



The Servante

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

Volume 2024 - Number 12 - December 2024
Next Monthly Meeting - Thursday December 19, 2024 - 7:00 pm
Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas
Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from the Public School

CHRISTMAS MAGIC

The Thursday December 19 monthly meeting of the clubs will be an evening of yule tide magical festivities! Magicians who wish to participate are asked to bring a new or gently used magic item of at least \$20-25 value for a gift exchange. We ask that club members bring snacks and finger foods to augment the party.



Also the evening will be officer elections for the 2025 club year. Entertainment for the event will be none other than the incredible magic of Jeff Martin!



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.

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

Annual dues for club members are due and payable in full before January 1, 2025. Annual dues are only \$25 per person. Members pay their dues online via the Dues page of our www.SAM138.com website. Members have the option to be a member of the national SAM organization, which gives them membership in both the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists, or individuals can join just the Alliance of Illusionists without national SAM membership. Please note that the Assembly no longer collects national SAM dues from Assembly 138 members. SAM members in our Assembly are fully responsible for paying their own national dues direct to the SAM as the national SAM office sends statements.

2025 OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED



The 2024 Executive Committee proposes the following slate of officers to serve for the 2025 club year. Members include Gary Poe for President, Joey Byers for Vice President, Bruce Chadwick for Secretary, Lonnie Olander for Treasurer, Jack McCoy for Sergeant at Arms, Hare Evison as Historian, and William Weebo for Member at Large. Club members may nominate additional members for the offices at the December Clubs Meeting. The Clubs will then close nominations and have an election. Officers will be installed at the January Installation Banquet.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

The Thursday evening November 21 monthly meeting of the Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists was Thanksgiving Magic. Members and guests brought an array of side dishes to augment the pot-luck Thanksgiving meal and show. Bruce Chadwick and Cindy Bighorse provided the ham and beans, and the Illusion Warehouse provided the drinks. Andrew DeRuiter and Susan Williams donated the dinnerware.

Following the meal, Eric Miller presented his New Member Introduction. Eric brought, displayed and demonstrated three incredible pieces of magic from his immense magic collection. A noted historian and magic collector, Eric will provide powerful contributions to our club, and he was certainly voted in as the newest member of our growing magic group.



Entertainment for the evening was a “Magic of Past Presidents” show with Gary Poe as emcee. Club President Jack McCoy started the presentations with a very nice rendition of the Mental Epic effect. Gary Poe performed an array of very well done coin effects. Past club president Joey Byers performed a very nice “final card” type mentalism routine with wine glasses marked with silk handkerchiefs. He followed this with a fun edition of magic squares. Bruce Chadwick followed with a rope routine, mis-made queen card effect, coins across, hundred dollar bill switch, and climaxed his presentation with a rendition of the In and Outer Boxes. In all, the dozen or so members and guests had a great evening of fun, fellowship, and magical excitement. We can’t hardly wait for next month’s Christmas Magic club festivities!



MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Jack McCoy called to order the November 21, 2024, Executive Committee meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists at 6:00 pm in the Illusion Warehouse museum room. A quorum of five officers were present. Absent were Treasurer Bernie Trowbridge and Historian Cindy Bighorse. Also in attendance were members in good standing Gary Poe and Joey Byers.

Treasurer Bernie Trowbridge sent the club's Treasurer's report. At the time of the last report, the clubs had a balance of \$1029.21. Since then, the clubs have brought in \$227.07 from 2025 dues, cash received from guests attending the Losander lecture, and a transfer of all funds from the Club's PayPal account. The club had one expense, the monthly \$13.86 MailChimp charge. This leaves the club with an ending Operating Account balance of \$1242.42.

Minutes of the October Executive Committee Meeting were approved as printed in the November edition of the SERVANTE newsletter.

Tentative 2025 officer candidates include Gary Poe for President, Joey Byers for Vice President, Bruce Chadwick for Secretary, Lonnie Olander for Treasurer, Jack McCoy for Sergeant at Arms, Hare Evison as Historian, and William Weebo for Member at Large. Secretary Chadwick reminded the committee that at the November and December Monthly Clubs Meeting, the clubs must hold a Special Executive Committee Meeting to take any other officer nominations from the floor. The election of officers proper will be at the December Monthly Club Meeting.

