

# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

**JUNE 2024** 

**VOL. XXXIV #6** 

# June Meeting Action Packed!

As the end of the Ring 76 calendar quickly approaches, one of our busiest meetings comes this June. First, we have the election of our new Board of Directors. Next, dues are due and you can pay with cash, checks, or electronically. Please add two dollars to cover fees for electronic payment. In addition, we are going to have not one, but two, auditions for new Ring membership. Finally, we are pleased to have a first class lecture by new member Gracie Morgan.

Gracie Morgan has been performing magic for around 50 years and teaching for about 35 years. She's been lucky enough to hang out and be friends with some of the greats: Darwin Ortiz, Larry Jennings, Bruce Cervon, Michael Vincent, Ron Bauer, Martin Nash, Mike Skinner, Roger Klause and many more.

She has performed over 250 shows at the Magic Castle, two at worldwide IBM conventions and a few local ones like MagiFest in Ohio. She has also lectured across the USA and Canada, including three on the performance of sleight of hand for the Magic Castle. She also has published in multiple places including MAGIC Magazine and The Linking Ring.

"Gracie Morgan is an exceptional sleight of hand expert and even more exceptional is her ability to teach what she knows to others." --- Darwin Ortiz

"The level of attention to detail that Gracie brings to the study of card magic is simply astounding. I have been greatly inspired by Gracie's thinking and thought process." --- Michael Vincent

"Gracie Morgan is a rare combination. As a performer she can do the "real work," expressing the chops of an expert. He also knows which parts of the "real work" are real, and which parts are "work." Furthermore, she is exceptionally adept at teaching how magic should be made entertainingly powerful. Because she closely reads, deeply analyzes, and is then able to execute what she knows in meticulous detail, students can learn more quickly and tactically apply what they have learned. Details devilishly make a difference. Gracie consistently translates what she knows and reveals everything necessary to make you a complete entertainer." --- Jon Racherbaumer

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

"Gracie Morgan's videos are the most thoughtfully and patiently worked out tools for learning key sleight-of-hand with cards that I've ever had the pleasure of watching. Her long experience under fire has given her the insight to know what makes these techniques work, and she doesn't leave out any of the real work. Miss Morgan appears to have discovered the real royal road to card magic, and she's invited you to travel it with her." --- Ron Bauer

We will also feature the opportunity drawings and remind all the members and guests of the great magic events that will be coming to San Diego this summer.



Terry Godfrey previewed his County Fair act for Ring 76 at our May Meeting

### Ring 76 2024 Calendar

June 10th - Gracie Morgan Lecture

July 8th - Installation Potluck

August 12 - Bag Night \*

\*Opportunity for members to perform
Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. of
Entertainment, "Magic Mike" Stilwell at
Magicmike@Ring76.com.

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### May Meeting and Stand-Up Contest Another One for the Books

President Josh Sherwin opened our May meeting with a total of 46 people, including 32 members and 14 guests, in attendance. After a short business meeting, "Magic Mike" Stilwell handed out plaques to the winners of our April's "You Fooled Us" contest: Max Long, Dale Law, "Magical Ms. Charley," and Joe Mystic. Gracie Morgan was also a winner of the April event but was absent and will receive the plaque at the June meeting. These beautiful plaques were made by Gary Salisbury, with the full appreciation of Ring 76.

"Magic Mike Stilwell" announced the upcoming Ring events (See page 1) as well as the entertainment for the Wheelchair Regatta on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Among the strolling performers for this worthy event at the Silver Gate Yacht Club will be Max Long, "Magical Ms. Charley," Paul Dwork and Hudson Hale.

Then it was time for our annual stand-up contest and it was as entertaining as we have come to expect. We always looks forward to this contest and it did not disappoint. Seven members were signed up and the rules were announced. Micah Ortiz was introduced as the official time keeper and any contestant who exceeded the designated time limit would be disqualified.

First up was Alfonso Vasquez, who started the contest with his "Time Effect" knots that slid off the ropes as if by magic. Next he sealed "Alf," a silk handkerchief, into a clear bottle and "Alf" started to dance. The clear bottle was passed around the room for examination while the red silk gyrated inside. Alfonso reminded us to "bring wonder and joy into our lives."



The fourth contestant was magician **Max Long**, who played Ring 76's favorite game show, "ESP Bingo." With the aid of Natalie and Paul Dwork, Max did a "Magical Calculator" with a twist.



