

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – April 2020

The *Gulf Coast Magicians Guild* meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at **5:30 PM until 8:00 PM** at the **Tryon Branch Library, located at: 1200 Langley Ave, Pensacola, Florida.**

GCMG Website:

thegulfcoastmagiciansguild.com

GCMG Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thegulfcoastmagiciansguild>

Please send Newsletter submissions to Bruce Walstad at: brucewalstad@gulftel.com

Webmaster and Facebook Administrator:

Javier Arrillaga

magicjavi3@gmail.com

Club Officers

- President: Bruce Walstad
- Vice President: Beau Broomall
- Secretary: Bill Metsch
- Treasurer: Perry Vath

April Meeting

The theme for our May Meeting will be a trick from the **Tarbell Course in Magic**. We have done this in the past and it was always interesting and fun. If you don't have a copy of the **Tarbell Course in Magic**, I believe our library has the complete course.

MISS A MEETING, MISS A LOT

Newsletter Submissions

Do you have a submission for our newsletter? If you do, email it to Bruce Walstad at brucewalstad@gulftel.com

Donations Needed



Do you have a book or DVD or two you no longer need or want? Donate it to the CGMG library. Zach will be happy to accept your donations.

Spotlight on Members

We need members to write a bio about themselves for our Spotlight newsletter feature. Think about, how difficult can it be to write up something about yourself and your magic?

Beverages & Snacks at our Meetings

The club will continue to provide coffee, soft drinks and bottled water. We are encouraging all members to bring along a snack items that can be shared with all. Thanks!

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Historic Moments in Time

The coronavirus... who would have ever suspected such a thing like this could occur in our lifetime. But it has. We trust all our club members and their families will come through this without becoming ill.

Meetings

As you all know we have cancelled our March and April meetings. Will we meet in May or June? We just don't know at this time. Obviously, it all depends on:

- When the library reopens.
- When the Florida Shelter in Place Order is lifted.
- Most importantly, will it be safe for our members to meet.

We will keep club members informed to the status of future meetings, via email, the club website and Facebook.

Club Library

In March, we were able to purchase 25 brand new books and DVD's for our club's library from **David Ginn** at a great price.

This month, we were able to purchase 23 used books from **Dan Bradbury** of **Bradbury Books and Beyond**. Dan also gave us a great price.

Zack asks that if anyone has any books, they would like to donate to the club library, bring them to the next meeting. He is also asking if you have any "overdue" books, please return them.

As the books are entered into the GCMG library database, you will be able to see what we have purchased. You can find the library database on the GCMG website.

So, if you see a title or two you are interested in, let Zach know and he will bring them to the next meeting.

The GCMG cannot thank Zach enough for all the work he is doing for our club.

See page 3 of this newsletter for information about **Bradbury Books & Beyond**.

The Official GCMG Coffee Cups



Start your Christmas shopping early this year. The official **Gulf Coast Magician Guild** coffee cups are available for purchase at each meeting for \$5.00.

This much sought after and highly collectable first edition coffee cup had a very limited production. **Do not accept imitations or the knock off ones that are being sold on eBay and elsewhere.**

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Bradbury Books & Beyond

Bradbury Books & Beyond has been recycling books on magic and allied arts and entertainments to the magic community since 1993.

Our specialty is taking books on consignment from retiring magicians and helping recirculate them to new owners.

We distribute a weekly "Reverse Auction" via email which contains primarily gently used books, DVDs, tricks, props, posters, etc. The reason it is called a "reverse auction" is that the prices go down by approximately 10% each week an item remains on the list.

We do offer some higher end specials—such as signed and/or collectible books—but most of what we sell are affordable items at reasonable prices to help the amateur or working magician build their libraries. We also distribute via email periodic lists of sale books that can be picked up at very reasonable prices.

We are a home-based email-order business (in Kansas City, Missouri) and do not operate a store front or show room.

If you'd like to be added to our book distribution list, just email me (dan@bradburybooks.com) and I will happily add your name and email. Let's keep the magic and the magic of books growing. Thanks. – **Dan Bradbury**

www.bradburybooks.com

Club Historian

Don't forget, our club historian, **Bill Monroe** is asking members If you take photos at our meetings or have some photos on your phone from previous meetings, or have information about other club related events, please email same to him at:

billmonroe2015@gmail.com

Monthly Raffles

First, thanks to all our members who have been purchasing raffle tickets and donating books, props and tricks to our monthly raffle. As you know, our club relies on our monthly raffles for income to pay for our lectures, build our library and other basic club expenses.

Creative Magic Contest III is on Hold

The props for our *Creative Magic Contest III* were given out at our February meeting. They were a saltshaker and a paper popcorn bag. We will have this event at our next meeting, whenever that will be.

Each participating member should have had enough time now to put together a fantastic routine or have completely forgot about this. If you forgot, start working on a trick now.

If you need additional popcorn bags, they are available at **Dollar General** stores.

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Pencils

Props: 2 pencils and a spectator (or victim) that has five, \$1.00 bills.

Setup: Have the spectator stand to your left. Instruct them to fan out the five \$1.00 bills in their right hand and hold the two pencils in their left hand.

Explain to them they are going to be given the opportunity to win the two pencils. All they have to do is answer each question you ask them with the word “pencils”. Then explain if they answer with any other word or words, you take one of their dollars.

From time to time, change the tone and volume of your voice when asking a question. Also, touch them from time to time on the arm when asking a question. Both seem to distract the spectator and will cause them to answer something other than pencils.

