



The Servante

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

Volume 2024 - Number 9 - September 2024
Next Monthly Meeting - Thursday September 26, 2024 - 7:00 pm
Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas
Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from the Public School

SWAP MEET

The September monthly meeting of the clubs will be a magic swap meet where club members and guests can bring gently used magic tricks and books to sell and trade. There is no cost to sell or admission cost to attend the meet. On a first-come basis, the tables in the Illusion Warehouse party room may be used free of charge. Sellers are urged to bring additional folding tables as per their personal preferences.



Note that due to the Magistrorum convention in Dallas (see <https://www.magistrorum.net>), the clubs will not meet on the third Thursday. Rather the clubs will meet on September 22, the fourth Thursday of the month. As usual, the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm.

The Illusion Warehouse is conveniently located at 3917 McCart Avenue, about three blocks north of Seminary Drive. If needed, additional parking is located across the street in the school parking lot.

Please note that the Executive Committee will meet at 6:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse immediately prior to the monthly club meeting. All officers should be in attendance and all members in good standing (2024 dues-paid -up members) may attend as well. Visitors may not attend Executive Committee Meetings.



2024 AUGUST NOTHING UP MY SLEEVE PUBLIC SHOW A GREAT SUCCESS

The August 15 third Thursday meeting of the clubs was the club's annual public magic show open to the public in the party room of the Illusion Warehouse! Club members invited family, friends, and neighbors for a fun-filled evening of magic, mystery, and mirth by some of the best magicians in Fort Worth! Pre-show performers started performing walk-around in the audience beginning at 7:00 pm, and the 90 minute show proper started at 7:30 .

There was no set ticket or admission cost. Rather the clubs asked attendees to donate generously to help our clubs sustain our educational endeavors. This turned out to be successful and the clubs raised almost \$500 from the event. Special thanks to club President Jack McCoy and the Executive Committee. They were instrumental in planning the event. Also special thanks goes to performers Bruce Chadwick, Margaret Clauder, Magical Hare, Wee-bo, Lonnie Olander, and Gary Poe. Also thanks to Cindy Bighorse for running the backstage. We also thank the many other club members who helped in numerous other ways.



MAGIC TEXAS

Magic Texas, “The convention so big that only Texas could hold it,” is now history. This year’s convention was a combined convention of the Texas Association of Magicians, the national Society of American Magicians, and the North America FISM Competition. The convention was held Labor Day weekend, August 30 through September 2, 2024. It started mid-day Friday and concluded late Monday afternoon.

The convention was held at the brand new Lowes hotel and convention center located close to Six Flags in Arlington, Texas. The hotel was very nice, but everything was very expensive. Ridiculously expensive was the hotel’s Encore audio-visual services and the hotel’s food and catering requirements. However the rooms were comfortable, the swimming pool was amazing, and staff were friendly and accommodating. The attached parking garage was a challenge with a requirement to use texting and cell phones for entry and exit, and there was a lot of misunderstanding regarding parking costs and procedures. It was also a very long walk from the hotel section of the building and the convention parking portion of the hotel, where the dealer’s room and ballroom stage was located. This was not good for older convention attendees. The hotel needs flat floor type “people mover” escalators. Also the convention website was a disaster, and the requirement for attendees to use their cell phones to access the convention schedule was horrible. Schedules and locations seemed to change constantly.



The evening gala theatre shows at the University of Texas were two of the best magic shows ever seen at a magic convention. Most of us sat in the theatre house absolutely awestricken. If you missed these shows, you missed an incredible opportunity to see past FISM winners and some of the finest magicians in the world. The shows were produced by the incomparable Mike Miller, and the tech, directed by Matt Schick and Adam Blumenthal, was absolutely flawless. Every act received an enthusiastic standing ovation. The shows were unbelievable experiences.

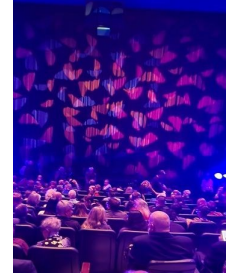
Unfortunately the Lance Burton show scheduled for Thursday night was canceled. Apparently there was some type of scheduling problems. However since the Burton show wasn’t officially part of the convention, there was little anyone could do. Fortunately the Dallas Magic Club jumped in and replaced Burton with a “Magic in the Living Room” show, and the performances were exceptional. The opening ceremonies show on Friday featured lots of talk, accolades, and a zoom with David Copperfield.

