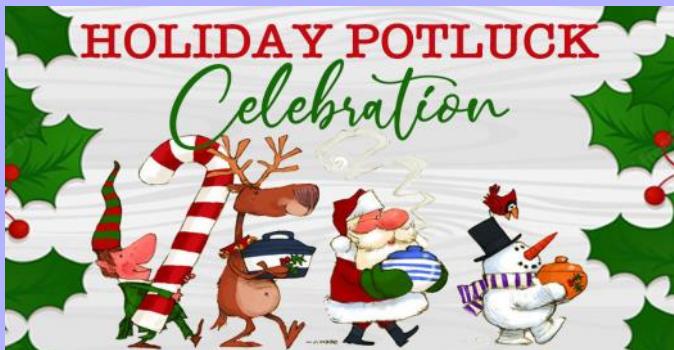




MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 DECEMBER 2025 VOL. XXXV #12

Annual Holiday Potluck Get Ready to Celebrate with Steve Owens



For Ring 76, our December 8th meeting brings everyone together to celebrate the holidays with our Annual Holiday Potluck. The doors will open early at 5:30 pm to allow members and guests to bring their delicious dishes and set up the hall. We will start serving at 6:30 pm to allow everyone plenty of time to get their food and enjoy the festivities.

This is a potluck, so bring your favorite holiday dishes with enough to feed ten to twelve people. Please contact Jonathan Gold at jonpops58@gmail.com to reserve your spot and let him know what dishes you will be bringing. The club will provide water, cups, silverware, plates, ice and background music. Brenda Wauson will be creating our centerpieces. Please bring a non-alcoholic beverage if you wish a drink besides water. This is also a meeting where we encourage you to bring family members and friends.



This year's entertainment will be Steve Owens.

Steve Owens is a 14 Time Award-Winning, International Magician from the Magic Castle. He has traveled the world performing his unique smooth style of cutting edge magic, which has been featured on National TV for more than 300,000,000 people! He's even performed for Criss Angel himself. Floating light orbs, shadow magic, incredible effects that you will not see from the standard magician. You will definitely be in for a great magical ride. A show you will not want to miss.

Ring 76 Calendar

- Dec 8th, 2025 - Holiday Banquet
- Jan 12th, 2026 - Magic for Kids *
- Feb 9th, 2026 - Close-Up Contest *

*All members are welcome to perform !

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR – DAVID YEE PROOFREADER – MAX LONG EDITOR@RING76.COM



President's Message

Happy Holidays Ring 76 Members!

Our Holiday Potluck dinner and show... The Magic of Steve Owens is about a WEEK AWAY !!!! Monday, December 8th, 2025, Dinner starts at 6:30 PM. The show will be at approximately 7:30 PM. Then we will need everyone's help cleaning up.

Please arrive 5:30 to 6:15 PM. Jonathan Gold has volunteered to be the banquet manager; he will be sending out an email requesting food choice and number of people coming from your group. As of today, we have 77 members! Hopefully most of you will be at the holiday party. My goal for 2026 is to be at 80 active members.

January theme is Kids Magic, Please reach out to Paul Dwork your VP of Entertainment if you want to perform. This will be another voting performance for bragging rights, and all these votes are added up for "Performer of the Year" and is awarded at our installation banquet in July. I will also do another mini talk on another way to be a success in the entertainment industry. Because it's a Kids magic theme, my talk will be on Give-a-ways and Goodie bag ideas for kids shows. Paul Dwork says February is a surprise! WE can always use water for our meetings.

Thank you.
Happy Holidays to you all...

Sincerely,
Mike Stilwell
Ring 76 President



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.

Personally I take nothing for producing or participating in the show. The funds go directly to the Rotary Foundation, which is a 501 3C 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.

Paul@magicmagicmagic.com
Questions: 805/377-0036



Shavings from the Board

Mark Booth, our Sergeant at Arms, reports we had a total of 38 attendees at the November, 2025 meeting... 31 members and 7 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 77 members.

Gary Salisbury, our librarian, reports that Tom Interval donated a stage table.



