

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – March 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 April 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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GCMG Coffee Mugs



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.***

Club Historian

Our club historian, **Bill Monroe** is asking members If you take photos at our 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 and tricks to our monthly raffle. As you know, our club relies on our monthly raffles for income to pay for our lectures and other basic club expenses.

Rocky Start to Our February Meeting

Our February meeting had a rocky start, to say the least.... The trouble started around 12:45 PM when **Bayview Senior Center** contacted us telling us they had just closed the building, due to some sort of maintenance and safety issue. We were able to contact the library and they allowed us to use our regular room, whew....

Then the weather, rain, rain and more rain, causing traffic issues. We did start the meeting a few minutes late, waiting for members to get arrive

The Hunt for a New Meeting Location

As most of you know we are trying to find a new meeting location. The library is good, but we have just about outgrown the room and then there is the time element. Starting the meetings at 5:30 PM and having to be done and out the door by 8:00 PM is not working out. We had hoped moving back to Bayview would be the answer, but two issues with Bayview will prevent that. They will not allow our children's magic program to meet there and we must out the door by 8:00 PM as well.

So, the search continues, and in the meantime, we will remain at the library. Thanks to **Al Grimm** who has been scouring Pensacola for a new meeting location.

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Creative Magic Contest III

Our creative magic contests have become one of the highlights of our meetings, so we will be having another one in March. The props given out were a saltshaker and a paper popcorn bag. This should be a fun one.

Just for Fun

By Bruce Walstad

Spelling Test: Don't overlook this one. Wager someone that they cannot correctly spell three very common words. If they accept the wager, say the following: "First word, Receive". After they correctly spell it, say "Correct, next word, Believe". After they correctly or incorrectly spell it say, "Wrong". Most people will usually try to spell it again. Again, say "Wrong". After a few attempts your victim will give up. Tell them the third word was "Wrong".

Can I write a small check for this? With your scanner, scan one of your personal checks. Reduce its size to an inch or so in length. Print up several them and then cut them out. Place some in your checkbook and you are ready. When you are about to pay for something, tell the clerk you left your wallet at home and all you have it your checkbook and driver's license, then ask, I can I write a small check for this? No matter what the answer, open your

checkbook and produce one of your small checks and ask for a pen.

50/50 Auction: Ask your victim if they know what an auction is and if they have ever participated in one. Regardless of the

answer ask if they want to play a little auction game and have a chance to win some money.

Explain to them you will each put in equal amounts of money into an envelope which will be held by a third person. I try to get the person to part with a \$20.00 bill (however, you can do this with any amount). After the \$40.00 is placed into an envelope and handed to a third person, reinforce several times the fact there is \$40.00 in the envelope. Never mention \$20.00 again.

Next tell them the rules of the game. You are going to take turns bidding on the \$40.00 in the envelope and high bidder wins the \$40.00. You start the bidding with say \$1.00. Keep the bidding fast. Once your victim goes over \$20.00, for example they say \$26.00, tell them they have won. Hand them the envelope with the \$40.00 and ask for your \$26.00. It takes a second or two for them to realize they just lost \$6.00.

The Three Traveling Magicians

The answer: It is all in the way you tell the story. In the story there is a total of \$30.00. In the end, the \$30.00 is divided up as follows: Each of the three (3) magicians has

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\$1.00 (for a total of \$3.00), the bellboy has \$2.00 and the hotel has \$25.00.

$$\underline{\$3.00 + \$2.00 + \$25.00 = \$30.00}$$

MISS A MEETING, MISS A LOT

Club Library

Slowly but surely, we are getting out club library back up and running. **Isaac Brady** found more of our books and **Zach Ready** is entering each into a database. The database is linked to the club website.

thegulfcoastmagiciansguild.com

At the February meeting, Zach explained that if you want to check out a book listed in the database, email him and he will bring it to the next meeting. Thanks to Zach for all his time and effort doing all this for our club.



