

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – January 2020

The *Gulf Coast Magicians Guild* meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at **5:30 PM until 7:45 PM** at the Tryon Branch Library, located at: 1200 Langley Ave, Pensacola, Florida.

GCMG Website:

www.thegulfcoastmagiciansguild.com

GCMG Facebook Page

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

Board of Directors

- Isaac Brady
- Javier Arrillaga
- Beau Broomall
- Bill Metsch
- Al Grimm
- John Richardson
- Bruce Walstad
- Daniel Ricks

February Meeting

In February, we will host our annual open house meeting. So, start thinking about your friends and acquaintances who have an interest in the art of magic. Invite them to this meeting. We will have invitations made up you can pass out to your friends at the January meeting.

March Meeting

How many times has each you been asked to do a trick and you have nothing in your pockets? That will be the theme of our March meeting, Impromptu Magic. Bring along one (or two) of your favorite impromptu effects.

Newsletter Submissions

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

Youth Magic

Al Grimm has been working on various aspects of our youth magic program and let me tell you, he has some wonderful plans in the works.

Al will need help from the membership with guest instructors. Please see him if you wish to participate.

It looks like this group already has five members.

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GCMG, lugging all those books to and from each meeting.

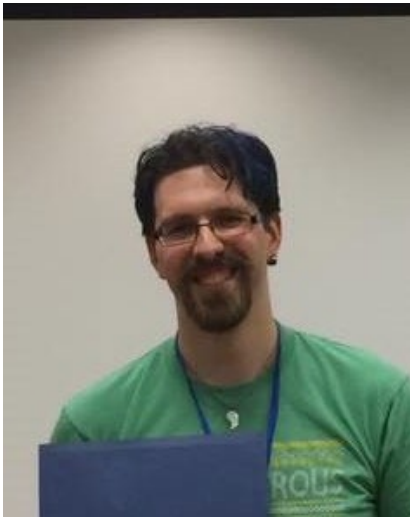
Club Historian

We need a club historian to keep all the club's records and scrapbooks. Additionally, the historian keeps the records of each meeting and makes new scrapbooks.

This is a very important function of the club, preserving the history for future members. Let Bruce or Beau know if you are interested.

Club Library

We officially have a new club librarian, Zach Ready.



Once Zach takes possession of the books and creates a database, we will have library available to the membership. That will be within the next few months. Zach had some great ideas for cataloging and maintaining our library.

We want to thank whole heartily Isaac Brady for his many years of service to the

Donations Needed



Do you have a book or DVD or two you no longer need or want? Donate it to the CGMG library. Our library will also be available to our youth members, in our Future of Magic program.

IBM/SAM

As on December 6th, our SAM Assembly (129) was officially reinstated and active and as of December 19th, our IBM Ring (287) was officially reinstated and active.

Public Show

Now that we will be back at Bayview and know we will have a venue for our public show, we need to start planning it. We will be asking for volunteers soon. We need a concession manager, backstage manager, publicity manager, ticket sales manager and of course, performers to be in the show, and to work in the audience before the show. Let Bruce or Beau know if you are interested.

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MISS A MEETING AND MISS A LOT

our February meeting. Good luck to all those who will be participating.

Annual Awards Banquet

In November, we will host our annual awards banquet to honor those members who contribute their time and effort to the club. We are considering if we should have it at a restaurant, have it catered or make it a potluck dinner, with the club supplying a main dish (chicken, fish, beef) and members attending bringing a side dish. In the past, we have done it all three ways. For the moment, we are leaning toward holding a potluck dinner and holding it Bayview Senior Center, mainly for the overall lower cost factor.

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?

Creative Magic Contest

At the January meeting members were given the props for our next creative Magic Contest. This one looks to be fun, challenging and interesting. This one will really test the creativity of our members. Each member who wanted to join in was given a small penlight flashlight and some rubber cockroaches. As always, the props given, must be a substantial part of the trick that is created. We will have the contest at

A Special Thank You

A special thank you to all those members who brought in food and snacks for our December meeting. What a spread of cookies, cakes, crackers, cheeses, cupcakes, sausage, chips and candy. (The photo below is not from the December meeting, but the food on this table looks a lot healthier than what we had.)



Apologizes Offered

As president of the GCMG, I would like to offer my sincere apologies to several members for not having their 2020 membership certificates and name tags at the December meeting. During the transition of officers and creating a new, up to date membership list, a few names slipped through the cracks. We will have those certificates and name tags at the January meeting. – *Bruce Walstad*

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

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raffles for income to pay for our lectures and other basic club expenses.

will also be providing bottled water at future meetings. We are encouraging all members to bring along a snack items that can be shared with all.

New Member

The CGMG welcomes back as a member, Ronann Carrero.



Ronann was a member of our SYM 10+ years ago. Since then, he has completed high school and college (John Hopkins University) and is now a proud member of the U.S. Navy and is in training to be a Naval Aviator at Pensacola NAS. WOW! Ronann says he continued performing magic over the years and thanks the members of the GCMG for sharing their magic with him.

Beverages & Snacks at our Meetings

As we did in the past, we would like to offer beverages and snacks to our members. The club will continue to provide coffee. We



Spotlight on Beau Broomall

Like most of us I was bitten by the magic bug early in life. I was born in a small town in Southeastern Pennsylvania. There were no magic clubs in the area and the closest one to my hometown was in Philadelphia.

