



The Servante

Official Newsletter of the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists

Volume 2020 - Number 4 - April 2020

Next Monthly Assembly Meeting Thursday April 16, 2020 - 7:00 pm
The meeting will be held online using the Zoom video streaming service
An Executive Committee meeting will be held with Zoom at 6:00 pm

CREATE YOUR CHARACTER

The April Monthly Assembly Meeting of the Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists will feature a lecture and discussion by Margaret Clauder and Pix Smith called "Create Your Character." Both Margaret and Pix are well-known performing professionals with many years of making a full-time living with magic, puppetry, ventriloquism, ballooning, and allied arts. They will bring their experience, knowledge, and wisdom to the electronic world as the AOI has its first "online" magic club meeting.

With the corona virus keeping most people in "shelter at home" status, the meeting will be held online using the ZOOM video streaming service. Club members and guests will be given a URL and pass code whereby they can access the meeting. Any computer with a camera and Internet access or phone with the app can be used. Additional information regarding the URL and pass code will be sent to members and made available on our club's www.sam138.com website later this week. The meeting can also be accessed through the club's Facebook page.

MAGIC FLIX OFFER TO SAM MEMBERS

The magic community is suffering, along with the rest of the world, due to the Coronavirus. Magic conventions have been canceled and gigs are delayed; however, the fellowship of magic still stands strong. We here at MagicFlix would like to do our part and give free access to our platform to all the members of the S.A.M. during this outbreak.

Any person who logs into MagicFlix.com and uses the Code HOME will be able to log in for 30 days for free. We will also give the SAM \$1 for every member of the S.A.M. who joins our platform every month if the member likes our platform and continues to use it after this crisis has ended. Let us grow in the art of magic together, build community and, when the world returns to normal, let our magic be better and stronger than ever. From all of us here at the MagicFlix Team.

HARRY HOUDINI

Born March 24, 1874 in Budapest, Hungary as Ehrich Weiss, Harry Houdini got his name by adding the letter "I" to the end name of Eugene Robert-Houdin, the great French magician who most consider to be the father of modern magic. Houdini emigrated into the US as a small child and was destined to become a master of illusion and escapes. Houdini earned an international reputation who dramatically freed himself from ropes, shackles, chains and handcuffs. He was married to Wilhelmina Rahner, who as Beatrice Houdini was his stage assistant. He performed on vaudeville and was also in many motion pictures. His name later became an English word to describe a person who was a master of escape. Houdini died on Halloween night October 31, 1926 from a ruptured appendix and peritonitis.



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Due to newly imposed restaurant restrictions, the AOI Executive Committee meeting was held online using the Zoom app on Thursday March 19, 2020. President Cindy Bighorse called the online meeting to order at 6:30 pm. A quorum was present with Executive Committee members Bighorse, Bynum, Chadwick, Byers, Rotio, and McCoy in attendance. Not in attendance was Member at Large Al Fox who was unable to attend due to work related issues. All other AOI members in good standing (2020 dues-paid-up members) were invited to join the meeting.



The minutes of the February Executive Committee meeting were approved as published in the March issue of the SERVANTE monthly assembly newsletter. Treasurer Mark Bynum gave a Treasurer's report showing a current balance of \$1321.03 in the Assembly checking account. From the previous month's checking account balance, \$190.65 in disbursements have been made. These include \$10.65 for MailChimp email services and \$180 paid to the Illusion Warehouse for 2020 monthly assembly meeting space expenses. Treasurer Bynum also presented a Budget Report for the 2020 fiscal year. Bynum also mentioned that the check sent to Larry Brown for website hosting has not been cashed.

