



MAGICCURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 FEBRUARY 2026 VOL. 41 (XLI) # 2

Who is Ready for the Close-Up Contest ?

For our January 12th meeting Librarian Gary Salisbury greeted us while we signed-in and were issued raffle tickets. President Magic Mike Stilwell welcomed 29 members, 10 guests and two visiting magicians: Anjo Sanchez (later auditioning to become a member) and David Meredith, the former owner of The Magic Shop in Old Town San Diego State Historical Park.

We were glad to learn from Membership-VP James Thayer that our active membership continues to grow. We now have 78 members.

Sergeant-at-Arms Mark Booth noted that from January 27th we can register for the “2026 Magic Live!” convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Greg Wauson noted that award-winning, comedy magician Lucy Darling is performing on March 24th at The Balboa Theater in the San Diego;s Historic Gaslamp Quarter. We all sang “Happy Birthday” to Gary Salisbury because he will soon be celebrating his 39th birthday for the 41st time.

On a more serious note, President Magic Mike Stilwell conducted the traditional Broken Wand ceremony to honor the passing of our club member Charlie Gott. Mike reminisced about his pleasant hospital visits with Charlie, about Charlie playing his ukelele, and how Charlie inspired so many of us with his Gospel Magic. We paused for a “moment of silence” as Gary Salisbury ribbon-wrapped the pieces of Charlie’s personal magic wand. Gary bowed to offer the bundle to Charlie’s son Chuck Gott, Charlie’s daughter Debbie Gray and her husband Jeff Gray.

Ring 76 Calendar

- Feb 9th, 2026 - Close-Up Contest *
- Mar 9th, 2026 - Mini Lectures
- Apr 13th, 2026 - You Fooled Us *

*All members are welcome to perform !

Rotary Creates Magic



Professor Paul’s 40th Annual Fundraiser Show is **February 28, 2026**, at the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center Theater.

As a proud member of IBM for 40 years , I am extending this fundraiser to include our club.

The funds go directly to the Rotary Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) Charity. We will share in 50%

of the ticket cost or \$30, when allocated to our club at time of purchase.

When tickets purchased on-line, you will check the box for IBM, and our sales will be tracked by Ticket Spice. I am proud to add our IBM to the list, and hope you will share the flyer with everyone you know.

This will be my first year doing a Matinee. The theater holds 400 for each show, and I have Sold Out for 39 years.

ORDER TICKETS at magicmagicmagic.com

Paul@magicmagicmagic.com

Questions: 805/377-0036

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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President's Message

Dear Ring 76 Members,

As I mentioned in my previous letters to you and countless times at our meetings.... we are a 78 member Magic Club, the largest it's been in years! Probably the best IBM Magic Club on the west coast! No one has the largest Plex Server available at their fingertips of any type of magic you want to learn. We have a top-notch board looking out for you. CAN WE PLEASE GET SOMEONE TO STEP UP AS SECRETARY? Come on folks. IN 40 YEARS WE HAVE NEVER HAD THIS PROBLEM.

February 9th is our yearly Close-up Contest. First, second, and third place to be awarded at our Installation meeting. Reach out to Paul Dwork, your VP of Entertainment to sign up. Only 8 people can compete.

Please let me know if you can bring a case of water.

Sincerely,
Mike Stilwell
Ring 76 President



Shavings from the Board

Mark Booth, our Sergeant at Arms, reports we had a total of 39 attendees at the January 2026 meeting... 29 members and 10 guests signed in that night. A heartfelt thank you goes to Gary Salisbury for greeting members & guests and monitoring the sign-in table!

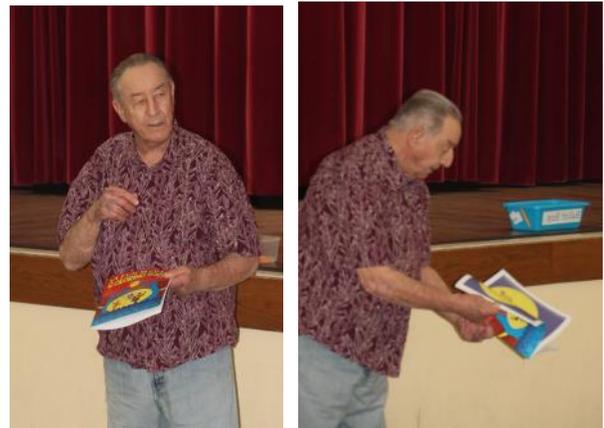
James Thayer, our VP of membership reports we now have a total of 78 members.

Gary Salisbury, our librarian, reports that he is restoring the broken audiobooks library. He only bought one movie, "Lilli".

