



The Servante

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

Volume 2021 - Number 1 - January 2021

Next Monthly Assembly Meeting Thursday January 21, 2021 - 7:00 pm
Annual Installation Banquet at the Mexican Inn Restaurant
1625 8th Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76104

INSTALLATION BANQUET



The January 2021 Alliance of Illusionists Installation of Officers Banquet will be held at the Mexican Inn restaurant located at 1625 8th Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76104 at 7:00 pm on Thursday January 21, the Assembly's regular third Thursday meeting night. This is the same location where previous banquets have been held, conveniently located only a few blocks north of the Illusion Warehouse.

Reservations are not required. Guests simply show-up for the event, order at the restaurant, and pay the restaurant for their meals. For use of the restaurant meeting room, the restaurant requires that everyone in attendance buy a meal. Also a small admission charge of \$5 cash per person will be collected by the AOI at the door to pay for banquet costs. Special entertainment will feature Magic by Bruce Chadwick, our Dean and namesake of our SAM Assembly 138.

Social distancing will be in force and seating may be limited depending upon the number of people in attendance. Attendees must wear masks upon entering the restaurant and anytime not seated at their tables.



2021 DUES ARE DUE

In an effort to help AOI club members with rising costs, at the September 2020 Monthly Assembly Meeting the Alliance of Illusionists instituted a new system to help members pay their 2021 annual Assembly dues, and when they come due in 2021 their national Society of American Magicians dues. Active and Junior members receiving a printed copy of MUM magazine will only have to pay \$75 per year, with the AOI paying the other \$24 of a member's dues from the club's treasury. Active and Junior members receiving an online copy of MUM magazine will only have to pay \$50 per year, with the AOI paying the other \$25 of a member's dues from the club's treasury. The dues for Associate members (spouses of an Active club member or a magician's assistant) are \$25 per year.

Help for this new \$25 or \$50 or \$75 dues structure will be funded by Assembly 138 fundraising activities. This move brings Assembly 138 into proper alignment with national SAM rules, which state that all Active and Junior members of an Assembly must also be members of the national SAM organization.

Members pay both their AOI yearly dues and national SAM directly to SAM Assembly 138 using the payment button on the club's website. The AOI will then forward each member's national SAM dues to the national SAM office. Members simply go to www.sam138.com/alliance and click on the Dues tab. **Please note that members whose national SAM dues became due in 2020 have the FULL responsibility to pay their 2020 dues. The new dues structure is not retroactive to cover unpaid 2020 national dues. The new dues structure only applies to national SAM dues that became due in 2021.**

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MONTHLY ASSEMBLY MEETING

The December Monthly Assembly Meeting began promptly on Thursday December 17 at the Illusion Warehouse party room and magic shop for the club's annual Christmas party. The theme was "How the Grinch did not steal Christmas." Approximately 25 members and guests attended the meeting either face-to-face or by Zoom. Everyone was invited to BYOB (bring your own brown bag!) to eat, drink, and be merry.



President Bighorse talked about the accomplishments of the club through the 2020 club year. The Assembly then elected the following individuals to serve the Alliance of Illusionists as officers for the 2021 Assembly year; Jack McCoy as President, Bernie Trowbridge as Vice-President, Bruce Chadwick as Secretary, Mark Bynum as Treasurer, Joe Rotio as Sergeant-at-Arms, Bronson Chadwick as Historian, and Al Fox as Member at Large.



Rather than do our traditional gift exchange, members were encouraged to bring \$10 per person to donate to Salvation Army Bell Ringer Ernesto Espolza. Those who donated to the bell ringer at the meeting received a gift from Santa Jon Julien.

Then it was on to the performances for the evening. First was Al Fox who performed a version of the champagne bottle from coat effect as part of our new "pass it forward challenge." Next young Zoe Kiser brought the house down with a very cute montage of comedy cards, magic boomerangs, stiff rope, and production of food items for Santa. The dynamic Kailyn Marler performed an incredible optical illusion effect and followed with a CD version of the classic Silk Serenade effect.



