



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76    FEBRUARY 2024    VOL. XXXIV #2

## Close-up Contest is Back for February

### President's Message

Fellow Magi,

It's hard to believe that we're already a month into 2024, and it appears that it's off to a magical start. We had an incredible first meeting with a record number of members performing, and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to watch some "kids' magic" and to regain the child-like wonder that brought us into this craft in the first place. Moving forward, there are several things coming up to help make 2024 our ring's best year ever.

First, we are working hard to establish a fresh identity as a club. To that purpose, we are soliciting input from our members to design a new logo and to create a new/refreshed name for the club.

Second, we want to encourage everyone to find ways to engage with each other outside of our formal meetings. Feel free to come a little early to jam with each other, join us after the meeting at Denny's for dinner and magic, or help us to arrange other meet ups to enjoy each other's company, learn new tricks and improve our own skills.

Lastly, I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and to volunteer to perform something at a meeting. We would love to see some of you dust off your skills, perform a new (or old) effect, astound us, and let us appreciate you. Remember, the only way to get better is to perform!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the close-up contest!

Magically yours,

**Josh Sherwin,**

President, Ring 76



### What You Need to Know

Hello Close-up Magicians!

**"Magic Mike" Stilwell** will be at the church around 5:30pm to set up the big screen and the chairs.

All members who intend to perform will need to be there by 6:30 so we can go over the final rules and make sure the setup meets their needs.

Unlike previous years, we will not require performers to move to various tables and do their routines several times. This will be a **ONE** and **DONE** performance, one performance only.

The "stage" will be a traditional close-up performance set up which will include the table, a close-up mat, one chair at the back and one chair at each end of the table. Each performer will have a strict performing time of eight minutes and no longer. We will have a time keeper who will notify you when you have one minute remaining and then call "TIME." You must stop or you will be disqualified.

There will be a few minutes for the next performer to set up, while **"Magic Mike" Stilwell**, V.P. of Entertainment and contest host, will be telling stories or stupid jokes between acts to misdirect the audience.

At the end of the evening Ring members in good standing will vote for their favorite performers; the winners will be announced and awarded at the Installation Banquet in July.

**See Close-up, Page 2**

### Ring 76 2024 Calendar

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

**March 11th - Strolling Magic\* (see Pg 2)**

**April 8th - You Fooled Us (see Pg 2)**

**\*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).

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

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**PUBLISHER - RICHARD USTICK, PROOFREADER GREG WAUSON — EMAIL US AT [EDITOR@RING76.COM](mailto:EDITOR@RING76.COM)**

**Close-up, from Page 1**

This year's contestants will be, in order of performance:

**Mark Booth, Ms. Charley, Barry Wallis, Ken Intriligator, Greg Wauson, Max Long, Dale Law, and Alfonzo Vasquez.**

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive medals and cash rewards of \$50, \$30 and \$20, respectively, when revealed.

If you have any questions, please email me or give me a call, 619-251-2766.

**"Magic Mike" Stilwell**

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## What's Coming Up!

### Strolling Magic (March 11th)

At our March meeting we are going to try something we have never done before: *Walk Around Magic!* Magic up close and personal.

This is strolling close up magic with cards, coins, ropes, dice and anything else you want to add. Remember, people will be standing all around you.

The contestants will work the room, entertaining small groups at a time, some audience members may be standing, some sitting. We ask that you limit your performance time at any one group to five minutes, so you can entertain as many people as possible. The meeting will start with the usual President's welcome and business, then the door prizes and 50/50 drawing. *Strolling* should be from 7:30 to 8:30, then each member will vote for his or her favorite. This will be a performance night with votes going toward the Entertainer of the Year.

Reach out to **"Magic Mike" Stilwell** as soon as you can as the first ten performers will get to play!

\*\*\*\*\*

### YOU FOOLED US! (April 8th)

At last year's You Fooled Us contest, **Mark Booth** said, "This was a fun evening!" It's time to start thinking about it for this year.

