



The Servante

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

Volume 2024 - Number 2 - February 2024
Next Monthly Meeting - Thursday February 15, 2024 - 7:00 pm
Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas
Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from the Public School

MICHAEL KAMINSKAS LECTURE

Michael Kaminkas will be the featured performer and lecturer for the 7:00 pm Thursday February 15 monthly clubs meeting at the Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth.

Michael's lecture is filled with hidden gems gained through decades of real-world experience. He is an inventor and a creator of world-class magic with many instructional books, DVD's and effects on the market. He is known for his impeccable sleight-of-hand and smooth performance style.

Michael is also a creator, performer and consultant who regularly works for many fortune 500 companies, weaving magic into their presentations and hospitality suites. Internationally recognized as one of the top sleight-of-hand artists in the world today, Michael has been featured on the ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX and BET television networks.



This will be a **closed meeting** and is free only for 2024 dues-paid-up club members, and so club member who have not paid your dues, time to pay-up! Guests may attend the lecture by paying \$25, which if desired can be applied toward clubs membership application. Please pay the \$25 fee through the payment button of the APPLICATION page of this website. A PayPal account is not required. Use the PayPal guest option if you do not want to use a PayPal account.

ANNUAL BUSINESS AND PLANNING MEETING

Note that the Executive Committee will meet for its Annual Business and Planning Meeting at 5:30 pm on Thursday February 15. The committee will determine a budget for the new 2024 club year, determine a calendar, and go over officer roles and duties. All 2024 club members in good standing may attend. Visitors may not attend Executive Committee Meetings. Officers should go over their Bylaws duties found on the Documents page of www.sam138.com

DUES ARE PAST DUE

Annual dues for SAM Assembly 138 and/or the Alliance of Illusionists club members were due on January 1, 2024. The DUES page of our www.sam138.com website gives an excellent explanation about the recent changes regarding how our clubs operate, and the reduction of annual membership fees to only \$25 per person. Members pay their dues online via the same website page. Please note that the Assembly no longer collects national SAM dues from Assembly 138 members. Rather members are now fully responsible for paying their own national SAM dues directly to the national SAM office as they become payable.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET

Our club members were blown away by award-winning Houston Magician Jamie Salinas. Jamie presented a two-hour long lecture at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop on Saturday afternoon January 20. The lecture was free for 2024 dues-paid-up members of our clubs. Jamie's presentation was filled with though-provoking magic and mentalism. His routines were obviously well thought out, seasoned through many performances, and full of unique and insightful material.

Following the lecture, club members journeyed to the East Gourmet Buffet for a delicious Asian and American food buffet. Members and guests served themselves and paid for their meals directly to the restaurant. Additionally each person in attendance was asked to pay five dollars cash per person to help offset Jamie's performance.



After the meal, outgoing President Bernie Trowbridge recognized the club's outgoing 2023 officers with certificates of appreciation. Outgoing officers included Vice President Lonnie Olander, Secretary Bruce Chadwick, Treasurer Cindy Bighorse, Sergeant at Arms Connor Branach, Historian Jack McCoy, and Member at Large Charlie Montroll.

Dean of the Clubs Bruce Chadwick then recognized Jack McCoy with a plaque as 2023 Magician of the Year for his outstanding contributions to the club and the SERVANTE monthly clubs newsletter. Outgoing President Bernie Trowbridge was also recognized with a plaque for his incredible service as President for 2023.

It was then the club's honor to install the newly elected officers for the 2024 new club year. They include President Jack McCoy, Vice President Lonnie Olander, Secretary Bruce Chadwick, Treasurer Bernie Trowbridge, Sergeant at Arms Jimmie Fulce, Historian Cindy Bighorse, and Member at Large Lisa Fulce.

Then it was on to the entertainment for the evening with Jamie Salinas performing an array of various magic routines that included a children's routine, music, mentalism, and situational humor. Everyone left the evening well-fed and entertained, setting the stage for another great year for the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists.





Here we are in February, seems like my New Years celebration was only a week or two ago. Regardless, fast or slow, this years beginning in a great way. I'm referring to our lecture this month, Michael Kaminskas. If you are not familiar with him go online and you'll soon discover his experience and creativity. Michael's one of those magic inventors that pulls in ideas from all directions, an indicator of a passion for magic and a clever mind. He will have swag so please save a little money, I guarantee you're gonna want something of his to take home for yourself. His inventions are performed by the biggest names in magic.

A little about myself which I've somewhat hit on in my magic columns if you've been reading them but if not I'll re-summarize. I began my magic adventure at a young age, my mother says I begged for Santa to bring me a magic kit when I was 6 but had already been playing with it prior. My grandfather knew several magic tricks and stunts as did my father as well. She said they saw my amazement in the art and encouraged it. I've performed countless magic to countless people throughout my life, even some notable big shots. I can't tell when the invention aspect of my magic career began. I guess I've always had a pension for over-thinking. I've had some of my inventions published in other's books, on Esquire's website, maybe magazine also, performed by Brian Brushwood's on his Scam School of G4 television when it existed. I'm nearing completion of my 8th hardbound magic book and written 5 booklets of magic from a particular theme or methodology. A professor in Houston is using my booklet 'Topias' as part of a lesson. Well, that's enough about me for the time being.