KIDS MAGIC MADE US FEEL YOUNG AGAIN

For showtime, Entertainment-VP Paul Dwork introduced the eight "Kids Magic" contestants:

1. For his audition, Riccardo G. Gulioni performed with his "Magic Coloring Book".



2. For his audition, professional magician Anjo Sanchez performed a remarkably intricate act of rope magic.



3. Modie Moore made us laugh-and-shout while he toyed with a “Die in The Wooden Box”.



6. Professor Paul had active knotty silks. His lovely assistant found an egg in a see-thru bag. Others helped him cut and restore pieces of tape.



4. Max... with an x introduced us to a slightly different approach to performing “What’s Next”.



7. Mr. Funtastic asked his lovely assistant to change the color of a doll’s dress. They both played a PlayDoh game (with a sneaky snake).



5. Magical Ms. Charley guided her three willing contestants to tear their large Afghan Bands.



8. Greg Wauson fooled us kids with his “Hippity-Hoppity Rabbits” named Hou and Dono. (They like eating purple puppy chow.)

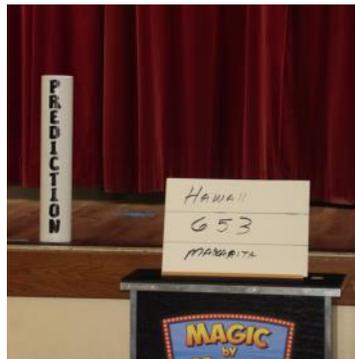


AND THE WINNER IS ...

Members voted and our ballots were tabulated. Congratulations to the “Kids Magic” contest winner, Mr. Funtastic (aka Dale Law).



As an encore to the “Kids Magic” contest, mentalist Mark Booth amazed us with his “Travel-Trip Confabulation”. Mark predicted his assistant’s destination (Hawaii), flight cost (\$653) as well as her in-flight complimentary drink (margarita).



To close the meeting, nine raffle prizes were handed-out, and the “50/50 Draw” increased the funds of our treasury.

Thank you Alvin Revilas for serving us fresh hot coffee with your brewing equipment.

Written by Max Long

Hocus Pocus Is Closing Its Doors

Dear Hocus Pocus Customers,

It is with very heavy hearts that we share this message.

After 50 years of proudly serving the magic community, the time has come for Hocus Pocus to close its doors. This decision was not made lightly, and we know it may come as a shock to many.

Magic has been our life's work, our passion, and our joy—but unfortunately, continuing is no longer something we are able to do.

For those with outstanding orders, please rest assured that they will be fulfilled and shipped.

If you currently have items with us on consignment, you will be contacted directly.

We are deeply grateful to every customer, performer, collector, and friend who supported us over the years. Your loyalty, kindness, and shared love of magic meant more to us than we can ever express.

It has truly been an honor to be part of this community for half a century.

Thank you for allowing us to be a small part of your magical journey.

With sincere gratitude,
The Hocus Pocus Family

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 a collection of magic books and magazines, all available for check-out. It is a collection of magic themed audiobooks, magic instruction videos, magic movies, albums of magic music (some royalty free), a collection of public domain magic performance videos (many classics), a collection of magic podcasts that we co-host, magic TV series, a magic 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 fundraising efforts that I have engaged in on your behalf.”

WHAT’S NEW AT YOUR LIBRARY?

We need your DVD and VHS tape videos. They will be put on the [Magic Media Server](#) so members will still be able to watch them or check the physical media out. Please help. Sharing is good! Sharing is fun!

Library Donations:

[Lorie Pearson](#) donated a box of VHS magic tapes and a couple misc. props to the library.

Thank you, Gracias, Grazie, Merci, Danke, Arigato, спасибо!

The library needs to be fed in order to keep it alive, so your donations would be greatly appreciated. It’s your library so please support it.



Magical Arts Library (Books):

We currently have 5 book out on loan with a request for another 3 pending. We did not purchase any printed books this month.

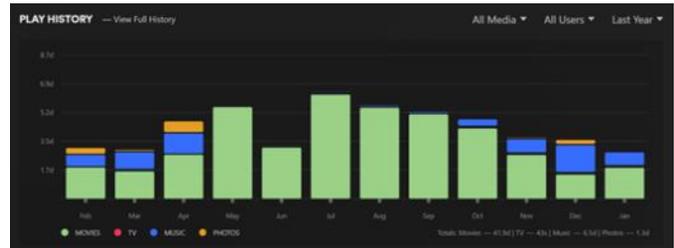
Magic Media Server (Streaming Service):

We purchased a new magic movie titled “Lili.” I am still working on restoring the broken Audiobooks Library. I have restored 181 files with about 900 to go. I also have about 250 video files that need video editing work before putting on the server. Volunteers are welcome.