Way back in 2023, **"Joe Mystic"** and **"Magic Mike"** Stilwell were judges and **Miguel Garcia** was arbitrator. Let me know if you want to compete or be a judge, or possibly the person who knows all the secrets, the arbitrator.

Each performer who fools our judges will win a beautiful plaque designed and built by our very own Gary Salisbury.

Start researching miracles you think will FOOL US!!!

More info will be in the March newsletter.

**"Magic Mike" Stilwell**



## Board of Directors Seeking Input Regarding New Logo and Possible Club Name Change

Your Ring 76 Board is seeking member input regarding a redesign of the Ring's logo. In addition, the Board is discussing the idea of giving our club a new name. Don't worry, we will still be known as IBM Ring 76.

It is quite common for IBM rings to have an actual club name. Ideas that have been floated amongst the Board are "San Diego Magic Club," "San Diego Magicians," and "San Diego Mystics." At the same time, we want to continue to honor the Ring's founder, Sid Gerhart. Thus, one suggestion has been a logo that contains elements of both a new name and elements of our group's history. One such suggestion was to incorporate a "Boat Hat" into the new logo, the type of hat that Sid Gerhart was known to wear.

Another way to honor our past is to retain the tribute to Sid Gerhart in the masthead of the newsletter and on our club's web pages. As an example, please go online to <https://ibmring92.com> to see the masthead on the webpage for Ring 92, the Vancouver Magic Circle. The ring's logo is on the left, the club name and ring number in the middle, and a tribute to their founder, Charles Howard, on the right.

Below are examples of other club logos, which may help stimulate your creative juices. The Board would very much appreciate YOUR input and ideas. If you are handy with graphic design software, it would be wonderful if you could volunteer to help the Board create a new logo for the Ring. Thank you!



## Kids' Magic Highlights a Busy January Meeting

The first meeting of the new year was called to order by President **Josh Sherwin** with thirty members and twelve guests in attendance. "Kids' magic" was the theme and some members brought their children and guests to make the evening more memorable.

We started with the Opportunity Drawing and then auctioned off a canvas poster known as "Miss Baldwin." **Bob Meigs** came up with the winning bid. "Miss Baldwin"



depicted not only Miss Baldwin but also her husband, magician Samri Baldwin (Samuel Spencer

Baldwin). Samri and his wife were noted for exposing the tricks of fraudulent mediums and claiming to have learned the tricks of the fakirs of India. He would blindfold Miss Baldwin and she would demonstrate her "psychic abilities." Clara Baldwin was the first Miss Baldwin, then followed by his second wife, Kitty. Kitty eventually left the act to pursue her own career, although she never found the same success she did with her former husband.

The audition of a new prospective member, "**Dano**" (Daniel Poplawsky), followed. He entertained us with two classics: "Brain Wave" and "Chicago Opener." It was an enjoyable performance and he was voted in as our newest member. Congratulations, Dano!



With the business of the Ring concluded it was time for the magic. We had ten performers for the night which was a record even for our club.



First up was **Joe Mystic**, entertaining us with a favorite kids' trick, the "Happy Birthday Coloring Book." He got the kids going, coloring the pages with imaginary crayons, but showing they had colored outside the lines. Then the pages became blank, followed by the kids coloring inside the lines.



"**Max With an X**" was up next. He started with three individual ropes, which then combined into a circle as one long rope.

"**Mago Ruly**" was the third performer who brought out a colorful mat with circus magic on it, making a hat and wand appear.



The fourth entertainer was "**Mr. Funtastic**" who had a colorful shopping bag full of tricks. He demonstrated each item including "rigid rope" and flowers. He made a small straw stretch to a mega straw, eight foot tall. The finale was a production of a bowling ball.

In his act, **Mark Booth** performed two effects. First one was "B'Tsunami," a giant version of Max Maven's "B'Wave" using giant cards. Then some original gags were used while performing Arthur Atsma's "Chicken sword" with "Gus the Chicken." Gus figured out the kid assistant's choice of a playing card which was in the chicken's mouth.







