



CONJURER

The Society of American Magicians • 112

the



A Message from Your President

Are you ready to do magic at the proverbial drop of the hat? When people find out you are a magician do they usually ask you to show them something? Well the March workshop will be exactly what the doctor ordered as Roy Porfido will take us through a bit of Impromptu Magic. You won't need to bring anything. Roy will discuss some ideas on how you can do magic with things you have at hand with a bit of preparation and knowledge.



In my professional career I can't tell you how many shows I have booked because I performed seemingly impromptu magic for someone who expressed an interest. I have found that always being willing to "audition" and show someone an impressive bit of magic on the spur of the moment is very valuable indeed. There are entire books, videos and massive online resources for finding impromptu magic effects. Roy will be talking about what constitutes a worthy effect as well as sharing a few of his favorites. It should be a workshop well worth attending.

At the March meeting we will be asking those who attend how they would like to have their nametag completed. At future meetings we expect to have a nametag that includes not only your name (what you want people to call you) but also what your specialties or interests are in magic. We hope this will facilitate conversations about shared interests and is a first step towards implementation of our new Mentoring program. Some of you have already filled out a form concerning your ability to mentor another performer in an area of specialization or your desire to find a mentor who can help you learn about some aspect of magic. That input has been captured on a spreadsheet and our outreach committee and summit committee folks should be ready to try to pair up people in the next couple of months.

At the meeting (and also through an e-mail) you will soon receive a survey concerning formal lectures. This survey will be used by the Board to determine if there has been any change to our Assembly's willingness to support paid lecturers. We have not sponsored a lecture for a couple of years because our members simply did not support our most recent efforts to offer professional lectures. This survey will help us to identify if our members are willing to support future lectures, how much they are willing to pay and what the best night might be to have a paid lecturer. Please respond to this survey and be heard regarding whether you feel we should spend club funds to sponsor local lectures.

I am sad to report that Bob Kuhn, a Bay Area magician and magic enthusiast, passed away on February 14. S.A.M. Assembly #2, in San Francisco, will be sponsoring a Broken Wand ceremony for Bob on March 21 from 2:00p until 4:00p at the Hotel Whitcomb, at 1231 Market Street in San Francisco. This is the location where I.B.M. Ring 38 used

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to meet several years ago. Bob was a fixture at magic events in the Bay Area for more than forty years. He was not only an excellent amateur magician, but he also loved to watch magic and he supported shows, contests and various magic club meetings all over the Bay Area. He will be deeply missed by all of us who knew him.

We have been able to pay for the meeting room rent based on holding a monthly raffle. The supply of items to be raffled has been nearly exhausted. If you have any items that you would like to donate, please provide them to Jerry Barrilleaux at the next meeting. Nearly everybody has some item(s) that has been gently used and could be given as a raffle prize. We appreciate your support.

At the April regular meeting the workshop will be a panel discussion regarding dealing with hecklers. If you have some experience in this area of performance, please let me know and we would love to add you to our panel. If you would rather not be on the panel, but you have just one or two thoughts, then you will make a perfect participant to express those thoughts the night of the workshop from the floor. We had a lively discussion regarding Children's Magic, sparked by Jose Ramirez' workshop at the February meeting, and I think all who attended enjoyed the energy around the discussion. April should be just as lively and valuable, so please plan to participate.

Finally, 2015 is our 40th anniversary year as an official Assembly of the Society of American Magicians. Our charter was signed in November of 1975. In honor of this landmark year we are investigating having a celebration that might involve having dinner and possibly attending a local professional magic show. Stay tuned for announcements concerning this very special celebration as information becomes available. If you have an opinion on a good way to party in honor of our anniversary, please feel free to tell any of your club officers to that we can incorporate your suggestion into the pool of items being considered.



Society of Young Magicians
by Carole Yvonne Kula

The Loren Lind Assembly of the Society of Young Magicians has really taken off. In recent months we have added 12 new members. The size of the crowd has gotten to the point that we will be looking into moving the meeting from the main dining room at Denny's (1313 Willow Pass Road in Concord) to the larger meeting room in the back of the restaurant.

Adult members are always welcome to help teach at the SYM meetings which happen on the fourth Monday of each month. For more information, contact Jerry Barrilleaux (our coordinator) or Carole Yvonne Kula.

Meeting Report

By Bill Marquardt



Our February theme was "Magic for Children." President Larry "Zappo" Wright introduced Jose Ramirez who started the night off with a presentation of several effects he likes to perform. After describing the sort of effects that work well for kids, Jose picked young Robin Hartz, a member of our local SYM, from the audience of about 24 people to assist him.

For his first trick, Jose removed a knot from a rope held by Robin while she had her eyes closed. This is a gag effect where the audience is in on the secret, and gets a good laugh without embarrassing the assistant.



He then followed with several more minor mysteries including Ropes Through Body, Ring Through Rubber Band, Torn Napkin into Rainbow Ribbon, Eye of the Tiger (a rope trick,) and the Disappearing Knot.

