, the 3x5 card placed on the table at the beginning of the trick is turned over. It reads, “*Except for the 4 of Spades.*”

Why It Works : All cards held by Volunteer A are turned over an **even** number of times before winding up in Volunteer A’s deck at the end. B’s cards will have been turned over an **odd** number of times. Therefore, at the end, the face-down cards are **A’s original packet**, and the face-up cards are B’s original packet. The rest of the routine is acting.

Note: It helps if both volunteers keep their cards **flat on the table** while shuffling (*a riffle-shuffle*). You don’t want to take a chance of their turning cards over in the shuffling process. I therefore limit my selection of volunteers to people who can “handle cards,” meaning do a riffle-shuffle and ribbon-spread.)

Trick of the Month is presented by Bob Meigs.



Magic Live in Las Vegas well Represented by Ring 76

As usual, Magic Live did not disappoint. The Close Up Experience has always been the highlight of the Magic Live for me. Pit Hartling and Shoot Ogawa were phenomenal and then Asi Wind came out and fried everyone. I happened to see the first showing so there were a few things being worked out. Nothing that affected the magic but it kind of gave it the feel of being non-scripted and anything could happen. The first and last shows had one additional effect that most did not see so I was lucky to be there for that. And by coincidence, I was seated next to Mike Caveney and Mac King, so it was interesting to listen in on their commentary.

The General Sessions were the usual mix of eclectic topics -- one of the things I really like about Magic Live. It's not just about learning some new tricks. Master Payne gave another of his irreverent takes on the art of magic, entitled "I'm Too Shallow To Go Deep", in which he discussed his "I Don't Care" theory of magic. In this theory, he maintain that if we engage and entertain our audiences, it won't matter if they weren't fooled. Mark Walker had a presentation on the trade secrets of the Spook Show (hilariously called back during Nick Diffatte's act during the closing show, Life Onstage!). Luis de Matos talked about his approach to presenting magic during the pandemic. One of the things he and his team did was to set up a drive-in theater in the parking lot of his studio. David Regal interviewed Randy Pitchford and Erika Larsen about the change in ownership of the Magic Castle. Andi Gladwin talked about his efforts to track down those who are producing knock-off versions of magic effects. Jason England interviewed Derek Delgaudio. Asi Wind talked about being on Fool Us and the elaborate measures to come up with a method of contrived method of being able to access one of 52 decks of prearranged cards.

There were a number of good focus sessions and it was hard to choose which ones to attend. Christopher T. Magician talked about the problems of presenting "family magic" (as distinct from "kids magic"). It was a useful teaching session but he is also a really funny performer. Gary Salisbury said "He is so frigging funny I about peed my pants..." He presented his bill in lemon effect -- a classic variant of magic gone off the rails and which resulted in slicing up a 100 or so lemons in an effort to find the bill. (Now you might ask, how can you get away with slicing up 100 lemons and keep it entertaining -- all I can say is you need to go see Christopher T. Magician and find out.)

The convention closed with Live Onstage! A solid line up of performers but of special note were Nick Diffatte (who fills in for Mac King) who does great magic and has a great comedic touch and Ding Yang, a performer from China who did a dove production act in a velour bodysuit and who produced a dove from a silk fountain from her shoes while in a handstand.

On a more somber note, Jeff Hobson was scheduled to perform but could not attend due to COVID. And for me, one thing that was missing was the way that Jeff Marcus could always be found at Magic Live holding court and showing off some little thing he had found. Subconsciously, I kept looking for him and it always felt like something was missing from the convention.

-)----- James Thayer

See photos of Ring Members on Page 7



Ring 76 at Magic Live in Las Vegas



Greg Wasoon, Gary Dismukes, Miguel Garcia, Mike Stilwell, James Thayer, Matt King, Sherry Luft, and Gary Salisbury at Magic Live



Bring your money to the Dealer Room



Mark Booth & Legend Gene Anderson



Kellogs represent San Diego



Sherry Luft shows it was not all magic business





Museum of the Arcane



Greg Wauson & Randy Pitchford owner of the Magic Castle



Asi Wind performing at Magic Live



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 YOUR LIBRARY?

