



The Servante

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

Volume 2026 - Number 10 - October 2026

Monthly Club Meeting - Thursday October 15, 2026 – 7:00 pm

Illusion Warehouse – 3917 McCart Ave – Fort Worth, Texas 76110

Three Blocks North of Seminary Drive

The theme for the Thursday October 15 Monthly Club Meeting will be Spooky Magic. Club members and guests are invited to bring and perform any magic trick or routine themed around the "things go bump in the night" idea! As usual, the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm, the Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas, about three blocks north of Seminary Drive.

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 (2026 dues-paid-up members) may attend as well. Visitors may not attend Executive Committee Meetings.



SEPTEMBER MONTHLY CLUB MEETING MINUTES

The Thursday September 24, 2026, monthly club meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists was a Swap Meet! Members and guests brought their gently used magic effects, tricks, props, or gadgets to sell and trade. Additionally part of the magic collection gifted to the AOI from Plano, Texas Magician Greg London was offered for sale to help the club with its educational endeavors. There was no cost to magicians to buy or sell at the meet, nor was there any cost to use the tables and other facilities at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop. The event was well attended with about 25 magicians and guests in attendance.



★ S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 138 ★
ALLIANCE OF ILLUSIONISTS MAGIC CLUB

A NIGHT OF SPOOKY MAGIC!

OCTOBER 15TH CLUB MEETING

Get ready for a spooktacular evening of magic, mystery, and Halloween fun at our October 15th club meeting!

Gather up your smoke machines, fire wallets, and other spooky apparatus. Whether you have something brand-new, an old favorite, or a forgotten trick ready for a magical resurrection, bring it along and make it shine again!

★ MEMBER PERFORMANCES ★

Enjoy a night of small performances by club members, showcasing unique effects, creative routines, and a few surprises sure to stir up the spirit of the season. This is a great opportunity to share ideas, learn from one another, and embrace the camaraderie of our timeless magic-shop atmosphere!

AUCTION

We'll also have donated items available for auction to help raise funds for our club. You never know what magical treasure might find its way into your hands!

★ TRICKS AND TREATS ★ ★

Don't forget to bring your candy or a special Halloween treat to share with fellow members. After all, every great night of magic deserves a little sweetness!

So dust off those skeletons in the closet, summon your creativity, and prepare for an evening filled with mystery, laughter, fellowship, and spooky surprises.

*The spirits of magic are calling...
★ will you answer? ★*

LET'S MAKE THIS A CLUB MEETING TO REMEMBER!

SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

President Hare Evison called to order the Thursday September 24, 2026, Executive Committee meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists at about 6:00 pm in the Illusion Warehouse stockroom. A quorum of all officers were in attendance including President Hare Evison, Vice President Gary Poe, Secretary Bruce Chadwick, Treasurer Lonnie Olander, Historian Jack McCoy, Member at Large Caleb Westeen, and Sergeant at Arms William Weebo Beaty.

Treasurer Lonnie Olander presented the club's financial report. The club's previous Operating Account balance was \$2,993.19. Since then the club has received \$100 from the Greg London magic donation auction. The clubs had three disbursements, \$13.86 for MailChimp, \$100 to the Illusion Warehouse for help selling the FACETS books, and \$506.61 for three years of WIX website hosting, for a total of \$620.47. This leaves the clubs with a balance of \$2,472.72.

The minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting as printed in the September issue of the SERVANTE were approved by acclamation.

The Swap Meet agenda for the September Swap Meet monthly club meeting was briefly discussed. It was agreed that Treasurer Lonnie Olander, who has been overseeing the magic collection gifted to the AOI from Plano Magician Greg London, will offer some of the items for sale at the meeting.

The committee once again briefly discussed the collaboration with the Dallas Magic Club to co-host magic lectures and each club paying half the lecturer's fee. Caleb Westeen, who is a member of both the DMC and AOI clubs, is working as the point man to help facilitate communication. It was agreed that having lectures on Hwy 183 between Dallas and Fort Worth is probably the best option for both the Dallas and Fort Worth magicians. Of particular interest for lecture location, one of the two Spring Creek Barbecue restaurants on each side of intersecting Hwy 360 will probably be the lecture location. It was also generally agreed that when Southern Magic Lecture Tour Coordinator Scott Wells offers an upcoming lecture, the AOI will take the lead to schedule lecture, with communication then going to the DMC to go in halves for the lecture fees. It was noted that Scott Wells is having some medical issues and this may be the reason the clubs have not seen a recent lecture opportunity.