Since the last Executive Committee Meeting, Secretary Chadwick sent the Executive Committee multiple emails regarding the required five year update and review of the Club's Bylaws. Bruce went over recommended Bylaws changes that were produced primarily from suggestions by Bighorse, Poe, McCoy, and Chadwick. Questions were answered and explanations were given. The Executive Committee will call a Special Executive Committee Meeting at the November Monthly Clubs Meeting to quickly go over the suggested changes and get the club's approval as warranted.

Chadwick also recommended Honorary Life membership to a special member of the Clubs. The Executive Committee unanimously concurred. Secretary Chadwick will initiate the process according to the Bylaws to nominate the unnamed individual to Honorary Life memberships status.

The clubs decided on the title Christmas Magic for the Clubs annual Christmas party. Members and guests will be requested to bring finger foods, do a gift exchange, invite Santa to appear, and have a special magic performance. With no further business, the meeting concluded at about 6:40 pm to start the club's November Thanksgiving Magic Monthly Clubs Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Chadwick, Secretary

ADDENDUM: As described above, President Jack McCoy called for a quick Special Executive Committee Meeting at the November monthly club's meeting. Secretary Bruce Chadwick quickly explained a number of Bylaws changes recommended by the Executive Committee. After brief discussion, the changes were voted upon and approved. Anyone can preview the club's updated Bylaws on the Documents page of www.sam138.com.





Well, here we are at the end of the year. My how time flies. It seems like only yesterday my tenure as President began. Now that it's almost over, I can speak from experience. Honestly, I was very anxious in the beginning. After all, I was representing not only the famous SAM, but also the AOI as a separate club. That's two magic club entities with my name of them! Now that it's ending, I couldn't have asked for a better year. The award I got at the beginning, the great lectures we had, plus us meeting our financial goals, I've had no complaints.

Even though I may not know who is reading this, thank you for any contributions you might have provided through the year. If you're Bruce Chadwick, my sincere appreciation for all your work behind the curtains to make me seem better than I truly was at my job. 2024 was a fun year and I'm looking forward to and am excited about our 2025 new club year. My responsibility will probably shift to Sergeant at Arms to make sure everyone has a name badge, our attendance rules are monitored, and so forth. It will be a piece of cake compared to being President! With two clubs now and possibly a third club returning, our updated Bylaws should help us keep order, keep everything on the same page, and keep us coordinated and copacetic.

I'll continue my magic column. Bruce hasn't become too irritated at me yet so probably will allow me to keep it going. I do really enjoy building the column plus, unlike many artists, I do get to share some of my ideas while alive. It also helps me promote my books. This provides me with a quarterly financial reward. Although small, it is a reward nonetheless, which personally is very cool. It's hard to believe I've been writing the magic column for five years or so now. My how time flies.

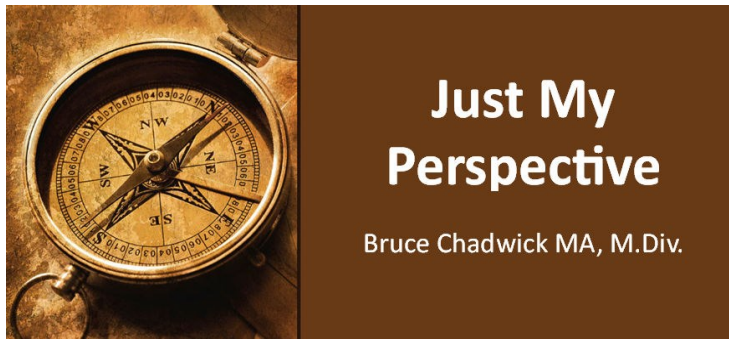
We have the pleasure of Jeff Martin performing for our Christmas Magic party the 19th of this month, our usual 3rd Thursday monthly clubs meeting night. We are going to do something slightly different this year. We will have our normal gift exchange, but we also wanted to make sure everyone in attendance leaves with a gift. So this year our Executive Committee purchased additional magic effects from our recent Swap Meet, and we will make sure no one walks out empty handed.