**Paul Dwork** told us about the "world of science" effects. He performed "Drumhead Tube,"

producing in order the colors of the rainbow with silks. Then he did the "Animal Drawing Pad," predicting a chosen animal, with a final selection of a random animal, a giraffe with his neck magically growing.



The last performer was "**Doc**" Pearson. His kid assistant helped him with a "sword through the neck" routine, first hypnotizing him with his watch.



The seventh magician on deck was **Alfonso Vasquez**, who used balloons and made a yellow puppy and gave the dog commands like "play dead" and was "brought to life," popping the tail and giving it to the kid assistant.

*Sherry Luft*, acting secretary



## Shavings from the Board



Next up was "**Ms. Charley**" who brought out the SBH3000 box. She placed six balloons on the kid assistant, under each arm, hands and under the neck. She "sent thoughts" and matched the box.



**Greg Wauson** then performed Stephen Bargatze's "I Hate Kids" trick, where the kid assistant was excited to choose the "winning" wallet with \$1 in it, only to see the other two wallets had \$5 and \$20.



This was the first Board meeting of the new year and the first one in two months. Fortunately, the Ring seems to be operating smoothly and the board members' reports were concise with little needed discussion.

**Mark Booth** reported that we had thirty members and twelve guests at the January meeting.

**Mike Stilwell** started with an enthusiastic report on the January "Kid's Magic" meeting where we had ten performers. February will be our annual close-up contest and Mike said that we already have more than enough contestants to make the evening interesting. Eight members are already signed up and there will be a waiting list in case of last minute cancellations. The Board discussed the setup of the room as we will be trying out our new camera system. In the past, performers had to move around to various tables and perform multiple times, but this year it was decided that they will only have to perform once in front of the entire audience.

The March meeting was going to be card magic but it was decided to change it to strolling magic, which features close-up routines that can be done for small groups with no tables. April will feature the return of the "You fooled us" competition where members perform their legerdemain and a panel of judges tries to figure out how it was done. All members are encouraged to participate, however there will be a limited number of contestants due to time constraints. Contact **Mike Stilwell** for more



information.

**Gary Salisbury** reported on the health of the Ring library. The online Plex account saw its largest use to date. The size of the digital library continues to grow and Gary requested funds for additional equipment he feels we need to keep it running smoothly. Gary also reported that **Tom Owen-Towle** donated various magic items to the Ring as he will be moving out of the area following the loss of his wife. We thank Tom and wish him well on the next chapter of his life.

Next was new business and the Board discussed the possibility of changing the public name of the Ring to show our commitment to magic in the entire San Diego area. While the official name would remain I.B.M. Ring 76, the Board is looking at a new general name and logo to match the times. Members are encouraged to submit any ideas they have on the subject as this is just the initial stage.

With that all business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Ring 76 Board meetings are held via Zoom every fourth Monday of the month (except December) and all members are welcome to attend. Input from the membership is always welcome so if you have a subject you want addressed please let any Board member know.

**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.

‘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 magazines, all available for check-out. It is 229 magic audiobooks, 1,543 magic instruction videos, 75 full length magic movies, 8 albums of magic music (some royalty free), 1,582 magic performance videos (many classics), 10 podcasts (over 2,000 episodes we co-host), 23 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

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

We made \$21 from the 50/50 drawing, \$25 from the door prize drawing, and \$85 from library sales. We purchased five videos for the Magic Media Server, leaving a balance of \$248.26 in the library petty cash. The library needs to be fed in order to keep it alive so your donations would be greatly appreciated.

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

We have acquired the following printed books:

- *Cues: Variations of the Second Sight Act* by Leo Behnke
- *Professional Close-up* by Leo Behnke
- *Other Stories* by Leo Behnke

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

We are in process of installing a RAID storage system on the Magic Media Server so we will double our storage capability and add redundancy in the event of hardware failure. I do not have a timeline yet but will notify you via a Librarygram email if there is any downtime scheduled.

