



# the CONJURER

The Society of American Magicians • 112



## *A Message from Your President*

### Here we come!

I am starting this column a bit differently than others I have written over the past 13 months, in order to give you a report on how we are doing and where we are going as a club. First of all, in order to chart a course for where we are going, we need to know what to count on for our annual budget. One major component of our treasury comes from dues. Assembly dues are now due. Only a handful of people have renewed their Assembly membership. Please either send your dues to Treasurer Jerry Barrilleaux at 2724 Richard Avenue, Concord, CA 94520, or plan to hand Jerry a check (cash also accepted) at the February regular meeting. Assembly dues are \$25 a year, with a family membership available to a member of your household for an additional \$5.



Last year at this time we made a change to the format of our regular meetings. We added a workshop from 7:00p until about 8:15p. Then we added the provision to arrive early at 6:30p to have some time to socialize before the workshop. I am very pleased to report that this format has been an unconditional success. We have collected feedback forms from participants who attended nearly every workshop and the results are an overall rating of 4.64 out of 5 for the year.

We have filled some of the slots for workshops this year, which are shown on the last page of this newsletter, but we are still looking for volunteers to teach in August, October and December 2015. We welcome ANY member to step forward and propose teaching any magic workshop, which could include leading a discussion on a magical topic. Please contact me or any Board member to volunteer to help us fill out the 2015 schedule.

One of the things our Summit team is working on is completing a knowledge, skills, and abilities assessment to determine where "expertise" resides in our Assembly. Eventually, it is their goal to pair people who want to learn more about a particular area of magic with members who have experience and knowledge they are willing to share on those subjects. You will be hearing more about this in the near future once the team has a chance to mine the data they collected from an initial survey conducted at the January regular meeting. Data from that survey will be combined with future information collected by the Summit team. But at the end of the day, one of the things we are told that members want to get out of the Assembly membership is the opportunity to learn more about magic, and that's where this effort leads. The Outreach, Community Service and Membership Committee, meets at Denny's on Willow Pass Road on the Third Monday of each month. They could use your help.

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The Board is looking for charities that might like to partner with SAM#112 to produce a show that would benefit those charities. This could also include our club supplying close-up magicians to support a charitable event. We are looking to you, our members, to help us identify potential partnerships that will benefit our community and give us a higher profile to perhaps attract new members.

Have you discerned a theme in my message this month? It is that we are looking for more involvement from our members to help us deliver a banner year in this, our 40th year of existence here in Contra Costa County. We started as an Assembly in 1975, and we hope we will be around to celebrate our Golden Anniversary in 10 more years. All it takes is participation and continued effort to be an organization with which people can be proud to be affiliated. Help us find new members who want to be part of the fun.

The February workshop will be Children's Magic taught by Jose Ramirez. Jose promises an exciting look into the world of performing magic for children. You need only bring yourself to this workshop. Anything else will be provided.

Finally, for those who missed our outing in January to the San Francisco Magic Parlor, it was an evening to remember. The story of our outing follows this article, but it was another "you should have been there" event. We owe Walt Anthony a debt of gratitude for allowing us to participate in this historic show.

See you soon. Tell your friends how much fun you are having!



## *A Night at the Museum (Well...Almost)*

*by Roy Porfido*

On Thursday, January 8 of this year a number of SAM#112 members and guests attended Walt Anthony's last performance of his Magical Tales of San Francisco at the San Francisco Magic Parlor located inside the Chancellor Hotel on Union Square.



Using stories and magic to illustrate the tale, Walt's show explored the history of some of the folks and events that helped make San Francisco, San Francisco. Hence the name of this article, A Night at the Museum (Well... Almost).

This was a wonderful evening for my wife Sally and me as we BARTed over to San Francisco

from Livermore where we met up with Larry and Bonnie Wright, Ric and Kara Ewing, Jerry and Carol Barrilleaux, Jose Ramirez, Michael McGriff and his lovely wife Terry and John Gyllenhaal.