November Lecture - Shawn McMaster

For our November 10th meeting, 31 members and 7 guests signed-in for Sergeant-At-Arms Mark Booth. Mark diligently set-up the staging for the night's lecture. After President Magic Mike Stilwell welcomed us, he thanked Sherry Luft for accepting the secretarial duty of taking the minutes (the official written record) of the board members' monthly virtual meeting. Mike also mentioned that Treasurer Max Long will continue as our other secretary by submitting the monthly reports to *The Linking Ring* magazine.

Mystic Joe McGrievy will again be the jolly, ol' rosy-checked gift-giving gent for this year's "Story Time with Santa Claus". This annual mid-November holiday event is in Balboa Park.

Librarian Gary Salisbury gave us a hand-bill about a private tutorial session he is working on with Dr. Whiting called "So You Want To Become A Mentalist?". Please refer to page 9 for more details.

Mike announced that professional magician Tom Interval donated a table for stage magic. Tom has been an avid IBM member since 1981. Since the next day was Veterans Day. Mike asked those who served in our nation's military branches to stand. Those ten who stood and were applauded, represented the US Coast Guard, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

Shawn McMaster, the evening's guest lecturer was introduced by Entertainment-VP Professor Paul Dwork. Shawn has been a professional magical entertainer for 33 years. He performs at *The Magic Castle* in Hollywood, CA as well as aboard luxury cruise ships. He has entertained at numerous restaurants. For 12 years, he was the magician at *Senor Gomez's* in Simi Valley, CA.



For his lecture on "Restaurant Magic", Shawn performed and explained his favorite "workers".

With Judy, his lovely volunteer-assistant, Shawn performed a strong set of table-side magic. After his performance, he taught us the methods and the nuances. Shawn's sponge ball routine

was inspired by a chapter in Eugene Burger's *Secrets and Mysteries for the Close-Up Entertainer*. Shawn's routine with a sugar packet, based on Richard Osterlind's "Sweet and Low" routine, was found in Jim Sisti's *The Magic Menu*.



For "Hypno Card", Shawn surprised Judy by producing her freely-selected but lost 4C. For an encore, Shawn performed his mystifying routine "The Dolls". This oddity is perfect for magicians who might not normally perform bizarre magic. During his lecture, Shawn gave us valuable advice about strolling magic in restaurants. He asked us to remember that "You are the only person who doesn't belong there!" He insisted that "pocket-management" be a priority. And, based on his years of experience, he told us to believe that "You being a team-member is more important than you being a magical entertainer".

In closing, Shawn recommended that we read Gary Kurtz's book *Leading With Your Head*.

Finally, let us all thank Mr. Alvin Revilas for serving more delicious pastries.

Written by Max Long



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:

Tom Interval donated a stage table which will be given out as a door prize or sold to generate revenue for the library.
Dr. X donated 42 more magic themed audiobooks.

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 did not purchase any printed books this month. We currently have 1 book out on loan and 3 pending. Remember to return your books when your loan period is up because there may be someone else waiting for them or extend it for another month by notifying me.

Magic Media Server (Streaming Service):

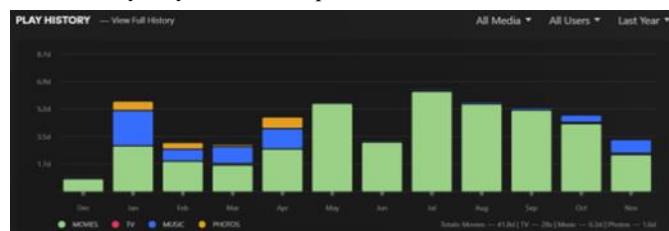
I am still working on restoring the broken Audiobooks Library. I have restored 154 files with 900+ to go. I also have about 250 video files that need video editing work before putting on the server. Volunteers are welcome.

