



# MagiCurrents

SAN DIEGO RING 76    MARCH 2023    VOL. XXXVIII # 3

## March Meeting A Special Lecture on a Different Night

Did someone say “déjà vu”? The lecture by Howard Hamburg for our January meeting was postponed due to severe weather where Howard lives. Fortunately for us, Howard is able to present his lecture for us on **TUESDAY, March 14**. Yes, that will be on a **TUESDAY** night, since the church where we meet won't be available for us on our usual Monday meeting night.

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 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!

### President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,

Two important things to note this month: We have a lecture with Howard Bamberg. The second is that this month our meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14th and **NOT** the usual Monday. We are giving up our meeting hall for Lent this year (at the church's request). Howard is so knowledgeable, you don't want to miss him!

We had eight contestants for our Close-Up contest and a great turn out from our club and guests!

I'm happy to report we have 65 paid members in Ring 76. (55 a year ago) I repeat...**MARK** your calendar...The March meeting will be Tuesday March 14th, which will be our lecture night....**TUESDAY** not **MONDAY**. I love the nice turn outs to the club meetings, Please keep it up. Doors are open at 6:30, Meeting starts at 7:00.

We will have five Raffle tickets for each member, and 50/50 tickets which supports your library.

See you *Tuesday* March 14th!

*Mike Stilwell*

Ring 76 President

### Ring 76 2022 Calendar

March 14th - *Tuesday*, Hamburg Lecture

April 10th - Teach-A-Trick with a Twist \*  
(See Pg 4 for details)

May 8th - Stand-Up Contest

\*Opportunity for Members to Perform  
Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. of Entertainment, Greg Wauson.

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## Close-up Contest A Stand-up Success

February is traditionally the month of love AND the month of Ring 76's Close-up Contest. A time when every member in good standing has the opportunity to display their talents for praise and awards. This February was no different as we had eight of our most talented magicians enthralling an audience of over forty members and guests.



President "Magic Mike" Stilwell opened up the meeting at 7pm. He announced several items. First, Charlie Gott had a stroke and Rich Robertson provided get well cards for the members to sign. Secondly, the Wheelchair Regatta at the Silvergate Yacht Club is looking for volunteer magicians to perform on June 4, 2023. The

event will be from 10am-2pm and the magicians will be performing in 2 hour increments. Dale Law, "Magic Mike", Miguel Garcia, Matthew King, Alvin Revilas, and Greg Wauson were the entertainers last year and "Magic Mike" is seeking volunteers for this year's event. (See article on page 6).

Next, "Magic Mike" welcomed **Richard Wira** back to the meeting. Richard has had some health issues and we were all glad to see him in top form.

Lastly, A reminder about our lecture on March 14 that will be **held on Tuesday** and not on our usual Monday night.

The First act on the program was the audition of **David Yee**. All new members are required to demonstrate their magical talents before acceptance in the Ring. David impressed us all with a rope routine that showed he will be a valuable addition to this magical fraternity. David was voted in unanimously. Congratulations.



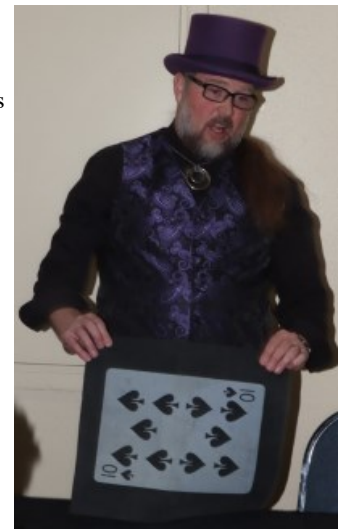
After the business of the Ring was taken care of it was time for our Close-up Contest. This is one of two formal contests Ring 76 hosts each year and it is always a highlight. Each of the eight contestants performed at four tables. They had eight minutes for each performance. The Ring members then vote for whom they think were the best performers and the First, Second, and Third place winners will be announced at the Installation Banquet in July.

