



The Servante

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

Volume 2024 - Number 3 - March 2024

Next Monthly Meeting - Thursday March 21, 2024 - 7:00 pm
Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas
Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from the Public School

MARCH MADNESS

The 7:00 pm Thursday March 21 monthly club meeting at the Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth will be MARCH MADNESS.

Any club member or guest is invited to bring any magic routine, act, teaching segment, or other aspect of magic and share it to the club. It will be a fun-filled magic open mic night for anyone wanting to perform and present before the clubs.



Note that the Executive Committee will meet immediately before the meeting at 6:00 pm. All officers should be in attendance, and all 2024 club members in good standing may attend as well. However please note that visitors may not attend Executive Committee Meetings.

LAST DUES NOTICE

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. SAM members pay their own national SAM dues directly to the national SAM office as they become payable.

Please note that according to our club's Bylaws, members who fail to pay their Yearly Membership Dues before the first day of March are automatically suspended from the Clubs. Suspended members are no longer members in good standing and their name badge shall be removed from accessibility. Suspended members may not attend monthly club meetings or sponsored events until dues are paid. A member whose dues are unpaid for less than two years may pay back dues to retain continuous membership. A member in arrears for two years or more must reapply for membership and previous membership is not considered continuous



MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Our Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists was fortunate to have Michael Kaminskas as our lecturer for our Thursday February 15, 2024 monthly club meeting. Michael's lecture was filled with hidden gems gained through decades of real world experience. The inventor and a creator of world-class magic with many instructional books, DVD's and effects on the market, his sleight-of-hand was smooth and impeccable.

Michael started his lecture with his handling of Michael Ammar's Coins Through Headscarf. His invisible card box was amazing as well as his idea to use one purse frame to produce another purse frame. His Coins Across and Cards to Pocket routines were both filled with original moves that made both of them slick and relevant. He amazed our group with his "Fusion" torn and restored card routine and impeccable Chop Cup handling.

He fooled us badly with his easy to do magnetized Sharpie. His Rainbow and Gold "Hot Rod" routine was logical, while the variation of his Pen Through Dollar Bill was enough to make Timothy Wenk wink! Michael finished his lecture with his peek stack business cards, unique quarter in bottle routine, and his beautiful Mental Photography Deck routine that he called "Copy Paper." In all, the meeting was a delight and Michael presented one of the best magic lectures this magician has ever seen.



MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY ANNUAL BUSINESS AND PLANNING MEETING

President Jack McCoy called to order the 2024 Annual Business and Planning Meeting on Thursday February 15 at approximately 5:30 pm at the Illusion Warehouse. All elected officers were in attendance.

The stated Bylaws purpose of the annual meeting is to discuss each officer's role, duties, and responsibilities so that all officers have a clear understanding of their duties and responsibilities. This was accomplished at the February 15 meeting.

Also the Bylaws state that after hearing the recommendations of the President, the Executive Committee tentatively plans the main core activities for the year's monthly club meetings. Jack McCoy did that with a printed sheet of suggested main core activities for the year's meetings. It was noted that the schedule should remain flexible, and that the club should be amenable to both opportunities to the club regarding activities such as lecture opportunities and the possibility of doing an annual public show. Please see this month's "President's Patter" column in this edition of the SERVANTE.

Also the Bylaws state that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss a tentative budget for the new fiscal year and after discussion and general agreement, the Executive Committee votes to approve the budget. Unfortunately a budget was not presented and thus not approved at the February 15 meeting. A budget should be forthcoming at next months regular Executive Committee Meeting. With no further business, the Annual Business and Planning Meeting was adjourned.

TMZ REPORTS: MURRAY IS BARRED FROM THE MAGIC CASTLE

Here's the deal ... Murray filmed a fun video he shared online, doing a bunch of different magic tricks for the camera only to have his sexy sidekick -- his wife, Dani - burst his bubble and reveal the secret behind each trick. Murray's video racked up more than 50 million views on Facebook, and now Hollywood's most famous and exclusive magic club, The Magic Castle, has suspended him.