Next up was **Joe Mystic**, who performed a fabulous silk to cane routine with red, white and blue silks. Then he gathered all the

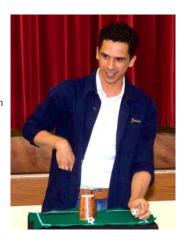
silks and changed them into the American flag. His finale was a linking ring effect with only three rings.





The second performer was "Mr. Funtastic," who had his assistant, Mr. Balloon, announce him. His routine was a humorous version of the pom pom stick using colorful fuzzy wuzzies.

The sixth performer was Jordan Johnson, who combined his Ring audition with the stand-up contest. He started with a white silk that changed into the Mexican flag, then did a prediction with bingo cards with different items on each card instead of numbers. Jordan ended with a chop cup routine with three soccer balls and a final load of a "world ball."



"Magical Ms. Charley" demonstrated a card mystery using a phone made from two tin cans tied together with a strand of string. Assistants Josh's daughter Natalie and Eric Karini each started with ten cards. After Natalie spoke to Eric with the can phone, two cards disappeared from Natalie's pile and magically appeared in Eric's.





Mark Booth was the stand-up contest's closer, with Shelly Alston and Miguel Garcia as his helpers. He set the stage with his banner "Mental Mark, The Man Who Knows... Nothing" and his red cloth covering the wooden board became his cape. He performed "Which watch will win?" which is an effect of his own creation. Shelly thought of a specific time and it ended up precisely matching the time set on a randomly selected pocket watch by Miguel.

With the stand-up contest officially closed it was time for some bonus entertainment. **Terry Godfrey** presented a preview of his act for the upcoming San Diego County Fair. His kids' show was bright and fun and a good close to the magical meeting.



### Congratulations to this Year's "You Fooled Us" Contest Winners



Max Long



Gracie Morgan



Mr. Funtastic



Magical Ms. Charley



Joe Mystic





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 367 magic audio books, 1,587 magic instruction videos, 85 full length magic movies, 8 albums of magic music (some royalty free), 1,481 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**

This month we had donations from:

- Dr. X (anonymous friend of the library) donated 42 audiobooks for the library's Plex server. (valued at \$630)
- Dr. Kaleo Whiting (Ring 76 member and loyal supporter of the library) donated 2 boxes of mentalism books.
- David Chiu (Ring 76 member) donated several magic props and
- Susan Callagy (Ring 76 visitor) donated \$40, her share of winning the 50/50 Opportunity drawing.

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 \$80 from the 50/50 Opportunity Drawing and \$64 from the Door Prize Drawing at the May meeting. We purchased six audio books for the server for \$82.70 leaving a balance in the

Library Petty Cash fund of \$165.29.



We have other things to purchase for the library but I am holding off until the cash balance increases and am only focusing on essentials at this time. 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)

We did not purchase any magic books this month but received two boxes of books that will be inventoried and placed in the library.

#### Ring 76 Magic Media Server (Streaming Service)

We had a donation of 42 magic-oriented audio books from Dr. X:

- The Spellsinger (series of 7) by Alan Dean Foster
- The Ghost and ... (series of 33) by Bobbi Holmes
- The Magician by Sol Stein
- The Illusionist Brain by Jordi Cami

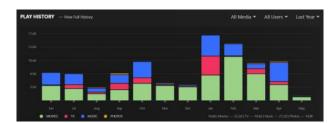
We purchased 6 audio books that I have put onto the server in the magic audio books section. These were audio books to fill in holes in collections we

- The Magician's House: by William Corlett
- Love, Lies, & Hocus Pocus: 5 Betrayal by Lydia Sherrer
- Love, Lies, & Hocus Pocus: 6 Identity by Lydia Sherrer
- Love, Lies, & Hocus Pocus: 7 Kindred by Lydia Sherrer
- Love, Lies, & Hocus Pocus: 8 Odyssey by Lydia Sherrer
- The Alchemist of Monsters & Mayhem 7 by Gigi Pandian

#### Please see the audio book reviews of these great books below.

If you haven't tried to listen to any of our audio books then you are missing a great opportunity to be entertained, to be inspired, and to learn new things. You can listen on your smartphone while you walk or drive. Many of these audio books are great for young adolescents. What better way to get them interested in magic! It is another great benefit from being a Ring 76 member.

This is the utilization report for the Ring 76 Magic Media Server over past 12 months. There was a huge drop in activity for May but I don't know why. Maybe it was the warm weather?



Plex only offers four categories of media:

- Movie Category in green (Magic Instruction (1,587), Magic Movies (85), & Magic Performances (1,481)
- TV Category in red (Magic TV Shows (23))
- Music Category in blue (Magic Audio books (367), Magic Music (8), & Magic Podcasts (10 for over 2,000 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? 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 in the Magic Performances library where everyone can see you perform.