The convention banquet was adequate, and of course the comradery was superb. However the speeches and awards were tedious. This was compounded by audio problems, which left much of us in the huge banquet room struggling to understand what was being said. If it weren’t for the dynamic TAOM Vice-President Eric Hogue and his powerful speaking voice, the program would have been a disaster. Gustavo Raley took the stage and he did a wonderful performance. However it was hard to see and hear him as he performed. We needed video screens!

The dealer’s room was incredible, with about 25 magic dealers from all across the world. Franz Harry did a nice interview with Gay Blackstone. This was preceded by a beautiful montage of greetings from friends. One of the highlights of the convention was the Mind2Mind duo who entertained with mind boggling routines. The Willard Breakfast was well received with Nani Darnell Wilson being honored by her son Greg. However the hotel was not prepared by the many last minute attendees and food preparation. All of the convention lectures were excellent.

The North America FISM competition was puzzling. The competition was held on the ballroom stage and unfortunately bad lighting and sound inhibited the competition. Congratulations to Michael Bloemeke, Blaise Serra, and Alex Ramon, who will represent North America at the FISM World Championship of Magic in Italy 2025.

Unfortunately throughout the convention, miscommunication among the convention organizers was obvious and it severely dampened the event. Also the high \$495 per person convention registration price and inflation in general seemed to keep many magicians from attending. In all however, the convention was greatly enjoyed by those who did attend. Magic convention fellowship is always wonderful, and Magic Texas provided no exception.



MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Jack McCoy called to order the August 15, 2024 Executive Committee meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists at about 6:00 pm in the Illusion Warehouse museum room. A quorum was present with five elected officers in attendance. Absent were Member at Large Lisa Fulce and Sergeant at Arms Jimmie Fulce. Minutes of the July Executive Committee Meeting were approved as printed in the August edition of the SERVANTE newsletter.

Treasurer Trowbridge sent the club's Treasurer's report. He reported one expense since the July meeting; the monthly \$13.86 charge for Mail Chimp. The club also received \$24.87 from dues. This leaves the club with an ending balance of \$3399.17 plus the Helmer/Dolenz pillow.

Secretary Chadwick gave Cindy Bighorse's report that the club has closed its Edward Jones account and the money has been wire transferred to the club's Operating (checking) Account. The committee voted to open a four month bank CD and choose the highest interest rate of course. Secretary Chadwick will seek to open the CD using the money in the club's Operating (checking) Account, less a working balance of \$1500. Once the interest is received, the interest will be transferred to the club Operating (checking) Account to augment the club's 2025 budget. Chadwick will look into the best bank CD rates and also look into the idea of the club maybe changing its operating account to a bank that has no monthly service charge checking.

September will be the club's annual Swap Meet. However Secretary Chadwick reported that the Illusion Warehouse will not be available for the third Thursday September 19 Monthly Club Meeting due to the Magistroum convention in Las Colinas. Therefore the committee voted to move the September Monthly Club Meeting and Swap Meet to Thursday September 26.

Secretary Bruce Chadwick reported that Dirk Losander will lecture for the clubs in October for our club's regular third Thursday meeting. The lecture will be sponsored by the Alliance of Illusionists and SAM Assembly 138.

With no further business, the meeting concluded at about 6:10 pm to start the Nothing Up My Sleeve public magic show pre-show performers at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Chadwick, Secretary

FUTURE CLUB MEETING AGENDAS

September Magic Club Swap Meet
Losander Lecture, Officer Nominations,
November Thanksgiving Party, Officer Nominations
December Christmas Party, Officer Nominations and Election





Well, our public show last month was a big success. I don't know the profit tally, but we did good for the club. Thank you everyone involved and everyone who visited us that day. The rest of the year is, to me anyway, a downhill coast. Our swap meet is this month, though a week later than our usual 3rd Thursday of the month meeting.

October we have a great lecture coming to the club, the great Losander! If you've never had a chance to see him, you'll definitely want to attend. He's a master of levitation, some consider him the foremost authority on the subject. November will be our usual Thanksgiving party gathering, more details on it the next couple months. December is our annual Christmas party / gift exchange.

Before we know it will be time for our new officer nominations. If you'd like to serve our club as an officer, please let me know. If you've never be a member of the Executive Committee you should give it a try. I was surprised at the variety of meeting themes and possible lectures. We could have easily plugged a lecture in every month. Of course our clubs couldn't have afforded that, but I'm just saying there are many high-leveled magicians who are travelling and lecturing. I've had fun building an itinerary of a year's worth of club activities.