As we left the lobby bar at the Chancellor Hotel where we had gathered prior to dinner, the San Francisco Fire Department arrived in force, with several fire trucks and a dozen or more firefighters all decked out in their turnouts and carrying tools and fire extinguishers. Larry Wright had promised that the show was a "hot ticket," but we didn't expect it would be hot enough to require the Fire Department! It turned out to be a false alarm. Someone had triggered the fire alarm on an upper floor.



We all had dinner next door to the Chancellor at Sear's restaurant where we all enjoyed a wonderful, primarily fish, dinner. The waiter was delightful, and probably came with the original restaurant 100 years ago!

We returned to the Chancellor, with the Fire Department having returned to their station and into the Parlor to watch the wonderful and colorful history of San Francisco unfold before our very eyes through the art of magic and illusion.



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***(Magic Parlor: Continued from Page 2)***

Some of the interesting, colorful, famous as well as infamous characters we learned about were Emperor Joshua Norton, "Big" Alma Spreckles, Gertrude Atherton, Mary Ellen Pleasant and the bighearted, flamboyant and feisty brothel madam, Tessie Wall.



After the show it was back to the Sears restaurant for dessert and then back home.

All in all it was a wonderful Date Night out for all as well as being educational and entertaining. I would recommend this show highly, except, as I mentioned in the beginning, this was the last performance of Magical Tales of San Francisco.

The Magic Parlor is now being taken over by our very own David Facer who will bring his own style and brand of magical entertainment to the San Francisco Magic Parlor in a show called, Paradox. Perhaps this reviewer will be reporting on Paradox in the near future.

Oh, and, by the way, if you get a chance, go see the current release of Night at the Museum 3. It is the best of the lot as well as being Robin Williams second to last movie and the last movie of Mickey Rooney. A touching and funny movie, well worth seeing.



## *Meeting Report*

*By Larry Wright*

Our regular meeting scribe, Bill Marquardt, was not able to attend the January meeting. You will no doubt miss his comprehensive reporting, as I make a feeble attempt to stand in and report on our first meeting of 2015.

The January Workshop was entitled, "Cut and Restored Rope – Part Two." Roy started off the teaching with a recap of the method we learned at the December workshop for doing the cut and restored rope. While many people had attended that workshop, there were several newcomers and even those who had learned the



method in December benefitted from the review of the method before we launched into the new material.

The new routine being taught (by this reporter) involved two distinct segments. First, a different (but very similar) method for performing the cut and restored rope was explained. That was immediately followed by a "cut-on-the-fly" method to transition into "The Professor's Nightmare." This segue involves cutting a perfectly proportioned set of ropes to perform the Professor's Nightmare right in front of the audience, done smoothly and integrated into the presentation of the Cut and Restored Rope.

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The audience seemed very pleased to learn this method. It was originally shown to me by Malcolm Foster, a former member of SAM#112 back in the 1970's. We must have done something right, as the ratings for this workshop were all 5's. The handling of this new two part version of Cut and Restored Rope was

considerably more advanced than the method taught in Part One. As is always the case, if you are now encountering any issues in performing this piece, check with Larry or Roy at our next meeting for a review and/or troubleshooting session.



In addition, "Thank You Certificates" were presented to several members for their contribution to making SAM#112 the best magic club in Northern California.

The business meeting began with the swearing in of the 2015 SAM#112 officers, conducted by Past President Ric Ewing.



Then we went into awards mode. Trophies were distributed to last year's contest winners, Bob Holdridge, Roy Porfido and yours truly.

A special certificate was presented to Michael McGriff and Jose Ramirez, who represented our Assembly at the Las Vegas Magic Summit, and to Carole Yvonne Kula who made extraordinary contributions to the Assembly in her role as Membership/Community Outreach Chair and as a special assistant to your President.

