



MagiCurrents



SAN DIEGO RING 76 OCTOBER 2024 VOL. XXXIV #10

Swap Meet Swaps Treasures And Ring Says Goodbye to Valued Member

Due to the alarming number of COVID-19 cases among Ring 76 members, our August meeting, was canceled, making September the first event of the Ring calendar year. Members and guests enjoyed the air-conditioned hall as a break from our warm weather. This was particularly important as the theme of the meeting was the annual Ring 76 swap meet and the meeting area was filled with members, sellers, and guests.



The Board opened the hall early to allow plenty of time for sellers to unload and set up their wares. This is one of the few meetings each year where family, friends, and the general public are invited without the usual restrictions as we see it as a way of not only selling our

treasures but promoting magic to the general community.

The actual meeting started promptly at 7 pm and was called to order by Ring President **Josh Sherwin**. According to Sgt-at-Arms **Mark Booth** it

was attended by 33 members and 12 guests. As the meeting was going to be devoted to the swap meet, the business meeting was recognizably short. It was announced that next month's meeting theme is "*Spooky Magic*" and that Tim Wise will be lecturing at the November meeting. Various announcements were made from the members at large concerning magic events in the San Diego area, and then the guests were introduced and welcomed.



The last order of business was solemn as Ring 76 had recently lost a member, "**Magic Doc**" **Jeff Pearson**, who passed away in August (see Pg 2). While there was a public service on Sunday, September 8, "**Magic Mike**" **Stilwell** and **Josh Sherwin** performed the Broken Wand ceremony at our meeting. Several of his long-time friends and family members were there, including Jeff's wife, **Laurie Pearson**, and Jeff's sister, Lori Pearson-Wise. In honor of "**Magic Doc**" Pearson, red rubber noses were passed out and worn as this was a hallmark of this beloved performer and fellow Ring member. Afterward, several audience members came forward and gave brief tributes.

With that, all business was concluded and the rest of the evening was devoted to the buying and selling of magical treasures, books, and props.

Richard Ustick, IBM Ring 76 Secretary

Ring 76 2024 Calendar

October 14 - Spooky Magic*

November 11 – Lecture with Tim Wise

December 9 - Holiday Potluck

**Opportunity for Members to Perform*

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to V.P. of Entertainment, "**Magic Mike**" Stilwell at

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76**

PUBLISHER - RICHARD USTICK, PROOFREADER - GREG WAUSON EMAIL US AT EDITOR@RING76.COM



Ring says Goodbye to Jeff "Doc" Pearson



"Magic Mike" Stilwell & President Josh Sherwin perform Broken Wand ceremony for Doc Pearson



Jeff's sister Lori Pearson-Wise



Happy Elliot had a few words to say



Ring 76 Honors Doc Pearson with Red Rubber Nose Sendoff



What's Coming Up!

The next three months will be some of the most exciting meetings of the year.

October 14th will be Spooky Magic, a chance for members to break out those haunted decks, floating skeletons, rolling keys, and other mysteries from the dark side. We will also be graced with two auditions for membership. If you plan to perform, please contact "Magic Mike" at magicmike@ring76.com to sign up. Members will vote for their favorite performer; the winner will be announced as the entertainer of the month and votes will count toward the entertainer of the year.

November will feature a guest lecture by *Tim Wise*; see next month's newsletter for more details. This will be a free lecture for all members in good standing but we will be charging \$20 for all visitors and guests.

December will be the Holiday Potluck and we are holding a vote to see who the members want to have entertain us. The candidates for this honor are *Derek Ostovani*, Corporate Magician and Mentalist, and *Christopher T Magician*, Family Entertainer. "**Magic Mike**" has been conducting a vote and the DEADLINE for this selection will be October 15th. Please contact "**Magic Mike**" at magicmike@ring76.com and let him know your preference. One vote per person please!

In the far future, the January meeting will be Kids' Magic, with February being the annual Close-Up Contest. In March, Ring 76 will be featuring a teach-in with mini-lectures, members sharing, and teaching.