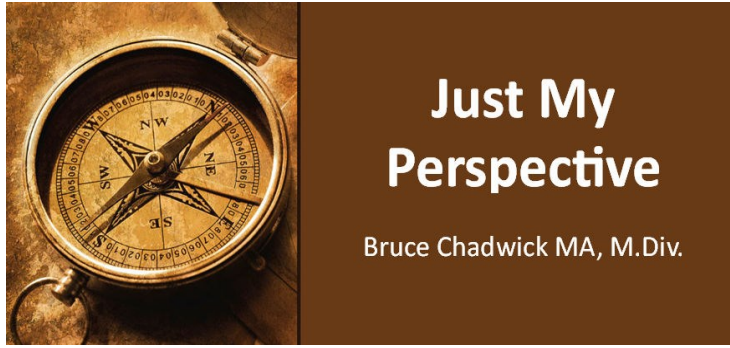
Again, I don't have much else to add here because I know most information is put in this newsletter pertaining to club happenings and other magic activities, plus highlights of our meetings both past and upcoming. Thank you Bruce in advance for editing and filling in the blank areas.

We encourage you to begin saving your \$25 for 2025 club membership that is due on January 1st. Those of you who are national SAM members will of course pay your national dues direct to the SAM office when they become due.

If next year is anything like this year's been (and it will be), your insignificant club dues investment is an incredible value for all the magic and fellowship you will receive. More on all that to come also, but for now happy magic performing. We look forward to seeing you at the swap meet.

Jack McCoy
President 2024





Just My Perspective

Bruce Chadwick MA, M.Div.

MAGIC WITH BIKINI GIRLS

Many years ago a client booked me to perform a couple of hours of close-up walk around magic. The event was an adult party held in the backyard of a residence. It was an evening event, well attended with 60-70 guests and a free flowing open bar.

Upon arriving at the residence, however, I was concerned. The client wanted me to walk around and entertain his guests. Unfortunately his backyard was very dimly lit. Even with the party lights strung across overhead, there wasn't enough light for close-up walk-around magic. Magic is a visible art form, and it has to be seen to be appreciated.

Fortunately there was also a small backyard swimming pool, jacuzzi, and a patio area next to the house. There were also a few adjustable floodlights hanging under the eaves of the roof and pointed at the pool.

I suggested to my client that I set up a small magic table in front of the jacuzzi and that we refocus a couple of the floodlights down to the top of my table. The idea was that people could come and go, watch me perform, and then move on as per their preferences.

This turned out to be an excellent solution and everything went very well for the first hour or so. It was at that point that three very beautiful college aged girls came up and wanted to see some of my magic. I was happy to oblige of course, and the trio turned out to be a lot of fun. They screamed and laughed as I dazzled them with sponge bunnies, coins across, and a card routine or two.

Afterward they moved on, and I continued performing for other guests. At one point, however, I heard loud laughter and splashing water behind me. I turned around to see the afore mentioned trio of girls bikini clad in the jacuzzi. "Well that's interesting" I said to myself.

I continued to perform until something wet hit me on the rear. I looked down and there was a bikini top laying on the patio. Yep, the three beautiful females were frolicking around topless in the jacuzzi. Several of the backyard attendees started gathering around to watch the girls play and bounce in the water.

Needless to say, I was seriously upstaged. Pick a card, any card? Yeah right. Magic tricks were absolutely useless at that point. I could have vanished an elephant and no one would have cared.

That was one of the most interesting occurrences I've ever had as a performer. Looking back at that experience, I am not sure what I could have done differently. Certainly it validated my demand that light was a requirement for my performances. A person can be one of the most skilled performers in the world, but if the elements of light and sound are inhibited, their performance will be lacking.

Most importantly however, I learned firsthand that as a performer I should never assume that everyone has similar moral convictions. While all humans are sexual creatures, how people handle morality will vary. It was also a good experience for me to affirm that it is ok for me to stand-up for my Christian values and be true to what I believe is right and wrong. And of course the experience also taught me that magic has its limits, and it is not always the most intriguing thing to watch.

JACK
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The Face-Down to Face-Up Jordan Count: I came up with a method of doing the popular Jordan count in the process of showing 4 face down cards and turning face up individually, yet keeping the face of one card hidden. I also managed to create a similar method for the Elmsley count, and in the process stumbled onto something unexpected which I humbly named the McCoy count. I'll be explaining those in the next couple months. I believe I'd posted an explanation of these before in this newsletter but not in detail. If you're into card stuff I think you'll find them interesting. This is used in my 'Wild Birds' routine, all 3 counts previously explained in the book 'Magic Of An Optical Illusion Nerd', Lulu Publishing.