It was agreed that there is the possibility Andreas Sebring, the owner of Metal Writing in Sweden who is currently attending magic conventions in the United States as a magic dealer, to lecture for the clubs at the October monthly club meeting. Club President Hare Evison will contact Sebring to explore the possibility. In lieu of a lecture by Sebring, Spooky Magic will be the theme for the October AOI clubs meeting.

Last month the Executive Committee drafted a letter and delivered it to the TAOM Board with an offer to host the 2029 Texas Association of Magicians convention. However at the Houston Board of Director's Meeting, the offer to host the convention in Fort Worth was not ratified due to Board Meeting time constraints. The Board will no doubt consider the offer at next spring's mid-year Board of Director's Meeting. It was still agreed that if the clubs host the convention, that the DoubleTree by Hilton Fort Worth South Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Altamesa Blvd, Fort Worth will probably be the convention location.

With no further business, the meeting concluded about 6:38 pm to tend to the September monthly club meeting and Swap Meet at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Chadwick, Secretary



From the President's Top Hat

Welcome once again, friends and fellow lovers of magic! As we gather beneath the brim of the President's Top Hat, this monthly column continues to celebrate the art, humor, challenges, and unforgettable moments that come with being part of the magical community. Whether you perform on stage, practice behind the scenes, or simply enjoy the wonder of illusion, I hope these reflections inspire you to keep growing in your craft and finding joy in the experience along the way.

Spooky Magic & The Skeleton Man

As we head into October, I reflect on my first Halloween season in Texas after moving from Maui, Hawaii, on September 1, 2022. I brought my magic gear, a few belongings, and my little doggie, Mini, along for the adventure. It's hard to believe four years have already passed!

Shortly after arriving in Mansfield, I was invited to a neighborhood block party. My shipping container, which held most of my magic apparatuses, had yet to arrive, but I had brought enough to put together a small show. I even handcrafted a unique ghost-ball effect using Halloween streamers!

Armed with my fire wallet, snake wand, and homemade spooky magic, I prepared a 30-minute show for approximately 25 children and 30 parents. Between flashes of fire, appearing flowers, spring snakes, and my spooky ghost-ball effect, I wowed the audience. It remains a wonderful memory of my early days in Texas and a reminder that a little creativity can go a long way!

Growing up, my father, Robert Evison, better known as **Kelly Green**, was known as "*The Skeleton Man*." He helped with local haunted houses and anything involving spooky or magical effects. In our household, it sometimes felt like Halloween was every day. Ha! Dad was constantly creating spooky magic to scare and entertain us kids. Yikes! Haha!

Halloween has always held a special place in my magical world. It's the perfect time to bring out the fire apparatuses, spooky skulls, spring snakes, and anything that makes an audience scream! Ha! It's also an opportunity to perform unusual effects we might not use throughout the rest of the year.

So, fellow magicians, it's time to dust off those old skeletons, prepare your fire wallets, and bring out the ball and chain. Maybe even a pair of handcuffs or a straightjacket! Mentalism and demonstrations of the unknown can add another layer of mystery. October is our chance to get creative, explore those unusual effects, and give our audiences something they won't soon forget.

As I like to say, let's burn the tires and light the fires! Ha! 'Tis the season—October has arrived!

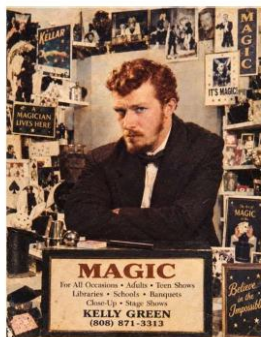
A Special Tribute to Kelly Green

Included with this month's article is a rare photograph of my father, Kelly Green, recently enhanced with Julie's help. I wanted to share it with our club in honor of his legacy as "*The Skeleton Man*." His creativity and passion for magic helped shape my own journey, and his influence continues to inspire the performer I strive to be today.

