



# MAGICURRENTS

San Diego Ring 76 January 2023 VOL. XXXVIII # 1

## Holiday Potluck a Feast for the Heart and Mind

President "**Magic Mike**" Stilwell commenced the meeting at 6:45 pm. The theme of our meeting was the *Annual Holiday Banquet*. "**Magic Mike**" introduced guests and then reminded the group that our next meeting will be a lecture by *Howard Hamburg* who was a student of the Professor Dai Vernon (see page 8). "**Magic Mike**" then turned the meeting over to the real reason most of us were there, to sample all the fine food that members brought.

The next order of business was "presents," or more specifically, door prizes. **Anthony Spaise** was the first member to win in which he took a Fire Book belonging to "Honest Sid" Gerhart, **Greg Wauson** won a break away box, and **Alfonso Vasquez** won the final prize of the night "Honest Sid" antique cards. "**Magic Mike**" then turned over the meeting to V.P. of Entertainment **Greg Wauson** who thanked everyone for making it to the banquet and then went on to introduce the Performer for the night "**Rusty B**".

"**Rusty B**" started his show by getting the audience involved in a sing along of *Gypsy Lady*. This quickly turned into a competition between the males and females. Then he went on to turn a handkerchief into a chicken. Then came the danger as he started to juggle knives. If that was not hard enough he called an audience member to the stage to blindfolded him. Then, one by one, he began to toss the blades into the air. *Rusty B* then went on to introduce himself and tell the guests where he was from by telling a few jokes and presenting a New Zealand flag. This is when the show took a turn. The audience found out that *Rusty B* had a Box of Doom which had a lamb laying inside waiting to be sawed in half. *Rusty* would come back to the Box of Doom later in the show. He then began to juggle again this time with two balls and a hand, then switching to bowling pins. The final juggling act included a unicycle and bowling pins. The end of the show was what *Rusty B* called the Test of Strength, this is where he called up four members, **Miguel Garcia**, **Rajul Rivera-Melo**, **Dave**, and **Mika Osinovsky**. He had them setup in a square with each member resting on one another; he then began to remove the chairs one by one until no chair was left. The finale was *Rusty B* Juggling over the square formed by the Ring 76 members.

With that the festivities came to an appreciated close and V.P. of Entertainment **Greg Wauson** thanked all the members and guests for

attending Ring 76 Annual Holiday Banquet and then asked them all to help with the clean up. Holiday traditions never end.

Happy New Year to all Ring 76 members and we will see you in January.

Secretary  
**Anthony Spaise**.

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



### Ring 76 2022-23 Calendar

**January 9th** - Lecture by Howard Hamburg

**February 13th** - Close-Up Competition

**March 13th** - To Be Announced

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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## President's Message

Happy New Year Ring 76 Members!

The beard is cut down to 1 inch, the holiday parties are all done, the lights and tree are all put away, another wonderful Holiday potluck and entertainment is in the books. Please thank your current and past board members for a job well done all year long.

So now we start our New Year together, 2023.

We are still working on our Quality Ring Award application as well as our new IBM brochure for new members.

We are also looking for a store manager, so if you have about 20 square feet of unused space to store our club magic for sale, please reach out to Matthew King.

We will see you on Monday, January 9th, 2023 for our first lecture of the new year.

Bring some extra cash for the 50/50 as well as any lecture goodies you may need!

See you soon!

*Mike Schwell*

Ring 76 President



“Santa’s Helpers” get there early to set up the feast

## What's Coming Up

**January:** We have a special treat for our first meeting in 2023: a lecture by Howard Hamburg! Howard goes way back and has been good friends with many of the biggest names in magic, along with developing his own magical chops. Read more about it in the article in this newsletter.

**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.

**March:** To be announced (but it will be good!)



Adele Schwartz makes sure all the food is properly laid out.





# 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 you have made and fund-raising efforts that I have engage in.”

## WHAT’S NEW AT YOUR LIBRARY?

### Funding-----ON GOING

We made \$80 from the 50/50 drawing last month but did not have any library sales because of the holiday banquet. Last month we purchased three magic audiobooks for the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server*, leaving the library petty cash at \$755.60.

### Library Donations-----ON GOING

A special thanks goes to Mark Booth this month for his donation of the Chris Capehart DVD, “The Rings”, and the Marvin Roy 10 disk audio CD collection, “Mr. Electric”. These items will be digitized and put on the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server*. Mark says, “The Mr. Electric audio CDs are a **MUST LISTEN TO** item!”

