



# MAGICURRENTS

San Diego Ring 76 February 2023 VOL. XXXVIII # 2

## California Storms alter January meeting From Anticipated Lecture to an Impromptu Magical Evening

President “**Magic Mike**” Stilwell commenced the meeting at 7:00 pm. We were originally looking forward to a lecture by Howard Hamburg however weather conditions had us move that to another date. The new theme of our meeting was *Impromptu Magic*. **Mark Booth** then stood up to update the club about Magic Live and that PCAM will be coming to San Diego and then “**Magic Mike**” then went on to call out the winners of the opportunity drawings.

**Terry Lunceford** was the first performer of the evening who did his famous Bamboo Mat. He used the seemingly innocuous prop to tell a story about Japan, making different shapes appear and vanish to highlight the tale. This has been an audience favorite at Ring 76 for some time and a frequent request of **Terry**.



Terry Lunceford

**Greg Wauson** paused the performers to give a quick lesson on what to do if a spectator steals your rope before you are ready. Audience participation is often tricky for performers particularly when the participant does not act as you expect. **Greg** explained the problem he had and how to avoid it in the future. He then performed and elegant *Ring on Rope* routine and then went on to explain to members how it was done (Greg would later go into a more in-depth presentation after the meeting at Denny's).



Rich Robertson

**Rich Robertson** told a story about when he visited New York City at

night, he would always see at least one magician performing at night. He explained how he saw a newsletter about a magician who packed up early to go home, but before he made it home a thief tried to rob him. So the Magician did what any other magic enthusiast would do. He pulled out a cane and beat the thief with it. **Rich** found out after years of wondering who that magician was in the newspaper.

**Greg Wauson** followed up Rich’s exciting story by performed a napkin effect by Dan Harlan. With seemingly simple folds and tears he managed to make the moon and stars appear. He then passed out napkins to the membership and had a small teach-in to show how to do this quick and effective impromptu effect. One of the benefits of attending Ring meetings is that you almost always learn something new.

**Mark Booth** was next up and ascended the stage to share one of his EDC items. It involved a coin purse with a copper and silver coin. He then placed the silver coin in his pocket, but the silver coin appeared in his hand with the copper coin. In the final round, the coins disappeared and reappeared in the coin purse.

See Meeting, Page 2

### Ring 76 2022-23 Calendar

**February 13th** - Close-Up Competition  
**March 14th, Tuesday** - Howard Hamburg Lecture  
**April 10th** - 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 7

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS  
HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

PUBLISHER - RICHARD USTICK, PROOF READER SHERRY LUFT EMAIL US AT EDITOR@RING76.COM



Meeting from page 1

Steve Rowin shared a story about an effect he would perform. He talked about how sometimes he would show a wrong card, but the spectators were always astonished.

Steve then went on to call up Miguel Garcia and James Stilwell on stage. He had them both sit on a chair and went on to talk about how people can have a connection with each other. He instructed the spectators to be open to touch and when they feel something to raise their hands. They both raised their hands when they felt a touch. They also went on to explain they felt it in the same place and the same amount of times.



James Stilwell Steve Rowan Miguel Garcia

Misha Osinovskiy called David and Alvin Revilas up to assist him. Misha had Alvin select a card without showing anyone else. He then had David touch the back of a card. Alvin then named his card the Queen of Clubs which was in fact what David had touched the



Misha Osinoivskiy

Doc Pearson pulled out two paperclips and a dollar bill. He then went on to tell a story about Sgt. Elastic. He folded the dollar bill and the paperclips were linked together when he unfolded the dollar. Then Doc had Kathy sign a selected card. He pulled out a small wallet with a card that said your card. He then asked Kathy to go through the deck looking for her Seven of Hearts, it was not in the deck. Doc then pulled out his actual wallet which in fact had her signed blue-backed Seven of Hearts.

back of. As an insurance policy Misha left one card tucked in a case, which was in fact the Queen Clubs. He then cut the deck and the Queen flew into the air.