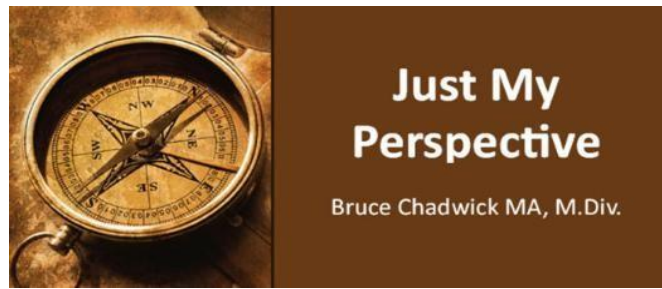
Until next time, keep practicing, keep creating, and remember: there's always room for a little spooky magic in your top hat!

Keep the magic alive!

— Hare Evison
President, S.A.M. Assembly 138
Alliance of Illusionists Magic Club



Robert "Kelly Green" Evison — Magician, father, and the original "Skeleton Man." His magical legacy lives on.



DICHOTOMY OF MAGIC CONTROL

Life seems to break down into two basic realms. There are the things a person can control, and there are the things that a person can't control. Unfortunately many people spend a lot of time trying to control the uncontrollable, which usually leads to a wide range of psychological predicaments such as worry, feelings of inadequacy, insecurity, and anticipation of failure.

Similar to a lot of other endeavors, the uncontrollable invests itself into entertainment art forms such as magic. Magicians would be wise to come to grips with what is controllable and what is uncontrollable in magic.

One of the most important rules is the fact that it is impossible to please everyone. The magician who tries to please everyone is the performer who usually finds conflict, loss of self-worth, and even exhaustion. Frankly, it is impossible to know how all people think and the judgments they will make, because their opinions vary, values contrast, and personalities differ. This is compounded even more when a person begins to understand that people have innate natures that are often condescending, jealous, bitter, and envious, all parts of the rebellious natures of humankind.

So rather than trying to please everyone, it is probably better for a magician to come to grips with the fact that pleasing everyone is impossible. Instead, it is always better for a magician to be true to oneself, do their best as an entertainer, set personal boundaries, and care for self. Of course this does not give a performer permission to be haughty, obnoxious, and arrogant. Rather, a person can always do one's best, strive for excellence, and still be kind, caring, and compassionate.

Also uncontrollable is the future. Within certain bounds, the future can't be predicted. Certainly a Christian has certain biblical promises from God, knowing that He is in control, and that the Christian life is a process where God refines a person more and more into the image of Christ through trials and tribulations. In fact the Bible is quite blunt in stating that Christians should consider such difficulties joyful, for they produce the type of endurance that perfects and helps a person be complete. These words of assurances can go far to keep a performer from being overwhelmed emotionally and spiritually.

Granted there are times when a person is uncertain whether or not they are in a controllable or uncontrollable situation. In these instances, perhaps they should ask the only question that really matters, "Is it worth being troubled or should I just back away?" One may discover that when they can't see that when distinctions and choices aren't readily apparent, it may be best leave the situation in the uncontrollable camp. Certainly there is peace when a person doesn't stress over and try to control the uncontrollable.

It is always better for magicians to concentrate on what they can control. A performer can control most of what they do during performance. They can learn to be creative with their routines. They can develop new and robust performances. So when magicians feel that worry is taking over, perhaps they should ask themselves, are they worrying about the uncontrollable? It might be time to back up, regroup, and reformat. Enormous peace comes when magicians stop trying to control that which was never theirs to control in the first place.



TOO MANY

I recently watched a magician on America's Got Talent. The main effect of his performance was to be that he predicted the card they would pick. I don't recall in detail how his revelations went, but it was something like opening the envelope to show he had predicted the card, followed by rolling up his sleeve to show that he had also foreseen the future and had a very large picture of the card tattooed to his arm. But wait, that's not all. Every audience member received an envelope, open it up and look inside and you will see again that I correctly predicted the card she would pick! I think there was even another redundant revelation of the prediction in between.

I was thinking, why stop there? Why not then show it shaved in the back of your head, then run everyone outside to see it floating by on the side of the Goodyear Blimp and on and on ad nauseum? The trick was good; the young magician has promise. I was left thinking about how we sometimes just don't know when to stop. It seems we are like scientists in that we learn how to do something before we gain the wisdom to ask if we should do it in the first place,

A lot of our magic has repeating elements and phases. There is nothing inherently wrong with a repeated magical moment but like everything else it should be done with thought. Consider the classic coins across. It is usually done with 4 coins. I have seen some magicians slim it down to three and even two coins because they thought 4 was too many. They may be right. You shouldn't do four just because that is what you have seen done anymore than you should end your cups routine with 6 oranges and a Cantaloupe just because you saw Gazzo do it. I have always thought that was two oranges too many. I see Gazzo has a new routine with just four large balls appearing at the end. He said the 6 oranges is too many for the more normal types of crowds and venues he does these days. His new routine does not involve the waist pouch which he said was not good for crowds that are closer than they were in his earlier shows. Gazzo examined his routine and thought about how it played for his current shows. He thought! We should think!