Mark your calendars and get ready for a great season of magic.

"**Magic Mike**" Stilwell, V.P. Entertainment

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



Overlooked No More: Ellen Armstrong, 'Marvelous, Mystifying' Magician of Mirth

By Vanessa Armstrong

(The author, a freelance writer with an interest in women in magic, is not related to Ellen Armstrong.)

Sept. 20, 2024

Carrying on a family tradition, she brought her singular act to Black audiences in the segregated South and on up to Philadelphia. When we think of magicians, we typically imagine someone sporting a top hat and tails while holding a rabbit alongside a sultry assistant. Often, this magician is a man, and usually he is white.



Ellen Armstrong as a teenager in a costume she would typically wear while performing.
Photo credit...via Michael Claxton Collection

But in December 1949, an article in *Ebony* magazine showcased a dozen Black magicians as "among America's oldest entertainers although few in number." The sole woman among them was Ellen Armstrong, who was described as "probably the only Negro woman magician in the U.S. today."

Armstrong began by practicing magic onstage with her father but later performed a solo act full of illusion and humor. One trick involved a blank pane of glass in a picture frame, where a cascade of sand fell from top to bottom when she turned it upside down. When the sand cleared, the frame held an image of someone famous, like the boxer Joe Louis.

In the photo to the right, Ellen is on the left, with her father, J. Hartford Armstrong, and his second wife, Lillie Belle. Ellen performed with her for a time when she was young.
Photo credit...via Michael Claxton Collection



See *Magician of Mirth*, page 4

Magician of Mirth, from page 3

In another routine, called “Miser’s Dream,” she made coins appear out of thin air and land with a miraculous clunk into a metal bucket.

Above all, her act was fun, full of “marvelous, mystifying magic, music and mirth,” as her advertising posters said, promising to “tickle your shoe string and make your big toe laugh” while cautioning that she “will not pay for doctor bills if you faint from laughter.”



On the left is a poster advertising Armstrong, noting that she would be “presenting magic as formerly done by the original J. Hartford Armstrong.” *Photo credit...via Michael Claxton Collection*

Ellen Emma Armstrong was born on Dec. 27, 1905, in South Carolina to Ida (White) and John Hartford Armstrong. The Armstrongs were a magic-performing dynasty, believed to be the

first to come from and focus on the Black community. Her father started performing with his brother when he was a teenager. Later, he performed with Ellen’s mother, who died soon after giving birth to Ellen, and then with his second wife, Lillie Belle.

Ellen was only six when she started performing with her father and stepmother, going by the name “Little Zelle,” as they traveled to Black schools and churches along the East Coast, from Key West, Florida, to Philadelphia. Their slogan was “Going fine since 1889.”

They performed during a time of legal segregation, sundown towns and lynchings.

“Black performers in the early 20th century, moving into the mid-20th century, had to navigate the nation constantly aware of that threat of violence,” Treva Lindsey, a professor at Ohio State University specializing in Black popular culture and African American women’s history, said in an interview.

J. Hartford Armstrong, as Ellen’s father was



billed, and Lillie Belle had what they called a “Second Sight” act: One of them, blindfolded, identified people and objects while fed information by the other via an elaborate verbal code. Late in life, Armstrong married Pierce Bowling, a real estate developer who was most likely a family friend.

“There were times when she would draw hats and then a rabbit coming out of it, and then she would elaborate on the rabbit, turn it upside down, and it’d be a picture of Abraham Lincoln,” said Michael Claxton, an historian of magic and a professor of English at Harding University in Arkansas.

Ellen Armstrong studied at the Haines Institute, in Augusta, Georgia, and Barber-Scotia College, in Concord, North Carolina. After she graduated, she continued in the family business. When her father died of heart failure in 1939, she worked the circuit with her stepmother for three years or so. When her stepmother retired, Armstrong continued on her own, using dozens of props she had inherited from her father.

