



# The Servante

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

Volume 2024 - Number 4 - April 2024

Next Monthly Meeting - Thursday April 18, 2024 - 7:00 pm

Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas

Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from the Public School

## INSULTS, OFFENSES, AND MAGICAL ETIQUETTE

I am a magician! I am here to “magish” for you! Just be glad I’m not a wizard! - Last time I saw a face like that, it had a hook in it! - Of the 50,000 sperm, you got the egg? - If I gave you a penny for your thoughts, I'd get change back. - If your IQ were just a little higher you could be an idiot. - Your mother said you were very special. - I remember my first beer! - Can you stand closer to the floor? - No, let’s use the clean hand!



This month we celebrated April Fool’s Day. Unfortunately many of us as magicians have made fools of ourselves during one or more of our performances!

Ever been unflattering, unkind, or demeaning to an audience? Perhaps worse, have you ever made fun of an audience member or volunteer to get a laugh? Ever said anything that you wish you hadn’t? Yep, probably so!

Unfortunately magic is littered with stupid mistakes that we as magicians make purposely or by mistake. Being insulting and derogatory may not be intended to hurt someone, but it usually does. Where should a performer draw the line?

What should a magician do if the magician comes across as offensive but doesn’t intend to be? How does a magician ride that fine line between that which is sociological acceptable and that which is inappropriate? How does a magician know the difference between that which is appropriate and that which is inappropriate?

**“IF I THROW A STICK,  
WILL YOU LEAVE?”**

At the 7:00 pm Thursday March 21 monthly club meeting at the Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, our SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists clubs will tackle some of the issues and examine instances where insults and offenses have been used inappropriately. We will look at tricks and routines that are questionable. We will have discussion on how to be acceptable versus abrasive! It will be a meeting of great insight, analysis, perhaps learning, and downright fun!

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



## MINUTES OF THE MARCH MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

The Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists started their 7:00 pm March 2024 meeting on Thursday March 21 at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop. With over a dozen members and magicians in attendance, President Jack McCoy opened the meeting with a few quick announcements. Then it was on to March Madness Open Mic Night where club members had the opportunity to perform, lecture, and discuss various magic tricks and routines.

First was the incomparable Margaret Clauder who resurrected her classic “baking a cake” Dove Pan routine “without the dove.” Her jokes and gags including flour (flower), sugar, mooing milk, snakes, and recipe card made out of flashpaper were all fun to see.

Excellent magician Gary Poe was next with an entourage of ideas with inexpensive “Go Fish” children’s playing cards. Ideas included a “two of an animal match at the end type routine,” a unique card force, and the idea of a combined dribble shuffle and crisscross type force. His Old McDonald’s Farm and Another Trick Chameleon Cards were also well received. He went on to perform a “soap bank night” type routine, an Invisible Deck routine with a Drawer Box, and a very nice cups and balls routine.

Magical Hare was next with a coin transposition type routine, shower of coins, and the production of a mechanical bird. Lonnie Olander performed a great version of the 20th Century Silks routine complete with Silk Cabby. Jack McCoy presented the Tenyo version of Tiny Plunger. He also showed his Val Evans’ Impossible Stop effect, a Collector’s Workshop version of the classic Key-R-Rect effect, and a Match Card Trick. Bruce Chadwick showed his handling of the \$1.35 Trick and Scotch and Soda coin effect. The meeting was fun and laughter was abundant!



## MINUTES FROM THE MARCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Jack McCoy called to order the March Executive Committee meeting at 7:00 pm, the Illusion Warehouse museum room. All elected officers were in attendance. Minutes of the February Annual Business and Planning Meeting were approved as printed in the March edition of the SERVANTE newsletter.

Bernie Trowbridge gave the Treasurers report. To date, the club has received \$535.08 in dues payments. The clubs have disbursed \$41.58 for Mailchimp services during January, February, and March 2024. The club also had \$64 in expenses for the presidential and magician of the year plaques, a \$300 disbursement to Jamie Salinas who lectured and performed for the January installation lecture, and a payment of \$425 to Kaminskis for his lecture. This leaves the club with an ending balance of \$3854.61 plus the Dolenz pillow. The \$250 invoice received from the Illusion Warehouse to use the magic shop's party room and meeting facilities for 2024 was approved.

Secretary Bruce Chadwick reported that most club members have paid their annual \$25 club dues. Unfortunately there are some notable club members who have not paid their dues. President Jack McCoy will undergo the task to contact delinquent club members and encourage them to pay their dues. Dues payment is very easy on the Dues page of [www.sam138.com](http://www.sam138.com).

Secretary Chadwick reported mail correspondence from past president Joey Byers. Joey has pulled one of the most cunning magic tricks by secretly earning a Master of Theological Studies degree. Please see pasted below the invitation for club members to attend his graduation ceremonies.

