

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – May 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

Theme for our May “ZOOM” Meeting

The theme for our May ZOOM meeting will be, *Magic I Learned During my Isolation*. Hopefully, most members took advantage of the time they had during and learned a new trick or two. Time to test it out.

MISS A MEETING, MISS A LOT

Library Meeting Rooms Closed Until the Fall

This is not good news... Beau received this email regarding the meeting room at the library:

Good Morning Tryon Meeting Room Groups,

I hope today finds you well. As we begin the process of reopening to the public, we will not be permitting Meeting Room Group Access at this time through the end of August/start of September. At which time use of the meeting rooms will be reevaluated. Should that change, I will let you know. I apologize for any inconvenience this will cause. Any room booked September - December is still on our books, no need to reapply. We will confirm those bookings as we approach the time and make changes if we need to. Have a GREAT Day and stay safe!

Sincerely,

Michelle P. Cogley

So, we will be using Zoom to have our meetings electronically for the next couple months. Details on how it will all work to follow once we get it all set up.

2020 Public Show

Our annual public show is still on our agenda for 2020, but this virus may have longer lasting effects than any of us could have imagined. So, we will wait and see...

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – May 2020

Club Library

Great news! The GCMG was able to purchase a set of The Tarbell Course in Magic, volumes 1-7. They are now available to be checked out.

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.

Broken Wand for Dave Kloman

As we all know, longtime member of the GCMG passed away on March 21, 2020.

Dave was a man who we knew very little about, other than his interest in magic. In speaking with his sister Barbara, it was learned Dave had been previously married and has three children, Joy, Susan and Worth and several grandchildren. All his children were very successful in their chosen careers.

Dave was born and raised in Beaver, Pennsylvania and moved to Florida in 1963 with his father, Drew (who was also a member of the GCMG).

Barbara told us, as a child Dave became interested in magic and liked to perform from time to time. She further Dave was an avid reader of books on magic.

It seems Dave was old fashioned in several ways, as he struggled with working his computer. Instead, he communicated with friends and family with handwritten letters and cards.

Dave was always a huge supporter of the GCMG and often donated magic tricks and props for our raffles. He was also the club secretary for a year or two and our club historian for a brief time, after Harley Day passed away. Dave will be missed at our meetings.

Dave will be laid to rest in Beaver, PA, with his parents and other family members in the family cemetery plot.

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

Donations Needed

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

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – May 2020

In this variation, you will use 20 items (matches, coins, playing cards, etc.).

The game is played as follows: The 20 items are placed between the two (2) players on a

Newsletter Submissions

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

The Game of Pims

Pims is based on an old carnival swindle and gamblers con game. There are several variations and many names for the game.

table. The players alternate turn picking up a number of the items. Each player is allowed to pick up one (1), two (2) or three (3) items on each turn. The player, who has to pick up the last object, loses!

It appears to be a game of strategy, but you can win or lose at will. Here is the secret. All you must do is remember these simple sets of numbers: 3-4-4-4-4, and 3-7-11-15-19, the winning pattern.

Either player can go first. Let us say your opponent goes first and removes 1 item. You would then remove 2 items ($1 + 2 = 3$). On the next turn your opponent removes 3 objects, you would then remove 1 item ($3 + 1 = 4$). On the next turn your opponent removes 2 items, you would then remove 2 items ($2 + 2 = 4$). On the next turn your opponent removes 1 item, you would then remove 3 items ($1 + 3 = 4$). At this point there is 5 items left in the pile. On the last turn, your opponent will pick up 1, 2 or 3 items. You will pick up 1, 2 or 3 items depending on what your opponent picked up, leaving 1 item on the table and you win.

In some cases, the following will occur. Let us say on his first move your opponent picks up 3 items. You will then have to pick up 1 item (The total is now 4.) and keep count of the total number of items removed until you are on the winning pattern again of 3-7-

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – May 2020

11-15-19. On his next turn you opponent picks up 2 items (The total is now 6). On your turn you will pick up 1 item (The total is now 7)

and you are back on the winning pattern. You would then continue playing as described in the previous paragraph.

This can also occur if you go first. For example, on your first turn you pick up 1 item and then your opponent picks up 3 items. (The total is now 4.) On your next turn you pick up 1 item and then your opponent picks up 2 items. (The total is now 7.) On your next turn you pick up 1 item and your opponent picks up 1 item. (The total is now 9.) On your next turn you will pick up 2 items, (The total is now 11.) putting you back on the winning pattern.

Magicians I Have Known

By Bruce Walstad

I am trying to recall exactly when I first met Jay Marshall. I know it was at his magic shop, Magic, Inc. I would suspect it was in the early 1970's.



Before I write about my friendship with Jay, here is a little background about him:

According to the Chicago Tribune, his interest in magic started when he was six. As a youngster, he saw performances by

Thurston and Houdini. In later years, he admitted to dozing off during Houdini's show. After only a year at college, he went on to be a professional entertainer instead, initially working out of Boston. He later moved to New York City where he met Naomi Baker, daughter of Al Baker, then Dean of American Magicians.

During World War II, Marshall was "island hopping" in the Pacific to entertain military personnel in USO shows. He became tired of taking his elaborate ventriloquist's dummy called Henry with him, so he decided to use a white glove and some bunny ears to turn his left hand into his dummy, "Lefty".