But she continued to invoke her father’s name, proclaiming in her fliers and posters that she was “presenting magic as formerly performed by the original J. Hartford Armstrong.” “She did everything in honor of her father,” said Nicole Cardoza, a magician who is making a documentary highlighting Armstrong and other Black female entertainers.

Armstrong worked hard at furthering her family’s reputation, and succeeded. After she performed in 1945 at Fayetteville State Teachers College in North Carolina, a historically Black institution, its president wrote in a letter, “I was interested to see if Miss Armstrong could alone keep the performance on the same high level of performances when there were three instead of one in the company.”

The letter went on, “She is keeping the name ‘Armstrong’ at the top of the list of the performers of magic and the dispensers of entertainment.”

The places where she brought her act — churches and schools, mostly — were a refuge for African Americans and integral to Black culture, serving as public squares “that allow for joy, that allow for pleasure, that allow for restoration amidst the climate of injustice,” said Lindsey, the Ohio State professor.

Armstrong was fully aware of the inequities Black people faced, and as a Black woman she faced discrimination on two fronts. “We talk about Jim Crow often, but we don’t often talk about Jane Crow,” Lindsey said, referencing the term coined by the activist and legal scholar Pauli Murray.

The magician Kenrick Ice McDonald, in an interview, touched on the same point. “White women had to put up with chauvinism, yes, but they could still go in the front door of a theater,” he said. He added, “To travel while Black can get you killed.”

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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*" is on all my personal books.

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 630 magic audiobooks, 1,688 magic instruction videos, 86 full length magic movies, eight albums of magic music (some royalty free), 1,481 magic performance videos (many classics), 10 podcasts (over 2,000 episodes that 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 engage in for your behalf."

WHAT'S NEW AT YOUR LIBRARY?

SPECIAL FEATURE: Do you like your computer desktop to have a magic theme? If so, then check out all 265 magic oriented wallpaper (1600x900) images available for downloading here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/olders/1ZROQeFbR2YqAlVjMXuJqXNsU0KwPp-t?usp=sharing>

Library Donations:

We had several generous donations from members last month.

- Michael Johnson donated some DVDs and books.
- Ken DeWoody donated a box of magic VHS tapes.
- Dr. X donated 30 more magic oriented audiobooks.

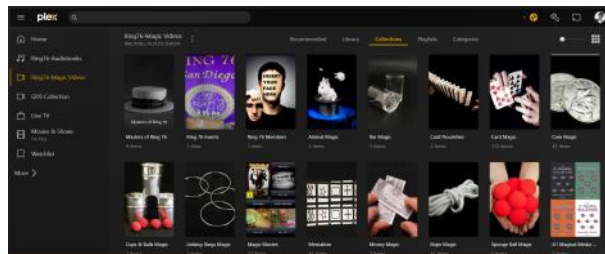


We need your DVDs, VHS tapes, and video downloads. They will be put on the *Ring 76 Magic Media Server* so you will still be able to watch them or check the physical media back out. Please help. Sharing is good! Sharing is fun!

Funding & Expenditures:

We made \$0.00 from the *50/50 Opportunity Drawing*, \$19.00 from the *Door Prize Drawing*, and \$96.00 from *Library Sales* at the last meeting. I purchased two new magic audiobooks for \$14.95 each and we received 30 audiobook donations, all which have been put on the server. Please see the audiobook reviews below for a sample. We also had to replace a broken DVD drive on the server for \$79.68, leaving the library operating petty cash at \$173.66.

We have other things to purchase for the library but I am holding off until the cash balance increases so 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.



UPDATE: 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 bunches 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.



WATCH THIS: Here is a short video on how to watch the over 800 channels of free TV from the *PLEX Magic Media Server*:

<https://watch.plex.tv/watch/video?uri=provider%3A%2F%2Ftv.plex.provider.vod%2Flibrary%2Fmetadata%2F66e319d4361d05521fb973d1%2Fextras%2F66e319d4361d05521fb973d1&context.page=on-demand.list&context.groupID=plex-pro-week&context.groupIndex=0&context.itemIndex=9>

UPDATE: PLEX now offers rental movies via streaming just like Netflix. Be sure to check it out.

