



A Message from Your President

It Will NOT be just another New Year

As we enter the New Year, I wish you a healthy, happy, prosperous and magical 2015.

There are some exciting changes ahead for 2015. You are already looking at one of the changes. Our beloved editor, Don Heynen, retired with the December 2014 edition of *The Conjurer*. You are reading our new format newsletter. You will find it is shorter than the extravaganza that Don used to put hours, no, days into creating. The style has changed to be more of an online design, and we hope you will like the new format, keeping in mind that Don is an impossible act to follow and created very high expectations for *The Conjurer*. You will find information about how to submit materials for publication in our newsletter at the bottom of this file including the deadline each month. We welcome any contribution of articles and materials ready to publish to this publication.

We will continue to look for ways to improve your experience as you attend monthly meetings of SAM#112 this year. The meeting format of having a workshop followed by open performance of magic or discussion of magic topics will continue into this year. In fact, the January workshop will be a continuation of the Cut and Restored Rope lecture taught in November by Roy Porfido. In this installment you will learn how to do a different method Cut and Restored Rope that leads directly to Professor's Nightmare. Your club has purchased a spool of top quality magicians' rope, and for the incredibly low price of 10 cents a foot we will have 20 foot lengths of rope available for sale at the meeting. The price will allow us to restore the Treasury funds for the cost of our rope purchase.

If you have a sharp pair of scissors, feel free to bring them along. If you prefer, you can also bring your own rope, rather than purchase a \$2.00 length of the rope from your club. Otherwise, just be ready to go at 7:00 p.m. for the workshop which will be taught jointly by Roy Porfido and yours truly. You will find a list of some of the workshop topics we can all look forward to elsewhere in this edition of *The Conjurer*.

In November Michael McGriff and Jose Ramirez were our delegates to a gathering called, "The Magic Summit" which was held at Sam's Town Hotel in Las Vegas. The event was organized by Stan Allen of Magic Magazine and Ice McDonald, the current National President of the Society of American Magicians, along with a star-studded cast of other magicians and presenters. The Magic Summit was intended to bring together people from across the country to discuss how to help magic clubs everywhere improve. You can read more about the Las Vegas meeting elsewhere in this newsletter, but some of the exciting changes in the air for 2015 come directly from ideas put forward at this meeting

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which are being examined, custom designed and implemented to fit the needs of your club.

In closing I want to ensure that every member knows how valued you are to our Assembly. As we move through the year, please consider how you can lend a hand to help our Assembly grow and thrive. Consider writing something for this newsletter. Volunteer to participate in one of our community service outreach and membership activities. Consider performing at various events sponsored by our club, and at our contests in July and November this year. We are looking for workshop topics for the year. If you can teach a workshop, we would love to have you. If you think of ideas for improving our meetings and our Assembly, please don't keep them to yourself. Please know that your participation, whatever that may be, is what keeps our club healthy and makes your membership fun and rewarding.

Finally, please remember to pay your dues. **See page 5.**



Meeting Report

By Bill Marquardt

Jerry Barrilleaux started the December meeting with a workshop all about the ubiquitous Thumb Tip, probably the most popular gimmick of all time within the world of magic.



The first effect taught was the Color Changing Silk, or as it is sometimes called, the Chameleon Silk. This effect duplicates the classic trick that uses a dye tube for the switch. Jerry offered several bits of advice on using a thumb tip effectively, and handed out tips to everyone for some practice.



Members grab their supplies before the workshop



In addition, Jerry offered a deal on a copy of the book by Melbourne Christopher, **50 Tricks with a Thumb Tip** along with a tip and a small silk hankie. All proceeds will go to support our local SYM assembly. Zappo also offered a solution for removing wrinkles from a silk by spreading it onto a steamed up bathroom mirror, an alternative to ironing and without all the hassle!