We purchased the following movies for the Magic Media Server:

- The Sorcerer's Apprentice (Blu-ray)
- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Blu-ray)
- Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (Blu-ray)
- The Crimes of Grindelwald (Blu-ray)
- The Secrets of Dumbledore (Blu-ray)

Here is the utilization report for the *Magic Media Server* over past 12 months. Usage is higher than it has ever been since I brought the Ring 76 Magic Media Server to life.



Plex only offers four categories:

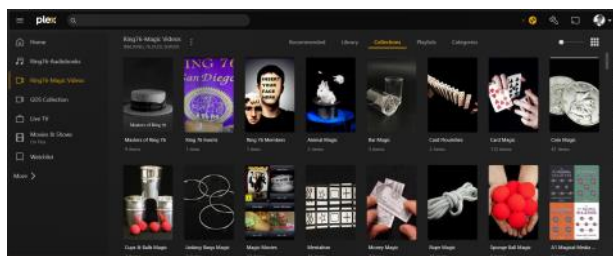
- **Movie Category** in **green** (*Magic Instruction* (1,543), *Magic Movies* (75), & *Magic Performances* (1,582))
- **TV Category** in **red** (*Magic TV Shows* (23))
- **Music Category** in **blue** (*Magic Audiobooks* (229), *Magic Music* (8), & *Magic Podcasts* (10 for 2,037 episodes))
- **Photos Category** in **orange** (*Ring 76 Photos and Videos*)

This magic machine is your key to learning and being entertained. It is a benefit of being a Ring 76 member so please make use of it.



*Do you have an account on the Ring 76 Magic Media Server yet? If not, 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.

## MAGIC MOVIE REVIEWS

### The Sorcerer's Apprentice 2010 (Blu-ray)

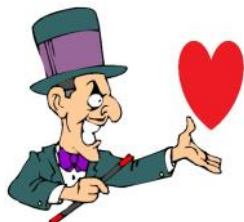
Magic is everywhere in Disney's THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE -- the fun family adventure from the creators of NATIONAL TREASURE. Balthazar Blake (Nicolas Cage) is a modern-day sorcerer with his hands full defending Manhattan against dark forces. When a seemingly average kid shows hidden potential, Balthazar takes his reluctant recruit on a crash course in the art and science of magic to become the ultimate sorcerer's apprentice. Experience more extraordinary thrills, heart-stopping action and spectacular special effects than you can imagine as these unlikely partners show us that the real world is far more magical than we ever knew!



### Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children 2016 (Blu-ray)

A mysterious island, an abandoned orphanage, and a strange collection of very curious photographs.

It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that makes for a thrilling viewing experience. As our story opens, a



horrific family tragedy sets 16-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow - impossible though it seems - they may still be alive.

A spine-tingling magical fantasy, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* will delight adults, teens, and anyone who relishes an adventure in the shadows.

### Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them 2016 (Blu-ray)

In mid-1920s New York, Newt Scamander, a British young activist wizard, arrives in the city, holding a mysterious leather suitcase sheltering diverse and magical creatures. Then, in the face of a fragile equilibrium of secrecy and the increasing disasters ascribed to the dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald, Newt's precious suitcase suddenly goes missing. And before long, this unforeseen complication catches Senior Auror Percival Graves' attention. Now, Newt is his target as an invisible, devastating, and unpredictable menace still wreaks havoc on 5th Avenue. In the end, is there a hidden agenda behind Graves' intentions? What will happen to the remaining fantastic beasts still on the loose?



### The Crimes of Grindelwald 2018 (Blu-ray)

From the imagination of Wizarding World creator J.K. Rowling comes the Fantastic Beasts film series, magical adventures set before the time of Harry Potter. At the end of the first film, the powerful dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp) was captured by MACUSA (Magical Congress of the United States of America), with the help of Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne). But, making good on his threat, Grindelwald escaped custody and has set about gathering followers, most unsuspecting of his true agenda: to raise pure-blood wizards up to rule over all non-magical beings. In an effort to thwart Grindelwald's plans, Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law) enlists his former student Newt Scamander, who agrees to help, unaware of the dangers that lie ahead. Lines are drawn as love and loyalty are tested, even among the truest friends and family, in an increasingly divided wizarding world.



