



MagiCurrents

Magic Sales Boom at Annual Ring 76 Swap Meet.



The theme of our meeting was the November Swap Meet. President “**Magic Mike**” Stilwell opened the meeting for a quick round of Ring business before the buying and selling of the magic. He begun by asking the guests to introduce themselves. Jeffrey and Ethan stood up to introduce themselves. Ken introduced himself as a previous member. “**Magic Mike**” mentioned our next meeting will be the Ring 76 Annual Holiday party December 12 and in January we will be having a lecture by Howard Hamburg. Member “**Joe Mystic**” mentioned he was doing a show at the Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre in Balboa Park and being Santa Thanksgiving day. **Gary Salisbury** mentioned that one of the tables was featuring magic props made and used by the Ring’s namesake, “**Honest Sid**” Gerhart. “**Magic Mike**” then introduced V.P. of Membership **James Thayer**. **James**, as required by the Ring’s Constitution and By-Laws, conducted a vote on proposed amendments to the Ring’s Constitution to clarify various membership categories and status. The vote was by ballot and conducted with ease and efficiency and the amendments passed. Good job **James**.

Alvin Revilas mentioned he brought pastries for the members. **Mark Booth** announced he is organizing a group for Magic Live, and he discussed PCAM coming to San Diego. V.P. of Entertainment **Greg Wauson** reminded the club about the holiday party and lecture, and with that the business meeting was over and members walked around the swap meet tables. In total, we ended up having thirteen vendors including **John Cannon** of Aladdin Books, who came from Orange County to attend the Swap Meet. Deals were made, treasures taken home, and it was an overall success for everyone involved.

Secretary **Anthony Spaise**. Meetings are held every 2nd Monday at Immaculate Conception Church in Old Town San Diego.



What is Coming Up for Ring 76

December: Our *Holiday Banquet* will be on Monday, December 12. This feast and our *Installation Banquet* in July are our two biggest events of the year. As always, we’ll have a good variety of food and a great time to mingle. International performer Christopher Yates will provide our entertainment. It’s not too late to sign up to attend; contact Greg at gw83@ring76.com.

January: We have a special treat for our first meeting in 2023: a lecture by Howard Hamburg! Howard goes way back and was good friends with many of the big names in magic, including Dai Vernon, Charlie Miller, Michael Skinner, Frances Carlyle, Jimmy Grippo, Larry Jennings, and Bruce Cervon. He’ll share the workings of several baffling and entertaining magic effects and intersperse stories about these legends of legerdemain. You won’t want to miss it!

February: It’s always fun to see how creative our members are and the *Closeup Contest* at our February meeting will give us another opportunity. Competitors can hone their performance skills and may wind up with one of the awards for their efforts. First, second and third place finishers, as voted on by members, will receive \$50, \$25 and \$15, respectively. If you’d like to throw your hat into the ring, contact Greg at gw83@ring76.com.

Ring 76 2022-23 Calendar

December 12th - Holiday Potluck (see page 2)

January 9th - Lecture by Howard Hamburg

February 13th - Close-Up Competition

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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Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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



Swap meet a success!

By Greg Wauson



Our Swap Meet in November was a fun time, due to the buyers who took advantage of the many extraordinary bargains and to the sellers who made them available. The sellers exchanged unused items for cash and the buyers became the owners of some great material at discount prices. And the Ring received table rental fees from each of the sellers, making this a win/win/win event!

Thank you to everyone who participated to make this event a success.

President's Message

Happy Holidays Ring 76 Members,

Our December meeting will be our HOLIDAY POTLUCK on Monday, December 12th, 2022. No mask is required, but please feel free to be at your own comfort level.

Doors will open at 5:30 to bring in your offerings, meet and greet, and help with set up. Dinner will start at 6:30.

There will also be a get your free raffle ticket, as well as a 50/50 opportunity drawing that you can purchase tickets for. You can also get your pictures taken with that jolly old elf himself, Santa.

Entertainment this year will be by *Christopher Yates*. He specializes in creating unique multi-disciplined performances. He is originally from New Zealand and now lives in Long Beach. Including our annual Holiday Potluck, he has performed on five continents. It will be a great evening all around.