In addition to that, I have some magic PDF files that I would like to host on the Magic Media Server however, PLEX does not support PDF files directly. I am looking into other software platforms that will provide the same support as PLEX for our media files as well as PDFs. I will report back to the board as my investigation progresses. Your advice is 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: 154 books (907 pending restoration)
- Magic Instruction: 1,962 videos
- Magic Movies: 97 movies
- Magic Music: 13 albums, 215 songs
- Magic Performances: 1,570 videos
- Magic Podcasts: 10 podcasts, 2,063 episodes
- Magic TV & Radio Shows: 23 series, 1,418 files
- Ring 76 Photos & Videos: 8,807 files

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.

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

Manage Library Access

Give your friends and family access to the content on your Plex Media Server. You can manage access to libraries or single titles and restrict access to certain features.

Accounts with Library Access

Grant Library Access View all Friends

User	Access Level
Alex Huico	Alex.Huico has access to 8 Libraries
allon729	allon729 has access to 8 Libraries
alvint15	alvint15 has access to 8 Libraries
barry_59	barry_59 has access to 8 Libraries
benjofel	benjofel has access to 8 Libraries
Boothbijou	Boothbijou has access to 8 Libraries
Bruce McArthur	Bruce McArthur has access to 8 Libraries

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.

New Magic Media:

In the **Magic Instruction library**, you will find 1 new video.
Shawn McMaster-Deceptive Dining, Restaurant Magic

In the **Magic Audiobooks library**, we have 44 new items.

- [Bella Falls-Southern Charms Cozy Mystery-05-Collards & Cauldrons](#)
- [Claire Goodchild-The Book of Séances](#)
- [Hazel Beck-04-Dragon Fires Everywhere](#)
- [Ilona Andrews-G05-Magic Slays](#)
- [Ilona Andrews-G08-Magic Shifts](#)
- [Iris Beaglehole-04-Celestial Magic](#)
- [Iris Beaglehole-06-Bountiful Magic](#)
- [Iris Beaglehole-07-Formidable Magic](#)
- [Iris Beaglehole-08-Unspeakable Magic](#)
- [Iris Beaglehole-09-Impractical Magic](#)
- [Iris Beaglehole-The Witches of Holloway Road](#)
- [Josiah Bancroft-01-The Hexologists](#)
- [Juliet Blackwell-01-Secondhand Spirits](#)
- [Juliet Blackwell-02-A Cast-Off Coven](#)
- [Juliet Blackwell-03-Hexes and Hemlines](#)
- [Juliet Blackwell-04-In a Witch's Wardrobe](#)
- [Juliet Blackwell-05-Tarnished and Torn](#)
- [Juliet Blackwell-06-A Vision in Velvet](#)
- [Juliet Blackwell-07-Spellcasting in Silk](#)

- [Juliet Blackwell-08-A Toxic Troussseau](#)
- [Juliet Blackwell-09-A Magical Match](#)
- [Juliet Blackwell-10-Bewitched and Betrothed](#)
- [Juliet Blackwell-11-Synchronized Sorcery](#)
- [Kelley Armstrong-A01-Bitten](#)
- [Kelley Armstrong-A02-Stolen](#)
- [Kelley Armstrong-A03-Dime Store Magic](#)
- [Kelley Armstrong-A04-Industrial Magic](#)
- [Kelley Armstrong-Counterfeit Magic](#)
- [Keri Arthur-Magic Misled](#)
- [Lexie Scott-03-Seized by Magic](#)
- [Megan Linski-01-The Fire Prophecy](#)
- [Megan Linski-02-The Water Legacy](#)
- [Megan Linski-03-The Earth Legend](#)
- [Megan Linski-04-The Air Omen](#)
- [Megan Linski-05-The Elemental War](#)
- [Megan Linski-06-The Soul Sacrifice](#)
- [Olivie Blake-Januaries](#)
- [Paul Regnier-The Agency of Magic and Mythical Creatures](#)
- [Skye Alexander-The Modern Guide to Witchcraft](#)
- [Sue Hollowell-Magical Bookstore Mysteries 01-03](#)
- [Sue Hollowell-Magical Bookstore Mysteries 04-06](#)
- [Sybil Shawn-Appalachian Witchcraft](#)
- [Tamora Pierce-Circle Reforged-01-The Will of the Empress](#)
- [University School of Thought-Mentalism; Unlock the Secrets of Mind Reading, Persuasion, Influence, & Hypnosis](#)

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.