Doc Pearson

Bob Meigs was the final performer for the night and taught the club how to properly perform the arm twist featured in the December 2022 edition of MagiCurrents. Bob called Terry up to assist.

V.P. of Entertainment Greg Wauson then went on to thank members for participating and informed everyone that the theme

for the next meeting is Close-Up Contest, and will be on Monday, February 13th. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm. It was a highly entertaining and pleasant meeting given that the theme had to be changed at such short notice. A special thank you to all those who stepped up to help.

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

### President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,

This month is the Close-Up Contest. We already have eight contestants and people on a waiting list if someone drops out. They will entertain at four tables performing close-up magic.

I'm happy to report we currently have sixty-four paid members in Ring 76, up from fifty-five a year ago.



MARK your calendar, the March meeting will be Tuesday March 14th, which will be our lecture night. This will be TUESDAY not Monday. Immaculate Conception Church has the room that Monday.

I love the nice turnouts to the club meetings. Please keep it up.

Doors are open at 6:30, Meeting starts at 7:00.

Raffle tickets for each member, 50/50 tickets supports your library and the lucky winner gets 50% of the opportunity drawing!

See you Monday, February 13th!

*Mike Stilwell*

Ring 76 President



The few, the proud, the brave have stepped up as this year's *Close-Up Contest* contestants:

1. David Yee
2. Misha Osinovskiy
3. Mark Booth
4. Dale Law
5. Jeff Pearson
6. Ken Intriligator
7. Mago Ruly
8. Vic Terrific

They'll strut their stuff on February 13 on the four tables we'll have set up. Each contestant will rotate to the next table after their performance until they have visited all four. They will have eight minutes for each of their performances, followed by a few minutes for a break, when they can reset and take a breather.

The *Close-Up Contest* is always a fun event and a highlight of the year. It's great to see all eight slots taken, which promises everyone at the meeting a full evening of magic. The First, Second and Third Place winners will be announced at the Installation Banquet in July. The First, Second and Third Place winners will receive medals and cash awards of \$50, \$30 and \$20, respectively. See you there!



Richard Ustick

Greg Wauson

## What's Coming Up

**February:** Our meeting this month is the always fun, always entertaining *Close-Up Contest*. 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, \$30 and \$20, respectively. All eight contestant slots are now filled but if you'd like to be on the wait list, contact Greg at gw83@ring76.com.

**March:** Howard Hamburg lecture! This special treat was scheduled for our January meeting, but due to extreme weather in the San Fernando Valley, where Howard lives, it had to be postponed. He'll be sharing with us not only some great magic, but also stories of his many famous friends in the magic world. **Please note that this meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and NOT on our usual Monday.**

**April:** To be announced.

## The Roadshow is Coming to San Diego

The Roadshow is a one day magic event that has been an incredible hit across the United States, as well throughout Europe and the United Kingdom. The event takes place at the DoubleTree in Mission Valley in Hazard Center on Saturday March 11th and features:

Dirk Losander – The Undisputed Master of Levitation!

Mark Mason - The UK's Legendary Magic Demo Man!

Christian Schenk – Direct from Germany, founder of CardShark and creator of the Phoenix Deck!

and myself, Paul Richards – Roadshow Founder and my super-secret line of magic sold ONLY at live events, just like this!

We'll also be joined by our special guests:

Daisuke Seo – and his incredible, seldom seen magic direct from Japan and across Asia!

As well as - James Kellogg of the San Diego Magic Shop

Best of all the cost of the entire day is only \$10 – which in 2023, is our first impossible feat!



**RING 76**  
THE HONEST SID GERHART RING







# 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

Summary: We made \$53 from the 50/50 drawing this past month however did not do any library sales. I will endeavor to create some additional items to bring to the next meeting to offer for sale to members. We purchased a book, several audiobooks and a DVD video for the library and the Magic Media Server leaving the library petty cash at \$609.96.

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

There were no donations made to the library during the month of January. We need your DVDs and VHS tape donations. They will get put on the Plex server so you will still be able to watch them or check the physical media back out. Please help. Sharing is good! Sharing is fun!