Spotlight on Javier Arrillaga

Mr. Wiz the Magician, based in the Central Florida area, has been performing magic for over two decades. His love for the art was sparked when **Javier Arrillaga** AKA: Mr. Wiz the Magician, saw a magic show on

television at the tender age of 7. He practiced his magic with the intensity that musicians practice their instruments and before long his performances were in demand by family and friends. His ability to entertain children made him known to many and soon his children's entertainment career took off.

At age 19, Mr. Wiz performed what he considers his first professional show. Nearly

2 decades later, he astonishes audiences even more with the complexity and ingenuity of his tricks. He has entertained audiences in various regions of the country from South Florida to the North Florida Panhandle, from Middle Tennessee to Georgia and many other areas.

Mr. Wiz performs magic shows for all types of events, but he specializes in shows for children's shows because of his innate ability to entertain them and is seen performing regularly at birthday parties, schools, libraries, day cares, learning centers, and public parks.

Javier is also a Charter Member of the Gulf Coast Magicians Guild and was given a lifetime membership. He is also the club webmaster and our Facebook Administrator.

Joke and Gag Stickers

A few members have asked me where I get all those joke and gag stickers I use. Some I

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purchase from eBay and Amazon, and others I have designed myself and have them printed by Vistaprint.

If you search eBay and Amazon with the term ***Gag Sticker or Joke Sticker***, you will see many different ones.

If you want any of the ones I have designed and printed by Vistaprint, let me know and I can order some for you.

Bruce

The Magician and a Rabbit

A magician was driving along the highway, and saw a rabbit hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the rabbit, but unfortunately the rabbit jumped in front of the car and was hit. The magician, being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road and got out to see what had become of the rabbit. Much to his dismay, the rabbit was dead.

The magician felt so awful, he began to cry. A woman driving down the highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the magician what was wrong. "I feel terrible," he explained. "I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it."

The woman told the magician not to worry. She knew what to do. She went to her car trunk and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead rabbit, and

sprayed the contents of the can onto the rabbit. Miraculously, the rabbit came to life, jumped up, waved its paw at the two humans and hopped down the road. 50 feet away the rabbit stopped, turned around, waved at the two again.

The magician was astonished. He couldn't figure out what substance could be in the woman's spray can! He ran over to the woman and demanded, "What was in your spray can? What did you spray onto that rabbit?" The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said:

"Hair Spray' Restores Life to Dead Hair and adds a Permanent Wave."

New Monthly Newsletter Feature

This will be a new monthly feature in our newsletter, highlighting our members in photos.

We are asking each member to submit a few photos (3 or 4) of themselves performing. They can be of you doing stage, parlor or close-up. We will then use those photos a few different ways:

- Create a special photo album to preserve our club's history.
- Create a display that we will put out at our special meetings, like our Open House, Anniversary, Awards Banquet and other special meetings and events.
- As mentioned above, we will also feature one member's photos each month in our newsletter.

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So, look through your photos and find your best ones.

Submit your photos to Bruce Walstad at:

brucewalstad@gulftel.com

We are looking forward to seeing your photos!

Magical Humor

Q. What did the magician's mother say when he told her that he wanted to be a magician when he grew up?

A. Son, you can't do both.

Minutes from the February 2020 Meeting

On February 20th, we hosted our GCMG annual open house, with 29 members and guests in attendance. It started off with a juggling act earlier in the day when Bayview Senior Center (our new meeting location) called around 12:45PM and told us they had closed the building for emergency maintenance repairs. Officers **Bruce Walstad**, **Beau Broomall** and **Bill Metsch** did their best to let everyone know what was up and we were meeting at the previous location.

The meeting was called to order 10 minutes late because of the confusion and rainstorms. We then held a brief business meeting with the main discussion, meeting locations; we then went over the old business, new business and announcements. Club librarian **Zack Ready** talked about how the library was going to work. **Isaac Brady** found two boxes of the

club's library books that he had put up for safe keeping. Thanks, Isaac, for all you do for our club! Club historian **Bill Monroe** asked that photos and other club information be submitted to him for archival purposes. **Daniel Ricks** magic around town he told us some highlight of the Blackpool Magic convention. We also handed out some optical illusions and puzzles compliments of **Bruce Walstad**. We then passed out 10 envelopes of the props to be used in our next Creative Magic Contest in March. The envelope contained a saltshaker and a paper popcorn bag, hummm...