Margaret Clauder was in typical professional form as she recited a unique "Covid Night Before Christmas" poem that she wrote. Mark Bynum performed a hat production, a liquid in hat effect, and finished with a Massey Squeeze-Away Block routine. Enoch Ng did a "blurr" card effect.



Rick Hinze from Atlanta presented the main program for the evening with a unique Zoom presentation that combined a show and lecture. While it may have been a difficult year for magic in general, one must conclude that magic is still strong at the dynamic Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Cindy Bighorse called to order the December 17, 2020 Alliance of Illusionists Executive Committee Meeting at approximately 6:06 pm at the Illusion Warehouse in Fort Worth, Texas. A quorum was present with all officers in attendance except Joey Byers. The minutes of the November Executive Committee Meeting were approved as printed in the December 2020 issue of the SERVANTE monthly assembly newsletter.

Treasurer Mark Bynum reported two expenditures since the October Executive Committee Meeting, the regular monthly charge for the club's Mail Chimp services and the cost of flowers for Brenda Dolenz. This brought a total balance of in the club's checking Operating Account of \$3197.55.

Secretary Chadwick reported that some members have begun paying their 2021 club dues, which include both Assembly dues and national SAM dues. He will transfer this money from PayPal to the club's BBVA Operating (checking) Account. Bynum also reported that there are several TAOM registrants who have still not cashed their 2020 TAOM registrations.

President Bighorse reported that the new dues payment structure is now officially online and accessible on the Dues/Application page of www.sam138.com. Associate members can pay their \$25 per yearly dues, while Active and Junior members can pay their \$50 annual assembly and national SAM dues (digital MUM magazine only) or \$75 for annual assembly and national SAM dues (mailed MUM magazine). Dues are due and payable in full on or before January 1, 2021.

Special kudos to Jack McCoy who has worked hard to improve the Zoom capability of monthly assembly meetings. Jack reported that the previous approved motion of purchasing an inexpensive camera and perhaps a computer sound card probably will not be needed.

Jack McCoy also contacted the Mexican Inn on 8th Avenue and made reservations for the January 21, 2021 Installation Banquet.

With no further business, the Executive Committee meeting concluded at 6:44 pm, and officers began preparing for the evening's 7:00 pm Monthly Assembly Meeting and annual Christmas party.

DR. BERNIE DOLENZ PASSES



Members may recall that the club honored Bernie Dolenz at last year's 2020 Installation Banquet by gifting him a special trophy for his commitment and dedication to the art of magic. Bernie had been residing at Franklin Nursing Home in Franklin, Texas and passed on December 24, 2020 due to complications from pneumonia. He was interred in West Bend, Wisconsin and was 87 years old.

Dr. Bernard Joseph Dolenz was born on July 10, 1933 in Coffeyville, Kansas, a small town on the border with Oklahoma. He was the father of five children including our very own AOI member Brenda Dolenz-Helmer. Bernie attended medical school in Galveston, Texas and earned his medical doctorate in psychiatry and neurology. Early in his medical practice, Dolenz was regarded as a fine psychiatrist. In the 1960s, Dolenz established the Fort Worth Neuropsychiatric Hospital. He also practiced at St. Joseph's Hospital in Fort Worth until 1978. Then in 1980 he enrolled in South Texas College of Law - Houston. Graduating in 1983, Dolenz moved to Dallas and began his work as an attorney.

Bernie had an ardent interest in magic as a child. From about age 13 or 14, Bernie always seemed to have a magic trick in his pocket. He was also an ardent supporter and attendee of the TAOM conventions for the better part of 50 years. Our club expresses deepest condolences to his family, and in particular to his daughter Brenda.

Words from the President

We've finally made it to 2021! What a year the last was and things can only get better. Maybe that's hopeful optimism but I'll take it.

For the most part and like most entertainment genres, the magic community is really struggling financially. Like gasoline, money is what keeps the wheels turning and that's one thing many folks don't have a lot of. To help our AOI members and those wishing to become a member, this year our club is partially paying the membership fees to combine both our local (AOI SAM 138) and national SAM dues. Details can be found at the club's website, www.sam138.com/alliance. Click on DUES. Consider that the amount required for membership is basically equal to a couple of family sized fast food home deliveries, and this is for an entire year's worth of magic and lectures from the biggest stars in our art and the MUM magazine. That's a pretty good deal I think.