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Tired of high cable TV bills? Would you like to watch free movies & live 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 gandora to choose from.



#### **Additional Note:**

Do you have your eye on a video from your favorite magic dealer but are holding back because of the cost? Have I got a deal for you!

Just tell me what you want to buy and I will take a look at it. If there are funds and it is something that would benefit all the members, then I may be able to purchase it and put it on our Magic Media Server where you and others members can enjoy it.

### AUDIOBOOK REVIEWS



The Spellsinger Series (7 volumes)

by Alan Dean Foster

This version was done by Graphic Audio and claims to create a movie in your mind.

Well, perhaps not Tolkien, but I had the urge for alliteration in the title. SPELLSINGER is a fantasy series quite unlike any other. While the anthropomorphisation of animals is certainly not a new thing, ALAN DEAN FOSTER has done something out of the ordinary with it here. To give you some idea, if you can imagine the original Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles characters in a fantasy setting, then you'll have some idea of what to expect. Before TMNT was watered down for TV it was a quirky and edgy comic strip with a depth to the characters that adaption for the screen utterly destroyed. Hmm. That probably helps a total of one single reader of this review in understanding more about the novel.

So, what we have are animals with human intelligence and traits for the majority of the characters. The main character is a guy from Earth who gets 'magicked' into the fantasy world and has to cope, not only with the enormous change in his environment, but also with unexpected contrasts such as a bipedal bunny being a ferocious, sword-wielding combatant. Needless to say, the writing is sometimes tongue-in-cheek, though not with the forced humor of, say, Terry Pratchett.

Other than this I admit the novel is a fairly basic "quest" story: the discombobulated protagonist sets out to save the world from a gathering darkness, all the while discovering new and highly useful innate abilities, and is possessed of a rather obtuse preoccupation with trying to catch the attention of the main romantic interest. You get the picture.

While not high art by any stretch, it makes for a quite readable escapist fantasy novel without a great deal of predictability or clichéd turns of phrase.

THE GHOST
OF WARLOW HOUSE

BOBBI HOLMES

The Ghost and ... (Vol. 1-33) by Bobbi Holmes

This series also goes under the name, "Haunting Danielle." There are 36 books in this series; however, we only have volumes 1 to 33. The remaining volumes are on our things to buy list.

From Book 1: When Danielle Boatman inherits Marlow House, she dreams of turning it into a seaside bed and breakfast. Since she's never visited the property, Danielle's not sure what awaits her in Oregon. She certainly doesn't expect to find one of the house's previous owners still in residence. After all, the man has been dead for almost ninety years—shouldn't he have moved on by now? Charming Walt Marlow convinces Danielle the only way he can move on is if she solves the mystery of his death. Danielle soon discovers her real problems may come from the living—those who have their sights on Marlow House's other secrets.

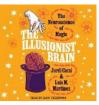
This is a delightful series for young adults as well as adults. Don't miss a single volume.



The Magician by Sol Stein

This is a tale of two magicians, of high school extortion and violence, and of a criminal trial in which the guilty go free.

Selected by the Book-of-the-Month Club, The Magician has sold over one million copies. Webster Schott wrote in the New York Times Book Review, I cannot recall a novel of this type with greater pleasure. Beautiful and gripping.



The Illusionist Brain, The Neuroscience of Magic

by Jordi Cami, Luis M. Martinez

Do you want to know how to be a better magician? Then you need to know how the human brain works when exposed to magic. This book will teach you that.

How do magicians make us see the impossible? The Illusionist Brain takes you on an unforgettable journey through the inner workings of the human mind, revealing how magicians achieve their spectacular and seemingly impossible effects by interfering with your cognitive processes. Along the way, this lively and informative book provides a guided tour of modern neuroscience, using magic as a lens for understanding the unconscious and automatic functioning of our brains.



We construct reality from the information stored in our memories and received through our senses, and our brains are remarkably adept at tricking us into believing that our experience is continuous. In fact, our minds create our perception of reality by elaborating meanings and continuities from incomplete information, and while this strategy carries clear benefits for survival, it comes with blind spots that magicians know how to exploit. Jordi Cami and Luis Martinez explore the many different ways illusionists manipulate our attention and take advantage of our individual predispositions and fragile memories.

The Illusionist Brain draws on the latest findings in neuroscience to explain how magic deceives us, surprises us, and amazes us, and demonstrates how illusionists skillfully "hack" our brains to alter how we perceive things and influence what we imagine.