"Mago Ruly" worked with cards. He located them, changed the color of the decks and did an ambitious card routine.



**David Yee** also performed a card routine where he had spectators shuffle cards and he named all 6 of the spectators' cards. Then, he had a chosen card rise from the deck. Finally, David performed "Twisting the Aces".

"Mr. Funtastic" wanted to make a "connection with the crowd". He did multiple selection routines with a finale of a color changing deck, from a red card in a purple deck.



See Meeting Page 3

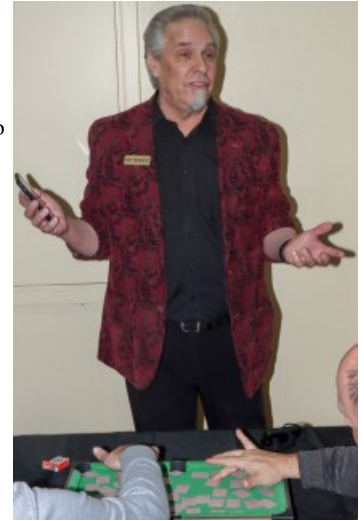


*Meeting from Page 2*

**Mark Booth** started with a prediction hidden in a box and matched the card. Then, he solved the Rubik's Cube "without looking."



**"Vic Terrific"** started with a \$1 to \$100 act. Next, he did an "Impossible Prediction" act with tiny cards on a mini pool table.



**Misha Osinovskiy** did a combination of numerous ambitious card routines with the card jumping into the box.



**"Magic Doc"** was all "about trust". with a card show concluding with a rendition of "A Trick that can't be explained."



Gary Salisbury did the opportunity drawings, and with that the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Acting Secretary, Sherry Luft

**Ken Intriligator** entertained us with a physics theme routine which included a pen disappeared and appeared in a variety of phases. The second half of his act was a multi-faceted coin routine.





# Ring 76 Close-Up Competition Contestants for 2023



## What's Coming Up

**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, the lecture 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. This will be on TUESDAY, March 14.

**April: Teach-A-Trick, but with a twist.** For the first time, this will be a performance night, where Ring 76 members will vote for their favorite magical presenter of the evening. These votes will count towards the Performer of the Year award, which will be announced at our Installation Banquet in July. If you would like to present an effect and then teach it to everyone, email the V.P. of Entertainment, Greg Wauson, at gw83@ring76.com.

**May: Stand-Up Contest.** We are thrilled to present our stand-up contest once again! Each contestant will have ten minutes to entertain the crowd with his or her amazing illusions and Ring 76 members will then vote for their favorite performance. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place: \$50, \$30 and \$20, respectively. Winners will be announced at the installation banquet in July. Email Greg at gw83@ring76.com if you would like to compete.

## Strolling Magic Volunteers Needed at April Luncheon

Ring 76 enjoys a special relationship with the *Church of the Immaculate Conception*, where we meet monthly. They provide the venue and our part is to provide entertainment as needed at their events. Awhile back a few of us provided close-up walkaround magic at their luncheon and I experienced the joy of delighting many of the people there with a sense of wonder. How fun it is to perform our craft for an appreciative audience! Our next opportunity to bring the magic for them is at their luncheon on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We again need several strolling magicians to volunteer for about an hour and if you'd like to be one of them, please contact Greg at gw83@ring76.com.



**RING 76**  
THE HONEST SID GERHART RING



MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP



# 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 & Expenditures-----ON GOING**  
We made \$68 from the 50/50 drawing and \$12.00 in library sales this past month. We purchased ink for the library printer which leaves the petty cash at \$613.47.

**Library Donations-----ON GOING**  
There was a donation of over 1,000 non-magic audiobooks to the library during the month of February. We are cataloging them and will determine what to do with them later. Would you like to see them on the Plex server? Please let me know what you think.

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 did not purchase any media for the Magic Media Server this month. The recently donated magic-oriented audiobook collection (160 books) is now available on the Magic Media Server for streaming to your computer, tablet, or smart phone. We have also received a non-magic audiobook donation of over 1,500 audiobooks and I am working to catalog them now. I

will decide later whether to make them available on the Magic Media Server.

