



# The Servante

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

Volume 2024 - Number 5 - May 2024

Next Monthly Meeting - Thursday May 16 2024 - 7:00 pm

Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas

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

## HEY, DO A TRICK OR IS IT A MAYDAY MOMENT?

What do you do when someone says, "Show me a magic trick!" What miracle do you put in your pocket every morning when you get dressed? What effect could you do with everyday objects at the restaurant table? What are your favorite "go to tricks" that are fun, easy-to-do, and always ready to perform? What do you do when things go wrong?

The May 16 third Thursday 7:00 pm meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists magic clubs will explore these vital and important topics.



Please bring your favorite pocket effect or easy impromptu magic that you do or might do when put on the spot to do something. Share your thoughts and suggestions of things you might do or perform on the spur of the moment. This MAYDAY magic event will feature "teach a trick" segments, the sharing of ideas, and a lot of fun!

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 (2024 dues-paid-up members) may attend as well. Visitors may not attend Executive Committee Meetings.

HOSTING THE 2024 FISM NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF MAGIC

TAOM - SAM  
COMBINED  
CONVENTION  
DALLAS, TEXAS  
Aug. 30 - Sept 2 2024

For convention information and to register visit [MagicTexas.com](http://MagicTexas.com) or scan the QR Code.  
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Magic & Mentalism Convention

MAGISTRORUM  
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## MINUTES OF THE APRIL MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

President Jack McCoy called to order the April 18 monthly third Thursday meeting for the Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists at 7:00 pm, in the party room of the Illusion Warehouse magic shop. After a few brief announcements, Jack performed a version of the Gemini Twins card effect by Bro. John Hammond. He continued with a tale about his unique experience performing the needle through the arm effect to introduce the main core activity of the meeting, which was "Insults, Offenses, and Magical Etiquette."

Bruce Chadwick moderated what turned out to be a very insightful group discussion. We confessed that many of us as performers have made fools of ourselves during one or more of our performances by saying or doing something inappropriate. Almost all of our dozen or so members in attendance at the meeting had something to confess. Certainly there were wild stories and lots of laughter about individual experiences.

We also talked about times where we as magicians unintentionally come across as offensive. We discussed ideas on how to ride the fine line between that which is sociologically acceptable and that which is inappropriate. We also discussed at length about how we as magicians might learn from our experiences. It was a meeting of great insight, analysis, and fun!





## MINUTES FROM THE APRIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Jack McCoy called to order the April Executive Committee meeting at 7:00 pm, the Illusion Warehouse museum room. A quorum was maintained with six elected officers in attendance. Absent was Treasurer Bernie Trowbridge.

Minutes of the March Executive Committee Meeting were approved as printed in the April edition of the SERVANTE newsletter. In his absence, Secretary Bruce Chadwick provided Bernie Trowbridge's Treasurers report. The clubs had one expense since the March meeting, a \$250 payment to the Illusion Warehouse to cover the party room use as needed for 2024. This leaves the club with an ending balance of \$3604.61 plus the Helmer/Dolenz pillow. A hard copy of the Treasurer's report was delivered to President Jack McCoy.

Secretary Bruce Chadwick reported that most club members have paid their annual \$25 club dues. Unfortunately there are still some members who have not paid their dues. Chadwick reminded the committee that according to the club's Bylaws, "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." Secretary Chadwick gave Sergeant at Arms Jimmie Fulce a copy of the 2024 "dues paid up member's list" so he can remove from the badge board the badges of members who have not paid their dues.

President Jack McCoy reported on his efforts 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).

The committee agreed to have a public close-up magic show in August to help raise funds for the club. Bruce Chadwick announced that the Illusion Warehouse will sponsor South Africa magician Trevor Duffy for a teach-in on Sunday June 2 at 3:30 pm. The location for the teach-in is pending. The AOI and Assembly 138 will help promote the event, although it is the Illusion Warehouse responsible for the event and not the magic clubs.

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. His graduation will be Thursday evening May 9.

Next month's May meeting will be what club members do when someone says, "Show me a magic trick!" What miracle do our club members put in their pockets every morning when they get dressed? What effect could they do with everyday objects at the restaurant table? What are club members favorite "go to tricks" that are fun, easy-to-do, and always ready to perform? What do club members do when things go wrong?