### The Magician's House: The Steps Up the Chimney

by William Corlett

There seems to be magic in the air the minute that William, Mary and Alice Constant arrive at Golden House to stay with their uncle and aunt during the Christmas Holidays.

There is something special about the rundown Golden House that their uncle is trying to renovate into a hotel and as they explore, they begin to unravel its secrets. They discover a hidden room, reached by steps up the chimney. Here they meet the magician Stephen Tyler, a 16th-century alchemist who has been transported through time and needs their help.

Evil and danger threaten the arrival of their new baby cousin, and the children turn to the animals in the forest to come to their rescue as a snowstorm engulfs the valley.

This enchanting audio-book, narrated by Siân Phillips, is the first in the Magician's House quartet series, which won an Emmy for its BBC television adaptation, which featured Stephen Fry, Ian Richardson and Jennifer Saunders.



#### Love, Lies, & Hocus Pocus Series (vol. 1-8)

by Lydia Sherrer

Saving the world is such a bother when it makes you late for tea.

By day, book-loving wizard Lily Singer manages library archives. By night? She sleeps, of course. In between, she studies magic and tries to keep her witch friend

Sebastian from dragging her into trouble. Unfortunately, trouble comes looking for her on a regular basis.

When Sebastian needs help breaking a magical curse, Lily knows things are not as they seem. Their quest to unravel the truth and free a tormented soul uncovers hints about Lily's mysterious past—and those working to hide it from her. As if that were not enough, Sebastian gets them stuck in a time loop and Lily must track down the culprit. But they are not the only ones interested in this strange phenomenon, and it becomes a race to the source of the magical disturbance, with all their lives hanging in the balance.

Full of unexpected twists and snarky humor, Love, Lies, and Hocus Pocus: Beginnings is book one of the Lily Singer Adventures urban fantasy series. If you enjoy magic-filled adventures like Harry Potter and Supernatural, then you'll love this delightful new series. Pick up Beginnings and enter your magical escape today!

WARNING: This story has been known to cause loud snorts of laughter, inexplicable craving for tea, and loss of work productivity.



#### The Alchemist of Monsters & Mayhem

by Gigi Pandian

This is volume 8 of an 8-volume series from the Accidental Alchemist series. We now have all 8 volumes on our Magic Media Server.

Murder in a conservatory of carnivorous plants. Bewitching topiary terrors. A sabotaged tea shop. Can Zoe untangle the truth before someone close to her takes the blame?

Alchemist Zoe Faust is no stranger to magical mayhem, but when her boyfriend's new tea shop is vandalized and his special tea blends stolen, she plunges into a baffling mystery to save him. The clues lead Zoe and her gargoyle sidekick Dorian to an eerie mansion high in the Portland hills, filled with creeping carnivorous plants and enigmatic topiary monsters.

When they stumble across a corpse in the conservatory that appears to have been killed by sinister shrubbery, an estranged member of the family is implicated in the murder. Can Zoe use her alchemist skills to catch the real killer while navigating crafty alchemists and killer plants?

The seventh installment in the multi-award-winning Accidental Alchemist Mystery Series finds Zoe and Dorian battling carnivorous plants and a killer hiding in the wicked weeds of this closed circle whodunit. Full of laugh-out-loud humor and spine-tingling fantasy elements, this lighthearted mystery will leave readers racing through the conservatory's vines to the end of this killer read.

"Filled with magic, intrigue, and humor, this series is sure to delight fans of cozy mysteries and urban fantasy."—Bookriot

"A supernatural cozy series that hits high marks." —Library Journal

"Pandian sets this series apart from other fluffy paranormal mysteries with Zoe's cute nonhuman sidekick and some mouthwatering vegan recipes."

—Publishers Weekly

"Zoe and Dorian are my new favorite amateur-sleuth duo!" — New York Times bestselling author Victoria Laurie

### LIBRARY CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

Members may contact me 7x24 either by e-mail at <code>librarian@ring76.com</code> or by cell phone (voice or text) at <code>619-569-6035</code> 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.

### SAN DIEGO RING 76, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



### MAGICURRENTS - JUNE 2024

Please email me with comments or suggestions. 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: <u>librarian@ring76.com</u> 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.)



### June is a Busy Ring Month

Not only are dues due and the Board is elected but Ring 76 will also be voting on who they think should be the Ring 76 Member of the Year.

Each year the Ring votes on who they think has done the most to promote magic in the community, not only within Ring 76, but also in San

Diego at large. The honor is open to anyone in the Ring (with the exception of the last Member of the year,



Take a moment to think about all that has VOTE happened in the last year and who you think deserves this great honor. The name will be announced at the Installation Potluck this July.



