



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

JANUARY 2024

VOL. XXXIV #1

## Holiday Potluck Full of Food, Camaraderie, and First Class Entertainment

The Holiday Potluck, another highly anticipated event of the Ring 76 season, was an unqualified success this year.

President **Josh Sherwin** welcomed the 42 members and 13 guests along with our youngest "member," **Felix Garcia**, the good-natured newborn son of **Joyce and Miguel Garcia**.

In addition to the potluck, we had our Chili Cook-off which is becoming one of our favorite contests. **Mark Booth** was the organizer and those in attendance sampled the entries and voted for the chili they thought best. Congratulations to the first-place winner, **Greg Wauson**, the second-place winner, **Joe Mystic**, and the third-place winners **Max and Ro Long**.



The business portion of the meeting was short. The Ring was reminded of the upcoming meetings. January is going to be kids' magic (see page 8) and February is the close-up contest (see page 8). A special thanks went to **Richard Ustick**, the organizer of the potluck and food server, and to **Brenda Wauson**

for the exquisite holiday table decorations. A special thanks also went to **Jeff and Laurie Pearson** for helping with the evening setup and the Chili Cook-off. As always it is the many hands of Ring 76 that make light work.

The members brought their favorite foods, from homemade tamales to

*IBM Ring 76 meets every second Monday of the month at the Rec Hall of the Immaculate Conception Church, 2540 San Diego Avenue, in the Old Town area of San Diego. Unless otherwise specified, the doors open at 6:30pm and the meeting begins at 7:00pm.*



dumplings to brownies and more. We enjoyed the food and friendship, and then an opportunity drawing. After the food was devoured, **Chris Blackmore**, our entertainer for the evening, took over the festivities. **Chris** entertained 15 years at **Warren and Annabelle's** in Maui and has performed for numerous Fortune 500 companies.

Throughout his presentation, **Chris** engaged the audience and humorously changed the names of the audience volunteers with his mantra of "love your audiences and smile while you perform." He started with a torn and restored newspaper routine and then did a quick "name their card" routine with **Joe Mystic**, **Kristin Law**, and **Natalie**, daughter of **Josh Sherwin**. Next was **Cathy Booth** on stage with a borrowed \$100 bill from **Rich Robertson**. **Chris** wrote the serial number on a whiteboard and put the signed bill in a sealed envelope and shredded it, showing a piece which he put in a dove pan and lit. He presented it to **Rich** the restored bill, but instead it was a bill from Verizon. Where did the \$100 bill go? More about that later. He followed this with a beautiful "Gypsy Thread" routine with the candle burning the thread into pieces while **Chris** was humming a few bars.

See Meeting Page 2

### Ring 76 2024 Calendar

**January 8th - Kids' Magic\***

**February 12th - Close-Up Contest**

**March 11th - Card Magic\***

**April 8th - You Fooled Us**

\*Opportunity for members to perform  
Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. of Entertainment, "Magic Mike" Stilwell, at [magicmike@Ring76.com](mailto:magicmike@Ring76.com).

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Meeting, from page 1

Next, he entertained us with a card sword routine, assisted by guest Cindy.

Now, back to Rich's \$100 bill. **Laurie Pearson** helped the magician with "Marvyn's Magic Joe Coffee" when Chris opened up the can with the coffee inside and he poured it into a Pyrex dish. Cathy's name was on the bill and the magician matched the serial numbers of the \$100 bill. What a fun routine! For his finale, he demonstrated a calculator trick with a group of six random people. The end result was the date and time of the effect. Absolutely amazing!

After the show Chris took the time to answer questions about the recent fires on Maui and the devastation he and the other residents endured.

All that was left was the monumental cleanup and the evening was concluded.

Happy New Year and we will see you all for kids' magic on Monday, January 8th!