Following the performances, Jose gave a detailed explanation of how to perform the Eye of the Tiger. In this effect, the magician instantly threads one end of a rope through a loop that is obviously too small. Audience members were invited to try out this newly learned skill with sections of rope.

At the conclusion of Jose's presentation members offered tips on performing magic for children and discussed the types of effects that work well for the younger audience. Ric Ewing suggested always telling a story to go with the tricks. The "Magician in trouble" is a good theme to use, and it is important to remember that young children do not differentiate between our type of magic and what they see in the virtual world.

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Announcements and news “for the good of the order” were next and Zappo reminded us that assembly dues are now due, so do your part. He also related the sad news that compeer Bob Kuhn had passed away recently and that a Broken Wand ceremony would be arranged. On a lighter note, Roy Porfido’s magic camp is coming soon.

Zappo announced that one of us, none other than Rick Allen, had been selected to join the elite membership of our assembly’s Wall of Fame. Congratulations, Rick!



For those who think the award Rick is holding in the photograph above looks like a file folder, you should zoom in closer and you will see it actually looks like this:



Rick came to the front to receive his award and spoke a bit about the recent S.A.M. summit in Las Vegas. Rick prepared a presentation for the summit describing his ideas and experiences in the efforts to increase assembly membership by advertising and holding open house nights for the general public. Rick assures us that this is a great way to gain new members.

Among our several guests this night was Mike Della Penna, president of the Oakland Magic Circle, who announced a coming lecture and a separate workshop by close up magician, Nathan Kranzo. He also reminded us of the April magic flea market in Oakland, perhaps the biggest magic flea market in the state. OMC is the oldest independent magic club in the state.

Other guests included Dan Del Bonta, Linda Jahnke, Chris Throop, Bill Hatteroth a.k.a. Zeb Dunit, four members of the Hartz family, Robin, Anna, Kara and Robert. Apologies to anyone whose name has been misspelled or who was missed. For those interested, noted magician, Jay Alexander, will be performing a show called “Mind Tricks” in San Jose in March.

Ric Ewing passed on some information about some changes to the way the web site is being handled and advised anyone not currently receiving our newsletter, *The Conjurer*, to drop him an email at webmaster@sam112.com.



After our mid-meeting break it was time for some real magic. First to perform was John Gyllenhaal who enlisted the aid of our Robin for a little card magic. John showed Robin a deck of cards and with a wave of her hand that deck changed into two separate decks of cards. To help her through a four aces production, John let her wear a magic hat with a talking bunny rabbit on the brim. He then brought out his own magic hat to produce a six-foot pole, but when he attempted to produce a rabbit from the hat he ended up with an armadillo. It seems that John had gone

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over his quota on magic bunnies for this month. He ended by extracting two sets of bunny ears from his magical hat and gave them to Robin and sister Anna.

Next up was Bob Holdridge who used Anna as his assistant to demonstrate the old Scout method of determining height. He determined that even though she appeared shorter, she was actually six feet tall and proved it with a six-foot ruler. As you may have guessed, his ruler had pictures of six actual feet.

Following Bob was guest Chris Throop who entertained with his Rising Matchbox. He placed an ordinary matchbox on the palm of his hand and commanded it to stand up on end and then open itself. Bob taught everyone how to perform the trick and generously handed out matchboxes to everyone who wanted one.



Next to perform was young Nate Wilson who managed to turn a signed Three of Hearts into a Two of Hearts, the actual card chosen by spectator Zappo, by magically causing the center pip to vanish. Nice job, Nate.

Zeb Dunit then took the stage to tell the story of how he got to join a magic club. It seems that he was asked to help a magician mix up a few cards but every time he tried, the cards separated into a stack of black cards and a



stack of red cards. When he finally gave up and tried to put them down separately, they ended up mixed and he was invited to join the club. This was a delightfully different version of the effect known as "Oil and Water."

Ric and Kara Ewing followed to present a new routine from their act. It seems their little friend Flowers the Clown lost his head when he disobeyed his

instructions not to look into the magic handkerchief and it was up to Ric and Kara to help him get a new head. Flowers wasn't too happy with the balloon head Ric made for him but with a bit of magic and help from the audience the balloon was popped and Flowers got his old head back.



Our next magician was Roy Porfido with another great kid's trick. Roy showed a board with a drawing of two gooney birds sitting on a wall. They seemed to disappear when he passes the board behind his back. Of course the kids wanted to see the backside of the board but when Roy finally showed it, the birds were gone and a picture of a smiling cat was in their place. Looks like those gooney birds had a bit of bad luck.

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Following Roy was Mike Della Penna, who demonstrated that it is possible to perform magic for very young children by keeping it simple and visual. Getting help from the audience, Mike changed a red flag into a multicolored rainbow silk. He then performed a trick with picture cards and a snake that just would not go away. For a fun ending, two giant but harmless snakes sprang out of a can scaring Mike and getting screams from the audience.

