



# MagiCurrents

SAN DIEGO RING 76

MAY 2023

VOL. XXXVIII # 5

## Show and Tell Highlights April Meeting

April's Ring meeting was a different take on the *Teach-a-Trick* theme done in the past. Not only were members encouraged to perform, but then to teach the effect to the assembled members.

President "Magic Mike" Stilwell started the meeting, and we had over thirty five members and guests.

The first order of business was the announcement by "Joe Mystic" that "Mr. Funtastic" has completed his apprenticeship and is now on his own doing "funtastic" shows around San Diego. While that was good news for him, it was bad news for Joe as he now needs a new "roadie" to help him with the props he uses for his performances. Anyone looking for a chance to learn magic and performing skills, while being paid, should contact "Joe Mystic" as soon as possible.

"**Magic Mike**" then announced that our Installation Banquet will be held on Monday, July 10 at Immaculate Conception Church Hall and will be catered by Olive Garden. **Mark Booth** is in charge of this event and estimates that the price has been set at \$24. Unfortunately we will have our banquet on Monday and the time restraints mean there will be no Chili Cook Off this year, though we hope to have it during our Holiday Potluck in December. You can RSVP at the May and June meetings with a final head count at the end of June. Once the final count is made we can host no more guests so get your reservations into Mark as soon as possible.

Next, the nominating committee of **Rich Robertson**, **Richard Ustick** and **Sherry Luft** was announced. **Richard** explained the rules of being on the Board of Directors and announced the slate of candidates the Board of Directors proposed as required by the Constitution of Ring 76.

The suggested candidates were;

- President- Josh Sherwin
- 1st V.P. of Entertainment-Mike Stilwell
- 2nd V.P. of Membership-James Thayer
- Secretary-TBD
- Treasurer-Miguel Garcia
- Sgt-at-arms-Mark Booth
- Members-at-large-Gary Salisbury, Misha Osinovskiy.

This is only a suggestion and any member in good standing can run for any office, with the exception of president which requires the holding of a previous Board seat.

After all the election business was concluded we had our Opportunity Drawing. Member-at-Large and Librarian **Gary Salisbury** seems to have an endless supply of quality magic for these drawings and congratulations to everyone who won.



*David Yee Wins Opportunity*

Next up **Charley Miller** auditioned for membership to Ring 76. Performing with a comic flair, Charley's act consisted of card flourishes, a torn and restored card routine, and a spectator's selected card appearing on an insurance policy. Charley was voted in as our newest member of Ring 76. Congratulations and welcome.



See *Meeting* Page 2

### *Ring 76 2022 Calendar*

May 8th - Stand-Up Contest (see pg 7)

June 12th - Mentalism \* (See pg 3)

July 10th - Installation Banquet (See pg 8)

Magicians Needed (See pg 6 & 8)

\*Opportunity for Members to Perform

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. of Entertainment, Greg Wauson.

**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 Continued from Page 1*

The business portion of the meeting now over it was time for fun and education. The first performer was **David Yee** who did an "experiment" with the help of **David Lane**.

He taught an "Out of this World" variation based on Harry Lorayne's "Out of this Universe", using the Gilbreath principle.



The second entertainer, **Michael Johnson**, had us laughing with his roast of several members. He demonstrated that magic shows should first be entertaining. Using sleight of hand with a ping pong ball, Michael made it seem that his eye kept popping out.



The fifth magician was **Mark Booth** whose routine was Simon Aronson's "Prior Commitment" with a kicker ending added by Mark. Rich Robertson and Miguel Garcia assisted him. Then,



"**Magic Doc**" Pearson (above) demonstrated a favorite effect, Dai Vernon's "Think of a Card" with thirteen outs. Julia Simms helped him.



Next was **Paul Dwork** who did a tribute to Michael Skinner. He did the first effect Michael taught him, a rendition of a stubborn knot in a silk.

The last act was "**Mr. Funtastic**" who did a routine called "Shanghai Coins" with the help of an assistant reminiscent of the fabulous "Bumper the Baffling Bunny", a San Diego favorite from times gone by.