Plex only offers 4 categories:

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

Here is the yearly utilization report:



Here are the current statistics on the [Magic Media Server](#):

- Magic Audiobooks: 181 books(900 pending restoration)
- Magic Instruction: 1,906 videos
- Magic Movies: 97 movies
- Magic Music: 15 albums
- Magic Performances: 1,556 videos
- Magic Podcasts: 10 podcasts, 2,063 episodes
- Magic TV & Radio Shows: 23 series, 1,418 files
- Ring 76 Photos & Videos: 113 folders, 8,807 pictures

How would you like your videos of your performances 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.



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. Please tell me if there is something else you would like to see there. We have lots of new things this month. You need to get logged on and do some exploring.

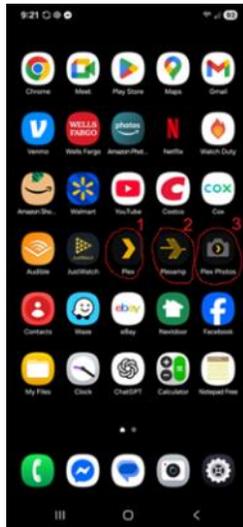


New Changes to the PLEX App:

This does not apply to those using a web browser to access PLEX, only to phones & tablets using the PLEX app.

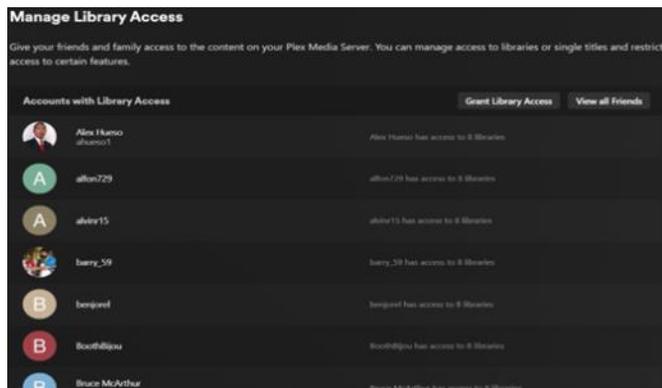
Previously, the PLEX app allowed you to view movies, listen to audio content, and look at pictures using this single app. Several months ago, they made some changes to the phone & tablet app requiring you to now have 3 apps to do what the single previous version did before. It's only a mild inconvenience but it seems to work more reliably now.

1. **PLEX** app will allow you to watch videos in the Magic Instruction, Magic Movies, Magic Performance videos, and Magic TV & Radio Shows libraries.
2. **PLEXAMP** app will allow you to listen to Magic Audiobooks and Magic Music libraries.
3. **PLEX PHOTOS** app will allow you to look at pictures in the Ring 76 Pictures library.



These apps are available from the Play Store or Apple Store but remember, that PLEX charges you a one-time fee of \$5 to use the **PLEX** app. No charge for web browser use.

NOTICE: Please change your **PLEX ID** to **your name** so I can tell who is on the server. Here is what I currently see:



If you use a coded ID, I may not be able to tell if you are a legitimate user. Also, please add your photo so I can associate names and faces. Thank you for helping me with this.

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.

LIBRARY CHECK OUT PROCEDURE

Members may contact me 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 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) 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! Am I doing a good job for you? Do I meet your needs? Please email me with any comments or suggestions.

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

Gary Salisbury



Email: librarian@ring76.com
Cell: 619-569-6035

Objective: To build the best magic reference library in the IBM

(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.)

UPDATE – “So You Want To Be A Mentalist?” Lecture

Regarding the free mentalism lecture on what it takes to be a mentalist with world renown mentalist, Dr. Kaleo Whiting:

Dr. Whiting is seriously ill and in hospice so we are cancelling the lecture. My apologies but the events are beyond our control. Please wish him a speedy recovery. Get well cards welcome.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE NEXT LIBRARIAN?

Prestigious job, benefits, no pay. Contact me at librarian@ring76.com

CLASSIFIED ADS - MAGIC FOR SALE

TENYO T-174 CLYDE MAGIC RABBIT (UNUSED) - \$125



Ask a spectator to select a card from a deck, remember it, and place it back anywhere. Now this is where the magician traditionally tries to find the card. But not this time! Instead Clyde the magic rabbit will find it. Clyde is a wonderful idea, a great prop, and a guaranteed audience pleaser. This is a wonderful 'puppet' effect where the magician holds a stuffed bunny which appears to have a life of it's own. Several effects with this wonderful prop are suggested in the instructions including "card in carrot."

Even if you don't use this item for a magic act, it's a wonderful collectible item and also a great prop for puppeteers. Comes complete with original box. The rabbit itself looks very nice and is of superb quality. When you use the rabbit as the instructions say, it really does look like it is alive – very well done by Tenyo and is now a sought after collector's item selling elsewhere in the \$200 range.

