

February



OCMC Meeting and Workshop

**At the Downtown Anaheim Community Center
Wednesday, February 8th, 2023**

250 E Center St, Anaheim, CA 92805

Doors open at 7:00 for Meet & Greet
Meeting starts at **7:15**

Officers:

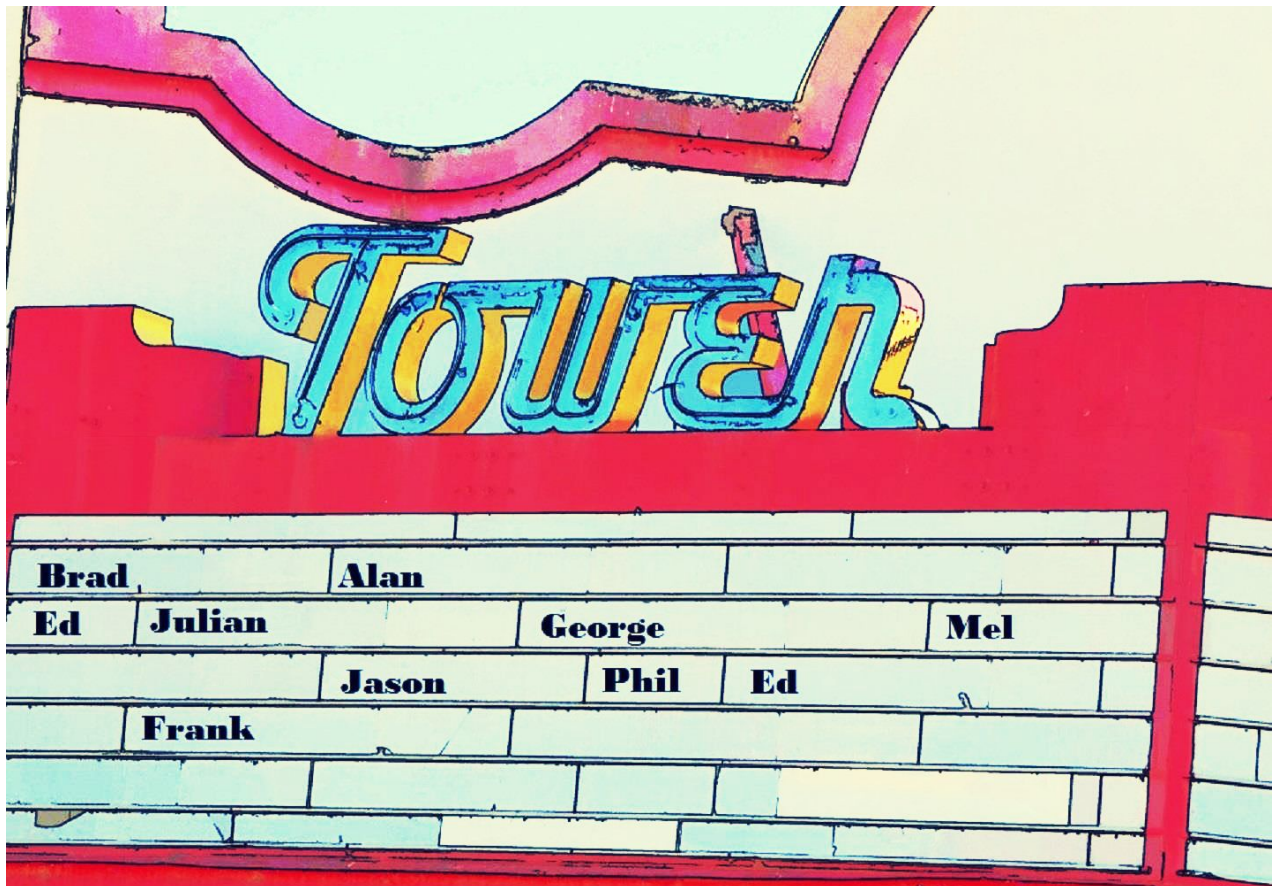
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Vice President.....**Jaron Lee**
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Sergeant at Arms/Librarian.....**Harrison Kaplan**
Newsletter.....**Robert Widmer**
Raffle.....**Jaron Lee**
Historian.....**Julian Devero**
Member-at-Large.....**Jason Burke**

February Meeting

February's meeting will feature 2 mini-workshops by Jaron & Harrison. Details to be announced soon.

March's OCMC's Annual Close-Up Magic Contest

Several members will perform, and the board will select the winners.