### The Secrets of Dumbledore 2022 (Blu-ray)

Professor Albus Dumbledore (Law) knows the powerful dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald (Mikkelsen) is moving to seize control of the wizarding world. Unable to stop him alone, he entrusts Magizoologist Newt Scamander (Redmayne) to lead an intrepid team of wizards, witches and one brave muggle baker on a





dangerous mission, where they encounter old and new beasts and clash with Grindelwald's growing legion of followers. But with the stakes so high, how long can Dumbledore remain on the sidelines?



*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.) I will make sure the items get to the next monthly meeting or you can pick them up at my home in Blossom Valley.

There is a limit of four 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.

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.

*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 merged with my own commentary to give you a better, more thorough source of information. Thanks to all who have knowingly and unknowingly contributed.)

**Happy Valentine's Day!**

## **In Memoriam**

It is with a sad heart that we report that Ring member **Dick Dale** passed away in January. He was an active member of Ring 76 and officer for many years, while he promoted magic locally and across the country.



**RING 76**

**THE HONEST SID GERHART RING**



**MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP**



## 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 Richard Ustick, Mark Booth, and Jeff Pearson**. Thank you for all your hard work!



## Join Us for Post-Meeting Meeting

We'd love to have you join us as we gather together to eat and talk magic and news of the world after our monthly meetings. See you at the Denny's in Mission Valley, 1065 Camino Del Rio South, right across I-8 from Target.



## Magic in the Community

I am Paul Dwork, a magician, pharmacist, inventor, IBM member since 1989, and have been paying it forward with my annual benefit magic show for 38 years. Over that time I have raised over \$1 million dollars for various charitable organizations, and have never taken anything for myself. Some of these charities include Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Kingdom Center for the Homeless, Hospice, Free Clinic, Make A Wish Foundation, and countless others.

Every year I bring in the best talent magic has to offer and already have requests for tickets for my 2025 show. I have filled the theater year after year with a full house. I always open my show and let the energy of the magic rise to the highest levels. After moving three years ago from Camarillo to Encinitas, I have continued this annual event, now in San Diego county, starting with the show in Carlsbad last year. All funds go through the Encinitas Rotary, which is a 501(c)(3) charity.

This year's show will feature Arthur Trace, Chipper Lowell, Eric Buss, Krystyn Lambert, and me, Merlin. The date is March 16, at 7PM, and the location is the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center. Tickets are \$60 and you can enjoy the best magic and feel proud as you support local San Diego County charitable organizations.

Tickets are available at [magicmagicmagic.com/rotary-magic](https://magicmagicmagic.com/rotary-magic)  
Compeer Paul  
[Paul@pauldworkmagic.com](mailto:Paul@pauldworkmagic.com)