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

The library purchased the highly popular six-volume magic related audiobook series by Gigi Pandian this month. They are:



Ads from the past



The Alchemist's Illusion  
By: Gigi Pandian



The Accidental Alchemist  
By: Gigi Pandian



The Alchemist of Fire and Fortune  
By: Gigi Pandian



The Alchemist of Riddle and Ruin  
By: Gigi Pandian



The Masquerading Magician  
By: Gigi Pandian



The Elusive Elixir  
By: Gigi Pandian

Note: See the audiobook reviews later in this document.

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

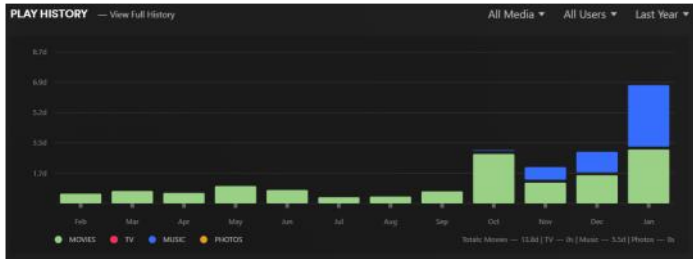
How about donating your magic audio or video media to the library so everyone in the club can share them? You will still have access to them through the *IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server* – even on your smart phone!

See Ex Libris page 5



Ex Libris from page 4

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. Are YOU listening too?



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



We purchased the gigantic (12½” x 20”) 650 page volume of Magic: 1400-1950’s. This is one of the most beautiful volumes on magic ever produced and is now available for check out from your library.

This book celebrates more than 500 years of the dazzling visual culture of the world’s greatest magicians. Featuring over 1,000 rarely seen vintage posters, photographs, handbills, and engravings in one 650-page volume, it traces the history of magic as a performing art from the 1400s to the 1950s. Combining sensational images with lucid and incisive text, *Magic* explores the evolution of the magician’s craft, from medieval street performers to the brilliant stage magicians who gave rise to cinematic special effects; from the 19th century’s *Golden Age of Magic* to groundbreaking daredevils like Houdini and the early 20th century’s vaudevillians.

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 (from Goodreads)



The Accidental Alchemist  
Gigi Pandia

A modern tale of ancient intrigue from a USA Today bestselling author.

When Zoe Faust--herbalist, alchemist, and recent transplant to Portland, Oregon--begins unpacking her bags, she can't help but notice she's picked up a stow away: a living, breathing, three-and-half-foot gargoyle. Dorian Robert-Houdin is no simple automaton, nor is he a homunculus; in fact, he needs Zoe's help to decipher a centuries-old text that explains exactly what he is. Zoe, who's trying to put her alchemical life behind her, isn't so sure she can help. But after a murder victim is discovered on her front porch, Zoe realized she's tangled up in ancient intrigue that can't be ignored. Includes vegan recipes!

"Pandian writes fun, light-hearted mysteries and is an expert at developing sympathetic characters, both major and minor."—Bustle

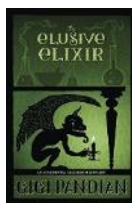


An Accidental Alchemist Mystery # 2  
The Masquerading Magician  
Gigi Pandia

Deciphering an ancient alchemy book is more difficult than Zoe Faust bargained for. She'd much rather be gardening and exploring her new home of Portland, Oregon—but time is running out for living gargoyle Dorian Robert-Houdin. If Zoe isn't able to unlock the alchemy book's secrets soon, the French gargoyle will remain awake but trapped in stone forever.

When Zoe gives herself a rare night out to attend a classic magic show that reminds her of her youth, she realizes the stage magicians are much more than they seem. A murder at the theater leads back to a string of unsolved robberies and murders in Portland's past, and a mystery far more personal than Zoe and Dorian ever imagined.