The Academy of Magical Arts, the group that runs The Magic Castle, told Murray he's suspended pending an investigation into complaints he violated their rules by exposing magic online. In the letter, obtained by TMZ, the AMA tells Murray he's no longer allowed to even enter the Magic Castle, where he's been a member for decades and frequently performs.

Murray tells TMZ ... the magic community needs to update these outdated rules because it's 2024, and folks can go on the internet and learn magic tricks on their own. Basically, Murray's calling out the AMA for guarding an empty safe by punishing magicians who pull back the curtain. As he says, it's not like he was sharing details behind David Copperfield or Criss Angel's famous tricks, because everything in his viral video is available on Amazon for anyone to purchase and use.

Murray says the real issue here is his fame ... he says the video wouldn't be a problem if he was a birthday magician in Barstow, but because his video is racking up a bunch of views, suddenly the AMA has beef. Bottom line for Murray ... "There's no harm in exposing basic magic tricks because the art form is all about entertainment," and he feels that's what he's accomplishing here.



EXCLUSIVE
MURRAY THE MAGICIAN
SUSPENDED
FROM MAGIC
CASTLE ...
You Exposed Magic
Tricks!!!

Ad



Last month's lecture was fun and educational even to oldish magic folk such as myself. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

I'd like to make this month's column pertain to our approved schedule for this year, tentative to change if necessary since a year's a long time and anything can happen, new members, current happenings, etc.

March— This month we'll be beginning with a workshop style viewership of fellow magician, Gary Poe, who has assembled a set of magic for an upcoming show and requested the opportunity to show for practice and welcomed feedback from members for experience and getting it honed in. After that, if you've something you'd like to share bring it as it's basically open mic / floor. I have a couple of classic magic effects from my collection I'll be performing and explaining.

April — The theme for this meeting will be on the aspect of communication etiquettes, not accidentally insulting, recommended books on the subject.

May — Mayday magic for when suddenly put on the spot, it happens to us all. Bring your favorite trick for those emergency moments.

June — Formal magic for special engagement gigs, weddings, social gatherings, up front and table magic with classy props, classy themes or both.

July — Lecture month, no one has been confirmed but options are already available, so can't say who but certainly will be a good one.

August — Fire / flash magic: Being the hottest month of the year why not take it to the max with our meeting and demonstrate various eye-catching moments using flashpaper or light based gimmicks to enhance that special moment.

September — Swap Meet

October — Scary / Halloween magic, kid-friendly choices of club members

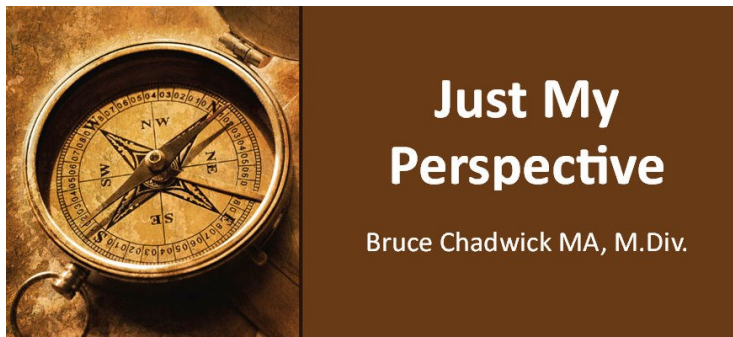
November — Thanksgiving party / Officer Nomination

December — Christmas Party / Officer Election

That's the rough-draft. We might replace a month with a public show if we feel one is feasible. It's a great way for our club, especially relative to the cost, time and effort required to pull it off

See you at the club!

Jack McCoy
President 2024



EARN OR GOOGLE EYES

There wasn't much in the way of magic for me while growing up as a kid in Midland, Texas. That's why I was elated when Dodson's Fun'n Party Shop opened on the outskirts of town. Operated by Charles W. Dodson and his wife Gwen, Charlie was an avid magic enthusiast and magic collector.