*Sherry Luft*, acting secretary





## More Photos from the 2023 Holiday Potluck



Special thanks to Jeff and Laurie Pearson who helped with all the setup

Table decorations provided by Brenda Wauson



Chili Cook-off Winners Greg Wauson, Joe Mystic & Ro & Max Long



Chris Blackmore provided the entertainment for this year's event

# 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 magic magazines, all available for check-out. It is 227 magic audiobooks, 1,500 magic instruction videos, 75 full length magic movies, 8 albums of magic music (some royalty free), 1,600 magic performance videos (many classics), 10 podcasts (that we co-host), 22 magic TV series, a photo warehouse (where we will save all our Ring 76 activity photos) and all this is 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 engaged in for your behalf.”

## WHAT'S NEW AT YOUR LIBRARY?

**Library Donations-----ON GOING**

I would like to give a big magical ~~Thank You!~~ to everyone who has donated to the library. 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!

**Funding & Expenditures-----ON GOING**

We made \$50 from the 50/50 Raffle and \$45 from Library Sales & Door Prize Drawing. We purchased 25 videos for the Magic Media Server leaving a balance of \$148.97 in the Library Petty Cash. We still have to purchase a raid array for the Magic Media Server but lack funds to do that now. Your donations would be greatly appreciated.

**Ring 76 Magical Arts Library (Books)-----ON GOING**

We did not acquire any printed books this month.

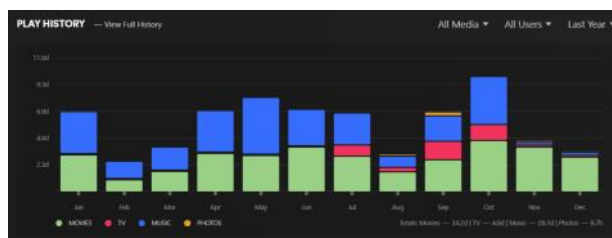
**Ring 76 Magic Media Server-----ON GOING**

We purchased the following items for the Magic Media Server:

- *David Blaine: Decade of Magic* (2002)
- *Death Defying Acts* (2008)

- *Harry Potter Collection on Blu-ray (2001-2011)*
- *Harry Potter: A History of Magic (2017)*
- *Hocus Pocus (2013)*
- *Houdini (1953)*
- *Hugo (2011)*
- *Little Houdini (2016)*
- *Magic (1978)*
- *Mitch Fatel: Mitch Fatel Is Magical (2012)*
- *Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007)*
- *Next (2007)*
- *Now You See Me 1 (2013)*
- *Now You See Me 2 (2015)*
- *Practical Magic (1998)*
- *Sleight (2016)*
- *The Haunted Mansion (2003)*
- *The Illusionist (2010)*

This is the utilization report for the *Magic Media Server* over past 12 months. Videos are in green, audiobooks are in blue (under music), and Magic TV Shows are in red. The orange section shows Ring 76 Photos & Videos access.



*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!*

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.

Tired of high cable TV bills? Would you like to 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 on page 5**



## MAGIC MOVIE REVIEWS

### David Blaine: Decade of Magic (2002)

Runtime: 2:12



David Blaine revolutionized magic with his groundbreaking television special *Street Magic*. He then took his craft to the next level, creating a unique genre of endurance art that defies what is possible by pushing his body and mind to the limit.

For the first time on DVD, this two-disc collection contains three of the most death-defying stunts ever performed in front of a live audience. Each special also features footage of jaw-dropping street magic that first made Blaine a worldwide sensation. From transforming dollar bills to hundreds in New Orleans' impoverished Ninth Ward, to blowing the minds of the likes of Kobe Bryant and Yao Ming in the NBA All-Star locker rooms, this is David Blaine at his most creative, disruptive, and spectacular.

More than 60 minutes of magic and stunts never seen before including: My First Blackout, Extreme Breath Holding Training, Ted Talk, Soweto, Swimming with Great White Sharks, 44 Days No Food, Only Water, Submerged.