"Pandian's imaginative third Accidental Alchemist mystery...will please those who like their cozies filled with magic."—Publishers Weekly



An Accidental Alchemist Mystery #3  
The Elusive Elixir  
Gigi Pandian

Dorian Robert-Houdin, the three-and-a-half-foot gargoyle chef who fancies himself a modern-day Poirot, is slowly turning into stone, and it's up to Zoe Faust to unravel the alchemical secrets that can save him. When they discover that a long-lost stone gargoyle with a connection to Dorian has reappeared in Europe, the stakes are even higher. From Portland to Paris, Zoe searches for the hidden knowledge she needs, but a cold case that harkens back to 1942 throws her off course. With an ailing friend desperately trying to discover his own Elixir of Life and a new romantic interest offering the first chance at love she's had in nearly a century, Zoe is torn between a dangerous form of alchemy and her desire for a normal life.

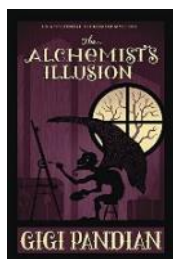
"The unbelievable premise is no problem given the inventive powers of Pandian."—Kirkus Reviews

"A quirky, incredible series...The characters are immensely unique and the writing is A+, so you won't want to miss a word."—Suspense Magazine

See Ex Libre page 6



Ex Libres from page 5



**[An Accidental Alchemist Mystery #4](#)  
**The Alchemist's Illusion**  
**Gigi Pandia****

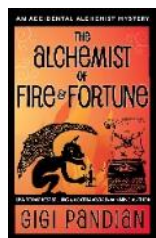
The latest alchemical adventure from Gigi Pandian, *USA Today* bestselling author and winner of the Agatha Award

Centuries-old alchemist Zoe Faust is tired of running from her past. She's finally got her life on track in Portland, Oregon, gardening and cooking in her fixer-upper house with her mischievous best friend, Dorian the gargoyle chef. It seems like the perfect life for Zoe, until she discovers that her old mentor Nicolas Flamel, who she thought had abandoned her, has been imprisoned.

A local artist holds the secret that could lead Zoe to her mentor, but the artist is murdered and the painting containing the hidden clue is stolen. To rescue Nicolas, Zoe and Dorian must explore art forgery, a transformative process that has much in common with alchemy and cooking—but one that proves far more dangerous.

*Includes delicious vegan recipes!*

*"Surprising plot twists, several cliffhangers, and vivid magical imagery will keep fans of paranormal cozies turning the pages."—Publishers Weekly*



**[An Accidental Alchemist Mystery #5](#)  
**The Alchemist of Fire and Fortune**  
**Gigi Pandian****

*The Goonies meets Charade in the latest Accidental Alchemist Mystery*

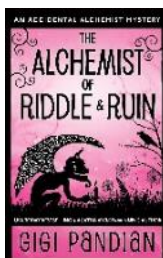
*A blackmailer obsessed with gold. A boyfriend who's more than he seems. And a treasure hidden on the Oregon coast.*

Alchemist Zoe Faust's mentor Nicolas Flamel is back in her life, but catching up with him will have to wait. An elusive blackmailer has threatened to expose a dangerous alchemical secret. Zoe's boyfriend is out of town protecting secrets of his own. So, when rumors of a treasure map reach Zoe, she turns her back on what sounds like no more than a game.

Zoe's mischievous living gargoyle best friend Dorian, who thinks of himself as a modern-day Poirot, is convinced the map is real—and that it's the key to proving himself as valuable to Zoe as her human family. With the help of the neighborhood teenagers, Dorian sets out to find the treasure, risking more than he planned in the process. Rumors, treasures, and secrets intersect to unearth more than Zoe could have dreamed—and could leave her family changed forever.

Can Zoe stop the threat to the family unit she's created?

*"Sparkles most when it stays true to the wonder of its magical subject."—Foreword Reviews*



**[An Accidental Alchemist Mystery #6](#)  
**The Alchemist of Riddle and Ruin**  
**Gigi Pandian****

When Zoe Faust sees the ghost of a murdered young woman, is it really a spirit—or a flesh and blood woman who stopped aging because she's a fellow alchemist?