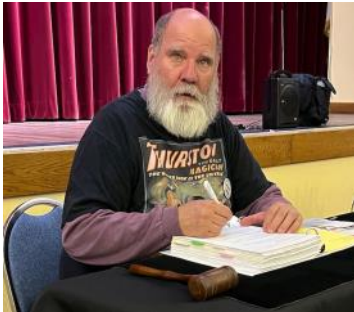


The fourth performer was **Bob Meigs** who entertained us with two versions of "Professor's Nightmare" with a scientific approach.



The meeting ended at 8:54pm.

*Acting Secretary, Sherry Luft with the help from Miguel Garcia*



## President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,  
STEP RIGHT UP!!!

Well friends, it's that time of the year when we are still looking for new blood for the board members of Ring 76. The Board has made its recommendations and the Election Committee presented them to the membership, as the Constitution requires, but these are only recommendations and any member in good standing can throw your hat in the ring. Please talk to our nominating committee (Ring76ibm@yahoo.com) if you have any questions, or speak up at the next meeting. The Board meets via ZOOM once a month and you can help mold this magic fraternity into what you want.

I am also happy to report that while last month I reported that we had 70 paid members, as of this month we have 71!

Mark your calendar, Monday July 10th, 2023 will be our Installation Banquet. We will have top notch entertainment, install new officers, and present the awards for all of our contests this past year. It will be a catered event by Olive Garden and it will cost only \$24.00 per person (members and non-members alike). If you are planning to attend, please contact Mark Booth as we need an accurate head count as soon as possible. We will be limited to the number of people who can attend (size and Fire regulations) but there should be room for all the members and guests who want to come. So bring your checks to the next 2 meetings and let Mark know how many people in your group are coming!



Ring 76 is governed and organized by its members through an elected Board of Directors. Your Board shapes the meetings and activities of the Ring. If you have ideas on what you want your Ring to be like, then it is time for you to step up and offer your services. If you are interested, then talk to any Board member at the next meeting.

One more thing in this election season, at the June meeting all members will be voting for Member of the Year, so start thinking about who has contributed the most to the Ring and the San Diego magic community. Any member in good standing is eligible for your vote, except for me of course as I was honored by you all last year. As a result, I will be awarding the person you feel deserves the recognition of Ring 76 Member of the Year.

See you at our next meeting, Monday May 8th for The Stand up Contest!

Also FIVE raffle prizes and of course our famous 50/50 opportunity drawing and goodies and great deals for sale at our library table!

See you soon!

*Mike Stilwell*

Ring 76 President

## What's Coming Up

**May: Stand-Up Contest.** We are pleased to present our **Stand-up Contest** once again! Each contestant will have eight 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 at Church Luncheon.** At the time of this writing, the May 1 luncheon at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, where we hold our monthly meetings and where five Ring 76 members will be entertaining with strolling magic, is still in the future. But by the time you receive this newsletter, it will be recent history. We'll share with you in the June newsletter how this fun event went.

**June: Mentalism!** Yep, this is a theme we haven't used for awhile. This is a very broad category which includes mind reading, mind control, telepathy and memory feats, among other capabilities. So get out your Mental Epic, Key-R-Rect, color vision block or any of hundreds of other terrific mentalism tricks and be prepared to amaze us.

**July: Installation Banquet!** The venue, day of the week, time of day and so many other things are different from last year, but it's still our always-fun meeting where we install our new officers, eat great food and watch an entertaining magic show. Refer elsewhere in this newsletter for an article specifically about this event. Big news: we've just booked **Jeff Hobson**, one of the world's funniest comedy magicians, to be our performer!!



# 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 2,000 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?

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

Jay Malone donated \$150 for the purchase of more Masterclass video lectures. Thank you, Jay! You set a fine example.

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!

### Funding & Expenditures-----ON GOING

We made \$68 from the 50/50 drawing but nothing in library sales this past month. We purchased three magic related audiobooks and eight Masterclass video lectures.