With no further business, the meeting concluded to start the April monthly clubs meeting.





When I think of the month of May I think of “mayday,” the internationally recognized distress signal. I chose that theme for our meeting this month, the subject being the ‘Mayday’ moments which happen when we’re performing and something distressful happens. What’s the best out? What’s the best reaction, especially if people are snickering at your bumble?

What is your favorite impromptu effect? What trick do you put into your pocket or purse every morning when you get dressed? Magic is all about getting reactions but some reactions aren’t the preferred ones nor the magician’s goal. When you have a Mayday moment or need to perform on the spur of the moment, magic can always be a fun time!

Although it’s still a couple months away, I thought I’d mention that our originally planned lecturer for July 18th, Adrian Vega has cut short his tour, and unfortunately with the cancellation the lecture he scheduled with us. A great opportunity came his way in his homeland of France which of course he accepted. I wish the best in his endeavors and look forward when we can see him in person at the upcoming Dallas TAOM/SAM/FISM convention.

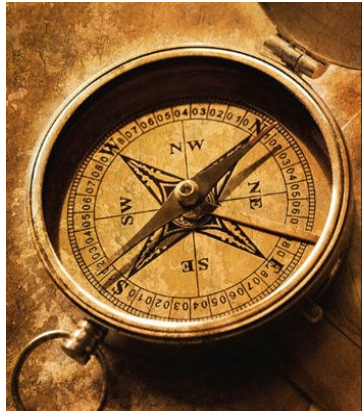
Next month’s meeting will mark the halfway mark of this year! I’ve had a blast so far and hope you have as well. Except for the lecture months, our meetings have generally ended with “open mic” sessions, with all of us yapping and playing with various magic “whatevers.” That’s my kind of fun. We are all interested in the art of magic and seem to have tales to tell on a monthly basis. This is especially the case our members who perform professionally as a magician, clown, ventriloquist, combination, whatever. It’s not just in the field of magic we also have highly talented clown artists, Margaret Clauder and Weebo (William Beaty) who enhance our meetings beyond the standard fare.

If you’re one who’ve been up to date with the membership dues or only recently have done so, thank you! I recently saw the costs of lunch at various restaurants. Prices for lunches are almost the same cost for an entire year’s membership to our clubs! There’s no denying our new \$25 cost structure is fantastic. Every time we meet, we learn something new. Gary Poe for example has a very creative mind and often has fresh new angles to classic methods.

Magic as a whole has financial challenges due to online avenues and the saturation of magic that’s available. I feel it’s important to support the national Society of American Magicians as well. I like carrying the membership card each year and know they appreciate every national SAM member. The organization has great lectures and various guests both online and in the MUM magazine. I hope you continue your membership in the national SAM organization as well as membership in our Alliance of Illusionists and SAM Assembly 138 clubs.

Thanks for being a part of our group. We hope you will stay enticed!

Jack McCoy  
President 2024



# Just My Perspective

Bruce Chadwick MA, M.Div.

## SATISFACTION AND ASTONISHMENT

I remember distinctively when my dad asked me if I would be interested in seeing some magic tricks. I was only a few days away from my eighth birthday. Honestly at that young age, I really didn't understand what he was talking about. I didn't know what a "magic trick" was. Not wanting to disappoint my father however, or perhaps just not wanting him to realize my ignorance, I simply said yes.

A week or so later, a mysterious brown box arrived in the mail from the Johnson Smith Company. Dad spent some time combing over the five or six magic tricks he ordered. Then he summoned his siblings to the dining room table. When dad reached up toward the door and plucked a cigarette out of thin air, I was flabbergasted. I couldn't conceive how a soft paper rolled tube of tobacco could suddenly appear at one's fingertips.

Dad wasn't a magician and certainly his ad hoc performance left a lot to be desired. That didn't matter to me however. My dad had done something impossible. He then proceeded to torture me even more with a trick called the Ball and Vase. How could someone take a ball from a little plastic vase, place it into his pocket, close the vase with the lid, reopen it, and the ball would be back in the vase? It was unbelievable.

That led me into the quest to learn all I could about the art of magic. I also quickly developed a never ending craving to acquire my own magic tricks. Through the years that followed, I discovered that my quest had become a form of addiction. Indeed I have spent thousands of dollars during my life on new magic tricks to appease my dependence. It's like an unending quest. Maybe the person who dies with the most toys really does win?

