

# Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

## Hocus in Focus Newsletter – December 2019

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The *Gulf Coast Magicians Guild* meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

[thegulfcoastmagiciansguild.com](http://thegulfcoastmagiciansguild.com)

### GCMG Facebook Page

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

### Please send Newsletter submissions to Bruce

Walstad at: [brucewalstad@gulftel.com](mailto:brucewalstad@gulftel.com)

### Webmaster and Facebook Administrator:

Javier Arrillaga

[magicjavi3@gmail.com](mailto: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

### January Meeting

The theme for our January meeting will be our 15-year anniversary of the Gulf Coast Magicians Guild. The theme will be, your favorite “classic” magic trick.

### 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 hope to have WKRG do a story about the club in January and mention the Open House Meeting. We will have invitations made up you can pass out to your friends.



**Card and Close Up Magic** – Daniel Ricks reports that the card and close-up magic meetings have been cancelled due to renovations and other unforeseen circumstances. Daniel thanks all those who have attended over the years.

### Newsletter Submissions

Do you have a submission for our newsletter? If you do, email it to Bruce Walstad at [brucewalstad@gulftel.com](mailto:brucewalstad@gulftel.com)

**Please Note New Meeting**

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**Start time 5:30 PM**

available to participate. Let Bruce know if you are interested.

### **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

We trust all the members of the Gulf Coast Magicians Guild will have a wonderful Christmas and a great new year!

### **Youth Magic**

We are working to reinstate our youth magic program, which will be named, ***The Future of Magic***. We need volunteers to work with our up and coming young magicians.

Please see Al Grimm if you wish to participate. We will get this up and running, once we move back to the Bayview Senior Center or maybe sooner....

### **Club Library**

Isaac Brady, our club librarian informed us that there are many books out for loan from our library. Actually, many of these books have been out on loan for years. So, if you have a book, please return it. Thanks!

### **V.A. William F Green Home**

As some of you will remember, years ago we did shows at the V.A. facility (William F Green Home) in Bay Minette. We did a stand-up show, followed by close-up magic at tables. It was a great experience for us, and I trust for the vets we performed for. We are in the process of setting up another visit. We will most likely do this on a Saturday, so more members will be

### **IBM/SAM**

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, our SAM Assembly was reactivated. We are still working on getting the IBM Ring reinstated. We need a few more IBM members to make that happen.

### **Public Show**

We know it is a long way off to October when we will be presenting our public show, but we would like to form a committee to start the preliminary work on 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.

### **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.

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noticed, we have “In Memory” name tags for those members who have passed away on the GCMG table. They are there for every meeting, as they should be.)

### **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 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.

### **Monthly Raffles**

As you know, our club relies heavily on our monthly raffles for income to pay for our lectures and other basic club expenses.

Over the years, the club has purchased magic and have received donations from magic dealers, including Midwest Magic, Dallas and Company and others for our raffles.

If you have any new or like new magic, or books you would like to donate to be used as a raffle prize, bring it to the next meeting.

### **Club Scrapbooks**

The other day, I was looking through the club’s scrapbooks. It brought back so many wonderful memories. What an interesting, rich and colorful history our club has.

It also made me sad to see the photos of so many of our wonderful members that have since passed away. (In case you have not

I trust we can continue creating these, to preserve the history of our club. So, we are looking for a member to fill Harley Day’s shoes (if that is possible) and become our club historian.

*Bruce Walstad*

### **Tip of the Month**

*Submitted by Beau Broomall*

Make a check list of the tricks you wish to do and put them in the order you will perform them. Add other needs for each trick such a lighter fluid, special cards, or a silk that you will need for that trick. Make sure you include all these extras. It is too late by the time you get to your venue to think of them and have to leave out one of your effects because you didn’t bring a key ingredient.

Have your introduction typed out on a small card with the things you want to say about yourself. Make the font large so the MC can read it easily. You do not want them to mispronounce over your name. This is very much appreciated by those having to introduce you.

### **Magician’s Table Pocket or Servante**

At the November meeting, Bruce Walstad showed members a close-up table servante.

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A few members had asked where can I get one, and how much? You can find them on *Amazon*, being sold as a ***Magician's Table Pocket*** or on *eBay*. They cost \$9.49 and up.

study, practice and perform magic. By this time, Bruce was performing at Blue and Gold Dinners, Christmas parties and anywhere else he could. In 1975 he became a police officer in the suburbs of Chicago. In addition

### 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?



### Spotlight on Bruce Walstad

Bruce Walstad was bitten by the magic bug after seeing Marshall Broden perform the Hippy-Hop Rabbits at a Christmas party in 1959. His very first trick was the classic Ball and Vase. He still has it that same one hidden away in his den. Bruce then ordered a few more tricks and would do little shows for friends and family. His first book on magic was Dunninger's Complete Encyclopedia of Magic, which he read and reread until the pages were worn out.

High school was not the place to perform magic, as it was not cool.... However, by his 19th birthday he was performing birthday party shows.