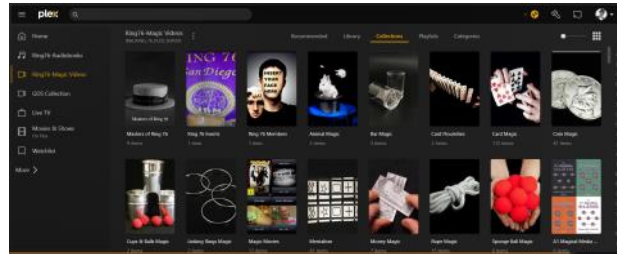
### IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server-----ON GOING

The library purchased three magic related audiobooks this month. They are; *The War Magician*, by David Fisher; *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, by Michael Chabon; and *The Wizard’s Butler*, by Nathan Lowell. We also purchased eight Masterclass video lectures that were 50% off. They are: Jason Ladanye, Kainoa Harbottle, Mario Marchese, Woody Aragon, Carisa Hendrix, Marc Paul, Andi Gladwin, and Allan Ackerman.

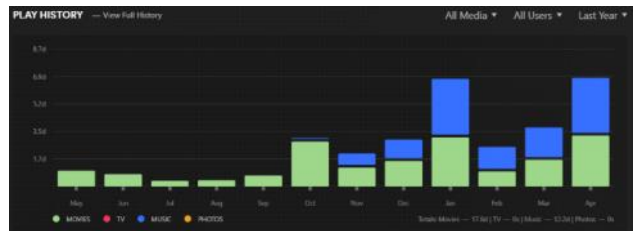
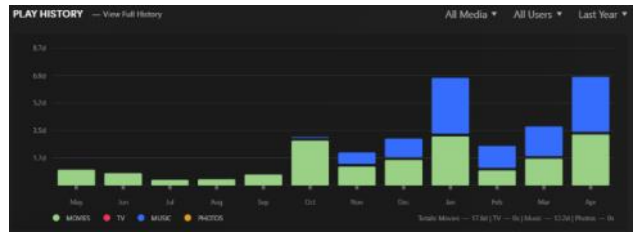
These items will be put on the *IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server* for you to stream to your favorite device.

Note: See the audiobook reviews in this document.

How would YOU like to be featured in the Ring 76 Magic Media Server? Just forward any of your performance videos to me and I will put them on the server under our Ring 76 Member’s section where everyone can see you work your magic. Come on, this will be fun. I would like to see at least one video from every member here.



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). This was the highest utilization since we have brought the server online.



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

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

No paper book purchases were made or donations for the Magical Arts Library this month.

### Loch David Crane Estate -----CLOSED

I am serving as the contact point between Ring 76 and the Probate Attorney for Loch David Crane. We just heard from the Court and I am afraid it is bad news for us.

#### In summary:

Loch died without a formal will and was declared intestate by the Court. He had two heirs, a paternal cousin (here in San Diego) and a maternal cousin (back in Michigan). Normally, under these circumstances, the proceeds would be equally split between the survivors.

However, the San Diego cousin found a hand written will, after he was declared intestate, dividing his assets as he wished. This is where he wanted us to have his magic book collection.

See *Ex Libris* page 5



*Ex Libris* from page 4

Also of note, the Michigan cousin was not mentioned in the handwritten will but the San Diego cousin was.

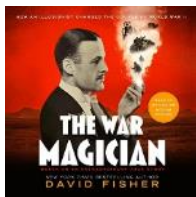
The Probate Court has decided that his handwritten will was not submitted to the Court in time and declared it invalid, never mind what Loch's intentions were. Under those circumstances, the Court will probably divide his assets equally between the two cousins.

If you knew Loch, you wouldn't think he was worth a lot of money but I was surprised to hear that at the time of death, his assets were around five-million-dollars. With the spike in real estate values, that number will most likely be closer to the ten-million-dollar mark today.

So where does that leave us? Out in the cold I am afraid. However, my intentions are to contact the San Diego cousin and see if she would like to donate his magic books to our library, per his wishes.

On a personal note, if you want your final wishes to be followed, then do it legally with an attorney or they may not be, as in Loch's case.

**AUDIOBOOK REVIEWS**



**The War Magician**  
by David Fisher

How an Illusionist Changed the Course of World War II

Based on an extraordinary true story and soon to be a major film produced by and starring Benedict Cumberbatch, *The War Magician* is the remarkable tale of the man who used the powers of illusion to fight the Nazis—and created the most remarkable feat of legerdemain since the Trojan Horse.