Ideas were shared on using a thumb tip with the Micro Psychic nut and bolt effect and also on doing a bill switch. Rick Allen demonstrated his production of a multi-colored, or "rainbow" silk, an effect he used on a trip to Indonesia following the tragic tsunami of a few years ago. Our president, Zappo followed with a tale of a two-man trick where a silk is invisibly sent across the room from one magician to another. There seems to be no end to what you can do with a thumb tip if you just apply a little imagination.

After a quick break, we were introduced to four guests and prospective members for the evening, Cesar, Eddie, Fred and Howard. (Or was it Harold? I need to take better notes.)

Larry "Zappo" Wright then displayed the actual original charter for Assembly 112, which was provided by former president Loren Lind by way of his son James Lind. Long time members reminisced a bit about the founders whose signatures appeared on the bottom of the charter. The signature of one founder is missing from the paper, that of Carole Yvonne Kula who was in attendance tonight. Her part in founding the assembly was recognized by Larry and others.

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James Lind presented the Club's Charter to President Zappo. We learned we are not starting our 40th year

Michael McGriff and Jose Ramirez spoke about their experience at the S.A.M. Summit in Las Vegas. One idea from the summit that they like was for the assembly to hold a separate meeting during the month, a more casual meeting, perhaps a lunch, where members get to know each other better as individuals. This idea met with general approval from those attending tonight.



Zappo also reminded everyone of the upcoming outing for our group at the Chancellor Hotel in San Francisco on January 8, 2015. This is a chance to see our own David Facer in a live professional performance and to partake in an optional dinner prior to the show. Of course, by the time you read this, you should already have been there.

The performance part of tonight's meeting began with a few tricks from our guest Eddie, who produced a flower for Carole and then had Zappo and Jose step up front for a magical contest to who could blow hard enough to keep a length of rope horizontal.

Jerry Barrilleaux followed with a card prediction in which the selected card appears within a frame secured with rubber bands. It was then Michael McGriff's turn to mystify the audience with three silver dollars that appeared and disappeared from his hands.



It was then Zappo's turn to do a bit of mentalism with playing cards with a trick he calls the Popcorn Trick. A deck of cards was divided into two piles on the table, with guest Fred selecting a card and Zappo also selecting an unknown card and all the cards being returned to the deck. After a magical gesture to provide the mystical heat, Zappo spread the deck on the table to reveal that the two



chosen cards had "popped" over and were the only two cards reversed in the deck.

Bob Holdridge was next with another mental effect. Bob was able to divine which two objects had been selected from a list by audience members Harold and Fred. Following this demonstration, Jose Ramirez demonstrated a penetration effect using two large shoelaces and two metal rings. Jose was able to pull the rings from the laces even though they were securely tied and two assistants held onto the ends of the laces.

Zappo provided the climax to the evening's performances by having the missing Santa Claus appear in a Christmas picture. It's a good thing that Santa was found in time for his upcoming trip around the world.

The evening concluded with the monthly raffle drawing. Bob and Cesar walked away with the prizes. Be sure to come next month to see some great magic, learn something new, and maybe go home with a valuable prize.



Magic Summit seeks to improve the magic club experience

November 14 and 15 two of our members attended (at their own expense) the Magic Summit in Las Vegas. The event developed out of an idea discussed by Stan Allen (owner and editor of MAGIC Magazine), Brian Daniel and Vinny Grosso centered on how to elevate the magic club experience. More than 125 delegates from clubs all across the United States, and even some international participants, gathered to discuss the current state of magic organizations (generally thought to be in decline from past years where membership was much higher) and try to come up with some suggestions for the collective good on what works to keep magic clubs a vital component of being a magician.

Michael McGriff and Jose Ramirez split their time between the various discussion groups looking into a wide range of subjects all related to the three key points of the Summit: Friendly, Fun and Informative. Our guys divided up the breakout sessions in order to try to attend as many as possible, searching for ideas and sharing our Assembly's experience and success stories with other participants. By all accounts this was a fabulous two days. You can look forward to seeing implementation of some of the concepts discussed at the Magic Summit here in our own club during this year. A committee of members has been formed, and will meet the third Monday of each month at Denny's, 1313 Willow Pass Road in Concord.