This meeting is open to family and friends so bring them to celebrate this festive time of year. Please contact V.P. of Entertainment **Greg Wauson** and tell him you are coming, how many people you are bringing and what holiday favorite you will be supplying.

On a sad note, *The Old Town Magic Shop* has closed its doors forever.

On a happier note...We are up to 61 Paid Members of Ring 76!

We are in need of a new Ring 76 Store Manager, so talk to Matt King if interested.

See you at the Pot Luck!

Mike Stilwell

Ring 76 President



Holiday Banquet On December 12th Food, Fun, and Families.

The Holiday Banquet for Ring 76 Monday night, December 12, is shaping up nicely. This is one of our two biggest events of the year and it's always enjoyable to spend time with each other and meet the families, guests and friends of our members. We have a good assortment of food that members have signed up to bring, including main dishes, side dishes, salads and of course desserts! Special thanks to **Richard Ustick** who will again be bringing a turkey.

The doors will be open at 5:30 for set-up and people to bring their food. Dinner will begin around 6:30, with the entertainment after dinner.

Please contact Greg Wauson and tell him what you will be bringing and how many guests will be in your party. This event is open to friends and family as well as members and we need an accurate head count so we have all the tables and supplies on hand. His email is gwauson@san.rr.com

Please let us know if you are coming by Friday, December 9th. The Ring will be providing water, napkins, plates, etc. and the entertainment. All we want from you is your pleasant company and *your favorite holiday dish to feed eight to ten people*. As of now we have plenty of desserts and could use main and side dishes as well as salads. Contact Greg with any questions by email or text him at 858-354-8075.

Happy Holidays and see you there.



Classic Treasures from the collection of "Honest Sid" Gerhart offered for sale at this year's Swap Meet.



Ex Libris

By Gary D. Salisbury



Welcome to Ex Libris, my monthly newsletter article about the 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. For example: “*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 be sure to stay in good standing by paying your dues on time.

Someone recently asked me, “What is the Ring 76 Library?” I responded, “It is currently over 1,000 volumes of magic books and over 3,000 magic magazines, all available for check-out. It is over 1,500 magic oriented teaching videos and over 150 magic related audiobooks, all available for streaming from the IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server. It is also a museum for a collection of historic Ring 76 memorabilia from one of our founders, Honest Sid Gerhart. It is a magical learning source unparalleled in the entire IBM organization and it is funded totally from donations and fund-raising efforts that I have engage in.”

WHAT’S NEW AT YOUR LIBRARY?

Funding-----ON GOING

We did not have a 50/50 drawing last month however, the library did make \$303 from our duplicate book sales at the Swap Meet. Last month we purchased labels for the swap meet, renewed the library’s Genii Magazine subscription, purchased three lectures, three magic audiobooks for the Magic Media Server, and rented 100gb space on Google Drive for media transfers leaving the library petty cash at \$720.45.

Library Donations-----ON GOING

There were a number of donations made last month and I personally want to thank those who donated for your generosity in supporting your library. This serves as an example for others of what generosity can do for our club.

We still need your DVDs and VHS tape donations. They will be put on the Magic Media server so you will still be able to watch them or check the physical media back out. Please help. Sharing is good!

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

This month, the library purchased two Masterclass Live sessions and they have been uploaded to the Magic Media server. They are the Jamy Ian Swiss and Mike Pisciotta lectures. We also purchased Dani DaOrtiz’s You-Fooled- Us lecture. Please let me know if any other lectures or videos are of interest to you.

We purchased three magic related audiobooks which will be put on the IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server for streaming. They are:



The Magician's Tale: A Kay Farrow Novel

By William Bayer

Narrated by Tabriz Ragan

Series: Kay Farrow, Book 1

Write a review

A woman who sees what others cannot see solves the murder of a young street hustler, a man she had befriended in photographing San Francisco's dark, sexually charged underworld...