While the Dodson store supplied mostly novelties, jokes, and greeting cards, they maintained a corner in their shop dedicated to beginner magic tricks. Charlie distributed the larger, more expensive, and "professional" magic tricks as well, but he hid that fact. Such tricks were never on display. He fiercely protected the secrets of magic and kept those tricks hidden under the counter. A person had to get to know Charlie and prove to him one's devotion to magic before he would pull a trick from under the counter and offer it to a customer.

Charlie's attitude toward keeping the secrets of magic was instrumental in teaching me the importance of secrets. Charlie would say, "Without secrets, you don't have magic." Of course, this was both thrilling for me and at the same time irritating. Also I constantly asked myself, "Am I worthy to receive these sacred secrets?"

In our current point of magic history, I believe magic is too easy to learn. With the Internet at anyone's disposal, the proliferation of YouTube videos, the exposure television programs, and social media explanation videos, unfortunately magic secrets are readily available to anyone. While our art must be accessible to attract new devotees, I believe there must be a point where magic candidates should first be required to "pay a price" vs the casual and lackadaisical "Google eye" search on the Internet.

Paying a price is the process whereby those with an interest in magic prove or demonstrate their devotion to the art before they learn secrets. That price can be money, such as when someone comes into the Illusion Warehouse and purchases a magic trick. That's why when curiosity seekers come into the store and flippantly ask how something works, I whimsically state the adage, "The secret is told after the trick is sold."

However paying a price may also simply be for someone to take the time and effort to go to the public library and check out a magic book. Or it may be some other notable physical or mental exercise that one must do before they earn the reward of knowing how a trick works. The key to motivating someone to appreciate the art of magic is to make them exert some combination of time, energy, money, or work before they gain magical knowledge. They should be required to pay a price. This usually increases appreciation and devotion to our art.

To sum up, secrets of magic should be available only to those who are truly interested in and willing to invest in the art. Inversely, we as magicians must protect our secrets from the curiosity seekers and those with flippant, casual, and temporal interests. This is what the joint IBM/SAM statement on ethics is all about. We as magicians are the keepers of our art. Without our secrets, magic holds no mystery.

Lastly, we must protect our secrets not only for ourselves, but also for other magicians. While a particular magic effect and its secret may not appeal to us, there are others in magic who use the same secret to make a living. We should do diligence out of respect to others who are dependent on a secret even though we may think it is mediocre. Frankly, part of our duty as magicians is to protect secrets as a whole to protect everyone in magic.

Present—Past—Future: Thinking about time travel and magic, I came up with this and put in the book 'Impossibilities 2' back in 2003. It's one of my personal favorites and amazed both times I performed it, back when my hands were capable. The image captures are from the book.



The illusion:

The magician hands a deck of cards to a spectator for examination and mixing. A book is placed on the table. A random card is shown and the spectator is invited to sign it. The card is poked into the front of the deck, partially extending out the front. The deck is placed on the table. During this the magician speaks, *"One of the biggest debates of all times has to be the contemplation of time travel. I've spent many years debating it myself and have come to a conclusion. It is possible. Let me start off with the easiest to prove, the present. See, the present is easy to prove as it's describing the here and now. For example, presently we are all here together, which is obvious to any of us still alive in this room. I also could say that presently we're in the middle of a card trick with Lisa, another obvious fact. See, proving the present is a no-brainer. But let me now step into a greyer area, the past. I say greyer because, for example, the present statement about the card trick is now a past statement. It's not too hard to prove as you were all here and know I'm telling the truth. But suppose we were to step back further, before we were together. That's where things get greyer."* The magician removes a book mark from his pocket. *"Let me tell you about this book. It's semi boring and I never finished reading it. In fact I know what page I stopped reading it at. Lisa, if you'll help me again, this book has 250 pages and if you'll tell us any page between 1 and 250. Page 123? Wow, that's exactly where I stopped reading it! You don't believe me do you? Well fine."* The magician puts the bookmark back in his pocket and speaks, *"I'll be right back."* There's a slight pause, *"O.K. I'm back. It didn't seem like I went anywhere did it, but I did. Yes, I went into the past. That's right. I can prove it. Lisa, do you remember what page you mentioned? That's right, page 123. O.K. I'll be honest. I really haven't read the book at all but I was going to make it look like I did. So what I did was go back in time and put the bookmark at a certain location of the book, at page 123, then I came back to the present. Don't believe me, look!"* The book is rifled to page 123 and it is seen that the bookmark is there! *"You may be thinking there are bookmarks at all the pages, but as you can see, there's only one."* All the other pages are shown and sure enough there are no other bookmarks. *"Pretty impressive huh? That's the power of the past ladies and gentlemen. O.K., now for the most difficult feat, proving time travel into the future. Lisa, I want you to hold the book and make sure I from this point on, I never come anywhere close to it."* The book is handed to Lisa to hold. *"They say the past and present determine the future, so I'll use that theory in my attempt to prove it's possible. As you know, Lisa is holding the book and I'll never go near it again. Also, remember the card trick that I had begun? I'll now push her card into the deck."* The card is pushed flush into the deck. With empty hands, the magician continues, *"O.K. folks, I'll be right back."* A slight pause, *"O.K., I'm back. Didn't seem like I went anywhere did it? But I did. I went into the future. I did. I can prove it. See, moments from now, I did a card trick with Lisa's signed selection. It was amazing. Thank you very much."* This gets a laugh usually. The magician continues, *"After the show, I stopped Lisa before she could leave and asked for her card. She gave it to me. I then traveled into the past with her card and did something very special with it, after which I traveled forward to the present, the now. As you can see, the card is now gone!"* The deck is turned face up and ribbon spread. The signed selection has vanished, nothing palmed or hidden. *"Lisa, see that bookmark sticking out of the top of the book at page 123? If you will please, grasp it and gently begin pulling upward."* Lisa pulls the bookmark out of the book and now there is a string attached to it, and to the other end of the string is **the signed selection!** All may be examined. A very mind blowing occurrence.

Preparation:



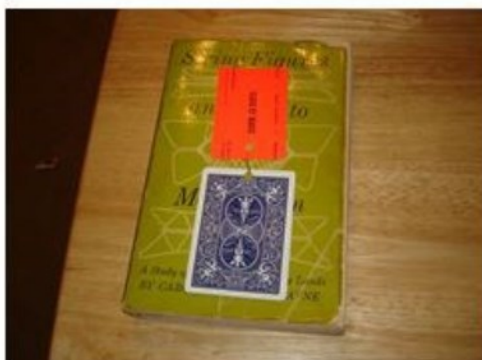
You will need scissors, dark thread, a hole puncher, a deck of card (for performance – 2 decks), a Sharpie or other marker, a softbound book, and some kind of bookmark. I use a business card.



Make sure the bookmark is slightly shorter than the length of the playing card. Note that I cut my card shorter. Punch a hole in the center towards the top edge of the playing card. Punch a hole in the bookmark in a similar location, but slightly lower towards the bookmark's center (just barely). Tie the string to the bookmark.



Place the bookmark on the back of the playing card, then wrap the string through the playing card's hole and tie it off. Cut off any excess string. You want to be sure that the bookmark, when hanging, doesn't hang below the bottom of the playing card. There's a reason for this which you will find out later on.



Also, make sure that both the bookmark and playing card, when separated and in hanging position, isn't longer than the book (in length).

Performance:



Place the bookmark on the back of the face down playing card (as in the third image on the previous page). Place them on top of the deck (the playing card should be face down). Now place a regular card face down on top. If you were to look at the end of the deck (as pictured), all you should see is a tiny bit of string. Place this arranged deck in your left pocket with the marker in the same pocket.

1. Hand a matching deck to the spectator for examination and shuffling. Once done, retrieve the deck with your left hand and reach into your pocket. Switch the deck out with the gaffed one as you also retrieve the marker that's in there as well. The right hand brings the book into view from wherever you're keeping it. The book and marker is placed on the table.



2. The deck is held in dealer's grip (as pictured). The index is in the middle of the front edge of the deck, the string hidden from the spectator's view.



3. Spread the deck by first spreading the top card singly and slightly forward. Now clump push off, then spread as usual. This gives a very clean and fair display of the deck.