Full page ad placed by the S.A.M. in MAGIC Magazine

In addition to having our two delegates attending the meeting, another of our members made a substantial contribution to the breakout session on Publicity. A paper written by Rick Allen was one of the best received and most extensive chapters in the take-away booklet provided to delegates. Rick even provided a ready-to-use press release about the local club's participation in the Summit. The paper, entitled, "Simple Steps to a Successful Publicity Campaign," captured methods developed and successfully used over many years by Rick Allen, who has been both an acclaimed professional magician and a

highly accomplished publicist for decades.

If you see Michael, Jose or Rick at a future meeting of SAM#112, be sure to ask about their experience representing your club at the Magic Summit. There was a brief report to the Board as well as at the regular meeting in December summarizing the activities in Las Vegas, but you can look forward to hearing more as we find things we can implement locally to improve your magic club experience.



Participants came from around the country



Long-time member Leo Luna looking for a good home for his very special co-stars



There comes a time when nearly all of us make the decision to cutback or retire from magic. It's one thing for the magician and his human assistants to make that decision, but quite another thing for the animal assistants who have been steadfast partners over the years. Any magician would want to find a good home for his trusty assistants where they can be loved and even continue to work in a show, amazing and delighting audiences.

Leo Luna, was a member of SAM#112 for many years. He is searching for a good home for three such veteran performers. Here are pictures of Leo's charges. If you can help, or you know someone who is willing to give a good home to these wonderful magic assistants, please contact Leo at (925) 846-3888.



Time to pay your dues

Dues for 2015 will remain at \$25 a year for local assembly membership and \$5 more for a spouse of a member. We are grateful that our raffles and the contribution box put out at each meeting have been able to cover the expense involved in renting the VFW Hall for our meetings. However there are many other expenses associated with running the Assembly, and we rely on your dues to keep operating. Thank you for sending in your dues, or for paying them at the next meeting.

Please send your dues to Treasurer **Jerry Barrilleaux**, 2724 Richard Ave, Concord, CA 94520.

Coming to California Magic Club



January 16 and 17, Comedy Magician Kerry Ross with Hank Morfin

January 23 and 24, The Comedy Magic of Hank Morfin with Jack Fowler

January 30 and 31, The Amazing Timothy James with Gerry Griffin

February 6 and 7, The Incredible David Deeble with Jeffrey Korst

February 13 and 14, The Magic of Joseph Bartholomew with John Gardenier

February 20 and 21, Comedy Magician Legend Bob Sheets with David Hirata

February 27 and 28, The Amazing Timothy James with Gerry Griffin



Magical Happenings around the Bay



Jay Alexander
Magician and Mentalist
An Evening of Comedy
Magic, Psychology, and Lies

Saturday January 17, 2015
8:00 pm
El Campanil Theatre
Antioch, CA
Tickets: \$25



Announced talent thus far: Paul Draper, Wayne Houchin,
Arian Black, Dirk Losander, Hank Morfin, Jack Fowler



Featuring our very own David
Facer in an all new magical
experience at the Chancellor
Hotel on Union Square in
San Francisco
Tickets available through the
web site:
<http://www.sfmagicparlor.com>

History Lesson

Editor's Note: SAM#112 is entering into its 40th year. In past editions of The Conjurer, Don Heynen wrote the History Quiz column, which proved a very popular feature. When Don retired, with the December issue, the History Quiz was also retired from this publication. Carole Yvonne Kula pointed out that with this being the start of our 40th year, it was sad that no history column would continue to grace the pages of our newsletter. I suggested that if she, or any other member wants to write up some historical memories, I would be glad to publish them. Carole Yvonne took me up on the offer, so what follows is her recollection of some of the history of SAM#112.

SAM#112 - The early days

by Carole Yvonne Kula

Stan Riddle, who was a member of The Society of American Magicians, placed an ad in the local newspaper indicating his intention to start a local chapter. None of the original responders to his ad were previous members of SAM. But the core group of initial members all joined National S.A.M.