With something of a change of pace from the usual, Linda Jahnke then came up to perform a brief puppet show with her new puppet, Shelley the Queen of Magic. With the help of Robin from the audience, Shelley tried to produce a special ice cream cone with chocolate sprinkles but ended up with a vase with flowers. Not bad for Shelley's first try at magic!



Rick Allen was next on the stage. He performed the Pole from a Sack trick, similar to John's pole from a hat and continued with a complete routine of the Multiplying Rabbits, assisted by Anna and her mother, Kara.



After Rick came Jerry Barrilleaux who performed a couple of quick close up effects, changing a dollar bill into a credit card and following up with a Patriotic Rope trick in which three separate pieces of rope, red, white, and blue are tied together and change into a single length of rope.



Closing out the night's performances was our leader, Zappo, who did a bit of mental magic with an old west theme, something he came up with for a presentation in Old Sacramento. Three items, a silver bullet, a sheriff's badge, and an old pocket watch were taken from a Wells Fargo moneybag, along with a folded prediction. Assistant Robin decided who was to hold which item and which was to go back into the bag. The results were exactly as had been predicted by Sneaky Pete.

So, as you can see we had a large number of great performances. We concluded the evening with critiques and suggestions for the performers and then the monthly raffle. If you haven't been to a meeting lately, be sure to be there next time. You won't be disappointed.



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



March 20 and 21 Comedy Magician Michael Peterson and Gerry Griffin

March 27 and 28 Comedy Magician Timothy James and Gerry Griffin

April 3 and 4 The Eleventh Anniversary Show! Comedy Magician Hank Morfin and Joseph Bartholomew

April 10 and 11 Christian Cagigal and Jack Alexander

April 17 and 18 Comedy Imaginator Eric Buss

April 24 and 25 David Hirata

May 1 and 2 Ron Saylor

May 8 and 9 Joseph Bartholomew and John Gardenier

May 15 and 16 Peter Samelson

May 22 and 23 John Gardenier and Joseph Bartholomew

May 29 and 30 Comedy Magician Justin Rivera



2015 Annual

VARIETY SHOW

Friendship House Association of American Indians, Inc. Fundraiser



Comedian
Jim Ruel



Award Winning Blues Band
Twice As Good



Magician
Tamaka

April 10
Kaiser Center
300 Lakeside Drive
Oakland, CA

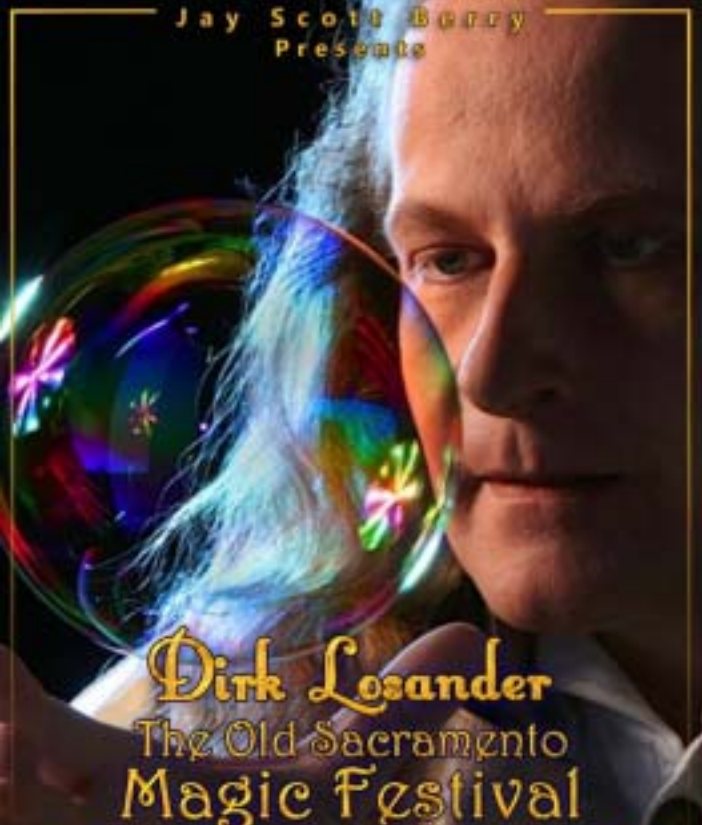
Tickets \$20
Doors open at 7:00 pm
Show starts at 7:30 pm

To purchase your tickets online, visit:
Eventbrite.com and search
"Intertribal Variety Show"

For more information contact:
Pa-Pai X. Thomas or Jayde Rios-Wankam at
(415) 865-0964

A Linking Rings Performing Arts Production

Jay Scott Berry
Presents



Dirk Losander
The Old Sacramento
Magic Festival

October 16, 17 & 18, 2015



Celebrating 40 Years

the CONJURER

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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 -- Holiday Magic
 September 16 -- Flea Market
 October 21 -- Game Night
 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



March 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 Conjuror 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).