We then held another huge raffle with over 35 magical related items given out, some lucky winners every month. We then had a short break coffee, drinks and snacks, thanks to everyone that brought snacks to share. We also had time to look over the 10 *Old Time Carnival Sideshow Gaffs* that **Bruce Walstad** brought for our enjoyment very unusual and historic pieces to say the least.

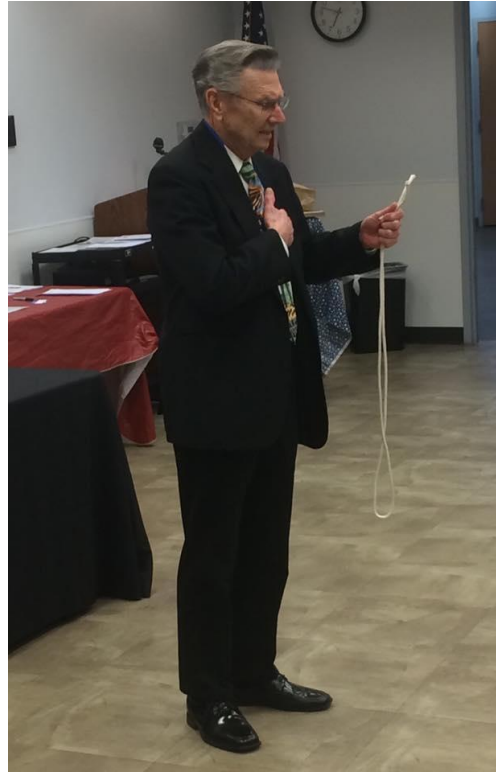
It was time for the magic with over an hour of time left the first up was the creative magic contest where everyone wins, last month members were given a box, some plastic roaches and a small flashlight. **Al Grimm**: roach motel, **Stan Telatovich**: voodoo prediction, **Emily Walstad** and **Chris Walstad**: about roaches as pets, **Zack Ready**: entomology, **Daniel Ricks**: roaches and roaches and **Bill Monroe**: Light energy

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to life, truly amazing routines everyone as always.

Then for the magic theme of the night, your favorite or best magic trick, **Beau Broomall** performed some rope magic, **Emily Walstad** with the help of **Bruce Walstad** did a fantastic rope escape, **Bruce Walstad** fooled us all with the WOW book test, **Billy Countryman** had us laughing so hard at his coloring book acted, **Jason Simonds** wowed us with a flying card to pocket routine, **Daniel Ricks** enlightened us with a pick pocket act, **Al Grimm's** did (IBC) silk in bottle, **Ron Hudspeth** fooled us with an origami routine and **Brian Ward** finished the night off with had a dream card effect. A lot of magic, a lot of fun. As you know *Miss a GCMG Meeting and you miss a lot.*

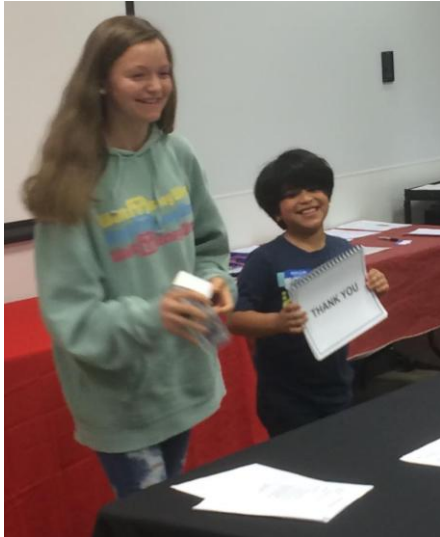


A Few Photos from our February Meeting



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