I do ask that if you're a member, please bring a gift of about a \$20-\$25 value. Nothing broken or unusable (yes, it happens), but something worthy of a club's magic gift exchange. We don't want anyone to walk out thinking someone is a cheap scrooge! I may sound terse but it has happened. I once saw a gift that looked like it had been stepped on and buried outside for a week! That was pretty darn embarrassing! And no, the present wasn't from me. I will guarantee you that it has made me think differently about the person who gifted it. It's like, "Come on people, really"?

I hope to see you at the party. Please try to make it. It will be a ton of fun and Jeff never fails to fully amaze. Good food, good magic, good gifts, and good times are guaranteed! Bring your family and friends. We are happy to have them!

Thanks, Peace, and Merry Christmas!

Jack McCoy
President 2024



THE ART OF ASTONISHMENT

I remember distinctively when my dad asked me if I would be interested in seeing some magic tricks. It was only a few days before my eighth birthday. Honestly at that young age, I really didn't understand what he was talking about. I didn't know what a "magic trick" was. But not wanting to disappoint my father, I simply said yes.

A week or so later, a mysterious brown box arrived in the mail from the Johnson Smith Company. Dad spent some time combing through the five or six pocket tricks he ordered. Then he summoned his siblings to the dining room table. It was then that Dad reached up to the door trim and plucked a cigarette out of thin air! I was flabbergasted. How could that be? Was there some type of trap door made into the doorframe that concealed a cigarette? Later when he wasn't looking, I carefully examined the door area.

Dad wasn't a magician and there was nothing artistic about his performances. Certainly his ad hoc presentations left a lot to be desired. He simply performed puzzles. That didn't matter to me, however. My dad had done something impossible.

He then proceeded to torture me even more with a trick called the Ball and Vase. How could someone take a ball from a little plastic vase, place it into his pocket, close the vase with the lid, reopen it, and the ball would be back in the vase? It was unbelievable.

Needless to say, I was bitten by the magic bug. That led me into the quest to learn all I could about magic. I also quickly developed a never ending craving to acquire my own magic tricks. Unfortunately through the years that followed, I discovered that my quest had also become an addiction. Indeed I have spent thousands of dollars during my life on new magic tricks. Maybe the person who dies with the most toys really does win?

As I look back on those early days, I now see a pattern that I had no idea existed back then. The best way I can describe it is a sort of unquenchable lifelong thirst for more. I also now know that thirst also has a deceptive underbelly called dissatisfaction. What do I mean by that?

Like most magicians, I am thrilled to acquire new magic tricks. Unfortunately like most magicians, I fall pitfall to the fact that initial thrill and astonishment for new acquisitions quickly dwindles. Most of us in magic tend to go through magic tricks like water through a sieve. Often when we learn the secrets of our new acquisitions, we are quick to abandon effects like they have no longtime value. We pack props into storage bins, put them on shelves, fill our magic rooms, and then move on to find something "newer and better."

All of us as magicians should remember the impact and astonishment tricks have upon us the first time we see them performed. This is because magic tricks have similar impact upon laymen the first time they see them performed. Even simple effects can make great impressions on the uninitiated. We should never underestimate this.

Any magician who can develop this realization is on the way to understanding that magic tricks never lose their mystique. "Old magic tricks" can become new again. They are like raw ore ready to be processed. The magician's job is to take our magic tricks, routine them into an entertaining format, and bring their mysteries to life. That is the art of creating astonishment, and that of course that is what the performance of magic is all about.