Begin with 4 cards, in this case I'm using 3 blanks and one spot card (A). The spot card begins at the back.



Holding the packet face down in the left hand, the right reaches over the top, the fingers going around and under the front (B).



The right middle and index drag the bottom card out the front (C).



The card is drag completely out the front and the very moment it can begin revolving to a face up condition, do so (D).



Lower the now face up card flush on top of the packet (E).



In similar fashion as the 1st card, the right fingers drag the next card on the bottom out the front of the packet (F) and face up on top but in-jogged slightly (G).



The right hand moves over the front and the thumb and middle or index pinch all 3 out-jogged cards (H).



All 3 cards are moved out the front. Make sure the back of the right hand is blocking the top of the extracted trio from view so the face up card isn't seen (I).

The very moment possible begin revolving the trio face up and place on top but slightly out-jogged (J).



The right hand reaches around the front and contacts the bottom card of the out-jogged trio (K). That card alone is dragged out the front, as the thumb pushes the rest flush with the top card (L).

That face down card is removed out the front, revolved over to face up and flush on top of the packet (M).

Tadaa, you just did a face-down to face-up Jordan count!

More: If you're using regular cards, the face card is shown twice (just like the Jordan) so use the same consideration when deciding on the cards in the packet. Many magicians suggest 6s, 8s & 9s as they have similar structures, You also might be delighted to learn this method also can show 3 cards as 4 cards without any change in the procedure, the only difference being on the 3rd count only 2 (instead of 3) are removed and rotated face up on top.



A Quick Routine: Use 3 blanks and 1 normal card, the normal starting on the back in typical Jordan fashion. Force the matching card in a deck by whatever means and put them away. After ensuring through subtle means the spectator is aware your hands are empty, remove the 4 card packet from your wallet or wherever. Explain they being factory blank facers with only the back's printed as you do the face-down to face-up Jordan. Different from the standard Jordan count with the quick sequenced 1-2-3-4 display, this should be done slowly and casually without visible finesse while you talk. They see enough backs and faces without further proof necessary. After doing the move, revolve the packet face down and finish with a quick spread and close which displays 4 backs. Turn the top card face up, catching left pinky break beneath the 2nd card down as you resquare the packet. Pinch both above the break by the right thumb above and index below and lift off the packet. The left hand revolves its cards face up and places on top of the right's double, returning all back to the left hand. Remove the top card, show both sides and place on the bottom. Snap your fingers and do a one hand spread to show a face down card. Maneuver that card loose and on the table, and toss the 3 face up blanks sloppily beside it. Mention that particular card has volunteered for magical sacrifice. Snap your fingers and turn it face up to show it now has their card printed on it. Remember, they believe it was freely chosen, that is if you did the force well enough.



Finish by picking up the 3 blanks and putting away as you offer them to keep the duplicate, as if it's no longer of any use to you, hence the sacrificial reference.

2024 OFFICERS

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7. MEMBER AT LARGE:	Lisa Fulce	fulceagency@aol.com	214-478-4432

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 party room and magic shop located at 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110. Contact chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com or go to www.sam138.com. Also 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 <https://fortworthmagiciansclub.org/>

MID-CITIES MAGIC CIRCLE

See the Mid-Cities Magic Circle Facebook group.



DALLAS MAGIC CLUB, SAM ASSEMBLY 13 AND IBM RING 174

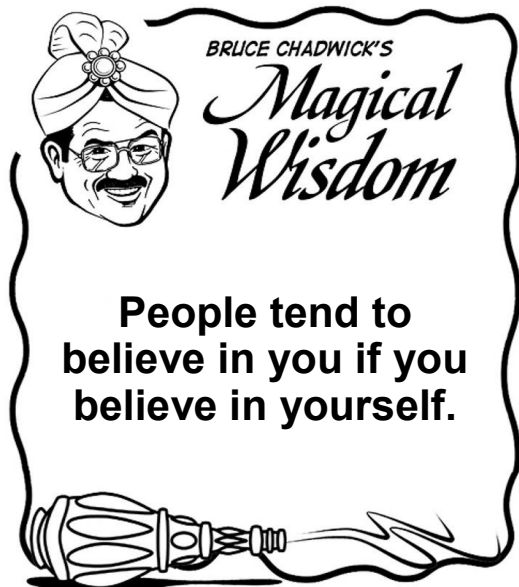
See www.DallasMagic.org for meeting information.

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.



I thought he was going away weekends to drink and gamble... then I found all of this in his bottom drawer.