Leroy Goodenough, one of our first members, was recruiting for the club in person and that is how my family became members. My six-year-old son was a performing magician. When Christopher was three, we made an Uncle Sam Costume for a July 4th parade. He later found the top hat to be great for magically making items appear. When he was six, Christopher decided to be a magician for Halloween. I made the black tux with tails and his dad, James, again made a top hat, this time with a false bottom. Chris went out saying "trick and treat." When they gave him candy, he would pull something from his hat. They then would give him more candy. He got more candy than anyone else.

He was asked by the city of Walnut Creek to perform in the park after the children's parade, then the Concord Elks paid him to perform, and Citibank opened a savings account to pay for his performance at their bank. He was doing a talent show at Sun Valley when the man standing next to me at the back of the auditorium said, "That Kid's a comedian." I said "That's my son." At which point Leroy Goodenough suggested my family might like to join a new magic club that was just starting.

At that time, there was no provision for young magicians to belong to SAM and consequently their parents often joined so that the kids could tag along and enjoy the meetings. I guess Christopher was the first unofficial SYM member.

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The first meetings were held at the hilltop church on Esperanza. Stan called it our Magic Castle. This was either late 1974 or early 1975 which makes our club 40 years old already. The SAM charter came later, on November 5, 1975.



Stan Riddle had a famous magician friend, Gene Anderson, who gave our first club lecture there, featuring his torn and restored newspaper tree. This became Loren Lind's favorite special piece of magic. The club members, including my son, had a photo taken

with all of us standing around Gene Anderson. I don't have a copy ... Maybe someone else does.



Loren Lind receives Presidential Award from S.A.M. National

Editor's Note: *National President ICE McDonald put in place a new Presidential Certificate for outstanding members of the S.A.M. In November, our very own Loren Lind was awarded this honor. What follows is the short write-up included with his nomination.*

Ninety-two year old Loren Lind, from Concord, CA, has devoted more than 40 years of his life in magic to Assembly 112 of the Society of American Magicians. Loren is a charter member of our Assembly, having served several terms as the President and in other capacities on the Board. He was the National President of S.A.M. in 1997-98. He is the founder of our Society of Young Magicians group, which bears his name (The Loren Lind Assembly 112 of the Society of Young Magicians) and he attends and teaches magic at nearly every monthly meeting to the young magicians.

Loren attends nearly all of our regular Assembly meetings, and he has always been an integral part of our fellowship. He greets every member and visitor, and has been instrumental in encouraging new members to join simply by being a gracious and warm ambassador for the art of magic. He has given countless magic performances over the years, and readily shares decades of experience as a professional magician with any and all who have a sincere desire to learn and preserve the secrets.

As Loren's age has forced him to slow down, he has donated tons of magic effects he collected over his many years in magic to the benefit of our S.Y.M. Assembly. His son now brings him to meetings, and together they have sold many props, books and other magic paraphernalia and then donated their proceeds to our Assembly and our S.Y.M. Assembly. We are pleased to nominate Loren Lind for the Presidential Certificate, and we can't conceive of anyone more deserving of the recognition.