SPECIAL OFFER: Do you have your eye on a video from your favorite magic dealer but were 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.

Ring 76 Magic Media Server (Streaming Service):

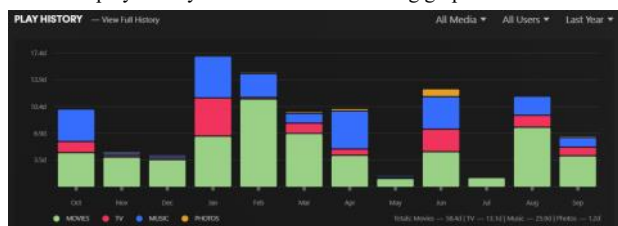
We currently have a wide variety of magic-oriented material on the *Ring 76 Magic Media server* in hopes to have something of interest for everyone. Tell me if there is something you would like to see there.

Plex only offers four categories for our eight separate libraries:

- **Movie Category** in green (*Magic Instruction, Magic Movies, & Magic Performances*)
- **TV Category** in red (*Magic TV Shows*)
- **Music Category** in blue (*Magic Audiobooks, Magic Music, & Magic Podcasts*)
- **Photos Category** in orange (*Ring 76 Photos and Videos*)



The recent play history is shown in the following graph:



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

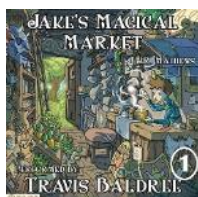
Do you have an account on the Ring 76 Magic Media Server yet? It is the best thing since Netflix and it's FREE for members of IBM Ring 76! Send me a request at librarian@ring76.com.

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**.

Ring 76 Magical Arts Library (Books):

We did not purchase any printed books this month but did receive some donations. Those will be cataloged and made available for members.

AUDIOBOOK REVIEWS (all on the Magic Media Server)



Jake's Magical Market (volume 1)

By J. R. Mathews

Meddling gods. A magical card system. An apocalypse no one could have predicted.

Our main character, Jake, is working at the neighborhood market under his apartment when the world ends. He expected nuclear war, a computer virus, or even climate change burning everyone to a crisp to bring about the downfall of civilization. But cruel and arbitrary gods from another world? Who would have guessed that?

When these cruel gods shuffled Earth like a deck of cards, nothing was in the same place anymore. Monsters, dungeons, and magical items appear scattered across the globe. And suddenly, everyone has access to a new, strange magical card system that gives them magical powers.

Jake, wasting his day slacking off in the cooler, as he usually did, found himself alone in a completely new and very dangerous world. Can he learn to survive? Can he collect enough cards and create a good enough deck to fight back against the monsters that have overtaken his former home? And why are these strange people that look a lot like elves knocking on the door of the market he is hiding in and asking to buy some of his goods?

The gods may have stacked the deck against him, but Jake just might have a few cards up his sleeve that will help him survive.



Jake's Magical Market (volume 2)

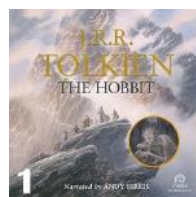
By J. R. Mathews

Jake has to survive a perilous trek through time if he ever hopes to return home to his

world. Using a combination of his new powers, he throws himself backward through time, back to when the god that trapped him first rose to power. There, Jake snatched divinity from the hands of the ascending god, consuming it for himself without any regard for the consequences of his actions. Now Jake has a big target painted on his back. The jealous gods of this world are hungry for divine power and not afraid to kill another god to get it. Stuck in the past, Jake must learn to navigate a world full of desperate gods, wild monsters, bizarre powers, and weird "cultivating" mortals who claim they can become just as powerful as the gods themselves—as long as they get to sit around contemplating the mysteries of the universe for a few hundred years first.