Mark serves as an example of what generosity can do for our club’s library. We need your magic DVDs, VHS tapes, and audiobook 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 three magic related audiobooks which will be put on the *IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server* for streaming. They are:



### The Secret History of Magic: The True Story of the Deceptive Art

By Peter Lamont, Jim Steinmeyer  
Narrated by Rory Barnett  
☆☆☆☆ Write a review

Behind the smoke and mirrors lies the real story of magic. It is a history of people from humble roots, who made and lost fortunes, and who deceived kings and queens. In order to survive, they concealed many secrets, yet they revealed some, and they stole others...

♡ Add to favorites   📁 Add to collections...   ⌚ Mark as finished



### Bluff

By Michael Kardos  
Narrated by Julia Whelan  
☆☆☆☆ Write a review

Washed-up 27-year-old magician Natalie is dazzled by a poker cheat's sleight of hand and soon finds herself facing a proposition - to help pull off a dangerous \$1.5 million magic trick...

♡ Add to favorites   📁 Add to collections...   ⌚ Mark as finished



### Illusionist's Apprentice

By Kristy Cambron  
Narrated by Amy Rubinate  
☆☆☆☆ Write a review

Harry Houdini's onetime apprentice holds fantastic secrets about the greatest illusionist in the world. But someone wants to claim them...

♡ Add to favorites   📁 Add to collections...   ⌚ Mark as finished

Note: See the audiobook reviews later in this document.



The recently donated magic audiobook collection from Dr. X is now available on the *IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server*. There are over 150 magic audiobooks available for streaming to your computer, tablet, or smart phone. Be sure to check out David Copperfield’s

See Ex Libris page 4

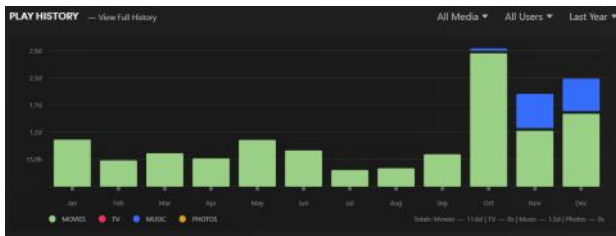


Ex Libris from page 3

“History of Magic” or Joshua Jay’s “How Magicians Think.” Coming soon will be Marvin Roy’s “Mr. Electric”. Listen to magic stories and magic history during your daily commute or walk.

Do you have an account on the IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server yet? Why not? It is the best thing since Netflix!

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



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 IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server – even on your smart phone!

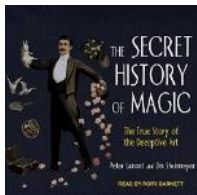
**IBM Ring 76 Magic Library-----ON GOING**

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 will specified that he wanted to leave the Ring some of his magic books. We are waiting for a Probate Court hearing before proceeding. This item is ON HOLD until we know more.

**AUDIOBOOK REVIEWS**



**The Secret History of Magic**  
*The True Story of the Deceptive Art*  
By: Peter Lamont & Jim Steinmeyer

If you read a standard history of magic, you learn that it begins in ancient Egypt with the resurrection of a goose in front of the Pharaoh. You discover how magicians

were tortured and killed during the age of witchcraft. You are told how conjuring tricks were used to quell rebellious colonial natives. The history of magic is full of such stories, which turn out not to be true. Behind the smoke and mirrors, however, lies the real story of magic.

It is a history of people from humble roots, who made and lost fortunes, and who deceived kings and queens. In order to survive, they concealed many secrets, yet they revealed some, and they stole others. They engaged in deception, exposure, and betrayal, in a quest to make the impossible happen. They managed to survive in a world in which a series of technological wonders appeared, which previous generations would have considered

magical. Even today, when we now take the most sophisticated technology for granted, we can still be astonished by tricks that were performed hundreds of years ago.

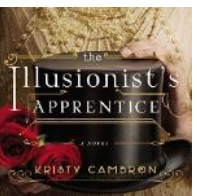
*The Secret History of Magic* reveals how this was done. It is about why magic matters in a world that no longer seems to have a place for it, but which desperately needs a sense of wonder.



**Bluff**  
By Michael Kardos

Michael Kardos brilliantly constructs his new novel *Bluff* as a magician would, delivering a perfectly calibrated performance of intrigue and, ultimate, astonishment.