Trick of Light: A Kay Farrow Novel, Book 2

By William Bayer

Narrated by Tabriz Ragan

Series: Kay Farrow, Book 2

Write a review

Kay Farrow, a color-blind photographer who sees the world in black, white, and shades of gray, probes the mysterious death of her beloved mentor on a quest that takes her to the darkest intersections of San Francisco Mission District...



The Magician

By S. A. Piza

Narrated by L.J. Gardner

Write a review

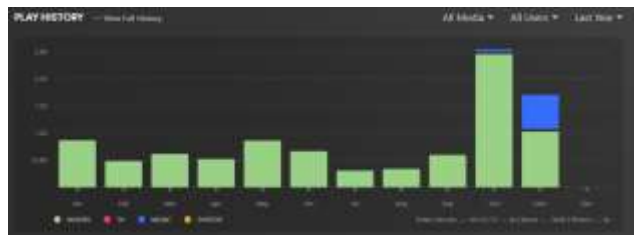
As Hurricane Sandy rages the Jersey Shore, a serial killer takes advantage of the night's ferocity and inflicts his own damage...

Note: See the audiobook reviews later in this document.

The recently donated magic audiobook collection from Dr. X is now partially available on the Magic Media Server. There are about 50 magic audiobooks available for streaming to your computer, tablet, or smart phone. The remaining 100 are in process and will be available soon. Be sure to check out David Copperfield’s “History of Magic” and Joshua Jay’s “How Magicians Think.” Listen to magic stories during your daily commute or walk.

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

This is the utilization report for the Ring 76 Magic Media Server over past 12 months. Videos are in green and audiobooks are in blue (under music).



How about donating your magic audio or video media to the library so everyone in the club can share them? You will still have access to them through the Magic Media server – even on your smart phone!

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

On the schedule is to do a complete inventory of all publications and videos as time permits. Helpers are welcome.

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 are waiting for a Probate Court hearing before proceeding.

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AUDIOBOOK REVIEW



The Magician's Tale (Kay Farrow #1) by William Bayer

A woman who sees what others cannot see seeks the murderer of a young street hustler, a man she had befriended in photographing San Francisco's dark, sexually charged netherworld.

The colors of Kay Farrow's landscape are black, white, and shades of gray. An achromat suffering from total color blindness, Kay possesses a vision that informs her world and sharpens her skills as a talented photographer. When Tim Lovsey, a handsome prostitute, is brutally slain, he becomes much more than Kay's subject. She makes it her mission to find his killer, even though the police would prefer to quietly let the case drop.

Kay's search for answers takes her back in time to an unsolved serial murder case with disturbing parallels to Tim's killing- a case whose botched investigation led to her father's ouster from the police force. Searching for the truth, she moves from the back alleys, exotic clubs, and dim corners of San Francisco's underground, where-for the right price-any sexual fantasy can be realized, to the elite enclaves of the city's most privileged class. Kay knows Tim's murderer resides somewhere within these disparate worlds, at an intersection as gray and murky as the shadows that define her world.

Putting her life and all she holds dear at risk; Kay must sort through the riddles of the past before she can discover the shocking truth of Tim's death. Along the way, she finds the chiaroscuro of culpability pointed in shades of lust, jealousy, greed, and desire.

The Magicians Tale was a National Bestseller and selected by The New York Times as a "Notable Book." It won the Lambda Award for Best Mystery.

PRAISE FOR THE MAGICIAN'S TALE:

THE NEW YORK TIMES:

"A strange seductive story as eerie as a midnight walk in the fog. It is Kay's extraordinary vision that arrests us; with the starkness of a reverse negative, it shows us light and dark, truth and deception, reality and illusion, even good and evil in ways we never imagined."

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY:

A vibrant, melancholy narrative voice and street-true characters. The story line traces a sophisticated puzzle with memorably jagged figures."

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER:

"By warned that once you start, you won't want to put down The Magicians Tale, a most compelling read."



Trick of Light (Kay Farrow #1) by William Bayer

A shocking and provocative new thriller from the author of the national bestseller The Magician's Tale. Kay Farrow, a color-blind photographer who sees the world in black, white and shades of gray, probes the mysterious death of her beloved mentor on a quest that takes her to the darkest intersections of San Francisco's Mission District.