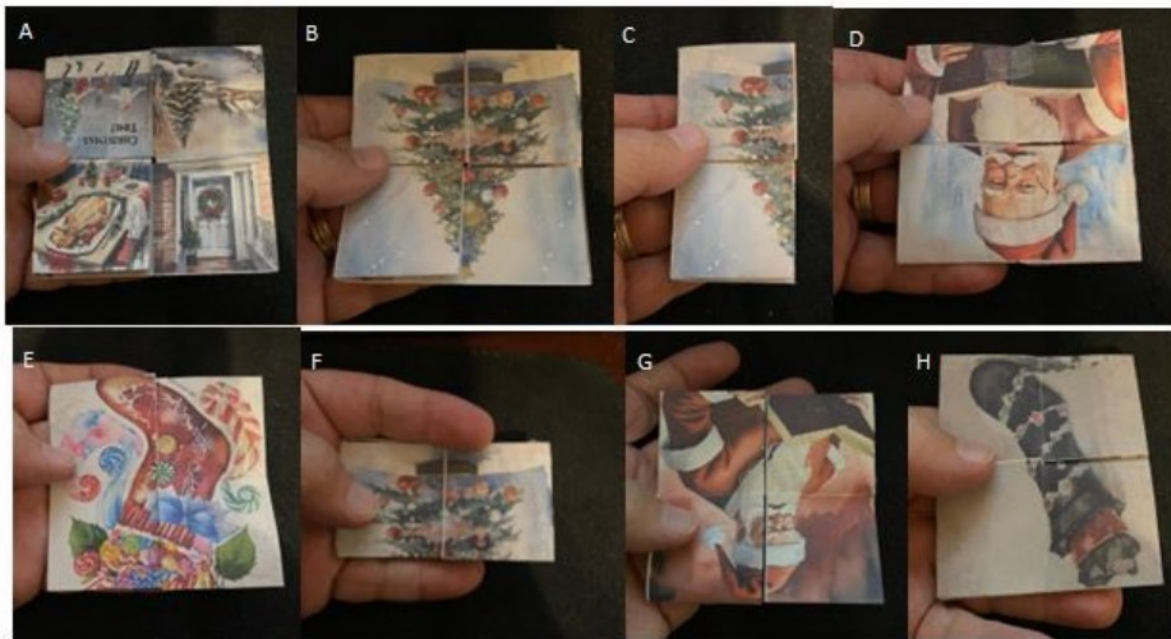
In the Christmas tradition I created a novel square flexagon which gives the option of showing either Santa reading his naughty / nice book and giving a stocking of candy, or a disappointed Santa giving a stocking full of coal. Showing one Santa a few times in a row will make the other Santa surprising. Kid's will have fun with it, flexagons are interesting to mess with.

Both full images of the flexagon are perfectly centered on their 2 pages. If you double-side print, the images should perfectly line up and be oriented correctly. If for some reason they're not, I've added a small faint yellow star at the 2 corners to be glued back-to-back for the flexagon's proper alignment. I do highly recommend taking the time in adjusting them so just one sheet is used, double-thick flexagons tend to not perform well.

I'm not going to explain folding a square flexagon for 2 reasons, first it's difficult to explain in writing and second, there are numerous tutorials online. 'Square Flexagon' or 'Flat Flexagon' in a search window will provide numerous video tutorials. Making one and messing with it will make the following explanation more clear.

I created all the ai artwork and settled on watercolor to save ink when printing plus many inkjet printers tend to oversaturate and muddy the details of small images, watercolor's less intense on ink demand.

Begin with the flexagon opened where the 4 small separate images are on top, **and the 2 ice skaters are at the front left corner and oriented from the spectator's perspective (ill. A). When you turn it over, the Christmas tree will be showing and oriented correctly (B).** Now, if you fold the right side below the left (C) and reopen from the right edge, like opening a book, you'll show a happy Santa (D). Fold Santa's head beneath and reopen from your end, you'll show the candy stocking (E). If instead you fold the top of the tree beneath (F) and reopen from your end, you'll show an angry Santa (G), fold Santa's right half underneath and reopen from the right edge, you'll show the stocking full of coal (H). To store, begin as in image (A), fold the turkey dinner and door underneath, next the right side underneath. It will be a nice little book with the skaters and frozen pond for the cover and back. To perform, simply reopen the opposite way and you'll be at the starting position (A).



More on the flexagon: After showing either stocking, the panel with the ice skaters won't be in the starting position (A) any longer. They can be easily maneuvered into position by folding them under and opening at the folded edge to move them to different quadrants. For example, after showing the stocking full of coal and doing another fold and open which returns to the 4 small pictures, the skaters will be at the upper right quadrant (I). By folding the skaters beneath (J) then reopening from the right edge, they will now be in the starting location (K), therefore everything else is correct and ready to go. For storage fold the turkey and wreath door beneath then the right side beneath and you'll end with a lovely little Christmas mystery package (L).