When England went to war against Hitler in 1939, it mobilized its entire military and industrial resources. But there was no place in that vast army for legendary stage magician Jasper Maskelyne, whose family was renowned for creating modern theatrical illusions. Maskelyne was determined to fight the Nazis using his only weapon: he intended to apply the techniques of popular magic to the battlefield. Initially ignored and ridiculed by the staid military leadership, he eventually cajoled his way into the Camouflage Section and was sent to the western desert, where he created a new type of warfare.

With his small group of artists, the Magic Gang, Maskelyne designed and developed ingenious weapons, then tricked the Desert Fox, General Rommel, and his fabled Afrika Korps into believing there were tanks and battleships where there were none, concealed the Suez Canal, and even successfully "moved" Alexandria harbor.

But it required all his skills to pull off perhaps the largest and most complex magic trick in history. As General Bernard

Montgomery told Maskelyne on the eve of the Battle of El Alamein, "The entire war will turn on what happens here. What I am about to ask you to do is impossible. It can't be done, but it must be done. I hope you've brought your magic wand with you."

This is the fact-based story of the illusion that won the war in the desert.

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**The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay**  
by Michael Chabon

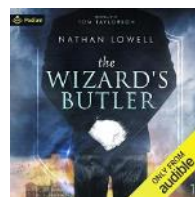
Pulitzer Prize, Fiction, 2001

It's 1939, in New York City. Joe Kavalier, a young artist who has also been trained in the art of Houdinesque escape, has just pulled off his greatest feat: smuggling himself out of Hitler's Prague. He's looking to make big money, fast, so that he can bring his family to freedom. His cousin, Brooklyn's own Sammy Clay, is looking for a partner in creating the heroes, stories, and art for the latest novelty to hit the American dreamscape: the comic book.

Inspired by their own fantasies, fears, and dreams, Kavalier and Clay create the Escapist, the Monitor, and the otherworldly Mistress of the Night, Luna Moth, inspired by the beautiful Rosa Saks, who will become linked by powerful ties to both men. The golden age of comic books has begun, even as the shadow of Hitler falls across Europe.

*The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* is a stunning novel of endless comic invention and unforgettable characters, written in the exhilarating prose that has led critics to compare Michael Chabon to Cheever and Nabokov. In Joe Kavalier, Chabon has created a hero for the century.

©2012 Brilliance Audio, Inc. (P)2000 Michael Chabon



**The Wizard's Butler**  
by Nathan Lowell

Winner of 2021 Voice Arts Award, Audiobook Narration — Fantasy

"He thinks he's a wizard," they said. For five grand a month and a million-dollar chaser, Roger Mulligan didn't care how crazy the old geezer was. All he had to do was keep Joseph Perry Shackelford alive and keep him from squandering the estate for a year. But they didn't tell him about the pixies.

©2021 Nathan Lowell (P)2021 Podium Audio

Be sure to check out these excellent magic related audiobooks on the *IBM Ring 76 Magic Media Server*. They are also suitable for younger audiences.

See *Ex Libris* page 6



Ex Libris from page 5

**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*



IBM Ring 76 Board Member-at-Large

IBM Ring 76 Librarian

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

Cell: 619-569-6035

CREDES QUOD HABES, ET HABES

*What you believe is real, is real.*

*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.)*



"The real trick is keeping them out of my garden. Can you do that one?"

**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 literally hundreds of disabled individuals enjoy a day on the bay with lunch, music, friendship, and a ride on a yacht, all provided 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 they invited us back! We have three Ring 76 members signed up so far to volunteer for a two-hour time slot as strolling magicians but there's room for a few more. 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 join the fun.