A cup routine isn't made better by putting every single move you know into it and doing each 3 times because you have 3 cups. It is made better by thought. Imagination isn't usually in short supply with magicians. Restraint is more frequently lacking.

Thinking is how magic evolves as a whole, but it is especially critical for how YOUR magic will come across. You are not Lorayne, Malone or Gazzo and their magic will likely not fit well until tailored to fit you personally. Always ask yourself if another reveal, another coin, another phase or adding another effect into any particular routine actually enhances or detracts. Sometimes we need a trusted voice to talk us down from our own "what if" and tell us that our prediction effect on America's Got Talent would have been stronger if we stopped at the tattoo revelation.



MINUTE MAGICIAN

This magic review will again be a little different. I am not reviewing a product you can purchase. This month's review is for a different investment you can make into your magic. My review this month is for a new YouTube channel called The Minute Magician: Behind the Curtain.

The creator is a magician who's day job is as a Drama teacher. He started his channel as summer began. For the first few weeks he dropped some videos about specific tricks. After a bit less than a month he found his niche and calling and began cranking out a mass

amount of content about how to be a better magician. His thoughts and content are heavily influenced by his acting and theater background. I wish I had access to these videos years ago.

His usual videos range from 8-15 minutes. His subjects are quite varied, but they mostly swirl around acting, improv, theater, writing and directing techniques and how to use them to improve your magic. Do not worry, these are not long winded and dry discourses. The subject matter is boiled down into very concise and targeted thoughts that can help you right away. It is not the usual "take acting and improv classes".

He does drop the occasional hour interview with more famous magicians, but the bulk of his content are these little jewels on ways to improve your magic or at least things that make you examine what you do and if it could improve.

I am always looking for ways to put magic in my brain and am glad I found this channel. Try it! Give a listen while you wash dishes or practice your hand-washing sequence. The following is from his channel's description and I find it accurate:

"This channel is dedicated to helping you build stronger magic through better thinking, presentation, and performance. The Minute Magician delivers quick, practical lessons on misdirection, audience psychology, scripting, timing, practice, business, and performance techniques you can use immediately. Magic Masters: Secrets of Impossible Thinking explores the ideas behind the world's greatest magicians—from Dai Vernon and Juan Tamariz to Derren Brown, Penn & Teller, Tommy Wonder, and more—turning their wisdom into practical lessons for today's performers. I'm C. Topher Younggren, a professional magician, theatre director, and educator sharing decades of real-world experience to help you entertain, amaze, and create unforgettable moments."





In the spirit of Halloween I made a spooky set of cards for whatever purpose. I also challenged myself to make a progressive anagram involving them and I did manage to come up with the following, not sure if it's the most efficient but it does work. I chose to tame down the images to a printer-friendly and PG rating, the wilted rose representing a corpse for example. Print, cut out, paste and laminate on blank faced cardstock.

Necrologue: A volunteer mixes a packet of 12 cards, each depicting a dark themed image and name. Looking away or even in a different room, the magician requests they complete cut the packet where a random card is on the bottom. They hold it up where only they can see its face. The magician reveals it!

History: While the presentation of NECROLOGUE relies heavily on theatrical gothic atmosphere, the underlying engine is a beautiful, century-old mentalism tool known as the Progressive Anagram Principle. The concept of using a branching letter matrix to secretly isolate a thought-of word was first introduced to the magic community in 1920 by British magician Stanley Collins in his marketed routine, The Nonpareil Book Mystery.

Over the decades, innovators like Edward Bagshawe (1934) and the legendary Stewart James (1953) refined the mathematical structures, but the principle exploded in popularity during the 1980s. Mentalists like Ray Grismer and Bob Farmer realized they could use these conversational letter loops completely propless to divine a spectator's astrological zodiac sign out of thin air. Terri Rogers' brilliantly camouflaged the principle within a realistic theatrical review sheet marketed as 'Word Of Mind', the principle baked into the page columns and script where no crib, clue sheet nor memorization is required.