I think the unquenchable lifelong thirst to acquire more magic is probably tied into dissatisfaction. Most magicians are thrilled to acquire new magic tricks. Unfortunately initial thrill and astonishment for new additions quickly dwindles. Magicians tend to go through magic tricks like water through a sieve. They are quick to abandon tricks and treat them like they have no value. Magicians pack props into storage bins, put them on shelves, fill their magic rooms, and move on to find something "better." Most magicians are never satisfied.

I wish magicians would learn to remember the impact and astonishment tricks have upon them the first time they see them performed. This is important because magic tricks have similar impact upon laymen the first time they see them performed or demonstrated. Even simple effects can make great impressions on the uninitiated. This reality should never be underestimated.

Magicians who can develop these realizations are on their way to understanding that magic tricks never lose their mystique. Old magic tricks can become new again. They are like raw diamonds ready to be processed. The magician's job is to take abandoned magic tricks, routine them into an entertaining format, and bring their mysteries to life. This is of course what magic performance is all about.



JACK ♠️  
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 E M C C O Y  
 A A O P A  
 T R I T Y  
 H D N I !  
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All the images were created by myself using ai so there's no copyright infringement in making a set. Print out in high quality, cut out and glue to the face of preferably blank-face playing cards though I imagine red pip low value spot cards will work also, as long as the card face doesn't show through the printed paper. Laminate the cards' for a permanent packet trick if you like it.







**Hungry Like The Wolf:** The magician shows a blue-back packet of cards, each bearing a pencil sketch of a various American land animal. He also shows a red-back card with the image of a wolf. A volunteer selects an animal which is lost inside the packet. The wolf card is added to the packet and the cards mixed, signifying the wolf chasing the animals around. When all settles the cards are shown. The spectator's card is missing. When the wolf card's face is shown, it has transformed into a wolf finishing a tasty meal!

**History:** This effect branched from an idea I had using binary sorting as the secret modus operandi, 'The Evil Card Trick' (Impossibilities 1 & October 2019 Servante). That effect involves a trunk with chainsaw on top and college kids, presented as a cult horror movie, where the selected kid is chopped and put in the trunk. It's a Halloween thing. Another idea was a lion and African animals but never drew them. Now that ai exists the effect has come to fruition which I converted to American animals and drew using 'Deep Dream Generator'. I own all rights to all the images and grant you permission to print a copy for making a packet or two, (or 3, just don't use them for any marketed reason without permission from me).

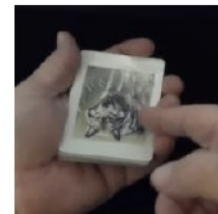
The devouring wolf is red back, the various munchable critters and standing wolf card are all blue back.



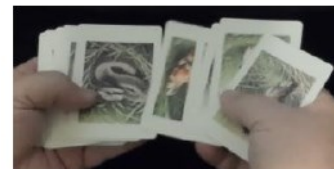
To begin have the red back card on top, the standing wolf card below it (2nd) and the rest of the critters. Make sure the orientation is from the spectator's perspective. Spread to show packet and close, catching a pinky break below the top 2 cards.



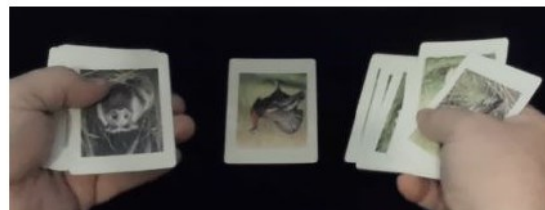
Double turnover to show the standing wolf. Point to it with the right hand and mention it looking hungry and needs a snack. True, it doesn't actually look famished but no one wants to see a starving animal so just go with the notion.



Turn the packet over and spread through it, showing all the various animals, don't spread past the red back.



Ask the spectator to choose one. In this example they've chosen the turkey. Remove that card and drop it onto the table.

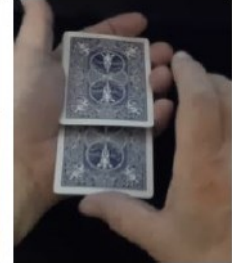




Remove any 6 other animal cards and place to the left of the selected animal. Set the remainder face down to the side.