Sixteen years ago, high school student Ridley Price discovered a secret she planned to reveal through a party game—but someone killed her first. The baffling crime was never solved. Zoe's friend Heather has always wondered: which of the seven guests at the party killed Ridley? When the newly-appeared ghost turns dangerous, threatening people they love, Zoe teams up with her gargoyle roommate Dorian to unmask the supposed specter.

*"Pandian paints a lovely picture of relationships throughout the book's mystery of greed and violence."—New York Journal of Books*

**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.co](mailto:ring76members@googlegroups.co).

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.co](mailto:librarian@ring76.co)

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. Please include your name for proper credit.*

## Scarf-thru-Neck

**Props** Although called *Scarf-Thru-Neck*, this trick can be done with a neck scarf, necktie, chain, or rope. I use a necktie, because it's easy to do, and a necktie doesn't look like a magic prop.

**Effect** The performer wraps the tie around someone's neck (preferable *your own*, unless you have great confidence in your abilities), and then appears to pull it *thru* the neck. (I will describe the routine as if you are performing on yourself, with a necktie.) If you perform it on someone else, I recommend that you pull the tie ends *very gently!!!*

**Method** Put the tie around the back of your neck, with the wide-end hanging in front on your left, the narrow end on your right, and the wide-end about 12 inches longer than the narrow side. Cross your arms, putting your left arm *under* the wide-side of the tie, and your right arm on top of the left. Grasp the wide-side of the tie with your right hand, and the narrow side with your left.

Move the wide-side of the tie to the right. With your *right thumb*, make a loop in the wide side of the tie, and move this loop around the right side of your head to the *back* of your neck. Allow the remainder of the wide side of the tie to hang *in front* of you (now on the *right*),

With our *left hand*, move the narrow end of the tie *under* the end the hanging wide end, around the *right* side of your head (your forearm will pass *over* your head). Take the narrow end *over* the loop, and drop it in front of you on the *left*.

The tie now appears to encircle your neck, but as you pull the two ends of the tie *gently*, it appears to *pass thru* your neck. If you haven't choked yourself, you have done everything correctly; *you've performed the scarf-thru-neck*.

*Thank you to Bob Meigs for this contribution to our magical education.*



## Shavings of the Board

*Your Ring 76 Board of Directors meets via Zoom every fourth Monday of the month (except December). It is at this time that Ring business and planning takes place and the general membership is welcome to attend. Shavings is a highlight of the most recent Board meeting and not the complete reporting of all business discussed.*

January 23, 2023

The January board meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President "**Magic Mike**" Stilwell. After an approval of the Minutes of the last Board meeting Treasurer **Miguel Garcia** reported on the health of the Ring accounts, "**Magic Mike**" reported that we had forty members and guests at the January meeting, Second V.P. (Membership) **James Thayer** reported that we had sixty-four active member at this time. Librarian **Gary Salisbury** shared his library report which can be read on page 4 in this current issue. Gary proudly reported that the Ring now had one hundred and sixty audio-books on the Plex server. If any members needs assistance on how to login to the Plex server please follow the *Dummy Guide on How to get on the Plex* server, Reach out on the Ring 76 google group, or ask a Board Member.

First V.P. (Entertainment), **Greg Wauson** gave a report on the success of the January meeting despite the last minute change in theme. We had eight performers step up for January's *Impromptu Magic* night. **Greg** mentioned it seemed that people had a good time and were understanding due to Howard's need to postpone due to the weather situation.. The theme for February is the **Close-Up Contest** and the March meeting, *which will be held on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>*, will have Howard Hamburg come down to lecture.