Funding-----ON GOING

50/50 Opportunity Drawing – We made \$45 at the April meeting and \$68 at the May meeting.

Library Sales – We made \$28 in library sales at the April meeting and \$0 from the May meeting.

Library Petty Cash - The 2022 library petty cash fund is currently at \$582.54.

Library Donations-----ON GOING

Gary Salisbury donated the complete John Gaspard’s audio mystery book series about Magician Eli Marks:

1. The Ambitious Card (2013)
2. The Bullet Catch (2014)
3. The Miser's Dream (2015)
4. The Linking Rings (2017)
5. The Floating Light Bulb (2018)
6. The Zombie Ball (2019)
7. The Magic Square (2020)

These audio books will be available on the IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server.

(see the audio book reviews later in this article)

Holly Baker donated a box of Honest Sid Gerhart’s magic props to the library. Some items will be placed in the Ring 76 library museum and some will be offered for sale to members in the near future. This will be your only chance to own some original Ring 76 history.

Chris Blackmore has a donation of some books but I still have to coordinate with him to pick them up.

James Kellogg has offered some VHS tapes on magic if we wanted them. I told him yes.

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

David Chiu and I are digitizing all our DVDs and VHS tapes to put on the IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server. The process is slow but we are constantly adding new material each week. We currently have over 1,600 titles there for your viewing pleasure.

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!

Do you have an account on the IBM Magic Media Server yet? Why not? It is the best thing since sliced bread!

IBM Ring 76 Magic Library-----ON GOING

See *Library* page 10

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 Hornibrook featuring delicious entree 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.



Library Continued from Page 10

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 four books at *Magic Live!* for the library totaling \$100. They are:

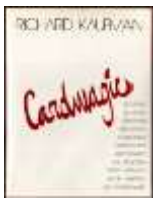
1. Cardmagic by Richard Kaufmann
2. Spoiler Alert by Ryan Matney
3. Super Sized Silly by David Kaye
4. Vis á Vis by Jack Avis

Please see the book reviews further on in this article. There is currently 1 item on loan from the library.

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.

BOOK REVIEWS



Cardmagic

by Richard Kaufmann

Lying in a dark undisturbed drawer for decades lay Harry Houdini's copy of THE DISCOVERIE OF WITCHCRAFT, a book written by Reginald Scot in 1584. It is the first book in the English language to describe sleight of hand tricks, and Houdini's copy was very special because it held the key to a mystery which fascinated magicians for centuries. Just who did Reginald Scot obtain all his information from - who was the magician who gave away some of the greatest and most closely guarded secrets of conjuring? The answer lay in the barely legible notes Houdini had scribbled in the margins. 'Shakespeare's copy, see in rear cover,' read Houdini's less than cryptic message. Inside the back of the book were William Shakespeare's handwritten notes of about fifty tricks and sleights, some of which appeared in THE DISCOVERIE OF WITCHCRAFT.

The secret is now fully revealed for the very first time: the young Will Shakespeare, while having just fathered a child, needed money, so he took the job.

In a story as exciting as any detective novel, author Richard Kaufman deciphered Shakespeare's ridiculous scribbling...and has written this book, which includes forty-five effects by Shakespeare (some lousy ones, too - he wasn't always clever), and another twenty contributions from some of the world's greatest cardmen, including: Derek Dingle, Edward Marlo, Jon Racherbaumer, Harry Lorayne, Gene Maze, Darwin Ortiz, Ken Krenzel, Bill

Even while Shakespeare is spinning in his grave, over seven-hundred animated illustrations that seem to move combined with Richard Kaufman's superb text will clearly teach you many fine card routines you will be proud to add to your repertoire.



Spoiler Alert

by Ryan Matney

You are about to encounter the card magic of Ryan Matney. These card tricks have been highly praised by magicians such as John Bannon (who wrote the introduction), Max Maven, Peter Duffie, and David Regal. They agree that what makes Ryan's magic unique is the attention to detail, the clever and subtle solutions to challenging problems, and the way Ryan manages to remove difficult sleight of hand while keeping the impact of the effect intact.

Inside this book, Ryan's first major collection, you will find 50 easy-to-do tricks, with over 30 appearing in print for the first time. All are within the grasp of the average magician. Every trick features a full script so you can add them to your repertoire immediately.