Join Jake on his next grand adventure as he learns what it means to be a newly ascended divinity, how to survive in such a strange new world, and how he might just have an unexpected edge on everyone and everything that's out to get him—by learning how to craft his own magical cards!

(Jake's Magical Market, volume 3, is scheduled for acquisition next month.)



The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings Trilogy

By J.R.R. Tolkien

Note: We now have both the abridged versions from Highbridge (3-4 hours each) and the unabridged versions (10-22 hours each) of this classic magical adventure.

The Hobbit

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely travelling further than the pantry of his hobbit-hole in Bag End. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard, Gandalf, and a company of 13 dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day, to whisk him away on a journey "there and back again". They have a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon...

The prelude to *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit* has sold many millions of copies since its publication in 1937, establishing itself as one of the most influential books of the 20th century.

The Fellowship of the Ring



In a sleepy village in the Shire, a young hobbit is entrusted with an immense task. He must make a perilous journey across Middle-earth to the Cracks of Doom, there to destroy the Ruling Ring of Power - the only thing that prevents the Dark Lord Sauron's evil dominion. Thus begins J. R. R. Tolkien's classic tale of adventure, which continues in *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*.

The Two Towers



The company of the Ring is torn asunder. Frodo and Sam continue their journey alone down the great River Anduin - alone, that is, save for the mysterious creeping figure that follows wherever they go. This continues the classic tale begun in *The Fellowship of the Ring*, which reaches its awesome climax in *The Return of the King*.



The Return of the King



The armies of the Dark Lord are massing as his evil shadow spreads even wider. Men, Dwarves, Elves, and Ents unite forces to battle against the Dark. Meanwhile, Frodo and Sam struggle further into Mordor in their heroic quest to destroy the One Ring. This is the devastating conclusion of J. R. R. Tolkien's classic tale of adventure, begun in *The Fellowship of the Ring* and *The Two Towers*.

Carter Beats the Devil

by Glenn David Gold

A hypnotizing work of historical fiction that stars 1920s magician Carter the Great, a master performer whose skill as an illusionist exceeds even that of the great Houdini.



Nothing in his career has prepared magician Charles Carter for the greatest stunt of all, which stars none other than President Warren G. Harding and which could end up costing Carter the reputation he has worked so hard to create. Filled with historical references that evoke the excesses and exuberance of Roaring Twenties, pre-Depression America, *Carter Beats the Devil* is a complex and illuminating story of one man's journey through a magical and sometimes dangerous world, where illusion is everything.

Set in the early 1900s, *Carter Beats the Devil* tells the story of Charles Carter, a magician, and his journey through the ups and downs of trying to make it in the magic business. I found that there were two sort of key events in the book. The book starts off at a similar time to when it finishes, and then jumps way back in time and continues from there. If that makes sense... The first chapter tells the reader two things: 1) Carter has bet the devil in his final performance of the night and 2) the President was found dead, just hours after seeing Charles Carter's show.

After these key points are established and the questions are raised (*did Carter kill the President? How does he beat the devil?*), the story splits into sections. Some chapters are from Carter's perspective; some are from that of the detective investigating the President's death. The language used is very fun to read, and though it's long, the words used and the descriptions of things are such that it doesn't really feel as long as it actually is. That probably doesn't make sense...just go with it.

With mysteries and questions, a lion called Baby, a disappearing elephant, a skeptical brother, a woman called Sarah, and a whole lot of magic, *Carter Beats the Devil* is a great read. The characters were fun – and some, of course, were horrible – and there was a good amount of humor as well as the serious stuff. There were a few chapters near the beginning that I didn't think were all that necessary – details about Carter's life when he was very small, that I didn't really seem to link with the future/present Carter – but overall, it was very clever, captivating and extremely well thought out.

This is one of my favorite books and I hope that it will become yours too. It is full of surprises!