CARD-SHARK'S MARKED PHOENIX DECK (NEW) - \$20

Card-Shark meets Ted Lesley. This is a dream come true for all magicians who love to use a marked deck. The markings are based on the ideas of Ted Lesley, are extremely visual compared to all other marked decks on the market as they perfectly blend into the design of the Phoenix backs.



All markings are situated at the same spot right in the corner, so even the slightest opened fan will allow you to read the marking. If the back design gets into view, you will be able to spot the value. Can't get easier!

Contact Gary Salisbury (619-328-9694) for more info.

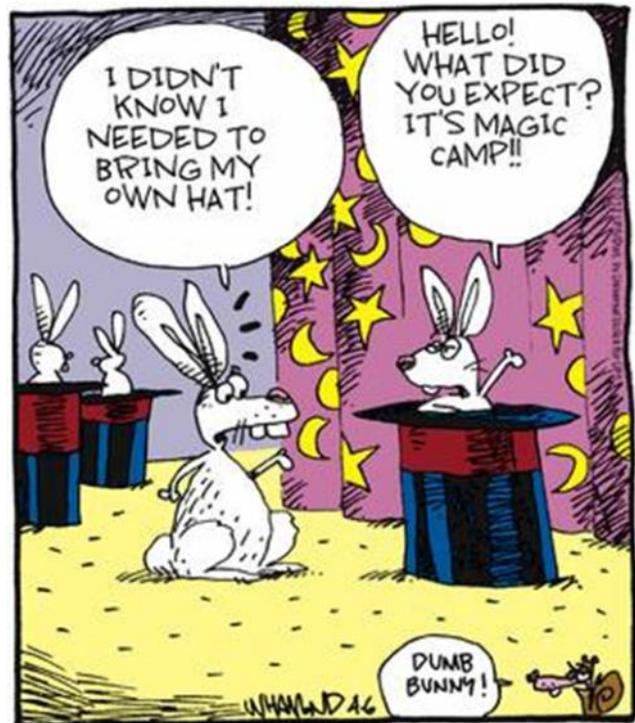
Lebanon Circle's Abacus Spiritalis Spirit Slates - \$275 [PRICE REDUCED]



Demo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Puo9KymZoA>

These are the Rolls Royce of Spirit Slates! You can actually hear the spirits writing on the slates with chalk. You can also program your own sounds in them. Out of production, collectors' item originally sold for \$502. In excellent condition. Comes complete with wooden stands and instructional DVD.

Contact Gary Salisbury (619-328-9694) for more info.



HP LaserJet Pro M283cdw Wireless Color Printer - \$200
[Price Reduced Again !] (In original box)
[\(Click here to see it currently selling for \\$499.99 at Walmart.\)](#)



- Laser Printer
- Color Copier
- High Res. Scanner
- Color FAX
- 22 pages /minute
- 600 dpi
- Duplex Printing (F&B)
- Wireless / WiFi / USB
- Max Paper - 8½” x 14”
- 2nd paper tray available



In the original box with documentation. This printer is a little over one year old and has only had about 900 color and 1,200 B/W pages printed on it. Printer reports are available. The printer is designed for a maximum duty cycle of 40,000 pages/month, for 5 years which is 2,400,000 pages. It does not have any problems. Laser printers are more durable and reliable than an ink jet printer with cheaper cost to operate. I wound up with two printers and only need one. Price is firm and price is low for a quick sale. **\$200!**

It currently needs new toner cartridges which are:



[\\$70.53 for 206A series](#)



[\\$79.46 for 206X series](#)

[Contact Gary Salisbury \(619-328-9694\) for more info.](#)

12.9” Apple iPad Pro Tablet - \$175 [Price Reduced Again]



OS Version: 16.7.11
Model: ML0F2LL/A
Serial: DLXS40HUGMLD
Screen: 12.9”
Capacity: 32GB
Communications: WiFi
Condition: In like new condition, no dings, new case, works great
Case: New JETech case/stand
Power: Charger & cable
Original cost: \$799

[Contact Gary Salisbury \(619-328-9694\) for more info.](#)

9.7” Apple iPad Tablet - \$125 [Price Reduced Again]
(This is a great deal!)

Model: A1396
Serial: DN6G341NDFJ3
Screen: 9.7”
Capacity: 64GB
Case: Griffin IntelliCase case/stand
Power: Charger & cable
Communications: WiFi + Cellular (Can be used as a cell phone!)
Condition: Used, good condition, no dings, works great
Original cost: \$829



[Contact Gary Salisbury \(619-328-9694\) for more info.](#)