



# MagiCurrents

SAN DIEGO RING 76

JUNE 2023

VOL. XXXVIII # 6

## June to be the Busiest Meeting of the Month.

Dues, Voting, Installation updates and Mentalism all on the agenda

### President's Message

Dear Ring 76 members!

First, I want to say thank you all for your love and support for me as your president for the last two years! I've been a member of The IBM since 1976, and never thought about being on the Board as I was too busy working or just too scared. It came as a big surprise when I was nominated to be your president. It has been my honor to be your president. I'm happy to report that as of this month we have seventy-five members of Ring 76! Please support our new President Josh Sherwin and your Board as you've supported me. Our club would not be the success it is without your fantastic Board of Directors!

What an incredible meeting we had last month! Twenty-eight members and twenty-two guests! WOW!!!

LOTS going on at our June Meeting: Bring your check book or cash.

#1 Membership dues are due \$30.00 to IBM Ring 76, by mail, PayPal, or give to James Thayer.

#2 Installation Banquet on Monday, July 10th. The cost is \$24.00 per person and the person to pay is Mark Booth. (See page 5 for details)

#3 Jeff Hobson, our entertainer for the Banquet, gave us such a special price that we want to give him a tip, so there will be a hat at the next meeting for you to drop in some cash or check made out to Jeff Hobson.

#4 This meeting you get to vote for "Member of The Year." I received it last year, so don't vote for me!

#5 Bring extra cash for our opportunity drawing! It supports your library and Plex Server.

#6 There will be five door prizes!

See you soon! Be there or be square!

Mike Stilwell

Ring 76 President

### May Stand-up an Evening to Remember

As the current Ring year winds down, the May meeting of Ring 76 proved to be an enthusiastic event. From the auditions of new members to the annual Stand-up contest, the members and guests had an evening to be remembered.

The meeting got started with the usual Ring business. "**Magic Mike**" announced we had 50 people in attendance: Several other announcements included **James Thayer's** reminder that dues are *due in June*, and **Mark Booth's** reminder that the Installation Banquet is \$24 per person and you need to pay him by the end of June. There will be **no late payments this year.** (see page 5) Our performer is Jeff Hobson. **Chris Lorenson** visited Ton Onasaka's magic shop, Magic Land, in Tokyo Japan, and bought "Card Mirage" which was autographed by Ton Onasaka himself. Chris donated this to the Ring and it was auctioned off. **Callahan** won the bid and the money was donated to the Ring 76 library. **Richard Ustick** (part of the election committee) announced that the club is still looking for a secretary. This is an important position on the Board and a Ring member needs to step up and support the Ring. We then had the opportunity drawing and with that the "business" was done. On to the Stand-Up Contest.

First off, **Max Long** auditioned for Ring membership. All new members are required to audition to show a genuine interest in conjuring. Max performed an entertaining "Professor's Nightmare" while describing it in Spanish and taught us this classic effect.

See May Meeting, Page 2

### Ring 76 2023 Calendar

June 12th - Mentalism \* (See Pg 3 for details)

July 10th (Monday) - Installation Banquet  
(See Page XX for details)

August 14th - To Be Announced

\*Opportunity for Members to Perform

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

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May Meeting from page 1

his membership. Welcome aboard Max. The Ring unanimously voted for Entertainment, **Greg Wauson**, reviewed the rules of the yearly Stand Up Contest. The winners will be announced at our Installation Banquet, Monday July 10.

*Max Long auditions for membership*



The Ring unanimously voted for Entertainment, **Greg Wauson**, reviewed the rules of the yearly Stand Up Contest. The winners will be announced at our Installation Banquet, Monday July 10.

cane routine and resulted in silk to cane with throw streamers at the end.

**Paul Dwork** was the fourth entertainer. He talked about "micro world" and performed "Gypsy Thread" with the strings cut by candlelight.