As the years passed Bruce worked nights in a steel mill, giving him ample time to read,

to his patrol duties, Bruce became "Officer Friendly" and of course, incorporated magic in his safety presentations. Working rotating shifts gave him the opportunity to try performing school assemblies. He had found his place in magic, performing at elementary schools. From that point on, Bruce averaged about 100 school assemblies each year. Bruce then got a part time job every Saturday demonstrating magic at a local magic shop. It was here, he met many fellow magicians with many becoming lifelong friends.

In 1990, Bruce became a detective and juvenile officer. He continued performing school assemblies, and at Blue and Gold Dinners, Christmas parties, awards banquets and various other events. As time passed, he started performing out of state, taking him to Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Nevada and Minnesota. Most of these shows were for school assemblies and police related events. Bruce can say he actually performed in the grand ballroom of the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, well kind of. He was hired to be the after-dinner keynote speaker for a law

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enforcement event and included a couple magic tricks.

During the 70's - 80's and 90's living in the Chicago area, Bruce was very fortunate to get to know some of the magic greats of the Chicagoland area. Their guidance, influence and assistance helped Bruce immensely

shape his shows and performance skills. He was able to see and meet with magicians such as Don Alan, Jay Marshall, Billy Bishop, Ed Marlo, Sam Berland, Dorney and many others. In particular Billy Bishop, Don Alan and Jay Marshall influenced his magic. In this same time frame, Bruce performed on the Chicago's Bozo's Circus 8 times.

After retiring from the police department in 2001, Bruce moved to the Alabama gulf coast. Shortly after moving here, he became involved with the Pensacola IBM Ring and the SAM Assembly. In 2005, Bruce was involved with the creation of the Gulf Coast magicians Guild and served as president for a few years, until having to step down due to being hired by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which initially was a very demanding position, having to travel around the country on a weekly basis.

In recent years, Bruce has been performing his complete stage show again with his assistants being three of his grandchildren at various functions in the area. In his opinion, these are the most rewarding show he has ever performed. Granddaughters

Emily and Lauren perform the Hindu Basket with him. Emily is now tall enough to perform the Zig-Zag Lady, which she does perfectly. Grandson JJ performs as Dr. Zolar, the world's greatest hypnotist, while doing the chair suspension illusion.

Bruce is currently the Territorial Vice President for the IBM for Alabama, the SAM Deputy Director for Alabama and the president of the Gulf Coast Magicians Guild.

### Minutes from the November 2019 Meeting

#### **Submitted by Bill Metsch.**

The November meeting started a new chapter in the GCMG, with the new slate of officers in position. The meeting room at the library looked great with the tables up front

set up with some of the clubs many scrapbooks, the sign in sheet to help keep track of attendance, members name tags, and all the info needed to join the IBM, SAM or both. The raffle table filled with tons of magic to be raffled off to some lucky members and the coffee pot was working overtime. Thanks to everyone that brought snacks and drinks.

With 16 members attending President Bruce Walstad called the meeting to order with a lot of business and announcements to go over it took up a lot of our short meeting time, one of the main topics was to

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reinstate the IBM ring 287 and the SAM assembly 129 other topics included- public show in October, awards banquet, annual auction, GCMG family picnic, upcoming club lectures, creative magic contest, teach-ins, the club library and many other club related business. Al Grimm discussed the children's magic program "Future of Magic". Daniel Ricks kept us up to date with Magic around town.

Check out the Hocus in Focus newsletter for all the upcoming events club meeting themes and all thing club related.

President Bruce Walstad and Vice President Beau Broomall presented Past President Daniel Ricks with a plaque thanking him for his outstanding service. Thanks Daniel

We then held a special raffle to boost membership for a Mak-Magic Stratosphere, and the winner of this sweet prize was Jim Fitzpatrick, congratulations.

Bruce then handed out props for next month creative magic contest this should prove to be interesting.

We then played a game called "Let's Get Acquainted" so members paired up with other members that they did not know and interviewed each other then got up and introduced each other to the group with what they had learned in the interview. I would like to say what a diverse group of members we have and what a wealth of knowledge in one room "amazing".

After a quick break, Beau Broomall led the teach-in on the ring on rope routine with time almost up he will have to do a follow up as there was so much to learn and not enough time. Thanks for everyone's time that came out and to all that participated.

### New Start Time

Beau was able to speak with the library and get our start time moved to 5:30 PM.

### Raffle Prizes

We were just able to purchase a huge box of books, DVD's and tricks from David Ginn. David gave us a super deal, to say the very least. Thank you, David!

### Possible April Lecture

The club has been talking with Barry Mitchell from Tennessee about a lecture this April. By all accounts, Barry seems to be the perfect match for our club. Here is what his lecture flyer says:

#### Barry Mitchell's Simply Entertaining

Magicians know the secrets of magic are rarely complex. It's the simple, truly simple, that enchants an audience. This new lecture will help attendees have the confidence to go simple, reveal the distinct differences between tricks and entertainment, and show some really fun family and children's entertainment. Barry will explain his way of thinking toward creating magic and show some of the simple method magic anyone can make.

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You need to know this isn't a card or packet trick lecture. There will be no complicated sleight of hand. This lecture is a study in simply and successfully "entertaining" a family audience with magic and storytelling.

The issues are: Do we have enough members that will commit to attend? Can we find an alternate location for an April 13<sup>th</sup> lecture? We will discuss this at the December meeting.