I joined the cub scouts when I was nine years old and that is where the bug caught up with me. On special occasions a mailman who also did small magic tricks was invited to the pack meeting to perform. The only trick I remember was the torn and restored napkin. How did he do that? The Blue and Gold banquet was held every year and they always had a magician perform for us. I was doomed from then on.

Our school had magicians come and do school shows periodically which was always a highlight for me. I do remember one of them very well. It was J. B. Bobo. One of the tricks he did was to produce a rabbit. The he wrapped that rabbit up in a newspaper and asked if anyone wanted the rabbit. Of course, everyone raised their than including me. By sheer luck he picked me to come up on stage and receive this

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cute little white rabbit. I took it back to my seat and unwrapped it a little to see my prize only to discover a box of cracker jacks. The rabbit had vanished again.

Having no mentor help me on with magic I did find two books in our school library.

They were simple tricks contained in these two books but to me they were a treasure. I checked these two books out of the library over and over until I had mastered some of the effects.

The first magic trick I purchased was the cups and balls made by Adams. The second one was color vision. I still have both tricks today.

My first magic show was for my sixth-grade class and later for the boy scouts at Camp Horseshoe. By then I was totally committed to magic.

It was at this time I discovered Phil Thomas's Magic Mart in Baltimore Maryland. Baltimore was fifty miles from my hometown, and I would take the bus down to visit that Mecca of Magic. What wonders he had on those shelves and cases. I purchased a used magic catalog there. It was an Abbott's catalog. I would still make the journey to the Magic Mart, but I started buying things from Abbott's until I had enough to give a small parlor show. I did small shows around town for free of course never dreaming that someday I would be paid for it.

On class night at graduation I performed Blackstone's Haunted Hank after seeing Blackstone perform in it in his show in Philadelphia. I purchased the manuscript at a magic shop next door to the theatre. It was

owned by Jack Chanin. I paid one dollar for that trick.

After graduation from high school I joined the Navy and spent two and a half years of my enlistment in Panama what at that time was the Canal Zone. I gave many shows while there for different events including the Fleet Reserved and a College in Panama City.

After moving around to different cities, I ended up in California where I joined the Oakland Magic Circle. I am still a part of the Circle and credit them with teaching me magic through the lectures that the sponsored.

It was during my time in California that I began getting paid for some of my shows which included birthday parties and commercial events such as Macy's of California. I considered myself a semi-professional by this time but didn't go full time with my avocation until I moved to Pensacola after retiring which has been twenty-eight years ago.

Magic has been an adventure for me and was so glad to have had this curse placed on me so many years ago.

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Minutes from the December 2019 Meeting

Submitted by Bill Metsch

With the smell of Christmas in the air, all the snacks and goodies on the table reminded us here in Pensacola Florida, it might not feel like it outside (hot and humid) but inside it looks a lot like the Holiday spirit has arrived.

The Gulf Coast Magicians Guild 2019 Christmas party started with a short business meeting covering Old business; Bayview, Andy Dallas & David Ginn. New business; SAM Assembly 129 is reinstated and active as of December 6th; IBM Ring 287 is reinstated and active as of December 19th. We are very excited to be part of these two Magical Organizations once again. 2020 is going to be exciting for the GCMG. Announcements; Our January meeting will be the 15th anniversary celebration of the GCMG. The magic theme favorite classic stand-up effect. February meeting; Open House; invite your friends that show an interest in Magic and March Meeting: Impromptu Magic.

The GCMG has a new Librarian Zach Ready he has some big shoes to fill. Thank you, Isaac Brady, for the many years of service and all you do for the GCMG.

We then had our Creative Magic Contest... at last month's meeting several members volunteered for one of our creative magic contests. Each member was given two small cardboard boxes and two small packages of crayons. Last night was performance time. All members did an outstanding trick with

those props. It is always amazing to see how different magicians, will come up with completely different effects using the same props. Indeed, we saw the creativity of our members last night... Another creative magic contest will be coming soon. There are no losers in this contest as everyone that attends and participates wins.

We held the monthly raffle, as the table was filled with lots of great magic props, books DAD's and more, many lucky members won some cool magic.

President Bruce Walstad and Vice President Beau Broomall presented the GCMG members with their 2020 membership certificates (thank you Jim Studebaker for supplying the certificates) it is always humbling to see the members receive such impressive notoriety.

We then had a short break to catch our breath and stretch. I also need to mention the holiday sports coats and sweaters. Bruce Walstad & Jason Simonds got my vote as their jackets matched. Danial Ricks

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also shared with us his knowledge about the magic around town or on the web.

Our special Magical entertainment for the party was... Miss Emily and Miss Lauren, two up and coming youth magicians. They amazed the room with their magical skills. Their routine was flawlessly preformed with music, flowers, plumes, silks and a few props each one complemented the other. Their routine was an inspiration for all. Thank you.

Photos from our December Meeting



Al Grim performed some Christmas Magic with props from the dollar store

Al's imagination is wonderful. Bruce Walstad handed out some prank stickers to members that need some excitement in their life. Phil DeProtine preformed a finger ring change that he won at last month's raffle simply a heart touching routine.

Then it was time for the real magic to begin (the food was served). Thanks to everyone that brought food, snacks, cookies, cakes, cheese and crackers, cupcakes, sausage, chips and dip, candy and all the sweets to eat. A special thanks to the person we will not mention (Bill) that forgot to bring the drinks as everyone was parched ... Sorry! It was still fabulous.

As Bruce Said "Miss a GCMG Meeting and you will miss a lot"



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