



# The Servante

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

Volume 2023 - Number 12 - December 2023  
Next Monthly Meeting - Thursday December 21, 2023 - 7:00 pm  
Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas  
Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from the Public School

## CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH JEFF AND PAM MARTIN



The Thursday December 21 club meeting will feature the club's annual CHRISTMAS PARTY. Members and guests are invited to bring finger foods and a magic gift with at least a \$20 value for a gift exchange. The incomparable Jeff Martin, assisted by his lovely wife Pam, will be there to perform and lecture for the group. It will be an evening of fun and festivities that you will not want to miss! Club Meetings are normally held at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop, 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas. The Executive Committee will meet beforehand at 6:00 pm. All members in good standing may attend the Executive Committee meetings.



### DUES ARE DUE

Annual dues for Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 and/or the Alliance of Illusionists club members are due and payable in full before January 1, 2024. Club President Bernie Trowbridge's "The President's Patter" on page four of this SERVANTE provides an excellent explanation about the recent changes regarding how our clubs operate, and the reduction of annual membership fees to only \$25 per person. Also see page four of [www.sam138.com](http://www.sam138.com). 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.

### ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET

Mark your calendars now for the Installation Banquet that will be held at 7:00 pm on Saturday January 20. Award-winning Houston magician Jamie Salinas will provide the entertainment for the event. The banquet will be held at 7:00 pm at the East Gourmet Buffet located at 6080 S Hulen St. #550, Fort Worth, TX 76132. This is in the shopping center near the Hulen and Granbury Road intersection in south Fort Worth. Also Jamie Salinas will present a magic lecture for magicians earlier, beginning at 3:00 pm, the Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth.



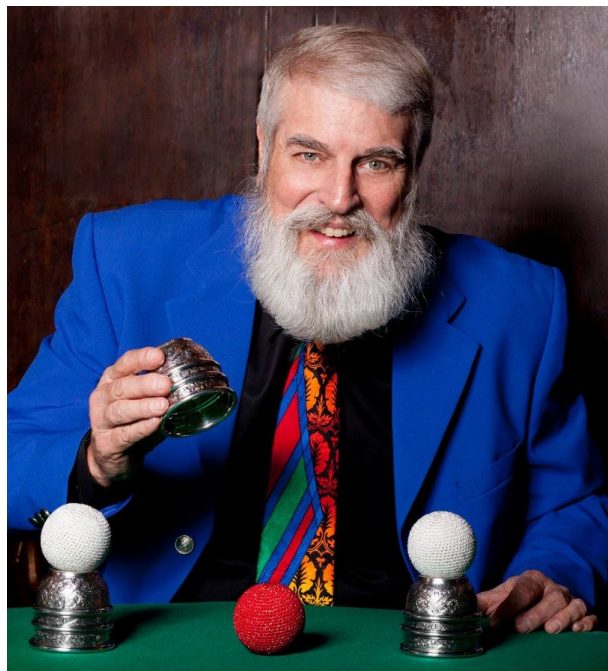
## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Fifteen magicians and guests were in attendance for the Thursday November 16 monthly meeting for the Fort Worth Alliance of Illusionists and SAM Assembly 138. President Bernie Trowbridge started the meeting promptly at 7:00 pm in the party room of the Illusion Warehouse magic shop. After a couple of quick announcements about the club's December Christmas party and January Installation Banquet, Bernie introduced Dr. Doug Gorman from San Antonio, Texas.

Doug gave a wonderful lecture and performance incorporating both bizarre magic and storytelling. His lecture was inspirational, well performed, and was full of very original material. Most of his material was designed for the close-up magic realm and was heavy with unique card effects, mostly done with mystical and ghostly cards, and the inclusion of oddity type props.

Doug started with a very unique presentation of the Hopping Half effect, but without the "pocket." His "The Old Gypsy Woman" routine that was patterned after an ace assembly was excellent. His "Out of this World" handling of American Civil War and Civil War artifacts was fascinating. The favorite of many was his version of the murder mystery ploy regarding "Who done it."

Doug also had various professional advice that he has learned during his years as a magician. He talked about provoking versus evoking reactions. His philosophy about "They probably won't remember who you are or what you did, but they will remember the sense of wonder" was very apropos. After a wonderful question and answer session, Gorman concluded with a very intriguing effect called "Lanyap." Needless-to-say, it was "bon appetit indeed."



## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Present Bernie Trowbridge called to order the November Executive Committee Meeting of the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists magic clubs to order on Thursday November 16, 2023 at about 6:00 pm in the Museum Room of the Illusion Warehouse.

A quorum was present with Present Bernie Trowbridge, Vice-President Lonnie Olander, Secretary Bruce Chadwick, and Historian Jack McCoy. Not in attendance were Sergeant at Arms Connor Branach, Treasurer Cindy Bighorse, or Member at Large Charlie Montroll. Also in attendance were members in good standing Gary Poe, Lisa and Jimmie Fulce.