### OLD BUSINESS

"**Magic Mike**" asked the Board who where we are at on the Quality Ring Award and that **Matthew King** will be stepping down from the Ring Magic Store website. As no other Ring members have shown an interest in this project the website will be shut down. A special thank you to Matthew for all the work he did on this over the last few years. "**Magic Mike**" then asked how the Templates for job descriptions are coming along and that the finished copies will go into the President's binder along with any important passwords. **Alvin** has a friend who owns a print shop. He has agreed to print out 500 color copies of the Ring brochures for free if we bring him any future business.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Magic Mike** asked **Anthony** if he would get together with **Matthew** to find out what the Quality Ring Award needs to finished. **Mark** and **Gary** mentioned that PCAM will be coming to San Diego and what can we do as the local club in San Diego to help support PCAM.

*See Shavings page 8*



Shavings from page 7

The final order of business was the annual *Close-Up Contest* (See page 3 for more information on this event).

The performers will rotate and stroll between each table. The time allowed for each performance according to the bylaws will be eight minutes. Thus allowing for time to reset. There will be a cash prize for 1st-3rd place. Voting will take place the night of the contest.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

### Ring 76 Magic Shop Website Closed for Now.



It is with a sad note that the Ring 76 Board of Directors announced the closing of the Ring’s online magic store.

Matthew King has been operating this Ring resource for the last few years, however with his increasingly busy post-pandemic schedule he is no longer able to carry-

on. The call went out for other Ring members to take up the task but as there were no takers the store, for now, will be taken off line. The Board hopes to reopen the on-line site sometime in the near future.

### Important notice

Our January lecture by Howard Hamburg had to be rescheduled due to the harsh weather conditions Southern California suffered at that time. The new lecture date will be March 14th at seven o’clock at the usual place, the Immaculate Conception Church but NOT the usual day. **This meeting will be on Tuesday and not Monday.** Please mark your calendars appropriately.



Mark Booth

## Tricks you just don't see anymore

Those of us who have collected magic books and magazines over the years have noticed a number of illusions and routines that were once quite popular, but that either nobody does today or with the changing times nobody really *can do* today.

With that in mind, I would like to occasionally feature tricks or routines that have fallen into the dustbins of magic history. First off, I would like to talk about the *Cigarette Tricks*.

### Cig - Production Gimmick

CIGARETTE CATCHING GIMMICK



Not that long ago, for those of you not in your middle youth, cigarettes were as common place as, well ash trays and matches. Tricks, flourishes, and routines involving cigarettes were as expected as card flourishes and coin passes. As a great many people smoked you could easily barrow a “coffin nail” from any size audience and magicians such as Tom Mullica and Mario Lopez made their reputations on using *Joels* (slang from Joe the Camel) . Books abounded on the subject, children’s magic sets featured cigarette catchers, and even Tarbell devoted a whole volume on the subject.



With the crackdown on smoking in the late 1960s and the almost criminalization of any public displays of *bones* (another slang term) the odds are that you may actually have audiences where cigarettes are as scarce as a woman’s gloves or a gentleman’s

bowler. Two whole generations have now grown up not including any cigarette tricks in their lexicons.

**Now I am not advocating for a return to smoking.** I am just pointing out that at one time, not so long ago, there was a whole culture bult around cigarettes and smoking paraphernalia. Even souvenir match books and match book tricks have been all but erased for our collection of impromptu routines, and that makes me a little nostalgic. The price of getting older.



Do you have a magic trick or routine that you fondly remember but that is no longer done any longer? Particularly one that is gone due to changing times? If so then please drop me an e-mail at *Tricks that are gone, Ring76IBM@yahoo.com*.



## More Pictures form the January Meeting.



Charlie Gott choses from the treasures of Honest Sid Gerhart



Bob Meigs shows Terry how to Twist an Arm



Terry Lunceford and Greg Wauson make stars and moons from paper napkins

## Thank you to this month's photographer

Once again I would like to thank **James Thayer** for providing the pictures for this month's *MagiCurrents*.

The Editors of *MagiCurrents* cannot assemble this publication alone and thank all the members who contribute to it. - ed



White rabbit springs from George Coon's silk hat as a gag to mock the orthodox white-rabbit trick. He further mystifies Ruth McKay with vanishing card-face trick.

George Coon, Life Magazine, April 30, 1945

**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 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.