Next month's meeting will cover how magicians can properly deal with performance insults, offenses, and other aspects of magical etiquette. With no further business, the meeting concluded to start the March clubs meeting.

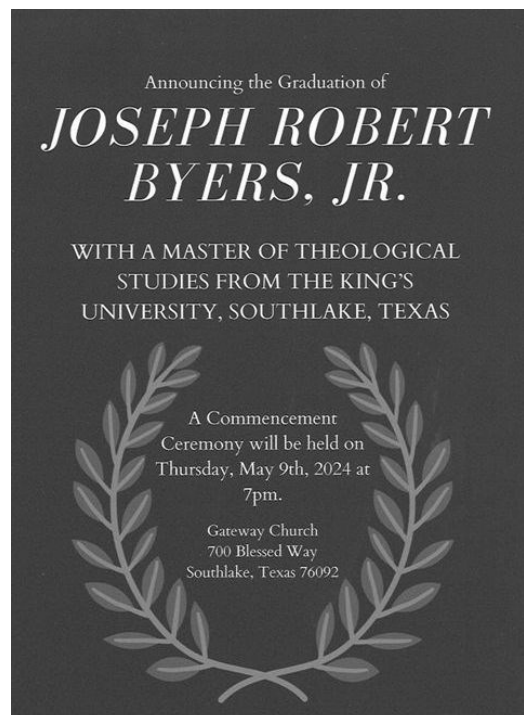
*Hi there,*

*This is Joey. If you are free the evening of May 9<sup>th</sup> and live close by, I'd love it if you could attend. Otherwise, just know that I consider you to be a special friend, and I just want to share the moment.*

*Please do not send any gifts or money. It is my intent just to reach out and let you know what's going on. Thanks.*

*Sincerely,*

*Joey*





My how fast time flew at our meeting last month. I looked up and it was way past 9:00 pm and we were still going strong, yapping about magical things, upcoming gigs, and practice with feedback. Honestly it shot me down my memory's rabbit hole to my 1980's magic club meetings. This is what a magic club is all about. Everyone can take part however they want, need, desire for a 'what-the-heck' moment in their life, or otherwise get their magic fix. Our magic club offers instant gratification and redemption from whatever might happen, amazement, botch-up, or trying out a new idea to see if it actually works. Our club is strong and with the upcoming lectures, we are well on our way to having a great year. Aside from our scheduled amazing upcoming lectures, you never know who might just pop in to have some magical fun.

I must write very briefly about something very important that pertains to our clubs. With public shows uncertain this year, if you haven't done so already, please pay your \$25 annual club dues. You must pay your dues in order to attend monthly clubs meetings. Please see our club Bylaw "10.03 Delinquency" pasted below.

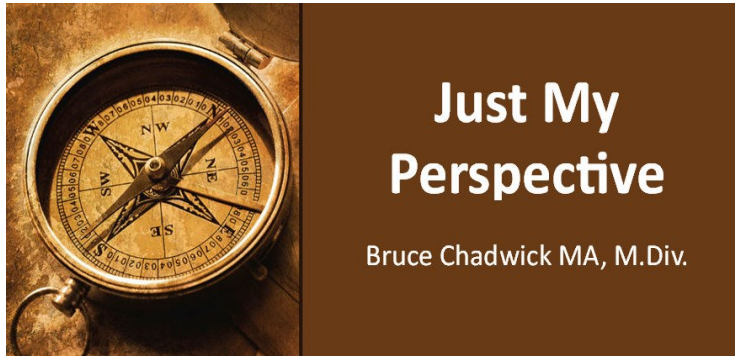
This is an uncomfortable subject, but we need everyone's membership in order to function. We know money is tight but depending on what choices of membership you choose, membership can be actually quite inexpensive. For example, AOI club dues without national SAM affiliation is only \$25 for an entire year. Our magic club membership is an unbelievable bargain.

Payment is beyond easy now. Simply go to the club's website at [www.sam138.com](http://www.sam138.com) and click the white 'Dues' rectangle to understand our current clubs dues options. You can compensate the cost by simply skipping a couple combo meals and you have over the next eight months to recoup. Seriously, please pay if you haven't. Well I thought this was going to be brief. Sorry about that, but its an important deal that helps the club. Thank you!

This month's general subject is about proper etiquette and more importantly, in these modern times, what not to say, what to say and how to say it. We've all had that 'put my foot in my mouth' moment, probably more than once in our lifetime. Personally for me, I've lost count. People today tend to be innocently or accidentally offended nowadays and made uncomfortable. Unfortunately people tend to overreact more than necessary. Still it is important for us as performers to be as sensitive and understanding as possible for our current culture. There's a proper and safe way to approach a spectator or volunteer, which unfortunately I know little about. I run on hope, and hope I don't say or do anything stupid! I'm looking forward to our April club meeting and hearing stories. Certainly I have a couple myself. The more knowledge about 'Uh oh!' instances I have means less 'Uh oh!' experiences for me in the future. Trust me, this is a good thing!