LIBRARY CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

Members may contact me 7x24 either by e-mail at librarian@ring76.com or by cell phone (voice or text) at 619-569-6035 to let me know what you would like to check out. (If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, there may have been a technical problem so call me.) I will make sure the item(s) gets to the next monthly meeting or you can pick it 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 October

meeting, it should be returned at or before the November 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! Am I doing a good job for you? Do I meet your needs? Please email me with any comments or suggestions.

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.

From my secret underground bunker hidden in the hills outside San Diego, California, I wish you a magical month and will see you again in the next newsletter. May the *Classic Force* be with 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
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.)



DON'T FORGET, SPOOKY MAGIC IS THE THEME OF THE OCTOBER MEETING. CONTACT MAGIC MIKE IF YOU WANT TO PERFORM.





Shavings From the Board

The board meeting was on September 23 and started promptly at 7 pm without Treasurer Miguel Garcia & James Thayer. There were enough

members for a quorum so the meeting continued.

Mike Stilwell reported we had fourteen tables and made \$150 in table fees at our September swap meet. It was a mild success for some members but others had no sales at all. It was suggested that we not hold the swap meet next year or maybe have an auction and that the heat may have been a factor in the low turnout. Mark Booth reported that the attendance was 33 members and 12 guests for a total of 45. This was down from the last few meetings and Mark pointed out that we need a better hook to draw members to Swap Meet meetings that are only of interest to buyers and sellers. A suggestion was a prize basket of donations from all sellers with tickets only distributed during the initial Business meeting and not after. You would have to be present to win.

The Business part of the meeting included the Broken Wand ceremony for Doc Pearson and brief remarks from several people afterwards. To allow for maximum time for the swap meet, the auditions were moved to October, with Bruce McArthur and Eric Karimi scheduled. Charlie Gott is doing well and Malcolm Campbell has been moved to Atria La Jolla, an extended-care facility.

Gary reported that several DVDs, books, VHS tapes and 30 magic-orientated audio books had recently been donated to the library. Mike suggested a Silent Bid auction to raise money for the library. It would feature magic treasures of a cost and quality higher than what is usually offered. The updates might be posted on the Ring's Facebook page. Gary will look into the possibility.

After the meeting VP of Membership, James Thayer, emailed his report stating our current membership is now 80. However, it is now September and as of September 30th, any members that have not renewed will lapse and the membership count will drop accordingly.

Misha suggested that the newsletter should be made available to a wider audience, like posting links to the online edition with other magic organizations. Mark Booth sent a message to the San Diego Magician's Facebook page to see if we can include a link there. Gary suggested we return the "trick of the month" to the newsletter.

After the business was concluded, Richard gave his newsletter requests and said he needed to have the articles within the next 10 days. With that, the meeting was adjourned.

IBM Ring 76 Board Meetings are conducted via ZOOM on the fourth Monday of every month except December. All members are invited to participate in Board meetings. Contact a Board member for further information.



Thank You to This Month's Photographer

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 **James Thayer**. Thank you for all your hard work!



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.





National Magic Week

October 25-31

The Society of American Magicians

Here ye, here ye! As the 108th President of the Society of American Magicians, I hereby declare October 25th–31st as Magic Week! This special week honors the art of magic and the memory of Harry Houdini, who passed away on Halloween in 1926.

Join us in celebrating the wonder and mystery that magic brings to the world! Whether you're a magician or an admirer, let's make this week truly magical by sharing performances, teaching effects, and spreading the joy of illusion.

Stay tuned for events, surprises, and a touch of the impossible. Let's make magic happen!

JOHN B. MIDGLEY
Most Illustrious John Midgley, President



RING 76

THE HONEST SID GERHART RING



MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP

Ring 76 has a Members-Only Facebook page where you can find up to the minute information on Ring events. To get a subscription please contact **Mark Booth**.



"You know what the issue is with this world? Everyone wants a magical solution to their problem, and everyone refuses to believe in magic."

The Mad Hatter from "Once Upon a Time"



SAN DIEGO RING 76, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



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.