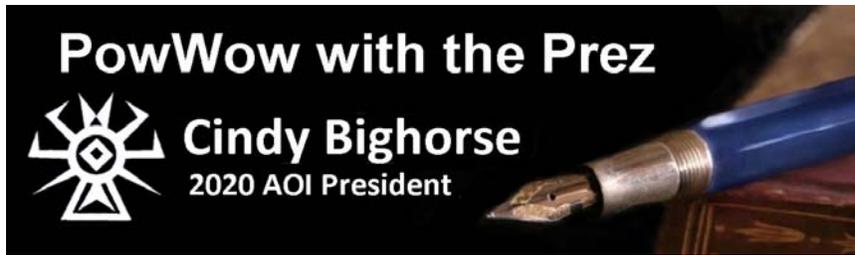
Secretary Chadwick reported that all the Illusion Warehouse payment was used to purchase an additional 15 folding chairs, which now gives the Illusion Warehouse the capability of seating 65 individuals in the party room.

OLD BUSINESS—Bruce Chadwick reported that the Dallas John Carney lecture has been cancelled. Sergeant at Arms Joe Rotio and Vice-President Jack McCoy reported that about a dozen potential members need to present their New Member Introductions so they can be formally voted into Assembly membership. Most of these applicants paid their application fee last year, but have not paid their 2020 dues. McCoy will contact these applicants to see if they want to go forward with their membership application and pay 2020 dues.

President Bighorse has received no response from her repeated attempts to contact member Larry Brown. Larry owns the www.allianceofillusionists.com domain name and the Assembly would like to either "buy" the domain from Larry, or at least reimburse him for his expense. Since the March Assembly Meeting was cancelled, the Magic and Showmanship lecture that was to be presented by Chadwick and Bynum will not be rescheduled at this time.

Assembly Historian and current TAOM President Joey Byers announced that the TAOM mid-year meeting has been cancelled due to the corona virus situation and the hotel canceling the availability of the meeting location. Byers expanded upon the need for various committees to be filled for the upcoming Fort Worth Texas Association of Magicians convention. It was explained that the TAOM mail out will commence once the virus brouhaha settles down. Chadwick commented that it might be wise to wait until May or June to give time for the economy to hopefully recover.

NEW BUSINESS—The April Monthly Assembly Meeting main core activity will be a lecture by Margaret Clauder and Pix Smith called "Create Your Character." President Bighorse mentioned the offer for the "Pay Attention: Engaging Adults During Storytime" lecture to be presented at an upcoming Assembly meeting. Bighorse will contact the lecturer to determine feasibility and cost. The possibility of hosting a public magic show was discussed. Chadwick voiced his opinion that if the show cannot be held by May, hosting the show at a later date may interfere with plans to sell evening show tickets to the TAOM convention in September. It was decided that the Assembly will discuss the show idea further at the next Executive Committee meeting, Byers reported on the availability of the upcoming Dallas Magic Club Installation Banquet. With no further business, the committee adjourned the meeting. — **Respectfully submitted, Bruce Chadwick, Secretary**



Greetings Magicians,

What a crazy time we live in! The media, both news and social, are doing their best to bring gloom and doom into our lives. However I see this as a time to let your character rise to the top. Use this opportunity

to practice your acts and hone your skills. Do you still have questions? Post them on the Alliance of Illusionists Facebook page. That site is there for your benefit and likely, other club members will have similar questions. Tap into the resources of your fellow members.

Let me veer away from magic for a moment...

It's Easter weekend. "Oh, this is a sad time. We will not be able to exercise our normal traditions," peddled the media. OK, that's fine! My friend and fellow councilwoman asked me to help with a LITTLE project. You see, Valerie operates a day care. She is considered an essential business, watching kids of parents who work essential businesses. She rented a bunny costume Thursday so her little charges could have a picture with the Easter Bunny. Since the rental place offered, "We'll call you when to return the costume" she took advantage of the upcoming weekend.

Her husband constructed a bunny hutch in the back of his pickup. She asked me to map out the streets so we could navigate every street in Saginaw where we both serve on the city council. We created a Facebook page to let the citizens know what was happening and the schedule. All this came together in less than 24 hours, hitting the road Friday and Saturday.