STALAGTITES: The following is my reworking of a Stewart James creation ('CUEMULAT4E' - *Max Maven LISP series—Thunday, 1982 & The James File, pg. 1321*) that will compliment this flexagon. It originally involved 12 playing cards from ace—queen of a suit. The glimpse happens when the packet is discarded onto the deck.

Preparation: Make 12 cards with a Christmas gift item on each face, also secretly number from 1-12. If the 12 items begin with the first 12 letters in the alphabet and in order (airplane, ball, cat, dog, etc.), if for example the glimpsed card is a Game console, 'G' is the 7th letter in the alphabet so the glimpsed value is '7'. Arrange in numeral order with gift 1 on the face, 12 on the back (top). Find a table with 3 people minimum.

1. Hand the face down, stacked in order packet to person #1. Ask them to deal it back and forth into 2 piles, pick up either stack and peek beneath it at the item on the face, remember it (random Christmas gift) and then place the packet onto the unchosen pile still on table, thus burying their item and recombining the packet. Ask person #2 to take the packet and repeat the identical random gift selection process person #1 did (dealing, picking up one stack, peeking at bottom card and dropping all onto the tabled unchosen pile). Lastly, the packet is given to the 3rd person for a final time doing the identical selection process.
2. Once person #3 has their item selected, pick up the recombined packet and put away, glimpsing the face card. That card's numeral value clues you to all 3 selections! Note: Values 1, 2, 3, & 4 are never glimpsed.

In this case I don't feel there's any need in looking / turning away during the selections process.

The First Selection will always be items 11 or 12, and is opposite in even / odd value as the glanced value. In other words if the glanced card is an even value, the selection is odd (11), or the glanced card is odd the selection is even (12).

The Second Selection is determined by 1 of 4 calculations: If the glanced value is 6 or 8 (low evens) subtract 5. If 10 or 12 (high evens) subtract 9. If the noted value is 5 or 7 (low odds) subtract 3. If 9 or 11 (high odds) subtract 7. As earlier mentioned, the values 1, 2, 3, & 4 are never glimpsed.

The 3rd Selection is determined by one of 2 simple calculations. If 9, 10, 11, 12 subtract 4, if 5, 6, 7, 8 add 4.

Now that you instantly know what items they've chosen, use the flexagon to show the preferred Santa and stocking, naming each gift selection as you do so. That should really surprise the Christmas bejeebers out of them! Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and all that wonderful stuff!



This middle quadrant is cut out



This middle quadrant is cut out





2025

What's Next?

Labor Day Weekend

August 29 – September 1, 2025

**Honoring the past
Living in the moment
Planning for the future**

Honoring the past

In 1944, a magician named Herman Yerger developed the idea of a Labor Day weekend picnic for other magicians in the Austin, Texas area.

In 1945, the event grew to 169 persons attending the picnic, and it was proposed that Yerger allow the annual event to be formalized into a state-wide magician's organization with Herman as the first president, and the Texas Association of Magicians was born!

Ever wonder what Herman would think if he could see us now!



**Magician Admission: \$275.00
Non-Magician Admission: \$175.00
Young Magician (ages 8 -17): \$225.00**

**Hilton Garden Inn DFW Airport South
2001 Valley View Lane, Irving, TX 75061**

2024 OFFICERS

1. PRESIDENT:	Jack McCoy	magicjack@charter.net	682-560-8569
2. VICE PRESIDENT:	Lonnie Olander	lonnie.olander@gmail.com	254-749-0124
3. SECRETARY:	Bruce Chadwick	chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com	817-832-6062
4. TREASURER:	Bernie Trowbridge	berniet@maxam.com	214-998-0352
5. SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Jimmie Fulce	fulceagency@aol.com	214-478-4432
6. HISTORIAN:	Cindy Bighorse	cabighorse@gmail.com	817-846-4062
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.