Suggested Questions:

- *Do you understand the rules? (This one usually works)*
- *Are you ready to play now?*
- *What is in your right hand?*
- *What is in your left hand?*
- *How many dollars are in the right hand?*

- *How many dollars are in the left hand?*
- *Isn't this fun, for one of us?*

- *You are getting good at this, have you played this before?*
- *Are you sure?*
- *Do you want your money back?*
- *They are all laughing, but this is harder than it looks, right?*
- *Are you feeling OK?*
- *Are you enjoying this?*
- *If you had shorts on what would your legs look like?*
- *You are getting the hang of this now, aren't you?*
- *We did not rehearse this did we?*
- *Are you sure you understood the rules?*
- *Do you want to start over?*

- **LAST QUESTION:** *What do you want to keep, the pencils or the money? (Whatever they say, take the remaining \$1.00 bills from them)*

*(I have done this bit of business many, many times and it plays really well. **Todd Robbins** taught me this routine 25 years ago. – Bruce)*

The Future of the GCMG

Please take few moments and let me know what you would like our club to do in the coming year. Lectures? Contests? Games? Teach-In's? Themes for meetings? Public Show? Awards Banquet? Family picnic?

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Let me know what your thoughts...

Bruce

brucewalstad@gulftel.com

Magicians I Have Known

By Bruce Walstad

Over the years I have had the opportunity to meet and become friends with some very notable magicians. **Ricky Jay** was one such individual. I met him through a mutual friend at a magic shop in the town I lived in.



Ricky had a keen interest in fraud, con games and swindles, as do I. As a result of his interest in this area, we became friends and I was able to convince him to speak at a law enforcement conference in Chicago. The conference was on just that, con games, swindles and fraud.

It was just at point in time his career in movies and TV was starting out. A few of the 75+ detectives recognized him, from the film, **House of Games**. He spoke about gambling fraud and then demonstrated

several of the ways gambling cheats operate. It was fantastic to say the very least! He had the room of police detectives completely captivated.

A few months later, he was performing his one man show in Chicago and invited me and my wife to a performance. It was a wonderfully entertaining show. After the show, we visited with him for a while and talked about con games, fraud and swindles.

On a few occasions I attempted to take a photograph of him and asked if I could get a photo of him and me together. He forbid it. No exceptions. I asked him why and he just said no photographs.

Over the years we kept in touch via email, talking about, of course, con games, swindles and fraud. When he passed away 2018, it saddened me greatly.

Films Ricky Jay Appeared In

- Boogie Nights
- The Prestige
- Magnolia
- The Illusionist
- Tomorrow Never Dies
- House of Games
- Mystery Men
- The Spanish Prisoner
- Redbelt
- The Brothers Bloom
- Heartbreakers
- Heist
- State and Main
- The Great Buck Howard

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- Homicide
- Incident at Loch Ness
- Last Days
- Things Change
- Hacks



Spotlight on Bill Monroe



My name is **Bill Monroe**, pull up a chair and let me tell you a little about me just like I would if you were sitting with me in my home. I am a 24-year Navy veteran and a cancer survivor who happens to be a fun-loving husband, father, and children's magical entertainer. I perform under the name, **BIMO**, pronounced Bee Mo, it's derived from the first two letters of my first and last name.

I have been performing children/family magic shows off and on for the last 25 years. Often, I am asked, Bill how did you

get interested in magic? The answer is the same as most magicians, I was 8 years old when I went to my friend's birthday party and that's where I saw my first magician, and, in that

moment, I knew that I wanted to become a magician. I just didn't know how to.

For the next 10 years I searched on how to become a magician; I went to libraries to see if they had books on magic, I asked Santa for a magic set at Christmas and every single time, I came up empty-handed. Then it happened, it was almost like divine intervention; when I was 18 years old, I was walking through a mall and I stumbled across my first magic shop. I stood there and thought to myself, I can FINALLY become a magician. I was in AWE! I bought and learned

some simple magic tricks, started reading magic books, watching magic videos, and attending local magic clubs; I was ALL IN but what I didn't know was, when I got older, MAGIC would HELP ME SURVIVE! We will talk more about that in a bit.

You might be asking yourself, Bill, out of all the different types of magic shows you could perform, why do you choose to perform magic for children and families? It is because I love kids and always have loved kids, I have three of my own and to me, there is no better joy that I can think of than coming to an event, performing my magic, and seeing the look of excitement, wonder, and shock & awe on all the

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children's faces. That is what gives me the drive to keep going and the passion to keep performing for more children and families each year.

So, you're probably wondering.... how did magic help me survive? With magic, I have been able to persevere through the challenges that life has decided to throw into my lap. There were times in my life when I struggled to make ends meet, but magic was there to keep me inspired and gave me the determination to keep forging forward.



When I was deployed and headed into harm's way, not sure if I would come back home alive, magic was there to ease the tension and allowed me to keep a smile on my face and the faces of the others that were around me. Lastly, two months after I retired from 24 years of faithful and dedicated Naval service, life dealt me my biggest challenge; I was diagnosed with cancer.

Not sure if I was going to live or die, I leaned on my FAITH in GOD knowing that He is in control of my ultimate destiny, I leaned on my FAMILY for their LOVE and SUPPORT so I didn't have to face that challenge alone, and I leaned on MAGIC. Magic gave me a means to escape so I could get through my darkest days when the clouds of cancer were

looming over me. It gave me the will to perform and when I did; seeing the smiles on children's faces and hearing their laughter helped me decrease my stress level and focus on the positive things in my life.



MAGIC, for me, was the BEST CANCER-FIGHTING MEDICINE on the planet and coupled with my faith, my positive attitude towards life, and the love of my family, I had THE STRENGTH to KEEP

FIGHTING and for the last two and a half years, I've had the winning hand as my cancer has been in remission!

(What an amazing story of service to our country, faith and strength. The GCMG is

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proud and honored to have you as a member. As you know Bill has taken on the responsibility and duties of our club historian. We thank Bill for doing this for our club. - Bruce)