Method: The cue card to the right shows the steps in order from the top down, each main branch designated by a solid black dot to their left. The letter 'O' is the first letter which you claim to possibly see in the spectator's mind. Depending on their answer, you navigate the chart accordingly. As you can see, this process of elimination will lead to their word quickly. There's basically 3 branch-offs in the progressive anagram. The first 2 letters are always O and E, the subsequent letters will vary. Run down it a few times and you'll see the process.

Sample Run: I claim to see a rounded letter, possibly an 'O' which they respond is in the word. Next I claim seeing possibly an 'E' which they respond the word not having. These 2 responses lead me to the chart's middle black dot location. I now start moving downward in that section, this case claiming to possibly see is an 'H', which they answer yes to. I now claim seeing possibly an 'N' which they deny being in the word. I know they chose 'Ghoul'.

Example 2: They say yes to 'O', 'E', 'S', 'R', but no 'T' = Corpse

Example 3: They say no to 'O', yes to 'E' but no to 'R' = Banshee

- If they say NO to O:
 - ☒ NO E _____ WITCH
 - ☒ NO R _____ BANSHEE
 - ☒ YES R → ☒ YES C = SACRIFICE
 - ☒ YES R → ☒ NO C → ☒ YES G = DAGGER
 - ☒ YES R → ☒ NO C → ☒ NO G = VAMPIRE
- If they say YES to O, but NO to E:
 - ☒ NO H _____ COFFIN
 - ☒ NO N _____ GHOUL
 - ☒ YES N _____ PHANTOM
- If they say YES to O, and YES to E:
 - ☒ NO S _____ DEMON
 - ☒ NO R _____ SKELETON
 - ☒ NO T _____ CORPSE
 - ☒ YES T _____ MONSTER



CORPSE



SACRIFICE



MONSTER



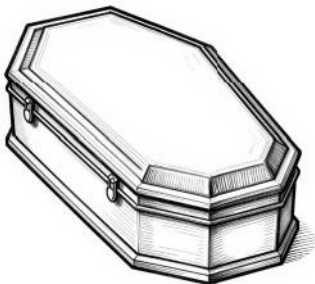
DEMON



SKELETON



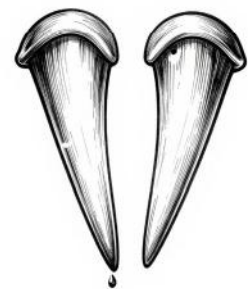
PHANTOM



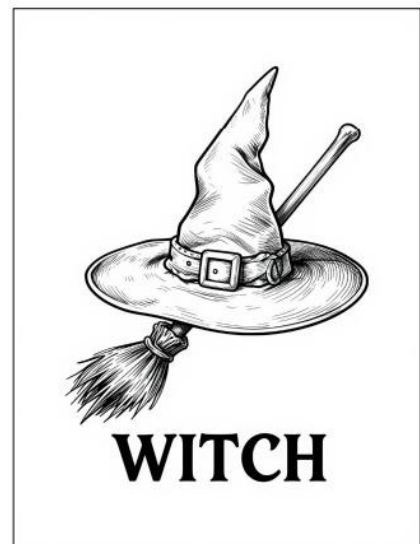
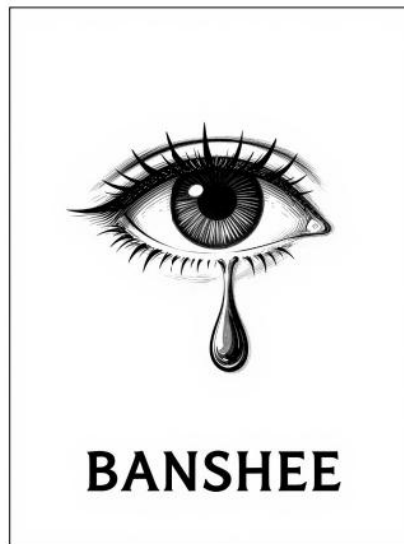
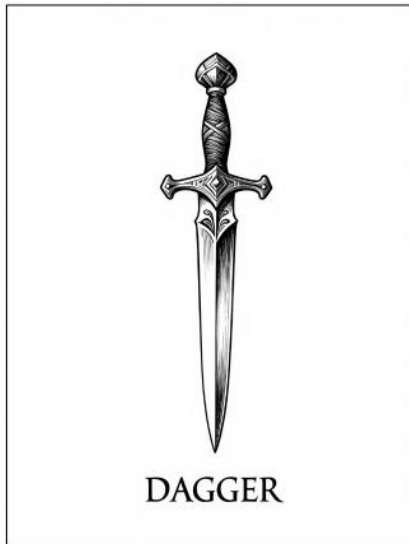
COFFIN