**Paul** showed the "macro world" and entertained us with putting knots into a tube, then the knots were undone and his routine ended with appearing knots on the rope.



First up is **Callahan** who described a story about victory. He used guardian posts and a samurai sword set on a wooden base. A ring disappeared off the rope, ending up with the ring on the sword on the platform and the sword was between the posts under a silver cloth.



The fifth performer, **Mark Booth**, did a comic "Educated Duck" act with Mademoiselle Claire Voyant. She's a psychic duck and matched jumbo cards of several spectators to her cards from her card holder.

"**Godfrey the Magician**" was the second performer. His act was themed as "I love the outdoors" including: balancing a marshmallow on a long skewer on his mouth, torn and restored cigarette papers from a tobacco purse, and his finale was a misbehaving antenna from a walkie talkie.



Next up was "**Mago Ruly**" who used upbeat music entertained us with "Refilled" by Harrius. He had an empty bottle of Corona beer and a paper bag next to each other on his table. "Mago Ruly" placed the bottle in the bag and magically it became refilled and sealed. Then, he tap danced to "Hit the Road Jack" with a white to black

The last contestant, "**Miss Charley**" Miller, who invited the spectator to be the magician. "**Miss Charley**" didn't touch the cards at all. "**Miss Charley's**" prediction matched the spectator's card.

The members then voted on who was the best performer of the evening and that person will be announced at the July Installation Banquet.

Acting Secretary, Sherry Luft

## May 2023 Ring 76 Stand-Up Contestants



"Godfrey The magician"

"Mago" Ruly

Mark Booth

Callahan

Paul Dwork

"Miss Charley" Miller

### Mentalism in June

Mentalism is the theme of our June meeting on the 12th. There's a wide variety of types of effects within the broad range of mentalism: telepathy, clairvoyance, divination, precognition, psychokinesis, mind control, memory feats, deduction, and rapid mathematics. Mentalism is commonly classified as a subcategory of magic, although many professional mentalists want to distinguish themselves from magicians, who simply perform "magic tricks." We won't be that picky! The broader topic of entertainment includes them both. And comedy mentalism is fair game too. Remember Johnny Carson's Carnac routine?

Are you considering performing at one of our meetings but just can't get yourself to sign up? Here are some reasons you should:

1. Get some stage time. Yep – you can hone an effect you already perform and make it even better. Or, try out a new effect and see how well it plays.
2. Get some feedback. Our members are always welcome to tell the VP of Entertainment they'd like to get feedback from our members about an effect they're presenting. Written and confidential feedback is then provided directly to you, or it could be verbal – your choice.
3. You have a chance to win a \$20 Amazon eGift card. And it costs nothing to try!

4. Votes on our performance nights count toward the cumulative total, which determines the performer of the year.
5. We're a friendly crowd. You're among friends when you perform at a Ring 76 meeting.
6. There's just something good about challenging yourself to achieve a goal. You can do this!

Let this be the month you become a performer at one of our meetings! Our VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson, will be on vacation so will be unable to attend. So... send an email to our president, Mike Stilwell, at [ms70@ring76.com](mailto:ms70@ring76.com), and he'll add you to the list.







## Magic Related Events from Around San Diego

### Strolling Magic a big Hit at Church Luncheon

A good time was had by all at the luncheon on Monday, May 1, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Old Town, where we have our monthly meetings. This is one of the annual church events in which Ring 76 members provide magical entertainment. Five Ring 76ers performed close-up magic at the tables of lunch guests for about 45 minutes before the food was served. Some magic was also performed after the main meal and dessert were enjoyed. The performers volunteered their time but were treated to an excellent meal. Thanks to our members who participated: "Mr. Funtastic," Bruce Wollitz, David Yee, Mike Stilwell, and Greg Wauson.