# Shavings From the

Ring 76's Board of Directors meets monthly (except December) on the fourth Monday of the month. The meetings are held via ZOOM and start at 7pm sharp. Members in good standing are welcome to attend.

This month's Board meeting was held on May 27th. President Josh Sherwin declared a quorum in effect and called the meeting to order at

After a report from the officers was presented, the business of the Ring was addressed. June will be a busy meeting. First, dues are due and may be paid in cash, check, and online with PayPal. Next the Ring will vote on the new Board of Directors for the next year. Mark Booth will also be collecting ballots for the Ring 76 Member of the Year. Following that will be the auditions of two new proposed members, Hudson Hale and Bruce McCarthur.

The meeting will then be turned over to Gracie Morgan for a lecture and the presentation of the plaque to Gracie for being a "You Fooled Us"

The Board decided that July's Installation Banquet will be a potluck. Richard Ustick will be handling the details including, notifying the members of food and beverages needed. Associate member Brenda Wauson has volunteered to provide table decorations for the event.

It was then brought up that another question and answer evening should be scheduled for our professional members to discuss tips and tricks for smoother presentations. This will be either in November or January, to be finalized later.

With that, the business of the Ring was concluded and President Sherwin closed the meeting.

Sherry Luft, Acting Secretary



SAN DIEGO RING 76, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



### July Installation Potluck

This year's Installation Banquet will be a potluck. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite summer time dishes to share with the members and guests to this, our most popular meeting of the year. The date will be Monday, July 8th, and it will feature the entertaining magic of Robert Baxt. It will also be the time we award the winners of the close-up and stand-up contests as well as swear in our new Board of Directors.

This year's potluck is being coordinated by Richard Ustick. He is asking that members bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert that can feed around ten people. The Ring will provide serving utensils and heating trays for food that needs to be kept warm.

This meeting is open to members and their families, however, space is limited so we ask that you notify Richard of how many people you intend to bring. You can email him at Ring76ibm@yahoo.com. Please contact him as soon as possible so he and the rest of the team have enough time to plan.



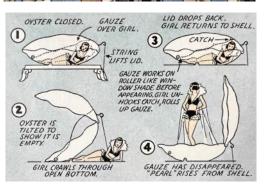
### Join Us for Post-Meeting Meetings!

Many of us gather together to eat and talk magic and news of the world after our monthly meetings. You are invited to join us at the Denny's in Mission Valley, located at 1065 Camino Del Rio South. It's right across I-8 from Target.





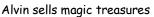






### More Pictures From Our May Meeting



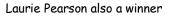




Gary Salisbury's daughter, Shelly Alston, "mysteriously" wins drawing











Good crowd for the stand-up contest



### What's Coming Up!

**July 8th** - Installation Banquet with funny guy and terrific magician, Robert Baxt! Also, to meet everyone's needs, this will be a potluck! See page 8 for more details.

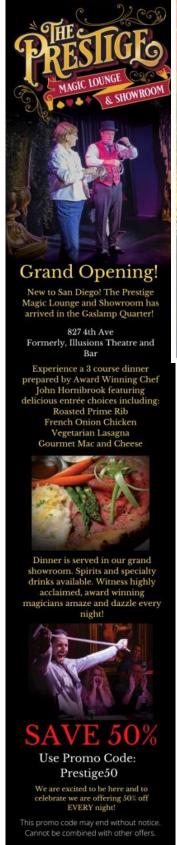
August 12th - Get your creative juices flowing...IT'S BAG NIGHT! 10 Bags will have something inside. You'll have 10 minutes to figure out how to make an entertaining miracle out of what you have. Should be a fun night! Sign-ups will be after the installation banquet.

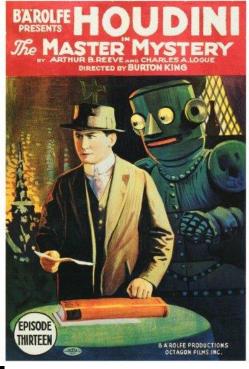
**September 9th** - Our annual Ring 76 SWAP MEET.

Mike Stilwell, VP Entertainment









## Thank You to this Month's Photographer



MagiCurrents is a large endeavor every month. The editors make a concerted effort to inform Ring members about past news and upcoming events, especially all around San Diego. We welcome all the help that Ring members give us in getting this periodical out.

This issues's photographs were provided by **Mark Booth**. Thank you for all your hard work!