"Eerie as a midnight walk in the fog," said The New York Times Book Review of David Hunt's The Magician's Tale, "showing us light and dark, truth and deception, reality and illusion, even good and evil, in ways we never imagined." "Hunt mesmerizes with his sleight of hand," praised People magazine, "The book's lingering spell lies in the way its heroine's perspective enables us to see, as if for the first time, her beloved city in all its chiaroscuro splendor."

When distinguished photojournalist Maddy Yamada is struck by a motorcyclist at two in the morning in a seedy area far from her Marina apartment, Kay Farrow's grief is tempered by suspicion. What could have drawn the reclusive Maddy so far from home at such an hour? Kay believes Maddy's work in progress-blurry, abstract images uncharacteristic of a woman famous for her unsparing clarity of vision--holds elusive clues, clues Kay is determined to decipher.

Tracing old photographs and undeveloped film discovered in one of Maddy's cameras, Kay begins to bring into focus Maddy's activities at the time of her death. The territory Kay must cover runs from the back alleys of the Mission to the elite enclaves of Pacific Heights and beyond, to a very private shooting preserve miles north of the city. Lurking in her path is a netherworld of decadence and evil--and evidence that Maddy's death was no accident.

Kay doggedly pursues a winding path to justice, negotiating a labyrinth of debauchery and dark desires.

PRAISE FOR TRICK OF LIGHT:

NEW YORK TIMES:

"Following her own vision (and nudged on by Bayer's hypnotic prose), Kay Farrow conducts an investigation that goes down some very dark alleys and leads to some very bleak truths. But in the inverted imagery of this strange world, the blacker it gets, the lovelier it looks. The air of dreamlike menace that hovers of Trick Of Light, Bayer's sequel to The Magician's Tale, transforms San Francisco from a daytime city of brilliant color and clarity into an eerie netherworld."

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER:

"Bayer's San Francisco is not the tourist City by the Bay, but its dark underbelly. The evil that confronts Kay Farrow is built up step by painful step. Nothing rings false in the terrific Trick Of Light."

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The Magician
By D.A. Pupa

Hurricane Sandy ravages the Jersey Shore while simultaneously providing the backdrop for a horrible crime. A serial killer takes advantage of the night's ferocity and inflicts his own damage. The madman then disappears leaving a famed F.B.I. agent broken in the process. Frank Sorello retires from the Bureau only to be drawn back into the game after a bestselling novel by a new author raises suspicions about details inside the book. Is the homicidal maniac announcing his return or is it purely a coincidence? The intrigue builds as a young magician with an intellect rivaling that of Einstein and Da Vinci is tragically connected to the Bureau's top agent. As the investigation is renewed, the murders begin once again. While the mystery unravels no one is truly safe; neither the gated communities of Hollywood nor the hallowed grounds of an Ivy League University provide refuge from what lies waiting in the shadows. The suspense mounts as the hunt gets ever more personal when the agent's current romantic interest becomes a target. Sorello vows to put an end to the killer's reign in this fast-paced thriller . . . but the killer has other plans.

These three audiobooks are available on the IBM Magic Media Server for streaming to computer, tablet, smart phone, or media player.

LIBRARY CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

Members may contact me 7x24 either by e-mail at librarian@ring76.com or by cell phone (voice or text) at 619-569-6035 to let me know what you would like to check out. (If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, there may have been a technical problem so call me.) I will make sure the item(s) get to the next monthly meeting or you can pick it up at my home in Blossom Valley.

There is a limit of 4 items per month. You will need to sign the library card attached to the item along with your phone number. We ask that you return the items to the library on or before the monthly meeting for the following month (for example: If you check out a book at the July meeting, it should be returned on or before the August meeting). If need be, you can keep the book or video again if nobody else has requested it but you must sign for it again.

Our objective is to build the best magic reference library in the entire IBM organization world-wide but we need your help to do that. Please return over-due books & videos and donate regularly to your library. The library is here so YOU can learn how to perform magic. Use it!

Non-urgent communications will always be done via the Ex Libris newsletter article while more urgent communications will be done by an IBM Ring 76 Library Gram emailed to: ring76members@googlegroups.com.