### Death Defying Acts (2008)

Runtime: 1:37



*Death Defying Acts* would more aptly be titled *Houdini's Whirlwind Romance* as it focuses less on the famed magician's skills and more on what kind of secret lovers he may have had. In this historical drama, ravishing con-artists, Mary McGarvie (Catherine Zeta-Jones), and daughter, Benji (Saoirse Ronan), play two sharp girls ready to take Houdini (Guy Pearce)

for a ride.

Set in 1920s Scotland, the plot centers on a contest Houdini hosts in Edinburgh to find a psychic medium who can channel his deceased mother. Mary, tired of pick-pocketing to stage fake magic shows, desperately wants Houdini's \$10,000 cash prize and auditions successfully for the role of (real) medium. From there, passions flare up as they negotiate how much of their magic is sheer trickery.

Director Gillian Armstrong's (*Little Women*) rendition of Houdini's life depicts him as a regular joe struggling to convince his pragmatic business manager, Sugarman (Timothy Spall), that magic and science are connected. Scenes in which Houdini trains for and then tests his boundaries and skills during famous theater acts are highly entertaining and well re-created. Scenes in which McGarvie and her daughter read characters for clues to rig their paranormal hoaxes are equally well-done and Zeta-Jones is gorgeous as a spiritualist. But when Mary and Houdini collide, their definitions of magic turn to mush through Hollywood translation, as something semi-equivocal to faith in love. This unfortunate injection of melodrama in an otherwise smart film cancels out its better parts.

Do Houdini fans really want to see him, on screen, grappling with CG angels as he floats, straitjacketed, in his sealed water tank? I doubt it. Still, *Death Defying Acts* stars Houdini, which automatically makes for some fun. -Trinie Dalton

### Harry Potter Collection Blu-ray (2001-2011)

Runtime: varies by movie



#### 1. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone:*

The magical adventure begins when Harry Potter is to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

#### 2. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets:*

Cars fly, trees attack and a mysterious house-elf warns Harry of great danger as he returns for his second year.

#### 3. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban:*

Harry must confront soul-sucking Dementors, outsmart a werewolf and learn the truth about the escaped prisoner of Azkaban - Sirius Black.

#### 4. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire:*

Harry must overcome a deadly dragon, fierce water demons and an enchanted maze only to find himself in the cruel grasp of He Who Must Not Be Named.

#### 5. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix:*

When few believe that Lord Voldemort has returned, Harry must secretly train his friends for the wizarding war ahead.

#### 6. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince:*

As Lord Voldemort tightens his grip on both Muggle and wizarding worlds, Harry and Dumbledore work to find the key to unlock Voldemort's defenses.

#### 7. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 1:*

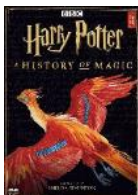
Harry, Ron and Hermione set out to track down and destroy the secret to Voldemort's power - the Horcruxes. On their own and on the run, the three must rely on one another more than ever...but Dark Forces threaten to tear them apart.

#### 8. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2:*

In the epic finale, the battle between the good and evil forces of the wizarding world escalates into all-out war. The stakes have never been higher and no one is safe. But it is Harry who may be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice as he draws closer to the climactic showdown with Lord Voldemort. It all ends here.

### Harry Potter: A History of Magic (2017)

Runtime: 1:00



Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the first Harry Potter book, this documentary visits the real-life magical history behind J.K. Rowling's beloved classics. With footage from The British Library's exhibition in London, and exclusive access to a priceless collection of artifacts, experience the fascinating, real history of the magic at the heart of the Harry Potter stories.

Includes interviews with J.K. Rowling herself as she examines the most exciting items on display, and talks for the first time about her own personal drawings and drafts featured in the exhibition. And, as opening night arrives, famous fans marvel at this fascinating trove of delights, like Harry Potter seeing Diagon Alley for the first time.