Jack McCoy  
President 2024

10.03 Delinquency - Members who fail to pay their Yearly Membership Dues before the first day of March are automatically suspended from the Assembly. Suspended members are no longer members in good standing and their name badge shall be removed from accessibility. Suspended members may not attend Monthly Assembly Meetings or other Assembly sponsored events until dues are paid. A member whose dues are unpaid for less than two years may pay his 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.



## SCRIPT OR NOT

For the most part, I perform as a comedy magician and make most of my income as a fulltime professional. While a lot of magicians think I always haul the big stage illusions around for my shows, the truth is that most of the time I work out of a suitcase. I have several shows but my Comedy Stand-Up Magic Show is the show I use most often. This great 40-minute family performance is easy to transport, can be placed in the airplane overhead cabin bin when I fly to performance destinations. It also raises little suspicion because it is, well, a suitcase. Through many years of performing this great little act, the timing, flow, and continuity of the act has become tight and exact. The show has good rhythm and the jokes are in the right place. I have performed the show thousands of times and I have made a lot of money.

How did I develop the show? I have to confess, there is no real secret. It just took a lot of experimentation, trial, and error. I had to make a lot of mistakes before things “got good.” And as you probably surmise, the act didn’t develop overnight. There are just too many variables. Development was a matter of courageously choosing material that was both appropriate and practical. I spent a lot of time with trick arrangement. I cut, spliced, and experimented. The show was then honed by hundreds of performances for real audiences.

My experience is that it is almost impossible for a performer to write out a brand new act that is immediately polished. Granted, seasoned pros can produce new shows more quickly as compared to a performer with limited experience, because they know the mechanics of what creates a good show. A professional knows about rhythm, how to select and routine material, where to place tricks during a performance, and how flow and continuity works. Like a surfer riding a big ocean wave, seasoned performers also know how to “ride an audience,” where to push and pull, and the dynamics of performer/audience relationships. They know how audiences are supposed to react to their tricks and routines, and they constantly make changes to make their act better.

Also my patter for my show is almost the same every time I perform it. Honestly that is one of the most important ingredients that makes magic performance great. Some magicians preach that a performer should sit down and write a script of what they are going to say during their performances and then follow that script word for word. Probably their influence is the theatre when actors work off scripts written by playwrights. While scripts work well in theatre, magic scripts must generally be fluid in the beginning and then become refined through performance. It is important to develop a good script, but such a script usually comes only through time, experimentation, and modification. Then when verbal pieces start to “get good,” they should be left alone.

At the same time, good magicians constantly work on their patter. They hone placement and delivery of what they say. They put punch lines at the end of a sentence. They know about the all-important “principle of three.” They constantly refine and change the script they ultimately follow word for word.

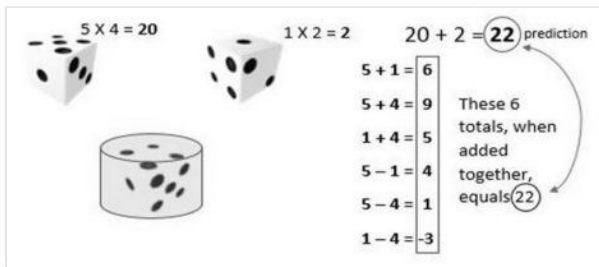
Is a script important for magicians? I think so. On multiple occasions as I developed my act, I said “off the cuff” things during my shows that I regretted. Having a script helps minimize comments that can take away or even disrupt a show. Also the benefit of a script is that magicians always know exactly what they are going to say and how to say it. With that being said, in another twenty years my second show should be ready to go.



**Thrice**— This idea originated a couple decades ago but is based on something I thought about way back in Elementary school and which I remember impressing my math teacher. It's elementary but so was I so could get away with such observations.

What I'd realized is that any 2 values, when added together and the lower value subtracted from the higher, those two totals added together equal the higher value times two (X2). Yes, I know, very elementary. What I'd considered however is this means the lower value is therefore irrelevant, in a sense as if it never existed. It could be hidden yet you'll know what the total will be when it's added & subtracted from the known value by simply doubling the known value (X 2). I didn't think about the possible magic aspect it presented until a decade ago when I was writing my 8th book, 'Magic Madness' that my brain opened an old musty, squeaky door of memory and I thought about it again. I became re-fascinated and wondered how I could apply it to magic.