Have a magical month my friends and we will see you again in the next newsletter. In the meantime, email me with your thoughts about the library. I would love to hear what you want the library to acquire next. Your input is critical for the library working properly for you.

Gary Salisbury



Email: librarian@ring76.com

Cell: 619-569-6035

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

(Disclaimer: Much of this material is my own but I sometimes copy material from other sources, with and without credit, and then merged with my own commentary to give you a better, more thorough source of information. Thanks to all who have knowingly and unknowingly contributed.)



Skeletons in the attic of Jimmy's old friend Bill Neff are part of Neff's act as a professional magician. One summer Jimmy and Bill took a tour together as magicians.

Jimmy Stewart & Bill Neff Linking Rings
Life Magazine, 1945



Shavings from the Board

November 28, 2022



The November Board meeting was held via Zoom November 28, 2022 and was called to order by President “**Magic Mike**” **Stilwell**. After the approval of the minutes from the last Board meeting, the various officers gave their reports. **Treasurer Miguel Garcia**

informed the Board that the current Ring Accounts were quite healthy. Sergeant-at-Arms **David Chiu** reported that we had about 40 people at our annual Swap Meet. Librarian **Gary Salisbury** then told the Board that there were a number of donations made to the Ring at the swap meet. **Gary** indicated we need DVDs and VHS donations for the Plex server. There are two Master Class Live Sessions and 3 new audio-books bring the total to 154 covering all types of magic genres (See full Library Report on Page 3). First V.P. (Entertainment), **Greg Wauson** let the board know he was happy with how smoothly the swap meet went and that we had a total of 16 vendor tables. **Greg** then confirmed that the Christmas Entertainer will be Christopher Yates, a street performer and also worked with Barnum and Bailey's Circus. Second V.P. (Membership), **James Thayer** told the Board that we have added three new members since last month and that the Constitution had been amended with the vote at the last meeting. ***Congratulations James for a job well done.***

OLD BUSINESS

Magic Mike informed the board that **Matthew King** provided him with a magic store update and that we had a successful night at the Swap Meet. **Magic Mike** then went on to ask for an update on the Quality Ring Report and the templates for job descriptions.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark brought up to the board's attention how GREAT the Plex Server is and how members should at the very least check it out. **Greg** is going to take responsibility for making a list of what everyone will be bringing to the potluck. (See article on page 2)

This is the last meeting of the Board of Directors for the calendar year. The next scheduled meeting, via ZOOM, will be January 23, 2023. As always members are welcome to sit in.



Trick of the Month Club #10

Zombie Arm Twist

By Bob Meigs

Props The only prop you'll need for this one is *long sleeves*.

Effect It appears you can put your right hand flat on a table and turn it *360 degrees* counter clockwise, which mere mortals cannot. (I should have presented this in time for *Halloween* – my bad.)

Method *Wearing long sleeves*, demonstrate the “position,” which is right-hand palm down, with arm straight and fingers pointing to the left. Have an excuse for coming *out* of this position. I “teach the trick” to several volunteers, so I come out of the position to check that my volunteers have assumed it correctly. I want the volunteers in this position, *as the trick is impossible from this position!*

You *appear* to resume this position, but instead, *place your right finger tips on the table, rotate your hand clockwise until the finger tips point left, then press your hand flat*. Not everyone can do this – you have to be “double-jointed” to some extent! But if you can assume this position, the rest of the trick is a snap!

Now your hand can easily rotate counter clockwise 360 degrees. I make a big show of this by using my left hand to push my right around, 90 degrees at a time.

Why, you may ask, do you need to wear long sleeves? The answer is that your elbow bends *out* in the position you *appear* to have taken, but bends *inward* in your *actual* position. Long sleeves hide this “giveaway.”



Thank you to This Month's

Photographer

One again the fine pictures that adorn this month's newsletter come from the talented shutter of **James Thayer**. The Editors of MagiCurents cannot assemble this publication alone and thank all the members who contribute. - ed





Swap Meet a big success for sellers and buyers alike.



San Diego Ring 76, International Brotherhood of Magicians