See Ex Libris on page 6

**Ex Libris from on page 5**

Harry Potter: A History of Magic, a British Library exhibition, opens at the New-York Historical Exhibition in Fall 2018.

**Hocus Pocus (2013)**

*Runtime: 1:36*

In Disney's *Hocus Pocus*, Academy Award nominee Bette Midler (Best Actress, 1991, *For the Boys*), stars with Sarah Jessica Parker (*Sex and the City*) and Kathy Najimy (*The Wedding Planner*) as three wild witches who return from seventeenth-century Salem for a night of zany fun and comic chaos. After they're conjured up by unsuspecting pranksters, the tricky trio sets out to cast a spell on the town and reclaim their youth. But first they must outwit three feisty kids determined to foil their scheme! Filled with bewitching laughs and magic, this hilarious film is perfect for the whole family!



Producer David Kirschner came up with the idea for the movie one night while he and his young daughter were sitting outside and his neighbor's black cat strayed by. Kirschner began to unspool a narrative of how the cat was once a boy who was changed into a feline 300 years ago by three witches. Actress Kathy Najimy described her character Mary as "Eddie Haskell as a witch," referring to the character on the classic TV series "Leave It To Beaver." "She sucks up to Winifred [Bette Midler's character] every chance she gets. She wants to be part of the power club and Winifred's got the power. "To create the costumes, designer Mary Vogt read many historical books about Salem, Massachusetts. "I even read diaries of women who were hanged as witches," she says.

**Houdini (1953)**

*Runtime: 1:45*

*"People aren't going to stand in line to see me pull rabbits out of a hat." ~ Harry Houdini*



Illusionist and stunt performer Harry Houdini (1874-1926) was born Erik Weisz in Budapest, Hungary and came to the United States in 1878 with his mother and four brothers. He excelled at athletics as a teen and began his magic career in 1891, becoming widely known as "The Handcuff King." He was renowned for his miraculous escape acts, managing to find his way out of handcuffs, chains, straight jackets, prison cells, combination safes and even a casket while buried alive.

This film was the very first biopic of Houdini's life, based upon the 1928 book "Houdini, His Life Story" by Harold Kellock. The title role is played by Tony Curtis, with Janet Leigh as his wife, Bess. It begins with their first encounter at a carnival side show in Coney Island, New York and traces the magician's rise to fame in Europe and then America. The production also depicts some of his most dangerous stunts and his interest in the occult, which he hoped would yield his greatest achievement -- an escape from the spirit world after his own death.

Under George Marshall's direction, the film sacrifices historical accuracy for entertainment value. For example, the "Chinese

Water Torture Cell" became part of Houdini's act at the Circus Busch in Berlin in 1912, but in the film it is portrayed as his last great stunt. Nor did Houdini die in the way shown here. The reality was much more mundane ... an appendix that ruptured after a fan punched him in the abdomen. Still, it's an interesting film to watch and not half bad at all.

**Hugo (2011)**

*Runtime: 2:06*

In resourceful orphan Hugo Cabret (Asa Butterfield, an Oliver Twist-like charmer), Martin Scorsese finds the perfect vessel for his silver-screen passion: this is a movie about movies (fittingly, the 3-D effects are spectacular). After his clockmaker father (Jude



Law) perishes in a museum fire, Hugo goes to live with his Uncle Claude (Ray Winstone), a drunkard who maintains the clocks at a Paris train station. When Claude disappears, Hugo carries on his work and fends for himself by stealing food from area merchants. In his free time, he attempts to repair an automaton his father rescued from the museum, while trying to evade the station inspector (Sacha Baron Cohen), a World War I veteran with no sympathy for lawbreakers. When Georges (Ben