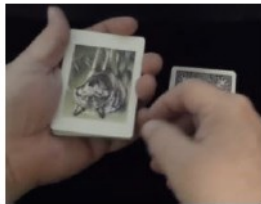
Pick up the 6 animals, turn face down and as you talk about the selection, create a tilt-break (tutorials online). Pick up the selected critter, turn face down and insert into the near end's gap. With the right thumb pantomime pushing it flush. Quickly riffle the packet to suggest a lost selection.



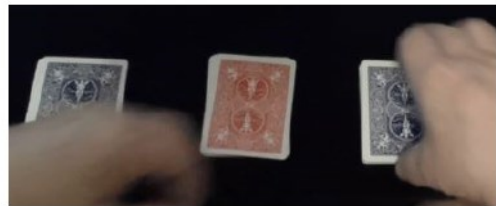
Spread off the top 3 cards by the right hand, the left hand keeping the lower 4 cards. Set both packets side-by-side on the table. The selection is the middle card of the right stack (important for the principle to work).



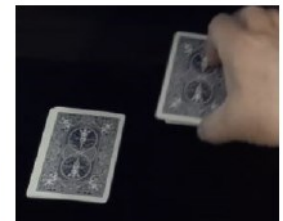
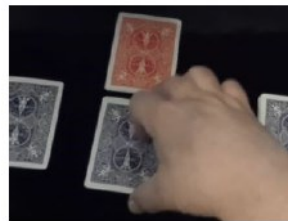
Pick up the unused animal stack. Double-turnover, remove the red card and drop onto the right stack.



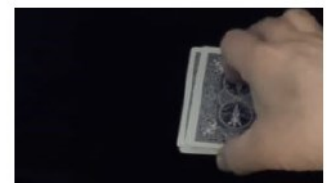
Set the packet of unused animals to the right of the stack with the red card on top. It will be the discard pile at the end of the trick, for right now we'll ignore it.



Ask the spectator to cut the red card stack, they can cut 1, 2, 3 or slide all 4 cards towards themselves. Pick up the uncut portion and drop on top, thus completing the cut. Explain to them how they've chosen the wolf's position in that stack.



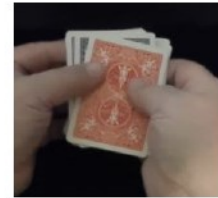
Ask them to choose which stack of 4 cards to pick up and drop onto the other. Pick up the chosen stack and drop onto the other. Mention to them how they've now chosen the wolf's location in the entire packet.



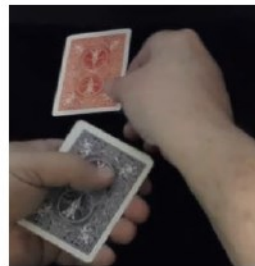
Pick up and reverse-faro the packet which is simply up-jogging every other card (2nd, 4th, 6th & 8th). Strip out the out-jogged cards and restack both groups making sure the four with the red card goes on **top**. During this mention how the wolf is chasing the critters around. Repeat this process 2 more times, a total of '3' times. Whichever group each time has the red card, that group always goes on top.



After the 3 reverse-faros, strip outs and replacements the red card will always now be on top and the selection 3 cards down. Say 'Thank You!' to the binary sorting principle.



Remove the red card and place on the table near the spectator.



Turn the top blue card face up, in the process getting a break below it and the card beneath (selection). Remove the double and place on the discard pile, thus secretly unloading the selection onto the discard pile's top.



In a similar manner turn over each of the remaining animals one at a time and place on the discard pile. Mention to the spectator how their animal has vanished!



Ask them to turn over the red card which they'll be surprised has changed into the wolf eating an animal. Say "Oh, there it is!".

If you like, pick up the discard pile, spread all the face up animals, showing the selection not among them, revolve face down on top.



**More:** There's a reason I drew 16 various animals (wolf cards excluded) which I'll touch on next month. I chose to draw in pencil form so they don't look like photographs thus not too intense for some people, this way even kids know they're not real and it's pretend. I even toned down the wolf's meal so it's nature's way but without excessive gore.





## **BENEATH THE TRAPDOOR #10 TEN THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN YOU REHEARSE**

**by Bronson Chadwick**

Every magician knows the real secret of magic is rehearsal. Learning to do a trick is but the first baby step in magic. But those few magicians who dedicate their time and attention to rigorous rehearsal sessions are the ones who are remembered. Will you be remembered?