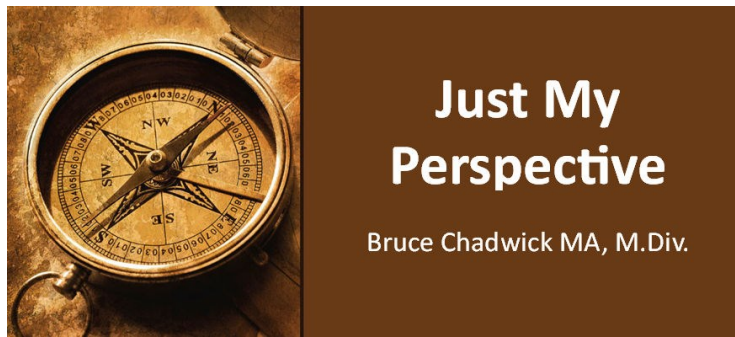
This year's sketched out but not set in stone however I can tell you we'll have a couple more lectures, one mid-way through the year and at the end. Our visitors that came to the installation banquet really seemed to enjoy the Asian buffet restaurant it was held so as long as they stay in business we'll be having it there again. Thanks Bruce for his recommendation of that place.

In the years I've been a member of our club I've gained some observations related to the meetings. Normally our normal time of conducting the official meeting is 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. That will remain unchanged but I'm hoping to schedule the meetings where the main event(s) ends 15 minutes earlier or so. That way we can allow more time to browse the magic shop and socialize before that 9:00 bell tolls and people get a bit of Chronophobia, thoughts of getting home, and preparing for the work day ahead overpowering everything else. I found out that hour is the most common, 10:00 P.M. ranks 2nd most common then midnight, not sure what happened to 11:00.

I want to encourage all to add to the meetings with your own thoughts and magic. There's no greater experience than actual experience of being in front of many watchful eyes and keeping cool about it. If you're not aware I was diagnosed with S.A.D. (Social Anxiety Disorder) when I was young and will never shake it, but magic has certainly helped. Getting in front of the club and performing has helped me far more than any psychiatrist has and I can't recommend it highly enough. Here's to our club and 2024, cheers!

Jack E. McCoy





CREATIVITY AND WEIRDOS

As with any business endeavor, hobby, or profession, one of the keys that often makes the endeavor artistic is creativity. Creativity is the process of assembling thoughts, ideas, original thinking and imagination to produce artistic work.

One might argue that creativity should be an entity in and of itself, and stand alone without the influence of others. Sounds good on paper, except that it is just not true. It is rarely possible to have uninfluenced creativity. Creativity must have a mechanism that drives it as a functional force. Something must inspire it. It must have matter upon which to draw new conclusions.

Often this power is the association of others. Simply put, people influence our creativity, and their connections is most often intense. Magicians usually stand on the thoughts and inspiration of predecessors. Magic is often a descendant of the insight of others.

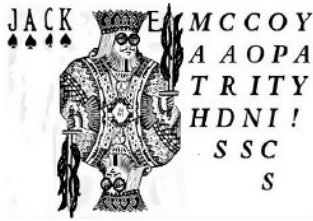
My own performance of our magic art is so wound-up by the inspiration of others, it is virtually impossible to say how I got to where I am today. People wrote the magic books that influenced my early development in magic. It was the inspiration of the early stage illusionists I saw perform as a child that instilled within me my love for platform and stage magic.

My mentor such as the late Charlie Dodson of Midland, Texas was never a “finger flicker,” and certainly never a card mechanic. I often wonder if his influence is the reason that while I like card magic, a lot of it doesn’t seem to like me. All I know is that I rarely create new card tricks. But that is ok. I like where I stand. I feel confident with my Mental Photography and Dave’s Decks. I can handle cards, do a few sleights, false shuffles, and can convincingly do some really good card forces. My card magic has served me well. Humm! Did Charlie’s influence stifle my card creativity?

All this proves the point, where I have been creative, it has usually come from my friendships. I am so fortunate so have so many good friends. Yes, there have also been those times when I have asked myself, “What the heck are you doing with your strange friendships? Are your friendships really helping you with your creativity?” I mean honestly, sometimes I don’t care much about my friends. Some of them even make me angry at times because a lot of them are weirdos. However I have a tendency to constantly “pull them back into my circle.” I consider that part of my job is to befriend people, help them where I can, and be a positive influence. You know, it’s that “love your neighbor as yourself” thing in action.

So I am happy where I am in magic for the moment. I try to be creative and yet I still look to my friends for inspiration. That is the beauty of having our great SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists magic clubs.