Kingsley), a toymaker, catches Hugo stealing parts for his mechanical man, he recruits him as an assistant to repay his debt. If Georges is guarded, his open-hearted ward, Isabelle (Chloë Moretz), introduces Hugo to a kindly bookseller (Christopher Lee), who directs them to a motion-picture museum, where they meet film scholar René (*Boardwalk Empire*'s Michael Stuhlbarg). In helping unlock the secret of the automaton, they learn about the roots of cinema, starting with the Lumière brothers, and give a forgotten movie pioneer his due, thus illustrating the importance of film preservation, a cause to which the director has dedicated his life. If Scorsese's adaptation of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* isn't his most autobiographical work, it just may be his most personal. -- Kathleen C. Fennessy

**Little Houdini (2016)**

*Runtime: 0:52*

It's 1866 and twelve year old Harry has lived and breathed magic since his early childhood. The problem is that his hometown, Appletown, is not the best place for his natural talent to blossom.

Although he rehearses endlessly in his parent's barn he realizes that his dream is just that - a dream. One day Harry catches the glimpse of a chance when the mayor of New York announces a magic competition to celebrate the official opening of the Statue of Liberty. But there's a catch - to enter the competition one must be trained by a real magician and poor Harry doesn't know a single one. But then, Harry's father crosses path with the Great Tesla, a true magician! Tesla promises to meet Harry and despite the young boy's lack of knowledge, Tesla sees talent, creativity, and boldness in Harry. He decides to give him a chance and invites him to his home to begin training. Accompanied by his niece, Beth, and his assistant, Amrold, Tesla will teach Harry the basics of magic and his tricks. He will also test him. Will Harry be strong enough to become a true magician?



**See Ex Libris on page 7**

## Ex Libris from page 6


**Magic (1978)**

Runtime: 1:46

Magician's assistant Corky (Sir Anthony Hopkins) performs disastrously at his first solo appearance. He is given a ventriloquist dummy called "Fats" to improve his act, and within a few years, Corky is at the height of fame. However, Fats has developed a mind of his own, and wants to control his master. Don't miss this classic tale of mystery.


**Next (2017)**

Runtime: 1:37

Blessed, or cursed, with the ability to see events minutes before they occur, Cris Johnson (Nicolas Cage) earns a living as a *magician* in Las Vegas and keeps a low profile under an alias. When terrorists threaten to detonate a nuclear weapon in Los Angeles, government agent Callie Ferris (Julianne Moore) goes on the hunt for Cris and hopes to convince him to help her stop the coming apocalypse.


**Now You See Me 1 (2013)**

Runtime: 1:55

Cinematic sleight of hand and digital prestidigitation drive *Now You See Me*, a slick popcorn movie about four magicians coming together to pull off a heist and maybe right a wrong at the same time. Jesse Eisenberg, Isla Fisher, Woody Harrelson, and Dave Franco play the Four Horsemen, who each have their individual skills (Harrelson is a master hypnotist, for example) but have combined to put on an amazing show in Vegas--a show that culminates in robbing a French bank. The authorities don't know how they did it, but an FBI agent (Mark Ruffalo) and an Interpol agent (Mélanie Laurent, *Inglourious Basterds*) start tracking the Four Horsemen as they prepare a second performance in New Orleans. A professional skeptic (Morgan Freeman), however, suggests that these performances are only the preamble to a much bigger trick, and that maybe the Four Horsemen themselves are misdirection. The excellent cast (which also includes Michael Caine) and the unrelenting pace give *Now You See Me* the illusion of sense and coherence, and the movie can be fun if you surrender to it. Don't think too hard about the illusions themselves; the real fun of magic is not being able to figure out how it's done, whereas we know exactly how the "magic" in *Now You See Me* works: editing and CGI special effects. Even the few tricks that are supposedly explained fall apart with a moment's thought--they wouldn't actually work. The most compelling element of the movie is the developing romance between Ruffalo and Laurent, two charming actors who know how to let emotion simmer under the surface.