# CONTEST TIME!

Our annual stand-up competition will be held at the general membership meeting on May 8. We currently have six brave individuals signed up and there can be a maximum of eight, so there is room for you! Contact Greg Wauson at gw83@ring76.com to throw your hat into the ring. Keep in mind even if you do not win, you will benefit from the stage time in front of a live and friendly audience! Here are the rules:

1. The V.P. of entertainment, or his proxy, will be the contest chair.
2. Any member in good standing is welcome to compete.
3. The order of each contestant's appearance in the standup contest will be determined by a random drawing prior to the commencement of the contest.
4. Contestants may choose to perform on the stage or on the floor in front of it.
5. Contestants are welcome to provide their own sound systems or coordinate with someone else to bring one.
6. Each contestant will have eight minutes to perform.
7. An announcer will announce each contestant's name, initiating the beginning of the performance. The announcer will call out the seven-minute time, indicating one minute is left. Exceeding the eight-minute time limit will automatically disqualify the contestant.
8. All Ring 76 members at the meeting will be provided with a ballot upon which they will write the name of one contestant.
9. All ballots will be collected and counted by the contest chair. The total votes for each contestant will determine that person's score.
10. The cash prizes will be \$50, \$30 and \$20 for the contestant with the first, second and third most votes, respectively.
11. The winners will be announced and awarded their prizes at the Installation Banquet in July.

12. All decisions concerning interpretations of, and exceptions to, these rules will be made by the contest chair.

Good luck, or as they say in magic parlance, break a thread!

## Dues!



April Showers bring May Flowers. And May Flowers bring...Ring 76 Dues notices? Well, to be honest, there is no causal link, but nevertheless, it is that time of year again.. Dues are due as of June 30th and we hope as every member will renew by that date.

The amount is for Ring 76 annual dues is \$30 (\$15 for junior members and \$15 for non-resident members.) We have three ways to pay. 1) You can pay by mail: make a check out to "IBM Ring 76" and send it to:

Ring 76  
c/o James Thayer  
9556 Babauta Road  
San Diego, CA 92129

OR 2) You can send your dues via PayPal by sending payment to payments@ring76.com (Please put "Dues" in the comments section.)

OR 3) You can pay **James Thayer** directly when you see him at a Ring Meeting.

He accepts cash and checks.

If you have recently joined Ring 76 and paid \$30 for your dues, you are already covered the Membership Year 2023-24.

*James Thayer*





# Installation Banquet in July

Important information YOU need to know !

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Ring 76's 2023 Installation Banquet is drawing near and it's time to start making plans.

This year's Installation of Officers and Presentation of Awards is being held on Monday, July 10 at our regular meeting location, Immaculate Conception Church in Old Town. Our banquet will be catered by Olive Garden. The menu will include:



- House Salad
- Breadsticks
- Lasagna Classico
- Fettuccine Alfredo or Five Cheese Ziti al Forno
- Iced Tea
- Raspberry Lemonade
- Water
- Black Tie Cake or Sicilian Cheesecake

Cost: \$24 per person

Deadline for RSVPs: June 30, 2023

Mark Booth will be collecting RSVPs with payment starting at the May meeting. Payment by check or cash, please. If you wish to pay via PayPal (with 3% extra charge to cover fees), please reach out to Mark via email to make arrangements.

We happy to announce that *Jeff Hobson* will be the entertainment following the Banquet and Ring Business.

Mark's email address: [magicmarkbooth@gmail.com](mailto:magicmarkbooth@gmail.com)



## Calling all Magicians

Strolling magicians needed for charity Benefit.

From Member Paul Dwork;

I do strolling magic every year for this Fundraiser event. 100% of the money goes to various local charities.

This is an opportunity if anyone wants to join me to have a wonderful time performing close up. I will also get our Ring Credit as a sponsor.

Would you like to join me for this event? Expecting over 1000 guests. I am also a Rotarian.

Please pass this note on. Call me if you have any questions.

Paul

Paul Dwork, Magic by Merlin

619/565-5989

[Paul@paulworkmagic.com](mailto:Paul@paulworkmagic.com)



## RING 76

THE HONEST SID GERHART RING



MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP



## More Fun and April's Show & Tell Meeting



Gary Salisbury & Tom Owen-Towle



Members & Guests await an entertaining and educational evening.



Bob Meigs

Paul Dwork

David Yee "Mr. Funtastic"

Mark Booth

Michael Johnson

"Magic Doc" Pearson