If you are reading this article, then you are probably one of my friends. I value your insight highly. You give me inspiration, laughter, and a reason for fun. Thank you for who you are. Thank you for your friendship. I wouldn’t be here without you! Now, take your guilt and go buy something from the Illusion Warehouse or order it online at www.IllusionWarehouse.com. And please, don’t be a weirdo.



In the usual tradition here's an updated calculation for determining the day of the week for any day this year (2024). The fact it's a leap year necessitates an additional calculation for any day in January & February but by the time you're reading this, there will be only a couple weeks remaining so it's irrelevant. If you'd like to learn the full method of determining any date of any year and credits (Martin Gardner & Wallace Lee) I explain it in the June 2019 Servante. The following is a condensed method for ease of use for **this year only (2024)**.

Day of the Week Calculation for 2024 — This little math stunt can be quite useful in quickly determining the day of the week for any date given without the need for looking it up on your phone or calendar. Simply add the numeral value assigned with the month with the day, from the total cast out the 7s (meaning divide by 7) if the value is over 7 and use only the remainder to determine the day. If it's 7 or less use that value. **Note: If the day is prior to March 1 subtract one (1) from your total.**

Referring to the chart, the value next to each month is the numeral value for that particular month, next to it is a simple mnemonic for easy memorization, a couple run-throughs you'll have them down, they'll never change.

2024

Monday – 1 Tuesday – 2 Wednesday – 3 Thursday – 4 Friday – 5 Saturday – 6 Sunday – 0

January	1	THE FIRST MONTH
February	4	A C-O-L-D (FOUR LETTER) MONTH
March	4	THE K-I-T-E MONTH
April	0	ON APRIL FOOL'S DAY I FOOLED NO BODY
May	2	MAY DAY IS TWO WORDS
June	5	THE B-R-I-D-E MONTH
July	0	ON JULY 4 I SHOT NO FIREWORKS
August	3	THE H-O-T MONTH
September	6	START OF A-U-T-U-M-N
October	1	A WITCH RIDES ONE BROOM
November	4	A C-O-O-L MONTH
December	6	BIRTH OF C-H-R-I-S-T

July 4th

$0 + 4 = 4$ (Thursday)

November 28th

$4 + 28 = 32$

$32 \div 7 = 4$ with remainder 4 (Thursday)

October 1st

$1 + 1 = 2$ (Tuesday)

December 25th

$6 + 25 = 31$

$31 \div 7 = 4$ with remainder 3 (Wednesday)

Party Mind Melter Math Magic— You'll need 30 or more somethings (peanuts, M&Ms, etc.) and 3 volunteers. The amount can be any but 30 provides a decent amount for what's about to transpire.

1. Look away and instruct all 3 to take an equal number of peanuts, 3 minimum, and hide them. While they're doing this write on a napkin towards the top 'NONE', in the middle area of the napkin write 'NONE', and towards the napkins bottom write '4'. Roll the napkin upwards where each prediction is hidden individually.
2. Keeping your back towards them (or simply looking up and away) ask the person on the right to give 1 peanut to the middle person. Next instruct the person on the left to give 2 peanuts to the middle person. Ask the person on the right to count how many peanuts he/she has remaining and take that many from the middle person. Instruct both left and right to eat their peanuts. Turn back towards them.
3. Remind them you have no idea how many peanuts they began with but have made 3 predictions of their amounts. Unroll the napkin where the top prediction is visible and have the person on the right verify you're accuracy (a joke because they got eaten), unroll to the middle prediction and verify (joke again) with the person on the left. Lastly ask the middle person how many they have. They'll be expecting a 3rd joke revelation of some sort but will be surprised when they see you somehow correctly predicted the exact number they're hiding! **Secret: No matter how many they start with the middle always will end with 4.**



TEXAS MEANS MAGIC IN 2024!

THE ROAD TO FISM 2025 GOES THROUGH DALLAS IN 2024!

Book your room at Loews Arlington. Only \$154 a night!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW.:

- S.A.M. Members: \$495 (Includes banquet)
- Non-S.A.M. Members: \$565 (join the S.A.M. and SAVE!)
- Family Registration: \$345 (includes all shows)
- SYM / Youth Academy: \$239 (Magic Camp and supplies at Convention)
- Youth Chaperone: \$239

Hotel: Loews Arlington \$154 a night

**TAOM - S.A.M.
COMBINED
CONVENTION
DALLAS, TEXAS**

Aug. 30 - Sept 2 2024



Register Online at: fism-nacm.com



CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALLAS MAGIC CLUB - ASSEMBLY 13

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	berntrow@sbcglobal.net	214-998-0352
5. SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Jimmie Fulce	fulceagncy@aol.com	214-478-4432
6. HISTORIAN:	Cindy Bighorse	cabighorse@gmail.com	817-846-4062
7. MEMBER AT LARGE:	Lisa Fulce	fulceagncy@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.