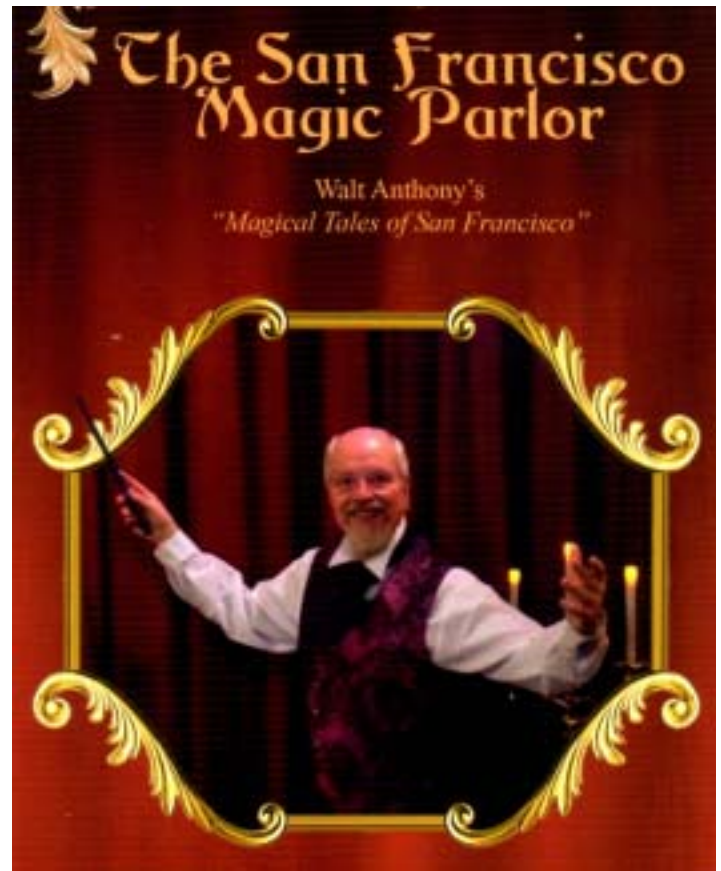


OMC Installation Banquet and Show

As of publication time, we have not received the flyer for the Oakland Magic Circle's Annual Installation Banquet and Show. OMC meets the first Tuesday of each month, and their banquet will be on February 3, 2015. Tickets are on sale now at www.OMC2015.brownpapertickets.com. At last report, Majinga (Michael Stroud) has been lined up to headline the show along with Glen Micheletti, and David Gerard, who won the 2014 OMC Inter-Club Stage Competition. Further details will be posted on the SAM#112 website when they are made available.

Coming in the February edition of The Conjurer

Read all about our SAM#112 outing to The San Francisco Magic Parlor. We had a blast spending the most magical of evenings with Walt Anthony and a sold-out crowd! Story and photos will be provided by Roy Porfido next month.



By the way, performances at The San Francisco Magic Parlor have now been taken over by our very own David Facer who is doing his World of Paradox Magic show most weekends at the Chancellor Hotel. Tickets are available through the San Francisco Magic Parlor website. Some of you may know David Facer by his previous name, long time member David Miller.



The CONJURER

The Society of American Magicians • 112

Scheduled Meetings through December 2015

January 21 Cut and Resored Rope Part 2 Workshop at 7:00p
 February 18 Children's Magic
 March 18 Impromptu Magic
 April 15 Dealing with Hecklers -- Panel Discussion
 May 20 Acting for Magicians
 June 17 Money Magic
 July 15 Full Stage Contest
 November 18 One-Shot Close-Up and Close-Up Full Act Contest
 Note: Additional workshop topics will be provided as they are identified. If you would like to teach a workshop, contact any board member to volunteer.

SAM-112 meets the third Wednesday of each month at the Pleasant Hill VFW Hall

DIRECTIONS TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS:
 From Highway 680, turn west on Oak Park Boulevard;
 when you get to Wendell Lane, turn right; Veterans of Foreign Wars is the second building on the left side of the street.

ADDRESS: 1919 Wendell Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA



Meeting Format

7:00 Workshop begins. Read *Scheduled Meetings* to see what we will be learning.

8:30 BREAK

8:45 Open performance. Perform anything you are working on, new things you are just learning or want to learn, or something that you want to test in front of an audience. Use this opportunity to dust off something you have had on the shelf for a while. You may request critique or not. You can get help from other members with anything magical. Members are especially encouraged to perform magic they learned in the workshop session at last month's meeting.

9:30 Meeting adjourned



The Conjurer is published monthly. The current Editor is Larry Wright. To submit material for publication please send via email to editor@sam112-com. Deadline for submission is the Wednesday after the Board meeting (which happens on the first Monday of each month).