At twenty-seven, magician Natalie Webb is already a has-been. A card-trick prodigy, she started touring at seventeen, took first place at the World of Magic competition at eighteen, and never reached such heights again. Shunned by the magic world after a disastrous liaison with an older magician, she now lives alone with her pigeons and a pile of overdue bills in a New Jersey apartment. In a desperate ploy to make extra cash, she follows up on an old offer to write a feature magazine article—on the art of cheating at cards. But when she meets the perfect subject for her article, what begins as a journalistic gamble brings into question everything Natalie thinks she knows about her talent, and herself. Natalie is dazzled by the poker cheat’s sleight of hand and soon finds herself facing a proposition that could radically alter her fortune—to help pull off a \$1.5 million magic trick that, if done successfully, no one will ever even suspect happened. With Kardos raising the stakes chapter after chapter, *Bluff* is a breathtaking work of suspense from a writer at the top of his game. With Kardos raising the stakes chapter after chapter, *Bluff* is a breathtaking work of suspense from a writer at the top of his game.



**The Illusionist’s Apprentice**  
By Kristy Cambron

Harry Houdini’s one-time apprentice holds fantastic secrets about the greatest illusionist in the world. But someone wants to claim them . . . or silence her before she can reveal them on her own.

Boston, 1926. Jenny “Wren” Lockhart is a bold eccentric even for a female vaudevillian. As notorious for her inherited wealth and gentleman’s dress as she is for her unsavory upbringing in the back halls of a vaudeville theater, Wren lives in a world that challenges all manner of conventions.

In the months following Houdini’s death, Wren is drawn into a web of mystery surrounding a spiritualist by the name of Horace Stapleton, a man defamed by Houdini’s ardent debunking of fraudulent mystics in the years leading up to his death. But in a public illusion that goes terribly wrong, one man is dead and another stands charged with his murder. Though he’s known as one of her teacher’s greatest critics, Wren must decide to become the one thing she never wanted to be: Stapleton’s defender.

Forced to team up with the newly formed FBI, Wren races against time and an unknown enemy, all to prove the innocence of a hated man. In a world of illusion, of the vaudeville halls that showcase the flamboyant and the strange, Wren’s carefully constructed world threatens to collapse around her. *See Ex Libris page 5*



Ex Libris from page 4

Layered with mystery, illusion, and the artistry of the Jazz Age’s bygone vaudeville era, *The Illusionist’s Apprentice* is a journey through love and loss and the underpinnings of faith on each life’s stage.

**LIBRARY CHECK OUT PROCEDURE**

Members may contact me 7x24 either by e-mail at [librarian@ring76.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

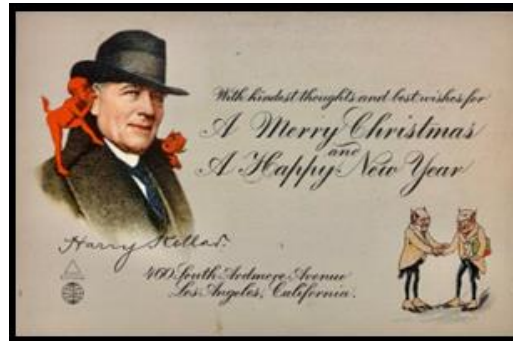


Email: [librarian@ring76.com](mailto:librarian@ring76.com)

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.)*



**Trick of the Month**

*Trick of the Month is a chance for Ring Members to share their favorite Close-Up, Parlor, or Impromptu effect with the Ring. All submissions are welcome including illustrations. Text may be edited for space. Send your favorite effects to **Trick of the Month**, [Ring76ibm@yahoo.com](mailto:Ring76ibm@yahoo.com). Please include your name for proper credit.*

**The Boomerang Illusion**

**Props** This is a trick of the *human mind*, invented by the psychologist, *Joseph Jastrow*. You can buy the “*Boomerang Illusion*” on line, in a magic store, or you can easily make your own. Just *Google* the name of the trick and click “*images*.” This will lead to dozens of images shaped like *boomerangs*. Cut one out, and you have a template. You can then make as many paper “boomerangs” as you want – the trick is done with *two*, and it helps if they are different colors.

You can also do this as an impromptu trick at any *Starbucks*, as their cup heat-protectors have the necessary boomerang shape.

**Method and Effect** Hold the boomerangs in front of you, ends pointing down, with one a couple of inches above the other. You might move the top boomerang a few inches off-center to the right, so that the right edges of the two boomerangs lay along a straight line. The upper boomerang will appear *substantially smaller* than the bottom one; this remains true if you switch the order of the boomerangs.