Last year was an epic year for the club. Cindy's tenure as President really kept things going and broke new grounds and records along the way. Since I've been elected to instill my vision for 2021, here's a few of my personal thoughts towards it:

1. Don't Make Waves: As a club and group, we're in better shape than many and I'm not going to toss in any pretentious radical ideas for a new direction. For example I've reserved the Mexican Inn for this month's installation banquet on January 21st. We've had the past few years and most seem to enjoy the food, so why not? Cindy arranged for a fun entertainer to dazzle us after we munch tasty Mexican food.

2. Online is Here to Stay: As we further into the millennia there's one truth for certain; online connectivity is now and forever. A time will never come where online socializing is no longer a thing. At this pace it's becoming the biggest thing. Though our December effort to marry both local and online together as one had some stumbles, the idea was sound. Removing a phone from the equation should fix the final problem. By March I intend to have this completed.

3. Learning Magic Every Month: There's no doubt we have very talented magicians both locally and visiting online, so I don't see any reason why each month all members and visitors can't leave the meeting with some new magic for play, practice, and amazement purposes. I will still be contributing to my magic column each month as well if you're one of those who reads it.

4. Youth Involvement: Youth is our future and future is our youth. If there's one art form that cannot only inspire but enhance the minds of our new generations, it's magic. Two of the biggest attention-getters in 2020 were the junior TAOM performances, and the SAM hosts and performers during the convention. Our local public show featured three local juniors. It's only smart for us to make our meetings more attractive to young people.

Ok, that's enough for my first post as President. This year I certainly intend to work on my post blathering. Thanks for being a part of our club and thanks for choosing to go on this adventure together. I predict fun times ahead!

2021 AOI SAM 138 President — Jack E. McCoy



FUNNY BITS AND SIMPLE STUFF by Larry Moore

These simple bits are great to do in any routine where a volunteer is used. This kind of stuff can be used to bring laughter to the situation anytime you want to add more to the routine.

The star

Invite an audience member up to help and they come up and stand beside you. You point to the floor and say Stand by the star. They will move either forward or backward and stay there. Do this again and point and say By the star. They will back up and look at the floor again and stand there again. Do this two more times and each time pointing to the floor where their shoes are. The last time, you point to yourself and say, "Stand by the star." Now, they get it. You are the star.

Where did they go?

Invite a child to come up on stage and have them come to your right hand side. I grab their left hand and turn to my left and when I have made a complete circle, the child is nowhere to be found. I look and without saying a word, start to look to the left and right. I turn around again (again pulling the child with me) and cannot seem to find the child. Children in the audience eat this up. They will tell you that you are holding his hand. Naturally, you look at the empty hand and say, "Say what?" Do this about three times bringing the child with you and finally you stop and look to your right and jump. There is the child you were looking for. The child will usually be laughing and say, "Where did you go? I was looking for you but you were not there."

Stand on the bag.

Years ago, I got an idea and thought to use it in my show. I brought a child up on stage to help me and I looked at him and said, "OOOOPS. There is a problem. You are not tall enough." I reach back and got a paper bag and put it on the floor and have the child stand on the paper bag. "Now they are tall enough." Teachers and adults love this because the child will stand on the bag. To them, they are taller on the bag. I have had a child almost fall off of the bag and get back up and stand back on the bag. One child got off of the bag because he was so excited and I pointed to the bag and he stood back on the bag. I made a balloon for him and he handed it to the teacher. I said for the teachers to watch. The child came back to where he was standing and stood back on the bag. When the child was through, I had him sit back down in the audience where he was in the first place. I folded-up the bag and asked where his teacher was. She held up her hand and I handed the bag to her. She asked me if I had extras.



Larry Moore isn't like any regular magician. He has been called the Robin Williams of magic. He uses simple magic tricks to achieve his comedy antics. He uses what he finds around the house and adapts them into his show. Regular paper napkins, rope and a simple coloring book seem to come to life when he adds his special brand of weirdness to achieve a show people don't forget about. Enough said!

The warm up.