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).



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!

**IBM Ring 76 Magic Library-----ON GOING**  
No book purchases were made for the Magical Arts Library this month.

**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.

### 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!

See Ex Libris page 6

Ex Libris from page 5

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.

## A Little Magical History

Rick Neiswonger (b. 1951) was a semi-professional magician beginning in 1967 performing stage hypnotism, closeup, and stand-up comedy magic and has worked under the names “Slick Rick” (a riverboat gambler close-up act) and “Ricky Penn” (pickpocket and hypnosis acts).

While working in sales and marketing in St. Louis, Missouri in the 1960s and he wrote articles for *New Tops* during 1960s and 1970s.

In the 1970s, with then wife Sue, developed a magical variety show “Captain Space and Solar Sue” featuring illusions, animals, and comedy. They appeared in golden space suits, top boots, space helmets and with a space capsule and a ginger cat.

See more about Captain Space and Solar Sue on MagicPedia.

## Strolling Magicians Needed for Wheelchair Regatta



Each year, for the past 50 years, the Silver Gate Yacht Club on Shelter Island hosts the Wheelchair Regatta. This is a very big special event in which hundreds of disabled individuals enjoy a day on the bay with a ride on a yacht, lunch, music, and friendship, at no cost to them. Last year several volunteers from Ring 76 entertained the people there with strolling magic. This was a great time, bringing some magic into the lives of others to make the event even more special. In fact, it went so well that

we’re doing it again this year! You are invited to volunteer for a two-hour time slot as a strolling magician. No, you don’t have to provide a yacht (their use for the day is donated by yacht club members); you just bring the magic!

This year’s Wheelchair Regatta will be held on Sunday, June 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Silver Gate Yacht Club, 2091 Shelter Island Drive. Contact Greg Wauson at [gw83@ring76.com](mailto:gw83@ring76.com) to sign up.



CAPTAIN SPACE and SOLAR SUE  
“Magical Variety Show”

# Ring 76 Needs YOU !!



I know, I know, this has nothing to do with the message but it is an old advertising ploy and this is an important announcement.

Each year Ring 76 does its best to provide the magic community with top notch entertainment, education and community involvement. This task is coordinated by the Board of Directors, and these fine men and women are elected from the ranks of Ring 76. It is the devotion and energy of this Board that makes your membership well worth the fee you pay every year.

Elections for the Board will be coming up in June and it is time for you to step up and do your part for the Ring that has given you so much enjoyment these last twelve months. We need members for positions such as Sergeant-at-Arms, Secretary, Vice-Presidents of Membership and Entertainment, Treasurer, and of course President.

These offices are not a large drain on your limited free time. Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month via ZOOM, which is a big help in coordinating efforts while minimizing time and expense. The Board strives to get the most out of everyone with the least amount of effort.

You have received a lot of advantages by being members of IBM Ring 76 so now is the time to give something back. Run for office and you can move your organization along a path you like. You can help shape the new year and continue to make Ring 76 a Ring we are all proud to be members of.

If you have any questions about the election process or what the office you might be interested in serving as, contact me, the editor of MagiCurents at [Editor@Ring76.com](mailto:Editor@Ring76.com). I will gladly answer any questions you have.

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A Special thanks this month to James Thayer for the pictures of the Close-Up Contest. The Editors of MagiCurents appreciate the help of all our members.



**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 Hornbrook featuring delicious entrée choices including:

- Roasted Prime Rib
- French Onion Chicken
- Vegetarian Lasagna
- Gourmet Mac and Cheese

Dinner is served in our grand showroom. Spirits and specialty drinks available. Witness highly acclaimed, award winning magicians amaze and dazzle every night!

**SAVE 50%**

Use Promo Code:  
**Prestige50**

We are excited to be here and to celebrate we are offering 50% off EVERY night!

This promo code may end without notice. Cannot be combined with other offers.

## More pictures of the February Close-Up Contest