I can't even begin to describe the joy on faces, young and old, as we drove the streets. Kids, based on information from our Facebook page, patiently waited on their driveways, many writing chalk messages to the Easter Bunny. Families, who working in their yards, smiled as two crazy folks shouted "Happy Easter!" and then they saw the bunny in the back of the truck. Their smiles grew wider and they shouted responses again; this time louder. Moms cried. Kids hopped like bunnies in their yards. Several people asked us to stop to for pictures, and yes complying with social distancing.

We broke for lunch and dinner. The hutch was so large we didn't fit under the drive-thru restaurant canopies. One lady at the window asked cars to stop so the Easter Bunny crew could walk up their order. We grabbed our meals and headed to a designated spot where families outside the city limits could visit the Easter Bunny. We asked them to support the local businesses in exchange for photos. One struggling business had 20 additional families call in orders that day.



You know, it's not a bad thing to break away from tradition once in a while. You can find your super powers. Share that gift. In a way, I guess this story is magical after all. God bless you all!

Cindy Bighorse

TAOM 2020 NEWS

2020: Perfect Vision for TAOM

Family and friends of the Texas Association of Magicians, I hope you are all doing well and staying safe. What a big change from last month's column when we still thought there was going to be spring baseball, an NCAA basketball tournament, a school year, and public magic performances. Wow! March Madness has an entirely new meaning now from what I can tell. Even though I am one of those hope for the best/plan for the worst type people and do not believe in spreading panic and rumor, my wish for every one of you is that you take the situation to heart and stay safe!

I know you have cable television if you want to hear advice and warnings, so I will not expend the space in this column telling you the same things that the television news channels are currently looping on auto play. So, take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Secondly, a point that I will elaborate on (just a bit), take care of our magic brothers and sisters. I beg you. So many of our performing family are without income, without notice. I say again...without income, without notice. With no warning, all gigs were cancelled, all conventions, performances, birthday parties, cruises, corporate and monetary-producing engagements were instantly no longer on the books or in the calendar. As the sheltered-in-place restrictions stay in effect long, there will likely be charitable endeavors and organized relief appearing, but until then, support your brick-n-mortars if you can. Call and email them, they will ship your products! Do not stop buying effects and learning materials if you can afford to continue your learning habits and behavior. Consider calling up that magician you know who does the trick that has always blown your mind. You know the magician. You know the trick. You have always wanted to learn it. Consider calling them and asking how much they charge to mentor online via Skype or Zoom. If Facebook tells you that a magician friend has a birthday, consider buying them a gift certificate from your favorite brick and mortar magic shop.

For so many years, our full time professional magicians have carried those of us who are not 100% full-time magicians. Because they perform 100% of the time, overall, as a rule, they are better, more polished performers and magicians than those who are part-time pros, amateurs, and hobbyists; not always true, but, overall, as a rule. Those full time pros give the rest of us a good name. They have been the pride of our magic clubs, the performers at our conventions, the mentors for our amateurs and kids, and the inspiration to all of us. Now is our chance to help pay them back. Give them business where you can, support them by purchasing their products in this time of need, arrange for Skype tutoring and learning where possible. Attend their online gatherings when you can and help support them by endorsing and purchasing their products. If you hear, or are aware of someone having a particularly difficult time, consider a Paypal Friends & Family gift. Think outside the box about what you can do





and how you can help those full-timers, who through no fault of their own were suddenly put out of work. This is your/our chance to shine. We use words and terms like magic-family, brotherhood, compeer, and fellowship. Now let us put some action to our speech, and wings to our words.

Okay, now to address the hiding elephant in the room (tip of the top hat to Mr. Steinmeyer). :-) Are we still meeting for the 75th annual Texas Association of Magicians convention in 2020?

We were forced to cancel the mid-year meeting, originally scheduled for April 19 because the hotel is closed to meetings during this time. Mary Cay Gold sent that cancellation out in late March. Concerning the convention itself, my first statement is that the convention date is still five months away. Five months! So, at this point, we will move forward with the plans for the convention. If you are curious why we have decided to do this, please continue reading.

First and foremost we will consider the safety of our convention attendees, talent, guests, hosting team, hotel staff, and community. We will monitor the situation domestically and globally as the days pass and the event draws near. We will most certainly comply with any government regulation placed upon us and do what is best for our TAOMers. Should it become necessary to take alternative measures to holding the convention, we are prepared to do so.