Before the show starts, the children are watching me set up and it is time to get them laughing so they can get used to my funny stuff. I my back on them and look inside my case for something. I shake my backside as if I am dancing. The first time, they are not sure what I am doing. I turn to them and say, "What was so funny? Did I shake my backside?" (Most kids call it the booty. I quickly tell them that I don't call it the booty. I call it my backside or "boom boom.") I turn around again and get something from my case and again shake my backside. Usually I am humming a song and moving with the music. Again, they start to laugh. I turn again and ask them what is so funny?

“OOOPs. Did I do it again? Sorry. Let me know if I do this again.” Again, turn your back on them and start looking in your case and do it again. (Sometimes I get flustered and I have a handkerchief in my hand and I throw it down as if I am getting upset. This gets them going more each time.)

The wrong song.

During a routine you are doing, start humming a song like “ if you are happy and you know it – a song they know – and stop. “OOOPS. Did I just do that? I was coming to the show and had this song stuck in my mind. Don’t you hate it when that happens? If I start to do that again, let me know.”(go on with your routine but start to hum again in 3 minutes. If they don’t catch you, you stop your self and say, “OOOOOPS. I did it again! Let me know if I do that again. It is really embarrassing.” (go on with routine and 3 minutes later. Do it again). This time they will catch you and let you know it. Do this through out your show and use it as a running gag.

Did I show you this?

Have something that looks like a funny prop and after the second trick say “I have something I wanted to show you. I got this the other day at the store.” Show them the prop and put it away. After the next trick, “I have something I wanted to show you. I got this the other day at the store.” (bring it back out as if you haven’t shown them this before). They will tell you that you showed it to them. “Oh. Ok. Thanks.” Put it away and do another trick and do it again. “I have something I wanted to show you. I got this the other day at the store.” Show them the prop and they will again tell you that they have seen already seen it. Put it away. After the next trick, stop and look at them. Start to get the prop back out and they will yell that you have already show it to them. Say, “TOUCHY, TOUCHY, TOUCHY!”

The Flashlight opener or anytime bit.

Get a simple flashlight that takes the D cell batteries. Not the big square flashlight. The round ones everyone has. Here is the bit. When I bring out the flashlight, I have my back turned and I take the flashlight and place it under my arm and turn around so you are facing the audience. “Guys, I was going to show you my new flashlight but I cant seem to find it. Have you seen it? It is (name the color) and I know I just had it.” Turn around a couple of times and let them see it under your arm pit. Turn back around and say, “What? Where is it?” Look under the other arm pit and cant seem to find it. Then, reach up with your hand and grab the flashlight out of the arm pit and look at the arm pit which is now empty. “I don’t see it.” (you can milk this for as long as you wish). They are saying it is in your hand. Do the look and don’t see which one they are talking about). I then reach up and grab the flashlight and jump as if it scared me. I try to turn it on and it does not seem to work because I don’t turn it on. They think I am trying to turn it on but I am not. I put it back under my arm pit with the light facing behind me and turn the light on. I turn around and they see the light on. They waste no time in telling you that the light is on. I grab the light and turn it off before I show them the top. Do this a couple of times and see what happens. When I finally get the light on, I look at the audience and hold up my finger as to hush them. I put my hand in front of the light like I am going to blow out a candle. I blow and turn the light out at the same time. It looks like I blew out the light. Teachers love this.

The chair routine.

I usually do a routine where I sit down in a chair and tell them a story. I usually find a child’s chair and start to sit down in it. Before I sit in the chair, I push the bottom of the chair in the front and it slides back. I stand up and look back at the chair. Look confused and go get the chair again, making sure the chair slides on the carpet or floor. This makes a difference. I start to sit back down and do it again and the chair goes back behind me. This drives the children wild and it is now funny and starts to get them giggling. Do this the third time and you will have them eating out of your hand. Now, here is the funny part. Start to sit down in the chair but pop back up as if you expected the chair to fly away. When you finally sit down, let out a sigh of relief.

By now, you see what I mean about this kind of stuff. Doing this for over 44 years, you learn stuff that most magicians miss because they want the check and want to get out of there as soon as possible. Learn to think outside the box and see what happens.