Included are Ryan's neo classics, "Amara Rises Again" and "The Whitechapel Solution," as well as new tricks such as "Triple Proof," an impressive card revelation, and "Christmas Cards from Jersey," an in-the-hands Four Ace Production from a deck that has been shuffled by the spectator.

Also appearing for the first time is "The Mind of a Cheat," a dead easy but enormously entertaining expose of the thought processes of a cheat, and "The Wheel of Endings," which might be the card trick you would do if you could only do one.

Final warning: You are about to encounter the card magic of Ryan Matney. It's a world of whimsical plots, eccentric presentations, and thoughtful construction. Once you learn these secrets, you can never go back.

See *Book Reviews* page 11



Book Reviews continued from page 10



Super Sized Silly David Kaye

Big News! Announcing the long-awaited brand new book from Silly Billy. It's called Super Sized Silly. That's because it weighs in at an impressive 400 pages! It contains 75 lessons to make you a better kid show magician, plus 150 routines by 100 different magicians. With 150 routines, you can create 10 completely different one hour shows. Ten new shows from one

book? This may be the last magic book you will ever need!

Featuring routines by kid show stars Mike Bent, Ken Scott, Doug Scheer, Master Payne, Terry Herbert, Jozo Bozo, Mark Daniel, Jim Kleefeld, Buster Balloon, Chris Capehart, John Bundy, Terry Parrett, and Norm Barnhart. Plus kid show routines from David Williamson, Eric Mead, David Oliver, Michael Finney and Max Maven.

From 2000-2008 David Kaye wrote a monthly column in MAGIC magazine about performing magic for children. In each of his 100 columns he taught a principle in kids magic and then taught a routine that uses that principle. The routines came from the best kid show magicians from all over the world. In 2012 David began the task of updating and expanding each column and turning these columns into a book. This is that book.

The book is completely indexed so that you can easily find a routine for any classic trick that you want to put into your show. Just check the index, find a great routine, put it in your show, and you're done! Even if you only get five new routines from this book it will have more than paid for itself. But you will get so much more.

Silly Billy's last book, Seriously Silly, was a huge critical and commercial success. Many magicians feel it is the best book ever written on children's magic. Magicians have been waiting years to read the next book from Silly Billy (David Kaye) and it is finally here.



Vis á Vis by Jack Avis

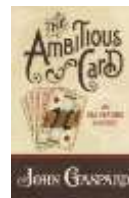
With hundreds of tricks published in magazines over the past forty years, Jack Avis is one of the most prolific creators of modern close-up magic. Jack's classical, thoughtful magic with cards, coins, mentalism, ring and rope, and assorted objects will impress you with its simplicity and elegance.

Tricks Include:

- Christmas Coin Vanish
- Movie Coin Vanish
- Salute to Ramsay
- Alaskan Poker
- Autodeck
- Mystery of Dr. Elliott's Legacy
- Variations on Scarne Run-up Systems
- Nu Way Shell Game
- Pinochle Caper
- Hofzinsler Ace Trick
- Silva Ace Cutting
- Houdini ring

- Escape from Ellis Island
- Cuball
- Loops Entwined
- Magical Sucuba
- Poker Chip Chicanery
- Spirit Detection
- Spooky
- Rara Avis Card Stab
- Hole in the Table
- and many more

Audio Book Reviews



The Ambitious Card

by John Gaspard

The life of a magician isn't all kiddies' shows and card tricks. Sometimes it's murder. Especially when magician Eli Marks very publicly debunks a famed psychic, and said psychic ends up dead. The evidence, including a bloody King of Diamonds playing card (one from Eli's own Ambitious Card routine), directs the police right to Eli.

As more psychics are slain, and more King cards rise to the top, Eli can't escape suspicion. Things get really complicated when romance blooms with a beautiful psychic, and Eli discovers she's the next target for murder, and he's scheduled to die with her. Now Eli must use every trick he knows to keep them both alive and reveal the true killer.

The Bullet Catch

by John Gaspard

Newly-single magician Eli Marks reluctantly attends his high school reunion against his better judgment, only to become entangled in two deadly encounters with his former classmates. The first is the fatal mugging of an old crush's husband, followed by the suspicious deaths of the victim's business associates.