A magic show, whether it's close-up or stand-up, is live theater, meaning many factors are out of the performer's control. The most obvious issue with the luncheon this year was that only 12 people showed up, not counting the Ring 76 members. So those 12 people got to watch a lot of magic! What a great way for us to add some wonder to this friendly audience and also try out new material! Consider participating the next time we have the opportunity to entertain at our host church's event.

### Ring 76's Jack White Honored and Excellence in Journalism Scholarship Announced

A few weeks ago, I got a call from JW August of Channel 10 News. He asked if I would like to be part of a little reunion of channel 10 staff that had worked with Jack White over his 30 years at channel 10 and told me that Lynn White had suggested I come and tell how I met Jack and possibly do a little magic in remembrance.

This happened on May 25th on the patio at The Casa Guadalajara in Old Town. There were 40 to 50 people there, anchors, story writers, camera men, reporters, editors, all kinds of folks that worked with Jack. I arrived at 3:45 PM and entertained with some walk-around table side magic till the event kicked off and was M.C.d by JW August. He showed a video of



Jack White & Wife Lynn at the 2009 Ring 76 Installation Banquet

Jack doing Restaurant row stories, a video that talked about a scholarship program that Jack created and a video of Jack doing "Fresh fish sold here today". At the end of that video, I kicked off the stories of how we all met Jack. I was in the Navy and was going on Westpac. It was 1974 and I decided that since I was an armature magician I would stop by the magic shop on 30th Street in North Park to pick up a roll of rope, so I could do the cut and restored rope trick. There I met Jack for the first time. He told me he worked at Channel 10 as a news anchor and also was a collector of vintage magic and that he did a few rope tricks. He asked me if I knew "Professors Nightmare." I said no so he asked Chuck Martinez for a pair of scissors he pulled off about 6' from my spool, cut the rope and taught me the routine.

So, I did that routine that Jack taught me for the group and that kicked off all the fun stories in remembrance of San Diego's Jack White. Oh and I also found out that Jack was a consultant for the movie *The Anchorman*. Will Ferrell did a little video clip for this event. It was great seeing all the people that many of us grew up watching over the last 40 years. What an honor for me to be invited to this event.

Mike Stilwell

President, I.B.M. Ring 76

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## Installation Banquet in July Get your reservations in NOW !

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: No RSVPs will be accepted after June 30, 2023!**  
Don't miss out, be sure to RSVP ASAP!

Mark Booth will be collecting RSVPs with payment at the June 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 will, of course, have entertainment following the Banquet and Ring Business. The incomparable Jeff Hobson will be our entertainer for the evening!  
Mark's email address: [magicmarkbooth@gmail.com](mailto:magicmarkbooth@gmail.com)



## Shavings from the Board

The May Board meeting was held via ZOOM and was called to order at 7:02PM by "Magic Mike" Stilwell.

Along with the Board, Sherry Luft was there as acting secretary, Richard Ustick as Newsletter Editor and Josh Sherwin, current candidate for Ring President.



After the approval of the minutes of the last Board and General meetings, the reports of the various officers were presented. James Thayer reported that the Ring currently has 75 members and that a third of the membership has renewed for the next year. David Chui reported we had a substantial audience for the Stand-up Contest (See Page 1) with twenty-eight members and twenty-two guests in attendance. Librarian, Gary Salisbury announced that Sherry Luft, Malcolm Campbell, David Chiu, Nick Benevento, and Chris Lorenson all donated to our Library.

The estate of Loch David Crane's (November 28, 1948 – April 25, 2018) is still being decided and Gary will stay in contact with the family. Greg Wauson reported that the June 12th meeting theme is "Mentalism" and this is the last "performer night" of the year. As of the Board meeting two people have signed up (see page 3 for details). Greg will not be there that night, so "Magic Mike" will announce the entertainment and collect the votes.

With all reports made it was on to Old Business.

The Ring is still looking for a Secretary for the new Board. Sherry Luft has graciously offered to fill in until this problem can be resolved. With Sherry doing the duties of the Secretary, Greg Wauson will fill in as Newsletter Proof Reader, an important and time consuming position she has held for quite a few years.