4. Close the spread by pushing the right and left hand directly towards each other. Because of the nature of a spread, the cards will be skewed with the top card slightly forward. Remember to keep the deck's front either parallel to the table or even slightly downward during this as not to flash the string.



5. The right hand assists in squaring the deck, the left index assuming it's original position as the deck is straightened.

You will now do a double turnover, the bookmark going along for the ride, sandwiched between the cards. The method of the double turnover is the way I always do it but may be new to you.



6. The right hand grasps the top two cards in biddle grip, the index on the top, the middle finger replacing the left index in hiding the string. The right thumb is in the center of the near side. Remember to keep the string hidden by first placing the right middle finger on top of the deck and sliding it over the front edge, the left index moving out of the way at the last moment. The right thumb lifts up on the near side to separate the top two cards in preparation for the double turnover.



7. The deck is raised slightly where the top of it isn't visible to the spectator. The right hand raises the top two cards (with the bookmark between them) off the deck. The moment they're separated, the right index reaches around the left side of the double. Bow the double slightly.



8. The right index pulls the left side upward and rightward, the double rotating between the thumb and middle finger. The hole in the face up card is hidden from the spectator by the right middle plus the deck being tilted upward.



9. Start lowering the top of the deck slightly downward, the left index taking over its original spot as the right hand lets go and moves out of the way. The left index hugs the right's middle finger and covers the hole with the finger tip.



Hole exposed for clarity purposes of the explanation, in actual performance it's covered by the left index tip folded onto the top.

10. Look at the card showing as if being random and name it. This gives the excuse for the deck not being completely downward and level.



11. The right hand moves onto the near side of the deck, the thumb on top, the index on the bottom.



12. The left thumb moves up against the index to hide the hole. The deck is rotated counter-clockwise, pivoting between the thumbs and indexes.



13. Supporting the deck by both hands, ask a spectator to sign the top card. Doing this gives a perfect excuse for the deck being held in this unusual configuration.

You will now palm the signed card and bookmark away as you pretend to check the ink for dryness, remove the top card and poke it into the middle of the deck. Here we go:



14. After the signing, rotate the deck back to its original position in the left hand. The right hand covers the top of the deck, palm down from above, the fingers along the front and the thumb on top. Make sure the front of the top card is in the position with the fingers as it would if it was palmed, for that's what you're about to do. With the thumb, rub the signature, pretending to be checking the ink for dryness. The top of the deck should be slightly angled towards yourself.



The thumb moved out of the way for clarity.

15. The fingers press against the top front of the deck and push slightly forward. The signed card will snap up into the palm.



The thumb moved out of the way for clarity.

This is another view of the card popping up into the right palm.



The thumb moved out of the way for clarity.

16. Pushing forward even more, the bookmark will be dragged forward until it moves over the front of the deck. This will cause it to snap up into the palm as well. Curl your right hand, locking down on both the selection and bookmark.



With the right thumb, lower onto the top card of the deck. Notice that the left hand is turned more palm towards yourself so the spectators can't see the top of the deck. The right thumb slides the face up stranger card upward until the right fingers can move onto its back and grasp hold of it between them and the thumb.



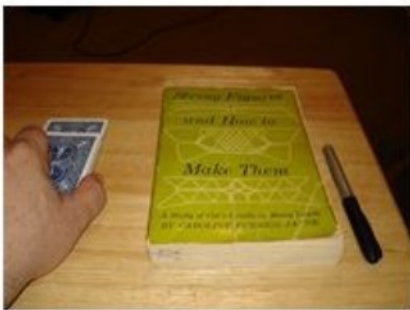
17. Rotate the stranger card's top towards yourself until it's face down. Poke it into the middle of the deck from your side.



18. The left pinky moves below the deck.



The pinky starts straightening as the finger keep hold of the end of the deck. This will cause the deck to rotate counter-clockwise.