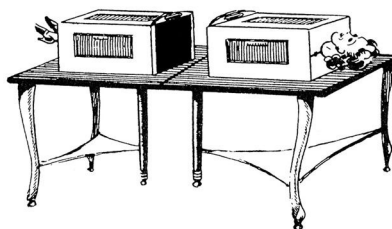
The October Executive Committee minutes as presented in the October SERVANTE were approved. In the absence of Treasurer Cindy Bighorse, Secretary Bruce Chadwick delivered the November Treasurer's report. From the previous club balance were expenses for \$100.00 given to AOI member Sara Pylant to help with her expenses related to the recent loss of her son, and the club's recurring \$13.86 charge for Mail Chimp. This leaves the club with a balance of \$4,520.57 plus the Helmer Dolenz pillow.

It was reported that all positions for 2024 officers have been tentatively nominated. However of course, any member in good standing can make other officer nominations for the seven officer positions. Nominations will cease at the December monthly clubs meeting, when the election will be held. Suggested members to serve as officers for the 2024 club year officers include Jack McCoy for President, Lonnie Olander for Vice-President, Bruce Chadwick for Secretary, Bernie Trowbridge for Treasurer, Jimmie Fulce for Sergeant-at-Arms, Cindy Bighorse for Historian, and Lisa Fulce for Member at Large. Officers will be elected by the membership at large by the members in good standing at the December monthly clubs meetings. Also any member in good standing may nominate any other members in good standing for any of the officer positions.

The December Christmas Party was discussed. Lisa Fulce and Cindy Bighorse gave an indirect report. They suggest finger foods for the event, a gift swap with new magic items of at least a \$20 value, and a one hour lecture and performance by fair and exposition magician Jeff Martin. Jeff reported at the meeting (at the invitation of the Executive Committee) that he will also have a few things to sell.

Next the committee briefly discussed the January monthly club meeting, which will be the club's annual officer's installation and banquet. Secretary Chadwick suggested Jamie Salinas from Houston as the feature performer for the event. He also suggested that the club move the installation from the club's regular third Thursday to a Saturday where Jamie might lecture that afternoon and then perform as the banquet entertainment that evening. The ticket amount to help curtail the lecturer and banquet entertainment costs will be determined. The committee suggested the La Playa Maya restaurant near Hemphill and Berry Street, and the East Gourmet Buffet at 6080 S Hulen Street (near Hulen and Granbury Drive) as possible south Fort Worth banquet locations.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned to prepare for the Doug Gorman lecture at the November Monthly Clubs Meeting.





We are just a few days away from the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024! I think I have said it almost every month, but this year has really flown by. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this year a successful one, and especially to those of you who got up and performed or gave a review of a trick or a book. We also thank Bruce and Cindy who allow us to use the Illusion Warehouse every month to hold our meetings.

This month we will vote for new 2024 officers and they will be installed at our January Installation Banquet. Afterward our new President will call for an Annual Business and Planning Meeting also in January. This is the meeting where meeting agenda for each month's meeting is discussed and planned, a budget is produced, and the duties and responsibilities of each officer are reviewed. Any dues paid up member can attend. If you would like to be involved in planning the 2024 year, please keep watch for email notifications. If you can't attend but have some ideas or suggestions, please share them with one of the new officers and they will present them on your behalf.

Just a quick reminder, if you have not yet paid your dues for 2024, please pay them as soon as possible. Dues are due and payable in full by January 1. With the recent changes to our club and bylaws, here is how dues are paid and club memberships now work.

At the September 2023 Monthly Club Meeting, our "Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists" club unanimously voted to rename our Assembly as the "Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138." Additionally we voted to establish the "Alliance of Illusionists" as a new separate club. Both clubs still meet simultaneously at the same date, time, and place.

Individuals who are members of the national SAM organization automatically become members of both the "Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138" and the "Alliance of Illusionists." Individuals without national SAM membership become members of only the "Alliance of Illusionists."

Also our Assembly no longer collects national SAM dues and forwards them to the national SAM office. Effective January 2024, individuals who are national SAM members pay their national dues direct to the national SAM office as they become payable. Usually the national SAM sends national dues notices one to two months prior to the actual due date.

Whether a member of just the Alliance of Illusionists, or the Alliance of Illusionists and the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138, all members pay \$25 annual local club dues online on or before the first of January to help sustain local club activities. The payment button found on the Dues page of [www.sam138.com](http://www.sam138.com) is used so that correct contact information for members is maintained. We do not accept cash or checks.

While you are on our website, please take the time to look around. We have spent a lot of time updating the site. It's very easy to navigate through years of archived issues of the SERVANTE as well as important club documents. The website is a great tool to use if you have someone that might be interested in joining our club. The lower price to become a member will surely be an easier sell.

So, that being said, let's all work on increasing our membership in 2024! If you know someone who has an interest in magic invite them or better yet bring them to a meeting with you! Remember a person can visit up to three times before they are required to join or cease visiting club meetings.