June will be a very busy meeting as not only will we have magic from the members but the elections for the new Board of Directors, and the election of the Ring 76 Member of the Year. "Magic Mike", David Yee and Bruce Wollitz will be the entertainers for the June 4th Wheel Chair Regatta. The Installation Banquet has 26 RSVPs. *Your best chance to pay is at the June meeting, though reservations will continue till the end of the month.* Brenda Wauson is providing the decorations, Olive Garden is providing the food and the Ring will need round tablecloths and the club will buy them. There will be bottled water, iced tea and raspberry lemonade. Members will be encourage you to bring your own sodas if tea, lemonade if water doesn't suit your needs. The TVP of IBM should be there. Possibly start at 6:30PM for the banquet with awards and installation of officers. After the installation of officers, Jeff Hobson will perform a 45 minute show. Jeff is generous with his time.

The New Business was then addressed. The Board voted no to advertise in this year's IBM Convention souvenir program. Mark Booth is in charge of the Ring 76 members FACEBOOK page which currently has 41 members. Greg mentioned that Javi Benitez is a magician who specializes in card magic and will be in California in September. Possibly have him lecture in September?

Gary Salisbury talked about a New Member Brochure which he will create which will include library, membership and Facebook page information.

*Sherry Luft*, acting Secretary

# 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 as well as do book and 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 instruction videos, over 500 magic performance videos, and over 150 magic related audiobooks, all available for streaming from the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server*. It is also a museum for a collection of historic Ring 76 memorabilia from one of our founders, Honest Sid Gerhart. It is a magical learning source unparalleled in the entire IBM organization and it is funded totally from donations and fund-raising efforts that I have engage in for you.”

## WHAT’S NEW AT YOUR LIBRARY?

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

Last month we made \$50 from the 50/50 drawing and \$55 from an auction. We purchased a six-volume audiobook series and parts and software for the Magic Media Server for \$210.80.

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

Dave Chiu donated a box of magic items that we are going to use as door prizes. *Thank you, Dave!*

Nick Benevento donated a DVD card effect that will be put on the Ring 76 Magic Media Server. *Thank you, Nick!*

Chris Lorensen donated an autographed Ton Osaka effect that we auctioned off for \$55 at the meeting. *Thank you, Chris!*

Sherry Luft donated some magic items that will also be used for the Opportunity Drawing. *Thank you, Sherry!*

These four people each donated something they personally owned for your benefit! They set an excellent example for us all to follow so please give them a big magical **Thank You!**

We need your DVDs, VHS tapes, and video downloads. They will be put on the *Ring 76 Magic Media 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!

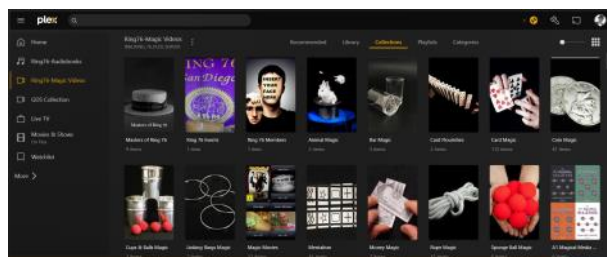
### Ring 76 Magical Arts Library-----ON GOING

No paper book purchases were made for the *Magical Arts Library* last month however, we did receive a copy of Corinda’s *The 13 Steps to Mentalism* donated by Dave Chiu.