That's a different--and much more enticing--kind of magic. --Bret Fetzer


**Now You See Me 2 (2015)**

Runtime: 2:09

One year after outwitting the F.B.I. and winning the public's adulation with their Robin Hood-style magic spectacles, The Four Horsemen resurface for a comeback performance in hopes of exposing the unethical practices of a tech magnate. The man behind their vanishing act is none other than Walter Mabry, a tech prodigy who threatens the Horsemen into pulling off their most impossible heist yet. Their only hope is to perform one last unprecedented stunt to clear their names and reveal the mastermind behind it all. -Production

**The Illusionist (2010) animated**

Runtime: 1:17



*The Illusionist* is one of a dying breed of stage entertainers. With emerging rock stars stealing his thunder in the late 1950s, he is forced to accept increasingly obscure assignments in fringe theatres, at garden parties and in bars and cafés. However, whilst performing in a village pub off the west coast of Scotland, he encounters Alice, an innocent young girl, who will change his life forever. A delightful film for the entire family.

All these magic oriented movies are now on the Ring 76 Magic Media Server for your viewing pleasure. Stream them today.

**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.) 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. If need be, you can keep the book or video again if nobody else has requested it but you must sign for it again.

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.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*

*Objective: To build the best magic reference library in the IBM organization world-wide.*

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.*

*(Disclaimer: Much of this material is my own but I sometimes copy material from other sources, with and without credit, and then merge it with my own commentary to give you a better, more thorough source of information. Thanks to all who have knowingly and unknowingly contributed.)*







## 2024 Will Bring Excitement for Ring 76

January's Ring meeting will be on Monday, January 8th and the theme will be kids' magic. All members are encouraged to bring their favorite illusions and routines that they have found bring a sparkle to a child's eye. If you plan on performing please contact V.P. of Entertainment, **Magic Mike Stilwell** at [magicmike@ring76.com](mailto:magicmike@ring76.com).

February is the annual Ring 76 Closeup Contest. Rules are on the website at [ring76.com](http://ring76.com) and participants are limited so if you plan on competing, contact **Magic Mike Stilwell** ASAP.

The March 11th meeting theme will be card magic and April 8th will be the return of "You Fooled Us" (not to be confused with any other magic event).



## New Location for Post-Meeting Meeting

Many of us gather together to eat and talk magic and news of the world after our monthly meetings. We have moved the "after meeting" to what we feel is a better location. We now meet at the Denny's in Mission Valley, 1065 Camino Del Rio South, right across I-8 from Target.



## In Memoriam

It is once again with sadness that we have to inform you of the passing of one of our Magical Fraternity members, Paul Gross.

Family friend Steve Dick wrote a beautiful eulogy for this staple of the community and we wanted to present a portion of it here in *MagiCurrents*.

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts we announce the passing of our beloved husband and father, Paul. We know Paul had such a huge impact on so many people, and his larger than life personality will be missed by all who knew him.

Our family is very thankful for the many telephone calls, emails, donations, flowers, cards, food, and visits that have helped us in celebrating the life of Paul. While these days have been difficult, we have been constantly amazed at how through the sharing of loving memories our hearts have been lifted and we are filled with gratitude for having shared a life well lived.

We would love for you to share your stories and pictures of Paul from over the years in honor of his memory.