I know in our AOI family there were some members that suffered losses of loved ones and I know as a group we are all sorry for their losses. May we all keep them and our whole AOI family in our prayers. May 2024 be your best year ever! It's been both an honor and my pleasure to serve as your 2023 AOI President! — Bernie





# 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**

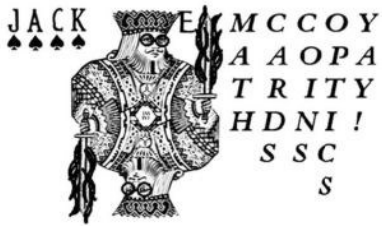
**Aug. 30 - Sept 2 2024**



**Register Online at: [fism-nacm.com](http://fism-nacm.com)**



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



**Santa Claus Magic**—In celebration of Christmas I've put together a simple little card mystery where good'ol Saint Nick comes to the rescue of a card trick gone possibly awry. If you've been following my magic column you'll recognize the 2 principles involved, they've been used in the past. The 1st principle is a personal favorite and very powerful tool in card and number magic.

**Effect:** 8 cards are removed from a deck, the remainder put away, only those 8 cards are used. A volunteer is asked to look them over and chose one, don't say it or anything, just remember it, a selection in their mind. The magician takes the face down packet and deals it back and forth into 2 stacks on the table. Holding a hand over each pile and concentrating, the magician picks one up and spreads its faces towards the volunteer. They are asked if their selection is among that group. The 2 packets are recombined and the process is repeated 2 more times, a total of 3 times.

The magician now explains his mental focus has narrowed it down but he's still not quite sure. He is however in luck since it's December, the month of Christmas, so therefore Santa Claus magic is active. The packet is handed to the spectator and they're asked to spell their name, dealing one card per letter into a stack on the table, afterwards dropping the remaining cards they're holding on top, pick the stack up and likewise spell 'SANTA' then 'CLAUS' and finally 'MAGIC'. After those 4 spellings and droppings, the top card is turned over and it's their card! Not once do they say their card plus the fact their name is involved give this effect a personal touch. It will baffle anyone unfamiliar in these sorts of recreational mathematics.

**History:** The 1 principle involved is what Max Maven referred to as binary sorting in his brilliant manuscript 'Thequal' (Out of Sorts, pg. 5'). The 2nd principle is credited to both Martin Gardner and Karl Fulves.

**Method:** Principle 1 (Binary sorting) - Read the effect above if you haven't already first.

1. Once the spectator has one of the 8 cards memorized, hold the packet face down and deal it back and forth into 2 piles on the table. Hold one hand over each pile and pretend to be gathering some magical vibes, pick up either stack and spread the faces toward the spectator, looking away as you do so. Ask if they see their thought of card. After their response act accordingly, either Yay that your magic vibes were accurate or darn, they weren't and recombine the 2 groups, making sure the group with the selection goes underneath. Repeat the process **2 more times**, a total of 3. Thanks to binary sorting the selection will now be 6th from the top, regardless of where it began! You could do something now but let's take it farther.

Explain that you're having some trouble discerning which card the person has chosen and don't want to be wrong, so being December you'll rely on some good ol'fashioned Santa magic!

2. Acting as a demonstration of what you're wanting the spectator to do, deal 5 cards into a pile on the table and drop the remaining 3 on top which secretly puts the selection on the stack's top. Ask them to pick the packet up.

Principle 2 (Gardner / Fulves discovery)

3. Ask them to spell their name, dealing one card per letter into a pile and once finished drop the remaining held cards on top and pick all back up. The selection is now on the bottom. Instruct them to spell 'S-A-N-T-A' using the same dealing and dropping on top procedure as earlier, then spell 'C-L-A-U-S' (or C-L-A-U-S-E), and lastly spell 'M-A-G-I-C'.

4. Tell them to turn over the top card. They will be quite surprised seeing their mental card staring up at them!

**More:** During step 1, to make it not apparent you're recombining the 2 stacks in a particular way, if their card is amongst those you're holding, set those down, pick up the other stack and pretend to be mentally reconfirming with the non-selections then drop them on top of the selection's stack. If the packet you spread does not have the selection in it, simply drop it on top of the other, acting slightly disappointed as well. An interesting aspect of binary sorting is the more you miss, the stronger the ending becomes! Personally, with binary magic I prefer being wrong than right as it seems with all the misses and in this case a random person's name, there could be no way of myself having any knowledge or control over their only thought of card.

**-Merry Christmas!-**



**2023 OFFICERS**

1. PRESIDENT:	Bernie Trowbridge	berntrow@sbcglobal.net	214-998-0352
2. VICE PRESIDENT:	Lonnie Olander	lonnie.olander@gmail.com	254-749-0124
3. SECRETARY:	Bruce Chadwick	chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com	817-832-6062
4. TREASURER:	Cindy Bighorse	cabighorse@gmail.com	817-846-4062
5. SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Connor Branach	connorbranach@gmail.com	682-367-0957
6. HISTORIAN:	Jack McCoy	magicjack@charter.net	682-560-8569
7. MEMBER AT LARGE:	Charlie Montrroll	folksingintv@verizon.net	301-530-6786

**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 communications@allianceofillusionists.com or go to <http://sam138.com/alliance/> or 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**

Meets monthly. 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.