See **Audio Book Reviews** page 12



Audio Books continued from page 11

At the same time, Eli also comes to the aid of a classmate-turned-movie-star who fears that attempting The Bullet Catch in an upcoming movie may be his last performance. As the bodies begin to pile up, Eli comes to the realization that juggling these murderous situations -- while saving his own neck -- may be the greatest trick he's ever performed.

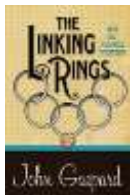
The Miser's Dream



by [John Gaspard](#)

A casual glance out his apartment window turns Magician Eli Marks' life upside down. After spotting a dead body in the projection booth of the movie theater next door, Eli is pulled into the hunt for the killer. As he attempts to puzzle out a solution to this classic locked room mystery, he must deal with a crisis of a more personal nature: the appearance of a rival magician who threatens not only Eli's faith in himself as a performer, but his relationship with his girlfriend.

But the killer won't wait and starts taking homicidal steps to bring Eli's investigation to a quick and decisive end. Things get even worse when his magician rival offers his own plausible solution to the mystery. With all the oddball suspects gathered together, Eli must unveil the secrets to this movie-geek whodunit or find himself at the wrong end of the trick.



The Linking Rings

by John Gaspard

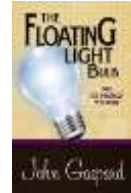
Eli's trip to London with his uncle Harry quickly turns homicidal when the older magician finds himself accused of murder. A second slaying does little to take the spotlight off Harry. Instead it's clear someone is knocking off Harry's elderly peers in bizarrely effective ways. But who?

The odd gets odder when the prime suspect appears to be a bitter performer with a grudge...who committed suicide over thirty years before. While Eli struggles to prove his uncle's innocence--and keep them both alive--he finds himself embroiled in a battle of his own: a favorite magic routine of his has been ripped off by another hugely

popular magician.

What began as a whirlwind vacation to London with girlfriend Megan turns into a fatal and larcenous trip into the dark heart of magic within the city's oldest magic society, The Magic Circle. No one does intriguing magic and page-turning humor like John Gaspard. Pick it up and see if you can be the first to figure out the trick!

The Floating Light Bulb



by [John Gaspard](#)

When a magician is murdered in the midst of his act at the Mall of America, Eli Marks is asked to step in and take over the daily shows--while also keeping his eyes and ears open for clues about this bizarre homicide.

As Eli combs the maze-like corridors beneath the Mall of America's massive amusement park looking for leads, he also struggles to learn and perform an entirely new magic act. Meanwhile, the long-time watering hole for Uncle Harry and his Mystics pals is closing. So in addition to the murder investigation and the new act, Eli must help the grumpy (and picky) seniors find a suitable new hangout.

"David Copperfield and Sherlock Holmes had a child, it would be Eli Marks."

The Zombie Ball



by [John Gaspard](#)

Eli's asked to perform his magic act at a swanky charity gala, *The Zombie Ball*-- a former zombie pub crawl which has grown into an annual high-class social event. What begins as a typical stage show for Eli turns deadly when two of the evening's sponsors are found murdered under truly unusual circumstances.

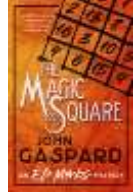
Compounding this drama is the presence of Eli's ex-wife and her new husband, Homicide Detective Fred Hutton. Under pressure to solve the crime before the 800 guests depart, Eli and his detective nemesis go head-to-head to uncover the bizarre clues that will unravel this macabre mystery.

See **Audiobooks** continued on page 13



Audiobooks *continued from page 12*

The Magic Square



by [John Gaspard](#)

When an old family friend is arrested for murder at a magic convention, Uncle Harry urges Eli to step in and solve the bizarre homicide. Eli's attempt to sort through all the suspects is stymied after a second murder and then a third murder attempt—or was it merely an accident? Is someone trying to knock off the top mentalists in the country? And if they are, why do the clues keep pointing to Eli's friend?

As the body count rises, Eli must race against the clock to trap this clever killer before becoming the final victim.

"You will just LOVE these books!"—VANISH Magazine



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