GHOUL



VAMPIRE



Necrologue For 2

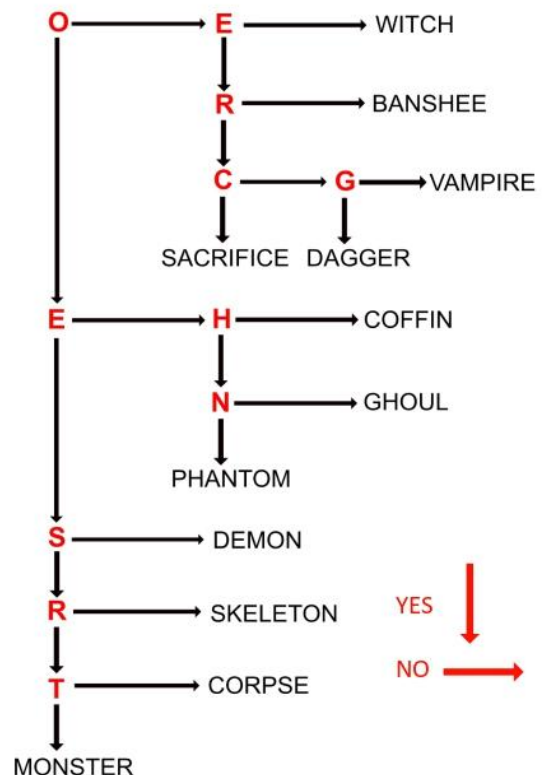
1. Show the faces of the cards, revolve the packet face down, quickly mix and spread for each spectator to remove a card. While they're noting their cards' identities, glimpse the bottom card of the held packet and remember it. That's your key card which you'll be needing shortly so don't forget it like I do more often than I care to admit. Set the packet face down on the table, the key card being on the bottom. You remember it don't you? Good!

2. Ask the person to the left to place their selection face down on top and straight cut the packet. Next, ask the person to the right to likewise place their card face down on top and straight cut the packet. In the end the person on the left's selection is below the key card, the person on the right's card in an unknown location. You could even look up and request either give the packet another straight cut for good measure. It doesn't matter.

3. Look at both and say, "Hmm," look at the person on the right and continue, "I think I'll start with you, your mind is busier so this might be more of a challenge." Do the Necrologue process to gain knowledge of their card. Acting confident, pick up the packet, spread with faces towards you and remove their card, glancing the card in front of your key card in the process. It's the other selection. Place the removed card face down on the table in front of them.

4. Look at the person on the left and say, "Now it's your turn.", look at their forehead and say, "Ah yes, your mind is much clearer. Think about your card, the word and image on it that you can remember anyway." Because you know what card they chose you can be accurate in your divination, but don't overwork it, just a couple accurate descriptions then say, "I don't even have to try, I can see it perfectly". Pick up the packet, spread through it and remove their card, placing face down in front of them. Ask each to say their card out loud then turn over the cards for a successful and eerie conclusion.

Below is the tree structure. Each time the letter is in the word, move downward, each time the letter isn't in the word, move rightward. Follow the arrows until you end at the the word. Start with the top left corner 'O', then 'E', then follow the arrow to the next red letter, naming it and moving according to the response.



2026 OFFICERS

1. PRESIDENT:	Hare Evison	h.e.808artworks@gmail.com	808-264-2785
2. VICE PRESIDENT:	Gary Poe	downtime824@gmail.com	817-914-0334
3. SECRETARY:	Bruce Chadwick	chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com	817-832-6062
4. TREASURER:	Lonnie Olander	lonnie.olander@gmail.com	254-749-0124
5. SERGEANT AT ARMS:	William Weebo Beaty	weeboentertainment@yahoo.com	972-824-9614
6. HISTORIAN:	Jack McCoy	magicjack@charter.net	682-560-8569
7. MEMBER AT LARGE:	Caleb Westeen	calebw827@gmail.com	682-222-3959

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 - 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 Mid-Cities Magic Circle at www.MidCitiesMagicCircle.org



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.