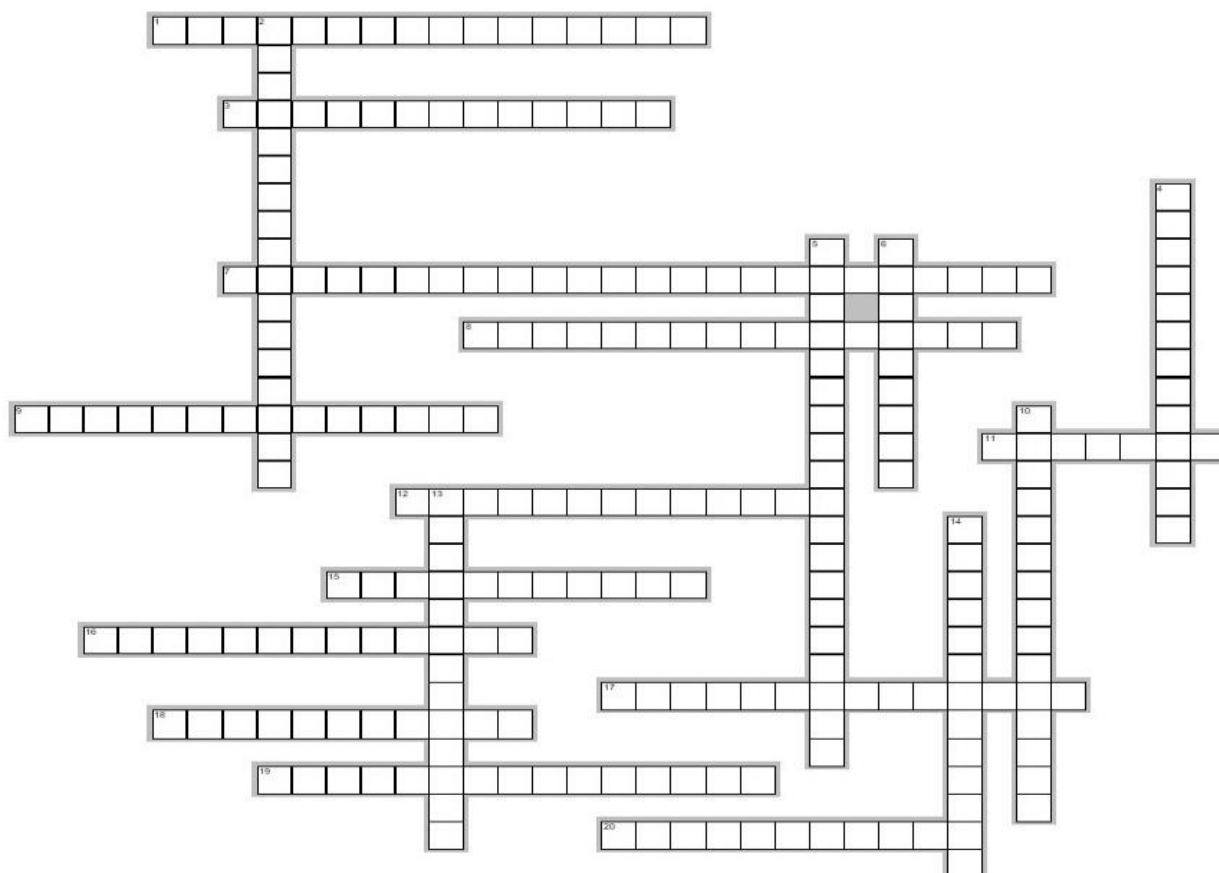






# Famous Card Tricks Crossword Puzzle

By Gary Salisbury



This month's puzzle is "Famous Card Tricks." This one is a bit more challenging than last months but the answers will be in next month's newsletter. Your feedback is always appreciated.

## Across

1. 3 words, Magician throws the deck to reveal
3. 3 words, 654 Club
7. 4 words, Jimmy Grippo made famous
8. 2 words, Now you see it, now you don't.
9. 4 words Michael Ammar's effect
11. 1 word, Motorcycle
12. 2 words, DC's grandfather.
15. 2 words, Mack King's repertoire.
16. 2 words, Daryl's favorite opener, red hot momma
17. 3 words, Street corner
18. 2 words, Astrological sign
19. 3 words, Chubby Checker
20. 3 words, René Lavand performs with six cards

## Down

2. 4 words, Medical man final
4. 3 words, Can be performed standing.
5. 4 cards, Reformation.
6. 3 words, Tommy Wonder's missing card
10. 5 words, One degree
13. 3 words, Doc Easton's signature effect
14. 2 words, OTIS

Last month's crossword puzzle solution.



The Ring 76 Monthly crossword puzzle was created by Gary Salisbury, Ring 76 Librarian.

## Another Look at Kids' Magic from the January Meeting



Joe Mystic    Max with an X    Mark Booth    Paul Dwork    Ms. Charley    Mr. Funtastic    Greg Wauson    Doc Pearson  
Mago Ruly    Alfonso Vasquez

Our next meeting will be the close-up contest on Monday, February 12th. See you then.