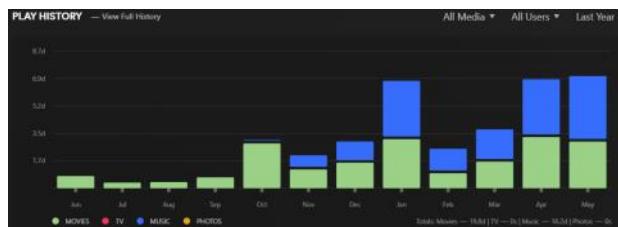
### Ring 76 Magic Media Server-----ON GOING

We purchased the six-volume audiobook collection titled, “*Academy of Unpredictable Magic*” by Sadie Moss. These files will be put on the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server* for you to stream to your favorite device. Listen while you walk or drive. See the audiobook review later in this document.

How would you like to be featured on 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.



Here 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). We had the highest utilization last month since we have brought the server online.



Also, please be aware that we will be moving the server from Dave Chiu’s house back to my house so we may be down for several days during the transition. I will send out a *Ring 76 Librarygram* to the membership when we know the exact details.

Tired of high cable TV bills? Wanna watch free movies & TV? You’ve come to the right place. We’ve got a bunch of them here on the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server* and you can start watching right now, all courtesy of PLEX! There is a wide selection of gandra to choose from.

See Ex Libris page 7





Ex Libris from page 6



Do you have an account on the Ring 76 Magic Media Server yet? Why not? It is the best thing since Netflix and it's FREE for members of IBM Ring 76!

AUDIOBOOK REVIEWS



Academy of Unpredictable Magic by Sadie Moss Publisher's

Six Volume Set, Length: 40 hrs and 29 mins

Binge this complete, steamy reverse harem romance series today!

"Magic exists. I know - it's in my blood.

Unfortunately, not all people from magical bloodlines have powers, and at 22, I'm several years past the age they usually appear. So, I've resigned myself to a boring, magic-less life.

Then, something strange happens.

I get stuck in the middle of a bar fight, and instead of just punching the guy back, I blow a hole in the wall.

So, I guess I do have powers. But they're unlike anything I've ever seen before. This is definitely not normal.

And it seems the magical authorities agree because they give me a choice: either I go to school to learn to control my crazy new magic, or they'll take it away. Permanently.

Now, if I can just survive the witchy mean girls determined to take me down a peg, the mysterious attacks on students, the three hot-as-hell guys who don't seem turned off by my prickly exterior, and the professor who makes me long for detention, maybe I'll get out of here in once piece.

Wouldn't bet on it, though.

Welcome to the Academy of Unpredictable Magic."

This boxed set contains the complete Academy of Unpredictable Magic series, a steamy reverse harem story featuring a tough-as-nails chick and the four gorgeous men who fall in love with her. ©2020 Sadie Moss

Be sure to check out this excellent magic related audiobook on the Ring 76 Magic Media Server. Many of our audiobooks are suitable for younger audiences too.

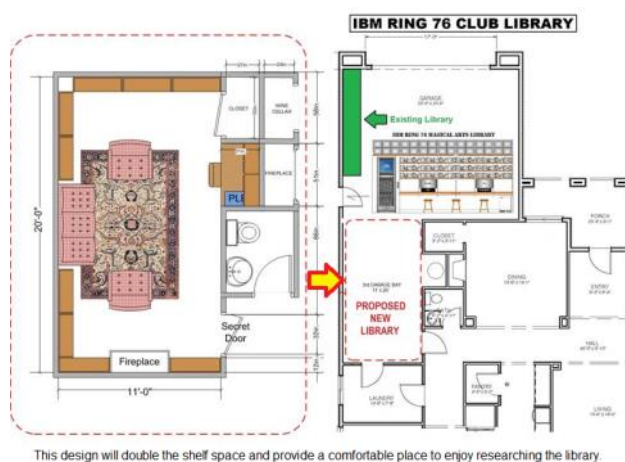
A PERSONAL NOTE

Four short years ago, I was asked if I would like to be the club's librarian. I thought about it long and hard before replying. I first asked what the current state the club's library was in and found it was in 8-9 delapidated, insect and rodent infested, cardboard boxes that were stored in someone's open garage. I then asked what the club needed. It needed a complete overhaul! How could I get it from point A to point B? How could I make this library the "Best in Class?"