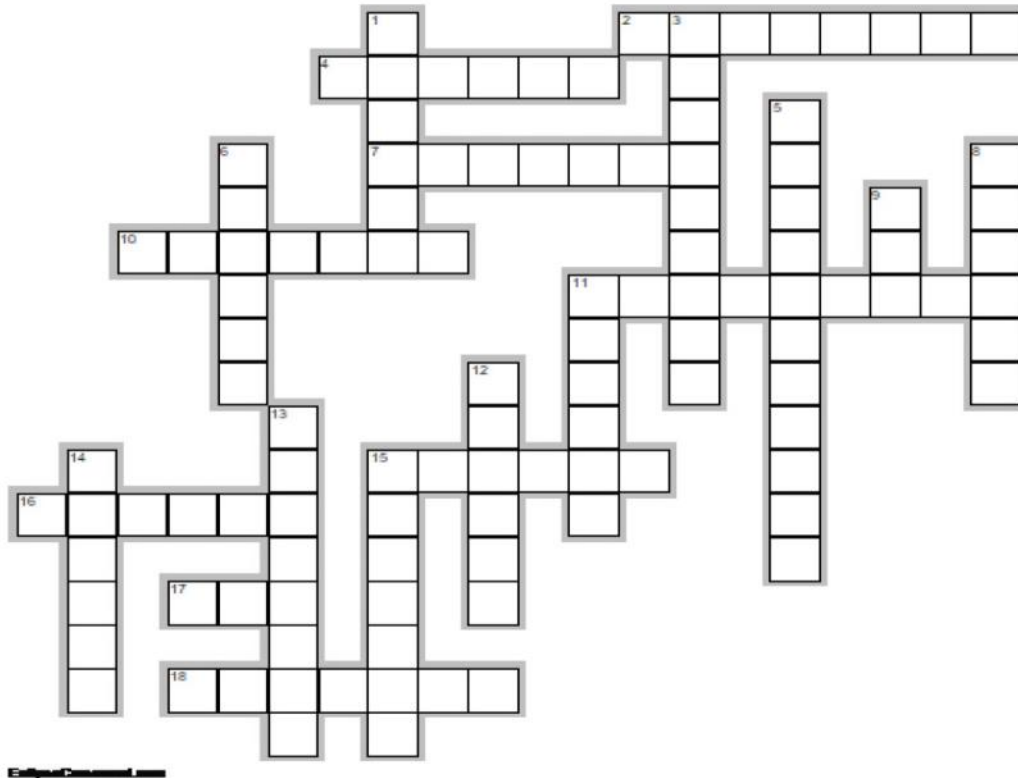
The world of magic has lost one of its most ardent supporters and a man who single-handedly elevated the business of conjuring to unprecedented heights. Paul Michael Gross, 68, died peacefully on November 29, 2023. He was the guiding force of Hocus-Pocus Magic in Fresno, California for most of his adult life. And at a time when brick-and-mortar magic shops were waning, Paul and his family maintained Hocus-Pocus as a vibrant, cutting-edge company which developed into one of the largest internet magic businesses in the world.



Although Paul has left us, his business continues to thrive, thanks to his family and employees who learned the ins and outs of the magic business from Paul, who grew up with a love of magic that never diminished.

If you would like to find the entire eulogy you can find it here: <https://mailchi.mp/hocus-pocus/midsummer-madness-sale-400-items-70-off-act-now-and-save-big-220939?e=8b4e7d1ccd>



**FAMOUS MAGICIANS OF PAST AND PRESENT***By Gary Salisbury***Across**

2. One of the last performers of the Golden Age of Magic.
4. Blind obsessive card manipulator.
7. Has been called the best card magician of all time.
10. King of Coins.
11. Created the levitation illusion.
15. His signature piece was Mascot Moth.
16. Known as "The Dean of American Magic."
17. 2018 winner of America's Got Talent.
18. Appeared on Broadway in The Magic Show.

**Down**

1. The youngest magician to win the FISM Grand Prix award.
3. He invented basic playing card magic techniques that bear his name today.
5. Owns the largest collection of magic in the world.
6. Used magic to help avert a war in Algeria with his Light and Heavy Chest.
8. Swedish world champion and close-up card magician.
9. Has 52 assistants.
11. Famous routine was Sam the Bell Hop.
12. One handed manipulator.
13. Most famous trick was the bullet catch.
14. The Man Who Fooled Houdini.
15. Card manipulator, student of Juan Tamariz.

The answers will be in next month's newsletter.