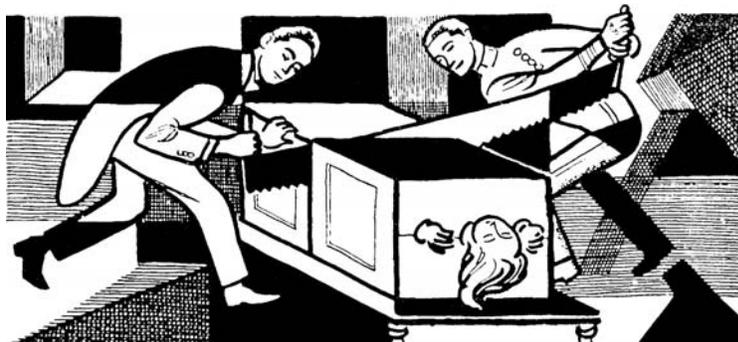


In these times of increasing negativity on the airwaves, my mind wants to consider the positive. I say let us support our magic brothers and sisters. Accordingly, since Penguin MAXX in DFW has been postponed, Magic Live (August 2) cancelled, IBM in Pittsburgh (July 8) has been cancelled. If there is a flattening of the pandemic growth curve and the quarantine is lifted, people are going to be wanting, better yet, needing a magic convention. The talent we booked will be in need of the work. The patrons will be hungry for entertainment and we at TAOM will be there to meet those needs...fill those voids, and provide magic to those needy souls.

Stay well, stay safe. Until next month, take care, and as always, thank you for reading, and for making Texas magic great!

Joey Byers

Your 2019-20 TAOM President





CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

The Workshop Convention

\$100 Basic Registration

**Includes Three Full Evening Shows - Pro Close-Up Show
Contest Shows - Dealer's Room - Classics of Magic Show**

\$225 Workshop Registration

**Includes all the Basic Registration Events Above
PLUS Twelve Hands-On Hour-Long Workshop Sessions
PLUS Bonus Speed Workshop! Less than \$10 per session!**

\$109 Radisson Hotel in North Fort Worth on I-35W

**Radisson Hotel Fort Worth North - Fossil Creek - Free Parking
2540 Meacham Blvd, Fort Worth, Texas 76106 - 877-612-4486
Ask for Texas Association of Magicians Rate - Expires 07-27-20**

Registrations are Limited to 250 Attendees!

September 4 - 7, 2020 - www.TAOM.org

Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists Inc

JACK
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E M C C O Y
A A O P A
T R I T Y
H D N I !
S S C
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As I'm hunkered down for the most part in my home I'm reminded of earlier times when being hunkered down at home was the norm, sometimes for far more frightening reasons. Like always, this event will one day be only a bad memory and things will slowly get back to normal. Until then, I hope for all your safety and look forward to when we can meet in person again. I hope to continue writing this column as long as I'm allowed to or capable of doing so. I've spent my entire life self-entertaining with magic which has blessed me in a particular and personal way. I enjoy finger-blathering to the cyber

-screen of communication for someone else's digital indulgence. I want to thank Bruce Chadwick for this and the past opportunities I'd been given in getting my ideas forever imprinted on this respectable magic archival medium, The Servante.

The 1st coin magic / puzzle I'll be explaining is something I'd realized after learning a coin trick when I was a young lad and was quite proud of my little self, especially when I baffled my math teacher with it.

History: In the late 1960s, one of the cereal companies themed a cereal box with magic tricks and such, and one of the tricks was a simple yet baffling coin trick. I don't have a clue where, when, or by whom it should be credited to, though I imagine it's beyond old. If you know please message me somehow and I'll include the proper credit in next month's post.