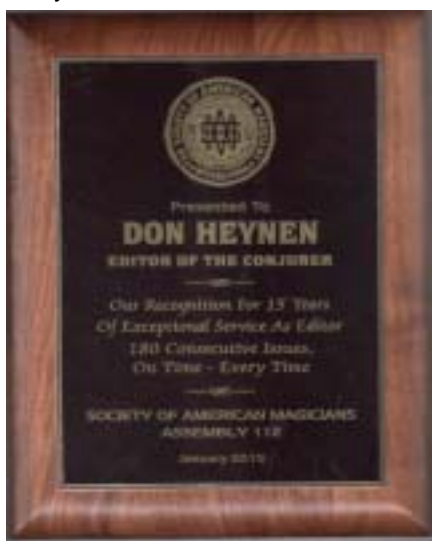
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*(Meeting Report: Continued from Page 4)*



Next, Roy Porfido called Ric Ewing to the front of the room in order to make the Magician of the Year Award presentation. The two of them did a credible acting job, making it appear at first that Ric was the winner. In actual fact, Ric passed the trophy to Larry Wright as Magician of the Year 2014.

Larry then showed the members at the meeting a beautiful



plaque commemorating Don Heynen's 15 year term as Editor of the Conjuror. The plaque reads, in part, "180 Consecutive Issues, On Time – Every Time." It was with heartfelt gratitude that the membership of our Assembly voted for and cheered for this special recognition to honor Don's incredible

contribution over the many years. The plaque has been shipped to Don, who was not able to attend the awards ceremony in person.



During the magic performance portion of the meeting, Bob Holdridge started us off, doing an effect similar to "Oil and Water" in which the cards mysteriously sorted themselves into piles by color. The effect is called "Jumbo Out of This Universe." The effect certainly had other worldly impact.

Next John Gyllenhaal performed a very cut version of the Hip Hop Rabbits. The props were brilliantly made, and the story of the courtship

of the bunnies made the entire thing highly enjoyable for all in attendance.



John Gyllenhaal presents a wonderful story suitable for Valentine's Day about his two bunnies' courtship and ultimate marriage. The props were very well illustrated and made, bringing a new twist to a classic piece of children's magic. Maybe John was a month before his time since Valentine's Day and Children's Magic Workshop are all part of the February meeting?

Former Assembly #112 President, Bill Hatteroth made a return visit after several year's sabbatical and presented a rope trick. He later returned and did an amazing card trick which had one tiny segment that missed. Even with the slight miss, it was still a mind-blowing effect.



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**(Meeting Report: Continued from Page 5)**



Ric Ewing amazed us with Ring On (and OFF!) Rope. His handling of the routine shows what hours of practice can bring, and was an excellent example of what happens when you routine several different effects together into one solid presentation.

OK – where is Marquardt when you need him??! A visiting clown, whose clown name is Jughead, showed a haunted match box. Bill would have gotten his real name, but he's better at this Meeting Report column than I am. I think it might have been Carl, but never

rely on my memory! At any rate, the box mysteriously stood up on end while held on the palm of his open hand, and then proceeded to open. Jughead was nice enough to conduct a mini-workshop and shared not only how the effect works, but also how to make one for yourself.



By popular demand, this reporter reprised "Eight Card Brainwave," a packet effect that allows the spectator to select a card which is set to the side. Once the backs of all the other seven cards are shown to be of matching color, the card selected by the spectator is shown to have a different colored back.

We finished the evening with Jerry Barrilleaux showing a strange lens which seemed to warp space. A pen, when viewed through the lens, seemed to disappear even though it was held in the spectator's hand. In the end, the warping of time and space caused the pen to actually get a permanent twist in its plastic middle.



If I have left out anybody who performed during the meeting, I apologize. My notes were pretty sketchy. The experience of delivering this report just proves how valuable the contribution made by Bill Marquardt is to this newsletter. I am going back to being an editor now, rather than trying to be a correspondent!