I had a vision of making it the best magic reference library in the IBM organization and to bring it into the 21st century with new technology – streaming! I stipulated that I would accept the position if I could run it like it, was my own business. I laid out my vision before the board of directors, which they accepted, and then, and only then, did I accept the position as your librarian.

I requested a commitment from the board for regular funding but that was refused so I set out to raise the needed funds on my own. I did so through donations, monthly opportunity drawings, as well as sales of books, videos, and magic props that were donated to the library. To date, I have raised over \$5,100 for the library. Early on, I secured the largest donation ever made to the ring with a collection of magic videos valued at over \$12,000 from Dr. X, an anonymous friend of the library. There have also been several other large donations of books, videos, and props valued from \$1,000 to \$5,000 from throughout the United States. I have even willed my personal magic library of over 300 volumes (valued at over \$15,000) to the Ring 76 library.

We currently have over 1,000 magic books, over 1,500 magic instructional videos, over 500 magic performance videos, over 150 magic oriented audiobooks, and over 2,000 magic magazines. We have one of the first audio/video streaming libraries with the Ring 76 Magic Media Server. The Ring 76 library is now one of the largest, if not the largest, ring libraries.



This design will double the shelf space and provide a comfortable place to enjoy researching the library.

See Ex Libris Page 8



**Ex Libris from Page 7**

We have accomplished a lot and have so much more to do but let's face facts. I am 77 years old and do not know how much longer I have left so I need to do the prudent thing and start grooming the next librarian. We need someone who can be as passionate about this project as I am. Someone who is willing to give their time, energy, and space for the library. Someone who is willing to make themselves available for the membership 7x24. If you think this could be you, then let me know and we will talk. I am looking at this as a long-term apprenticeship. Maybe a year, maybe two or three. I will stay on as long as I can but who knows? I do promise you that it will be "A Most Excellent Adventure!"

**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 my *Ex Libris* newsletter article while more urgent communications will be done by a *Ring 76 Librarygram* 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*



IBM Ring 76 Board Member-at-Large

IBM Ring 76 Librarian

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

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.)*

SUPPORT YOUR RING 76 LIBRARY BY DONATING



Now is the time to check out a book from your Ring 76 Library and learn something new. Email: [librarian@ring76.com](mailto:librarian@ring76.com)

**Remember**

**DEADLINE: No RSVPs will be accepted after June 30, 2023! Don't miss out, be sure to RSVP ASAP!**

**"Days of Futures Past"**

Many of us started magic many years ago. While we are all good looking and seasoned professionals today, there was a time when the world was young. From time to time MagiCurents will show the less than seasoned side of members. If you want your picture posted please send it to [Ring76ibm@yahoo.com](mailto:Ring76ibm@yahoo.com). You do not need to have your name posted. Sometimes it is fun for us to guess.



Who is this handsome conjuror?



## The Last Word

### New Denny's Local for After Meeting

We have moved the “after meeting” to what we feel is a better location. From now on we will be meeting at the Denny’s in Mission Valley, 1065 Camino Del Rio South, right across I-8 from Target.



### Time Marches on For Rings As Well

This September will be the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MagiCurrents. We are working on a special edition of the Ring Newsletter and would appreciate input from members. Memories you have of how the newsletter has impacted your magic and your fellowship with the Ring community. Send any thoughts you have to “Anniversary” at

### Vote for Member of the Year

Every year Ring 76 honors one its members for the work they put in to make the Ring and the magic Community better. At the June meeting you will be asked to vote for who you feel deserves this recognition. Please remember to vote.



“Mago Ruly” soft shoes his way through his Stand-up performance



### 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 cannot assemble this publication alone and thank all the members who contribute to it.



-ed



Chris Lorenson auctions off his “Card Mirage” which was autographed by Ton Onasaka himself.