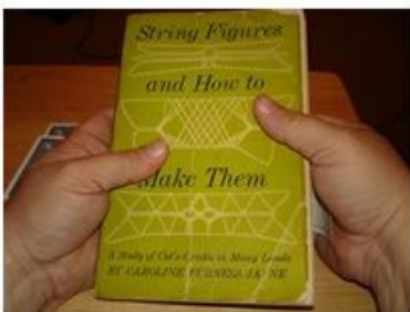


19. Once the deck is rotated forward, with the outjogged card towards the spectators, place it on the table.

Steps 14 – 19 is one smooth flowing thing. To the spectators, you simply checked the ink for dryness, removed it and poked it into the decks center. Remember, the spectators can't see the face of the stranger card. This move keeps that from happening. This is a very old move that I learned from S.W. Erdnase's book 'Expert at the Card Table', dating from the turn of the 20th century. I've barely modified it.



20. The left hand picks up the book and raises it up to the right hand.



21. The right hand rotates palm upward as the book is moved into its crotch. the palmed items move below the book.



22. The back of the book is downward. The left fingers take over holding the palmed items, holding them up against the book by the fingertips. They're not palmed by the left hand, but just clipped against the book. This allows the right hand to come out from the bottom of the book and the fingers seen to be empty. The right hand rifles down the front right corner of the pages, showing the page numbers.



23. The right hand then lowers back below the book and repositions the selection and bookmark back into palming position. After the spectator names a page and you pretend to time travel, curl the right hand slightly until the items are securely palmed. The hands rifle the pages until they find the chosen page. The palmed cards are safely hidden by the fingers and book.



24. The left hand now gains complete control of the book, the thumb bending the left pages slightly open, the fingers and index helping to hold and support the book. The right hand moves into the opened book. Now, let the palmed items squirt off the fingers and deep into the book. This happens almost automatically as the card is already flexed. The lower part of the right hand is used kind of like a springboard. Remember, the spectator(s) are on in front of you and can't see inside the book.



25. The right hand grasps the right side of the bookmark only.



26. The bookmark is rotated counter-clockwise and upward.



27. The bookmark is left protruding out of the top of the book. Close the book and grasp it tightly to straighten the bend in the selection plus keep everything in place.

The work is done! Yae!! All that's left is the buildup.



28. First, grasp the book by the spine with the left hand, the open side rightward. The right hand grasps the exposed part of the bookmark and rotates it towards the upper right corner of the book, where the page numbers are. Slightly raise it upward or downward to slightly open the pages at their upper numbered corners so the spectator can see that the bookmark is at the mentioned page. Move the bookmark back to its original spot. Now, with the right thumb, rifle the pages from the left towards the bookmark. Stop just a few pages before the chosen page. This is to show the spectators that there are no other bookmarks on any other page.



29. With the left thumb, repeat the process with the pages further from the chosen page, showing the same.

30. Close the book and hand it to the spectator. Have them hold it in their left hand, by the open side. The spine should be pointing outward, away from their hand. Direct the spectator in gripping the book semi-tightly. Holding it this way ensures the bookmark/card will come out of the book without tearing or breaking. In other words, by the spectator holding the book by the open side, his grip keeping the pages shut, the bookmark will be on the opposite side, held in place by the tension of the gripped pages and not his hand.

31. Push the outjogged card into the deck, go through the time travel patter. Turn the deck face up and ribbon spread it to show the vanish of the selection. Now, without going anywhere near the book nor the spectator, have him/her grasp the exposed end of the bookmark and lift upward. Watch their expression when they see a string attached to it and then their signed card attached to the other end. The hole in the card even further baffles them.

Practice this trick until smooth and you will find it an amazing piece of magic. Also, I recommend practicing the palm in front of a mirror to learn where the flashes may occur. One aspect that comes to mind is to be sure that the right palm stays towards your body and not straight downward because the hand is somewhat folded and the portion of the palmed card/bookmark may flash at the area of the thumb base. Mirror practicing is important anyway with close up magic.



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!

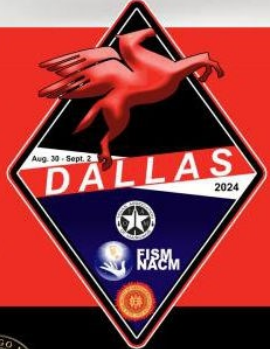
RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW.:

- 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

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Register Online at: fism-nacm.com



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

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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.