Larry Moore - 7444 Franklin Drive -Bessemer, Alabama 35023 - (205) 475-1406 alamagicman@yahoo.com



What is the best magic to know? Well, there's not just a perfect magic genre over others parse. A stage magician amazes with assistants, props, birds and such and close-up magicians amaze sometimes with nothing more than a deck of cards from a dresser drawer or a coin they got as change. I guess you could say the best kind of magic is the successful kind, when it is performed correctly and has surprising and / or unexplainable results, something to jostle the mind. That's the sensation magic lovers

Mental Focus: The following comes from my explorations after mapping the binary sorting process' travels within a packet of cards. In past columns I've delved into this with various other discoveries and references to my booklets 'Topias', 'Mechanically Motivate Card Magic', and other book locations should you choose to explore. What you're about to learn is not only easy to do it will baffle the mind.

Effect: Basically, the magician locates the spectator's thought of card from a packet of 16, never once looking their faces and the spectator being involved the certain randomizations along the way.

- A. Remove 16 cards (no jokers) from a deck and put the rest away. Only those 16 cards are used. Have a spectator mix them and mentally select one that exists within the packet. Once they have one in mind, take the packet back and hold face down. Mix it so neither you nor the spectator have a clue to the selection's location.
- B. Remove the top 4 cards and place in a pile on the table. Remove 4 more and place to the **right** of the first. Remove 4 more, placing further **right**, and the final 4 at the **right** end. You now have a row of stacks, 4 cards in each. Pick up the **rightmost** pile and spread, still face down. Tell the spectator to think about their selection and touch any 2 backs. Whichever 2 they touch, remove those and place them together on the table slightly towards the spectator. Place the 2 you're left holding on the table near you. Repeat this with each stack, moving **leftward** from stack to stack, each time dropping the 2 he touches on top of the previous touched ones, and placing the 2 you're left holding onto the previously unchosen ones, slowly creating 2 ending piles. Pick up the 8 he touched and spread their faces towards him. Ask if he was successful in touching his selection. Act accordingly, whether his mental focus is strong or not. Close the spread, mix them face down and drop on top of the other 8. Remember his answer; whether he saw his card or not.
- C. Pick up the packet and repeat step B. This time however, don't mix those he touched after showing their faces to him, simply close the spread and drop on top of yours. Remember his answer this time as well and act accordingly with his hit or miss.
- D. Pick up the packet and deal it back and forth into 2 piles. Look into his eyes for a moment (never longer than 5 seconds) and down at the piles. Pretend to focus on one stack, pick it up and spread with the faces towards the spectator. Ask how your mental focus was on his selection, whether or not his card is within that group. Close the spread and drop on top of the other pile. Remember his answer.

	Did Spectator see his card?	
	Yes	No
1 st Attempt	2	1
2 nd Attempt	2	0
3 rd Attempt	0	4

- E. Referring to the easy to memorize chart to the right, determine a total according to his 3 responses.
- F. Say, "By George, I've think I've got it" or some non-movie reference to an epiphany of sorts you're getting. Begin dealing the cards singly into a pile and staring at the backs. While you're doing so, silently count the cards in pairs. In other words you deal the 1st card then the 2nd card and think "One", deal the 3rd and 4th and think "Two", deal the 5th and 6th and think "Three", etc. When you reach the total from the chart (don't deal through it, stop when reached), stop dealing and drop those you're holding on top of the dealt portion. Pick all up. The spectator's selection is now either on top or 2nd down.
- G. **Double-turnover** the top card(s) and ask if you found the selection. You have a 50 / 50 chance of doing so. If it is his card, enjoy a baffled expression. If not, act disappointed and turn the entire packet over. One by one remove the card off the face, revolve it face down and place on the packet's back (bottom). Ask each time if the selection. You'll run through the entire packet without the spectator seeing his card. Set the packet on the table. Say, "Are you sure you remember correctly? What card did you choose?" After his response, turn over the top card as you say "That was the 1st one I showed you!" This of course is done with fun, lighthearted banter. Whatever level of amazement, magic must be fun!

2021 OFFICERS

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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

Meets on the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm. See their Facebook group for 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.