Actually, both boomerangs are the *exactly the same size*. The difference in size is an *optical illusion*.

Many thanks to Bob Meigs for his contributions to this column.



## Holiday Banquet a Success!

*Greg Wauson*

Thanks to everyone who brought food and participated in our Holiday Banquet on December 12th. I won't try to list everyone, since I'd be sure to forget somebody, but special thanks once again to **Richard Ustick** who cooked a turkey and spent much time that evening serving food, to **Brenda Wauson** who designed all the table decorations and, along with **Adele Schwartz**, helped make sure the Ring members and guests were fed. What a fun time enjoying the company of our members and guests.

Then after dinner we were entertained by the one and only *Christopher Yates*, who presented his alter-ego, "Rusty B." This act is hard to describe but I'll suffice it to say it was great fun watching him juggle balls, pins and knives, ride a unicycle and horse around with people from the audience. I hadn't laughed that hard for quite awhile. His many years of experience as a street performer was obvious from his fine-tuned audience interaction skills. We took a chance by hiring someone other than a magician to be our performer but from the feedback I received, it paid off. Your board has a goal to bring you the best in entertainment (usually magical!). What a fun way to celebrate the holidays!



Santa Mike & Brenda Wauson get ready to serve



Alvin brought his favorite holiday dish, Lumpia.



The feast was a feast we enjoyed to the least (last)



## Thank you to This Month's Photographer

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



## Holiday Potluck full of Great Food and Great Entertainment



Sign in and get your tickets!



Gary, Alfonso, and “Santa Mike” with the Opportunity Drawing



“Rusty B” entertains us all with feats of skill and witty banter..



Some things are better left unsaid. Let’s just say we were young and needed the money.



Another great Holiday even at Ring 76



# The New Year Starts with Howard Hamburg.

It isn't often our club has the opportunity to enjoy a visit from someone who has a deep history in magic and has had relationships with many of the greats of our art. We're starting the year off right by doing just that; we'll be featuring Howard Hamburg as the lecturer at our January meeting. Some say of Howard that "he's the greatest magician you've never heard of." He goes way back and has been good friends with Dai Vernon, Charlie Miller, Michael Skinner, Frances Carlyle, Jimmy Grippo, Larry Jennings, Bruce Cervon and numerous others. He's been swimming with the big fish for a long time.



Howard himself has acquired his own top notch magical skills, becoming one of the best card magicians in the world, which has made these relationships possible. Here are some notable quotes:

"Having a session with Howard is not only loaded with great technique but with theory, presentation and is always sparkled with great stories of past masters like Dai Vernon and Larry Jennings"  
- Allan Ackerman

"Howard Hamburg, close friend and confidant of Dai Vernon and Charlie Miller, is one of the finest exponents of sleight of hand card magic that I've ever witnessed. His routines and handlings are original and exceptionally magical."  
- Johnny Thompson

"If affection could be converted to cash, Howard Hamburg would be one of the wealthiest men in the world. As things stand, his finances must continue to depend on his ability to hustle rubes with his diabolical card work."  
- Max Maven

"Card table aficionado and raconteur pretty much sums up Howard Hamburg. On a personal note, though, his knowledge and friendship has been invaluable in my own growth as a student of

magic and I know without a doubt his ideas have been thought out and refined and will become cherished additions to your repertoire."  
- Dave Buck

"Listening to Howard tell stories of Vernon while showing me card tricks over lunch has got to be one of my most fond memories in magic."  
- Dan Buck

"Howard is a great teacher and skilled magician! I look forward to learning more from him soon!"  
- Jeff McBride

"One of the best card men in the world that you've never heard of."  
- Doc Eason

Howard will be sharing many of his experiences with these magical luminaries. Interspersed throughout he will perform and explain effects, including his own techniques and subtleties. See you there!

The meeting will be Monday, January 9th starting at 7 pm. Members are free but non-members and guests are asked to pay a \$20 fee.

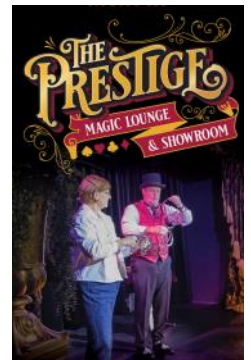


## RING 76

THE HONEST SID GERHART RING



MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP



### 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 8 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.