**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.)

**CLASSIFIED ADS - MAGIC FOR SALE**

INSIGHT PRO BY HUGO SHELLY (NEW) - \$350 [REDUCED]

**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:**

Insight has evolved – featuring a new reader with the ability to detect three cards simultaneously! Retail for \$550 but is out of stock everywhere I have looked.

Insight Pro includes a deck of 52 electronic playing cards. Invisible RFID chips embedded in each card transmit the suit and value to the Insight reader, a miniature device that will quietly vibrate the value of the card, or send it to a nearby iPhone.

THE BASIC EFFECT:

The performer hands the deck to a volunteer and invites them to choose their favorite card, placing the rest of the deck aside. Without touching the volunteer or the deck, the performer reveals the chosen card. Included are seven incredible new routines by Colin Mcleod and Mark Elsdon.

THE READER:

The reader features both wireless transmission and on-board vibration cuing. At only 77 x 33mm it's incredibly small, with a range that allows you to detect cards and tags with a single gesture. The battery will last for over 10 hours on a single charge and is both rechargeable and replaceable.

THE DECK

The Insight deck (Phoenix edition) is the very first electronic deck to be designed from the ground up specifically for magicians. The chips and antenna are embedded in the cards during the manufacturing process, ensuring that each card is perfectly thin and flat. The deck can be shuffled and handled in the same way as an ordinary deck, and is designed to last a lifetime.

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Dimensions: 77 x 33mm
- Battery life: 10 hours (rechargeable & replaceable)
- Range: 11cm from the Insight playing cards to the reader, 10m from the reader to a nearby iPhone.
- Includes: The reader, 52 electronic playing cards, Velcro wrist strap, instructions and routines.

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

TENOY 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 its 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 - \$300 [PRICE REDUCED]

Demo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Pu09KymZoA>

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.

JOHN MENDOZA'S JOHNSON CUPS & BALLS (+ CHOP CUP) - \$375 [PRICE REDUCED]

This four-cup set of Johnson Cups & Balls was once owned by legendary Cups & Balls Magician, John Mendoza. (Provance available.) The 4th cup is a chop cup. They are turned out of a solid block of brass, not pressed like cheaper sets and when rung, sound like the heavenly bells of St. Mary's. Comes complete with custom magic wand, knit balls, velvet bag and John's performance video. (Will sell separately. \$300-cups & \$125-chop or \$375-both)



Demo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbp80H4Leys>

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



HP LaserJet Pro M283cdw Wireless Color Printer - \$250
[PRICE REDUCED] (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. **\$250!**

It currently needs new toner cartridges which are:



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

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

(I will also include a new set of 206X toner cartridges but this printer firmware is too new to use this particular set. If you install older firmware, they will work. I just didn't want to mess with it.)

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

12.9" Apple iPad Pro Tablet - \$200 **[PRICE REDUCED]**



*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 - \$150 **[PRICE REDUCED]**

*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!)\br/>
 Condition: Used, good condition, no dings, works great
 Original cost: \$829*

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



LAST CALL!

So You WANT To BECOME A MENTALIST?

Mentalism is an enigmatic performing art where the impossible becomes reality – where intuition blurs into insight, and thought itself seems to take form. Those who master it appear to harness powers of telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition.

Now a rare and secret opportunity presents itself to those bold enough to explore this hidden world.

Dr. Kaleo Whiting, world renowned Mentalist and Psychic Entertainer of over 50 years, has agreed to emerge from retirement and share some of the guarded principles of the craft in a private, invitation-only gathering – a true meeting of the minds.

This exclusive session will be held at Dr. Whiting's Kensington home on a future date.

Applications for admission should be submitted to librarian@ring76.com. Include a short explanation of why you want to learn mentalism and if you have any previous experience.