The Cereal Box Effect: A handful of coins is dropped onto the table and the magician looks away. A volunteer turns coins over in pairs (2 at a time) however many times they desire. The top of a coin is now covered, the magician turns back around and is able to determine the hidden coins top side, whether it's heads or tails. The secret / principle of the cereal box trick: At the start the magician secretly notes if there's an even or odd number of heads showing (alternately tails can be used). By the spectator turning over in pairs the original odd or even state is unchanged. When the magician turns back around, by simply noticing how many heads are now showing he can determine what the hidden coin's topside is. Very simple, moderately baffling. In an effort to overthrow my friends and family's mental states I altered that trick into the following which is still using the same principle but hidden by single turnovers instead.

My Idea, Heads or Tails: 1. Dump a few coins onto the table, 6 to 8 or so is a decent amount. As fast as you can, glance at their tops and note if there's an even or odd number of heads sides uppermost. That's all you need to remember so don't forget it! Turn away where it's obvious you can't see what's about to transpire.

2. Request the volunteer turn over any 5 coins. Next, tell them to turn over any 4 coins. Next, request they turn over 3 coins. Request now 2 be turned over. During this 5-4-3-2 sequence the same coin can be turned over multiple times should they choose. Lastly, request them to place their index on 1 coin, thus obscuring its top from view. Turn back towards them. Gather the uncovered coins, noting if their amount of heads-up coins match the beginning memorized 'even' or 'odd' condition. **If it does, the hidden coin is 'tails' side up. If not then it's 'heads' up.** Stare intently at the back of their finger and reveal its hidden condition as if you could see it through their finger. If you choose, instead of collecting the uncovered coins, leave them in place for a repeat performance.

Tip: Don't make it look like you're examining the uncovered ones, always keep your head pointed towards their index covering the coin and quick glances to the side(s) is all it takes. The countdown sequence probably came to me because I loved rockets.

7 Coins: Last month I described 2 variations of Robert 'Bob' Hummer card magic. The following is my alteration (for fun) of a Hummer creation, this time involving coins, specifically his '13 Cent Trick' from his booklet '3 Pets'. His original uses secretive counting during the routine. Once again I was fascinated by how it worked but myself not being mathematically mature I thought about it in a more organic way and the following resulted. It's beyond simple and follows along similar methodology as the previous effect 'Heads or Tails'.

1. Accumulate seven (7) coins of any two denominations (example: 3 quarters & 4 pennies) and dump them onto the table. Tell the spectator to arrange them into a row. As he does this note if there's an even or odd number of heads-up coins. Look away after you've gained this little piece of information; don't forget it.

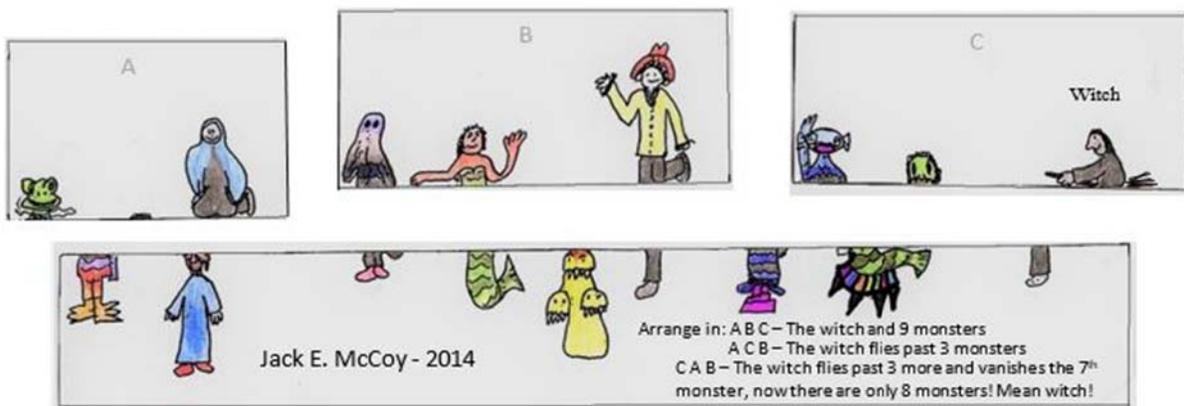
2. Tell the volunteer they are to turn over random coins, one-at-a-time and each time they are to say “Flip” loud enough for you to hear. Each time they do, alternate in your mind “even – odd – even – etc.”, thus keeping track of the status of heads-up coins after each ‘flip’. They can turn over the same coin more than once should they choose.