One - You Resist the Disease of Newness. Do you have a collection of magic supplies that never sees the light of day? Magicians have a problem that other artists lack: we love to buy stuff. The consumerism bug has infiltrated every aspect of the lives of modern people, especially here in America. There's nothing wrong with collecting material but so many magicians make the mistake of thinking "if only I had item X, then everything would be better." When you rehearse you are practicing a form of gratitude which is the antidote to craving more stuff. Furthermore, rehearsal makes you realize that it's never about the stuff, but about you as a performer!

Two - You Discover New Ideas. While some of my best material comes from the pressure of being on stage, so many more amazing ideas come to me while rehearsing. When you rehearse regularly you train your brain to think creatively on schedule! You will then begin producing original material.

Three - You Discover Yourself. Rehearsing in front of a mirror or camera forces you to do something we all hate doing: watching yourself. You see every flaw, awkward tick, and suspicious moment, which is a good thing. A performer who cannot accurately identify themselves in terms of onstage (or closeup) character is a threat to themselves. Rehearsing allows you the opportunity to change the negative qualities about your persona before going on stage oblivious to yourself.

Four - You Forget Your Heroes. When you're focused on improving yourself as a performer, you tend to let go of your desire to emulate your idols. Discovering yourself in magic helps you to see in stark contrast who you are and are not. Whenever I see a magician imitating another magician there are two tragedies on stage: (1) The onstage copycat magician does the original performer a disservice in creating a poor shadow of the original and (2) the copycat neglects the fact that they have the capability to be a magician unlike anyone else in history!

Five - You Build Self-Confidence. Magicians should always be confident, but not cocky. The magician is the closest thing to a real-life superhero that people will ever meet. If that superhero bumbles about during a performance, then the audience's expectations are unmet, and magic is punished. While all magicians have a bad night here or there, the magician who consistently attracts that bad luck is the one who fails to rehearse and build self-confidence. With ample practice, the magician not only builds up their confidence as a performer but also as a businessperson. When you've rehearsed intensively, you'll feel comfortable going up on your fees!

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Six - You Elevate Magic Artistically. I see magicians trying out underbaked ideas frequently, often as the result of hype over a new trick on the market. The trick is rushed, and the performance suffers, demoting the art of magic to the level of puzzles. Worse yet, the audience suffers through an unpleasant experience. The magician who buys props but fails to rehearse is like a painter who thinks that they will be respected for their high-quality art supplies and yet cannot paint. Art does not come automatically.

Seven - You Develop Muscle Memory. As a kid I played two musical instruments: the flute and the tuba. Both required the ability to learn specialized and awkward muscle movements. Likewise, rehearsing magic trains your body to know the movements without concentration, allowing you to engage the audience without bothering to look down to see if the gap on the Linking Ring is showing or if the Thumb Tip is flashing. Rehearsing movements allows you to be in the moment with your audience without worrying about the small stuff. To evaluate your muscle memory, try rehearsing your act in complete darkness!

Eight - You Gain Appreciation for Magic. The magician who rehearses intensively is often the quietest person in the room at magic conventions and club meetings. The truly seasoned pro greets the art calmly with respect and acts with humility and grace (two things the magic community could use more of). Those magicians who rehearse resolutely also are those who exhibit a great deal of patience which is required in rehearsal! When we as magicians gain this appreciation for magic, we treat it as an art. Only then can we expect the public to do likewise.

Nine - You Gain the Respect of Non-Magicians. Members of laity often do not regard the workday of the commercial magician as something respectable until they realize that an industrious magician isn't at home fidgeting with cards but is engaging in intensive study and training during rehearsal times. Your family and close friends (who should NOT be watching you rehearse) will know that you're locked away in your magic room preparing to eventually do something amazing and important.

Ten - You Learn to Adapt Under Pressure. Rehearsal removes undue pressure from a performance allowing you to cope with emergencies. No matter your skill level in magic, eventually something WILL go wrong. A force card will be missed or perhaps you'll nick your fingers while cutting rope. Things also happen beyond your control. Your technician may miss an important light cue! Rehearsal allows you ample training to recover from such countless disasters by thinking quickly.

Take joy in your rehearsals!





## 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](mailto: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.