Over his 60-year career he appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show 14 times together with his glove puppet rabbit dummy, "Lefty". He also played the New York Palace and London's Palladium. Marshall was the opening act for performers like Frank Sinatra, Milton Berle and Liberace. He was the first act to open for Sinatra in Las Vegas. In Marshall's later years, he was honored with the title of "Dean of American Magicians" by the Society of American Magicians.

In 1976, I got Jay and Frances to attend an "Officer Friendly" convention in

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – May 2020

Indianapolis with me. Frances spoke to about entertaining children, while delivering a safety message and Jay was the after the banquet entertainment. He wowed the 400+ Officer's Friendly" that were present, with some magic and the now famous "Lefty".

One encounter, that I can vividly recall was in the early 1980's at the SAM Assembly 148 picnic. The Assembly president had asked if I would perform at the picnic with my school assembly show. I asked the club president, why did ne want me to perform my school assembly show? He replied, he had seen the show twice (that was news to me) and how much he liked the show. He thought the club members would like to see it also. He said that he knew I needed a stage and that he that all taken care of. He was going to turn his garage into a stage and the audience would sit in the driveway.

So, on that Sunday afternoon I arrived at the picnic and got my show all set up. Right before showtime, I peeked through the curtains and in the front row, left side was Jay Marshall, Frances, Marshall, Bill Bishop, Ann Bishop, Dorney and a few other notable magicians. I was mortified to say the very least. To say I was a nervous wreck, would an understatement.

As I was being introduced, I recall my hands were actually shaking. I told myself, what is the worst thing that can happen?

Well, somehow or another I got up the courage and walked on the stage and did

my show. A few minutes into the show I kind of forgot who was watching and I just did my show. But, about 10 minutes into the show, I glanced at Jay and Frances and Jay was sleeping. I remember thinking to myself, my show is so bad, I just put Jay Marshall to sleep...

Right after the show I remember Frances Marshall coming backstage and giving me a very favorable review of my show, as she read from the notes, she made about it. I thanked her and finished packing up.

As I was loading up my van, Jay came up to me and complimented me on my show. I do not remember exactly what he said, but it was favorable. He then said, I want to talk with you about the Professor's Nightmare routine. Stop by the shop when you have a chance and we will talk about it. That was the beginning of my friendship with Jay.

On my next visit to Magic, Inc. I asked for Jay. He came out and invited me in the back where we talked about the Professor's Nightmare. He suggested to me, to do the Cut and Restored Rope trick and then cut the pieces of rope into the needed lengths for the Professor's Nightmare. Indeed, good advice. I did perform it that way for many years.

Jay also had an interest in con games, fraud, and swindles. We often talked about those topics during my visits to Magic, Inc. I recall one visit where I mentioned to him, I was trying to track down some old magazines on

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – May 2020

con games and swindles. I asked if he had ever heard of it. He said he would be right back. A few minutes later, he returned with a shirt box. He opened it and there was the complete set of those magazines, which he graciously loaned me.

The last time I so Jay was at my retirement party from the police department. He was there along with magician friends, Hank Moorehouse, Bob Brown and Andy Dallas. They got together and did a show for those attending. What a show that was. It was fantastic to say the very least.

Jay always had some very funny, off-color jokes to share. None can be put in print.

He was truly one of a kind. I miss my talks with Jay.

Just for Fun

I Washed My Pants with my Wallet in the Pocket - Buy one of those miniature men's wallets (I found mine at a flea market for \$5.00. However, some magic dealers sell them. Using a copy machine make a reduced (45%) copy of your driver's license and a couple credit cards. Place them in the wallet and you are ready. When I am asked for ID, I tell the person, "Last week my wife washed my pants with my wallet in the pocket". I then show the wallet and open same displaying my driver's license. The reaction you get is very entertaining. Sadly, I have had a couple people believe me.

The Counterfeit Detection Pen - Purchase a counterfeit detection pen. The next time you know you will be purchasing something, using a large denomination bill or bills (\$50.00 or \$100.00) bring your pen along. Most often, then clerk will mark your bill or bills with a counterfeit detection pen. When the clerk hands you the change, mark those bills with your counterfeit detection pen.

The looks on the clerk's faces is usually puzzled or indignant, or both. As I am marking the bills I received in change, I often say, "Just checking." Occasionally, they will ask "What you are doing?" I respond by saying, "The same thing you just did."

Frog in Your Throat - Several magic dealers sell a green foam frog. A few years ago, I bought a few. I never leave home without one since then. It is a stupid gag, but always gets a laugh. Palm the frog, pretend to cough, and cover your mouth with the hand the frog is hidden in. Move your hand away from you mouth and allow to frog to appear. Then comment "Excuse me, I had a frog in my throat". You could do this bit with any small toy frog but is must be small enough to palm.

Bone Crackers - Method One: Get an empty "Coke" product, 16-ounce, plastic bottle. Squeeze a small amount of air out of the bottle and recap it. Place the bottle, neck down in the back of your pants. Bend over and place one hand behind your back

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – May 2020

and around bottle. Slowly stand up while squeezing the bottle.

Method Two: Get a plastic cocktail glass. Place it long ways under your right armpit (you need to be wearing a coat). While sitting down at a table, manipulate your right arm with your left hand, as you squeeze the glass with your right arm causing the plastic glass to break. You will need to experiment with different types of glasses as some work better than others.