3. Ask them to now choose either of the two coin denominations (in this case either the quarters or pennies) and quietly turn **all** of the chosen ones over but don’t say anything so you don’t know which was chosen. Once they acknowledge doing so, turn back and look at the coins.

4. As quickly as possible notice if there’s an **even** or **odd** number of heads showing. Combining this new bit of information with your ending odd or even secret count (step 2.) use the following standard math rule: two (2) odds when added total an **even**, 2 evens total an **even**, 1 odd plus 1 even totals an **odd**. Whichever is the ending case from your 2 variables, the coins that match in their even or odd amounts (in this case 3 (odd number) quarters or 4 (even number) pennies) is what the spectator secretly turned over! By using 7 coins (though any odd amount works) it’s impossible for one coin type not to be an even amount and the other an odd. It doesn’t have to be 4 and 3, it can be 6 & 1 or 5 & 2.

Example: I first notice there’s an even number of heads showing on top. I look away. After instructing the spectator what to do, he turns over a coin and says “Flip” so I think to myself “Odd”. He says “Flip” and I think to myself “Even”. He says “Flip” and I think to myself “Odd”. We’ll assume he stops after just these 3 flips, so I remember what I stopped at, in this case it was ‘**odd**’. Next he’s instructed to turn over either **all** the pennies or **all** quarters but do it quietly and don’t say anything, so I don’t know which was chosen. He acknowledges he’s finished so I turn back around. In this example let’s suppose there’s now an ‘even’ number of heads showing. I combine my remembered ‘odd’ and the now ‘even’ condition of the coins, $odd + even = odd$, and which set of coins is an ‘odd’ amount? The 3 quarters are, so they’re what the spectator had secretly turned over.

AND A LITTLE EXTRA . . .



The above is a much later enhancement to an earlier freehand drawing of mine (10 or 9, a three-piece puzzle drawn back in 1990) when I was thinking about what Martin Gardner referred to as a ‘line paradox’. The principle is centuries old and many magicians have created their own versions demonstrating it in various amazing ways. Much later I came across my old one and for some reason noticed something which I then cut the prop into 4 pieces and the above version came to be. The creatures are crudely drawn at best, hence the mermaids messed up hand. If you’re not familiar with the principle, cut out the 4 pieces and follow the instructions given. See if you can figure out which creature vanishes. Remember, it’s not just a part of a creature but the entire creature.

2020 OFFICERS

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6. HISTORIAN:	Joey Byers	jbyers@us.ibm.com	972-837-8543
7. MEMBER AT LARGE:	Al Fox	alfoxmagic@hotmail.com	817-845-0419

DFW AREA MAGIC HAPPENINGS

FORT WORTH SAM ASSEMBLY 138 ALLIANCE OF ILLUSIONISTS

Meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop located at 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110. Contact communications@allianceofillusionists.com or go to <http://sam138.com/alliance/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/162025544420781/>



FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB INC AND REN CLARK IBM RING 15

The two clubs meet concurrently on the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at 4055 International Plaza, Fort Worth. See their Facebook group for other details.

MID-CITIES MAGIC CIRCLE

Meets monthly. See the Mid-Cities Magic Circle Facebook group.

DALLAS MAGIC CLUB, SAM ASSEMBLY 13 AND IBM RING 174

The Addison Treehouse, 14681 Midway Rd. Addison, Texas 75001, www.DallasMagic.org.



IMPROV COMEDY CLUBS IN ADDISON AND ARLINGTON

Both comedy clubs periodically host weekend comedy magic shows. For more details go to either www.ImprovArlington.com or www.ImprovAddison.com.

MAGIC IN THE LIVING ROOM

Periodic magic shows every 1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm at The Line Public House, 940 E Beltline in Richardson. See www.MagicLivingRoom.com for more information.