Solve on-line at: <https://share.eclipsescrossword.com/play/d59edc61/famous-magicians-of-past-and-present>

## To Ring (76) out The Old Year . . .



Special thank you to the GLOM, the Gorgeous Ladies of Magic, who lend their talents to making sure that Ring activities run smoothly. A shout out to **Sherry Luft, Brenda Wauson, and Cynthia Robertson.**



### Thank You to This Month's Photographers



MagiCurrents is a large endeavor every month. The editors make a concerted effort to bring news and information to Ring members about events in the past and upcoming news, while also providing information on magic events all across San Diego. We welcome all the help that Ring members give us in getting this periodical out.

This month's photographs were provided by **Magic Mike Stilwell, Cynthia Robertson, and Jeff Pearson.** Thank you for all your hard work!

**See you January 8th for Kid's Magic**





## Magicians pledge

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE ART OF MAGIC THAT I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PROMOTE A POSITIVE VIEW OF MAGIC IN THE PUBLIC FORUM.

A. I PLEDGE THAT I WILL TREAT EACH AND EVERY FELLOW BROTHER MAGI WITH THE RESPECT I WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED WITH WHEN IT COMES TO MAGIC AND THEIR PERFORMANCE OF MAGIC.

B. I PLEDGE I WILL NOT TALK OR WHISPER DURING A FELLOW PERFORMERS ACT .

C. I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NEVER EXPLAIN THE WORKINGS OF ANOTHER MAGICIANS ACT TO A LAY PERSON.

D. I WILL NOT DISTURB A FELLOW PERFORMER PRIOR TO HIS SHOW.

E. I WILL NOT TAKE NOTES DURING A PERFORMERS ACT (WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM SAID PERFORMER.)

F. I WILL NOT VIDEO TAPE A FELLOW PERFORMER ACT WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION.

G. I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NOT CRITICIZE A FELLOW PERFORMERS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF CRITICIZING HIM OR WITH A PERSONAL AGENDA BUT INSTEAD WILL ONLY OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.

H. I PLEDGE THAT I WILL ALWAYS RESPECT THE TERRITORY OF A FELLOW PERFORMERS PERFORMANCE AND NEVER PERFORM MAGIC AT HIS VENUE BEFORE OR AFTER THE SHOW.

I. I PLEDGE I WILL NEVER PUT ANOTHER MAGICIAN DOWN TO A LAYPERSON NO MATTER WHAT I THINK OF HIM PERSONALLY OR WHAT I THINK OF HIS ACT.

J. I PLEDGE THAT I WILL ALWAYS FIND SOMETHING POSITIVE TO SAY ABOUT A FELLOW PERFORMERS ACT TO A LAY PERSON.

K. I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NEVER TRY TO OUT-DUEL A FELLOW PERFORMER JUST FOR THE SAKE OF DOING SO.

L. I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NEVER ASSUME THAT ANYTHING IN A FELLOW PERFORMERS ACT IS IN THE MAGIC DOMAIN FOR ME TO TAKE, THIS INCLUDES EFFECTS, SUBTLETIES AND LINES.

M. I PLEDGE THAT I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT JUST BECAUSE I AM A FELLOW MAGI THAT DOES NOT GIVE ME THE RIGHT TO ALL AND ANY SECRETS OF OTHER MAGICIANS. If I ASK FOR PERMISSION FOR THE SECRET OR USE OF AN EFFECT FROM A FELLOW MAGICIAN, I AM WELL AWARE AND ACCEPT THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO KEEP THE SECRET FOR THEMSELVES AND IT IS NOT PERSONAL BUT BUSINESS.

N. I PLEDGE I WILL NEVER TOUCH ANOTHER PERFORMERS PROPS WITHOUT PERMISSION.

I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT I WILL SUSPENDED FROM THIS CLUB AND ANY MAGIC SOCIETY IF I AM FOUND BREAKING ANY OF THESE PLEDGES.

I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT AS A FELLOW MAGICIAN I HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROMOTE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE MAGIC CRAFT AS A WHOLE.

I PLEDGE THIS ALL IN THE NAME AND BETTERMENT OF MAGIC.