The principle with only 2 values is too easy to figure out with a little experimentation but what if I added another, a 3rd value? In a triangulation and proper verbal leadership, it could present quite the mystery. I've returned a few times to the principle since then and have some various creations using that triangulation of values, sometimes with cards, sometimes with dice, sometimes with just pen and paper. I'll explain it using dice simply because I spent some time drawing the image below for the book.



To the left is the principle, one example of possible values, and the math behind the secret.. The 2 visible values, five and one, are added together then the lower value (1) is subtracted from the higher (5) and both totals written down or committed to memory. Next the unknown value is added to and subtracted from

both visible dice and those 4 totals written down. Adding those 6 totals together a final sum is generated and which the magician then shows his prediction matches, although he had no idea of the hidden value! Unless the spectator is into math and able to figure it out they'll probably be rendered clueless.

**Method:** Look away and have a spectator roll dice and arrange in a triangle. Request they make sure all 3 tops have different numbers. Next have them cover any of the values where you don't know what it is. If it's card ask them to turn one face down, if dice have them cover it with a plastic soda bottle cap or something, if written down fold the paper over the number or set something on top of it. I'll use the shown values in the image for explanation purposes, let's pretend the spectator rolled a 5, 4, & 1 and covered the 4. Turn back facing them. Call attention to the 2 visible dice and say, "Five plus one equals 6, and 5 minus one equals 4." At this point they'll be looking at you in ponderance why you're explaining this 1st grade math problem. Next say, "The total of course changes depending on what the 2 numbers are." Now they're really looking at you in confusion, which is what you want. Get them to agree with you, really plant in their mind those 2 very simple facts. (next page)

Say, *“That’s where the hidden number comes into play. Since I don’t know what it is, I have no idea what the totals would be when it’s added and subtracted from the five and one. The one of course will total a minus sum when subtracted because the hidden number must to be higher. That’s perfectly fine and will give me a challenge. Simply subtract the lower from the higher and add a minus sign next to the total.”* Notice I’m briefly explaining subtraction involving negative totals and not patronizing or anything by simply adding it to my conversation and covering ground in case the spectator is mathematically rusty or unsure.

If you’ll notice in my photo example I did include a negative situation when subtracting the 4 from the 1 for clarity. Negative totals can be avoided by initially, while looking away ask them to cover the lowest value. I personally like the freeness of any value being hidden so they don’t later consider that restriction and believe it somehow allowed me to deduce what number was hidden. It doesn’t have to be true, only a plausible solution in their head which ruins the whole thing.

O.K., back to the trick. While you’re explaining the basic math to them, mentally multiply the largest of the two visible values by four (X4), and the other by two (X2). Add those 2 totals together and their sum will be your prediction. Remove a Sharpie (or dark ink pen) and paper. Say, *“We already know what the totals are with the five and one (pointing to the dice tops) so I’ll write them down.”* As you write the two sums on the paper, hold the paper up where the back of the hand is towards the audience and quickly write the prediction on your palm while you’re writing the totals on the paper. Hand the paper and Sharpie to them and ask they likewise add their hidden number to each visible dice and write the totals below those written by you, creating a column of totals. Now ask them to subtract their hidden number from each visible die and write the totals below the others on the paper.

Ask them to add the 6 sums together for a final grand total. Remind them there’s no way you could have known what the final sum would be. They will agree with this thanks to your planting the earlier explanations into their brains about different numbers creating different totals. Say, *“I’m into strange occurrences such as this!”*, turning your palm towards them where they can see you predicted it!

**Comical Moment With 2 Gimmick coins (Double Head, Double Tail)** - Knowledge of the shuttle pass false transfer is required (many tutorials online).

1. Add a double-head quarter and a double-tail quarter to a small group of various coins.
2. Request a person pick up the pile of coins and gently dump them on the table and eliminate all that land tails side up. They then pick up the remainder and repeat until just one coin remains. Ultimately the double-head quarter will be last which you mention she’s randomly selected it..
3. Grab all the change, including the d/h coin and hand them to someone else. Request they repeat the process except this time eliminate all the heads. They’ll ultimately end with the double-tail quarter. Mention it being their random selected coin and a coincidence both ended on quarters. Pick up the eliminated change and put into the pocket, stealing the d-h coin from them and bringing the hand out with it secretly inside. Pick up the d/t coin, stir it in your empty hand and slap onto the table. Ask the 2nd person to touch the back of your hand. Raise your hand and a tails shows. Repeat 2 or 3 more times. False– transfer it to the other hand, switching it per shuttle pass with the d/h coin. Do the stir and slap to table with the first person a few times which will always end heads side up. Say, *“Wow, I thought so, you’re both magicians!”*.

**MAGIC Texas**

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**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ImprovArlington.com) or [www.ImprovAddison.com](http://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](http://www.MagicLivingRoom.com) for more information.