## *Society of Young Magicians is Really Cooking with Gas* *by Carole Yvonne Kula*

Six young magicians recently received their certificates of National membership, Gold Pins, membership cards and entrance to the online newsletter with special magic information.

After taking their Magician's Oath given by SYM leader Jerry Barrilleaux, Loren Lind presented each with their Society of Young Magicians Gold Pins.

Welcome to our Young Magi: Logan, Daniel, Tanner, Robin, Diego and Georgie.

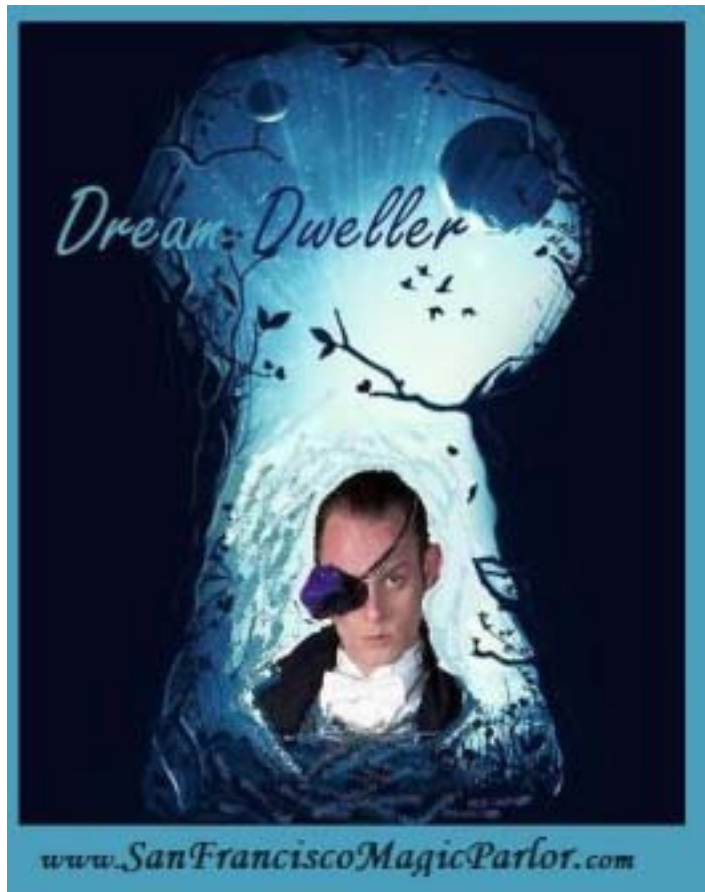
The young magicians perform in front of the group at each meeting. This month, the students were taught and took home a rising wand, a Svengali deck of cards and a Two-Card Monte set.... Plus a special handmade effect from Bob Holdridge. There is no charge to attend the class.

We are growing quickly with an enthusiastic group of students, parents and families. In January, including the S.A.M. Adult Members, there were 39 attending.

SYM next meets at Denny's on Willow Pass Road in Concord, on Monday February 23. Meetings are always held on the 4th Monday of each month with folks gathering at 6:30p for the meeting which is held from 7 to 8:30p.



Announced talent thus far: Paul Draper, Wayne Houchin, Ariann 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

## 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



February 6 and 7, The Incredible Juggling of 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 Jack Fowler

March 6 and 7, Local Magical Star Hank Morfin with Gerry Griffin

March 13 and 14 from Holland, Juggler Extrordinaire Niels Duinker with Gerry Griffin

March 20 and 21 Comedy Magician Michael Peterson and Gerry Griffin





Celebrating 40 Years

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### 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  
 August 19  
 September 16 -- Flea Market  
 October 21  
 November 18 -- One-Shot Close-Up and Close-Up Full Act Contest  
 December 16

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

*Directions to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall:*  
 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



February 2015

#### 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](mailto:editor@sam112.com). Deadline for submission is the Wednesday after the Board meeting (which happens on the first Monday of each month).