The current line-up for the performance:

1. Alan
2. Brad
3. Julian
4. Phil
5. Jason
6. Mel (tentative)
7. Ed (tentative)
8. Frank
9. George

OCMC's January Lecture

Our 1st meeting of 2023 featured a lecture from Ms.gician Joyce Basch. The lecture focused on patter and scripting with a mini-workshop on the set-up, presentation, and rope count of one of magic's classics, The Professors Nightmare.



**Joyce Basch,
"Ms.gician"**

It was a full house with a few new members in attendance. Joyce began with a demonstration of some staples from her routine. Her 1st, was her wonderful adaption of what would be the lecture's focus, The Professor's Nightmare. Joyce's was in character as a retired Housewife specializing in laundry. Using clothesline and a pair of scissors, Joyce brought a lot a fun to the room demonstrating the importance of clothesline length in relation to proper drying results. It was a very entertaining a fun routine to watch. Joyce also showed us her version of the classic What's Next? Joyce showed us how to take a trick and really elevate it into an entertaining piece of magic. Many members brought scissors & rope and were able to follow along as Joyce taught us how to properly cut the rope to perform the effect.

Joyce then gave us a presentation of a magic trick that she had created using Baseball Cards. The use of baseball cards along with Joyce's wonderful scripting was just wonderful. It was a delight to watch this routine.

Joyce's lecture on Patter and Scripting in January was a perfect start to what's sure to be a great 2023!



Joyce presenting What's Next and The Professor's Nightmare.



The audience getting a chance to participate.



Robert helping Joyce with a very random selection.



Brad assisting Joyce in a card effect.

New Member Corner

Robert Gonzalez has loved magic since he was a little kid. He started doing magic for kids and then started doing parlor shows. However, he found his passion was in close-up magic.

In the early 2000's, Robert began to get hired for close-up magic gigs and always liked to entertain his friends and co-workers with magic. After a couple of years Robert took a long break from magic. Now he is recently retired from a 28-year career in Law Enforcement and has a reignited passion for magic.



Robert is frequently posting magic videos on social media for his friends to enjoy and also loves teaching magic to those that want to learn. He is excited to be a new member of the Orange County Magic Club and looks forward to sharing ideas with other members.

2023 Dues can now be paid



Just a reminder, 2023 dues are now due.

You can pay dues on the OCMC Club website:

TheOCMC.com

Select the Join or Renew Membership tab.

You can also pay Phil directly at the next meeting.

Meanwhile, as Phil says, Keep Calm and Pay Your Dues!

Cash, Check, or Credit Cards accepted.



2023 OCMC Schedule



February 8th, 2023	2 mini-workshops. One by Jaron and one by Harrison.
March 8th, 2023	OCMC Close-up Competition

The OCMC newsletter will regularly feature articles on magic written by Member George Reis. This month article is the first of many about learning magic. Please enjoy.



On Learning Magic

George Reis

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This is the first of a series of articles in which I will share my thoughts on learning magic. I would love your feedback, so please feel free to email me to share your thoughts and ideas.

When I first started learning magic, I was learning several new things every week, I'd show my wife a new trick every few days, I felt like I was progressing really well. Later I found that I forgot many of those early tricks as well as the foundational moves. And still later, I found that, although I received compliments on my presentation, it wasn't what it should be, I didn't feel comfortable showing my magic to strangers, and I failed in my technique too many times.

That led me to thinking about how to learn magic – from technique to presentation, and how to practice and rehearse. I've also been learning the saxophone during the same period and have the same issues – so I wondered what principles in learning and practicing applied to both.

Over the past few years, I've thought a lot about the learning process. This includes multiple categories from conceptual ideas to practice methods. I've listened to podcasts with magicians, musicians,

athletes, military and business leaders discuss many concepts about performing and practicing, and I've read several books by them about technique, theory, practice, building habits, goal setting, rehearsal, showmanship, etc.

I've immersed myself in magic in different ways. This includes listening to multiple podcasts about magic, music, success, etc. It includes watching lots of magic online, seeing live performances (lots of time at the Magic Castle, shows in Westwood, San Diego, and Nashville), and taking group classes and private lessons (both online and in-person). I've subscribed to a ton of emails and joined two international magic organizations and three local clubs. And I've done similar things with music.

All of this has helped me to understand some major concepts, but it then needs to be applied to actions. How can we turn the things that we've learned into performance skills? It is the difference between "learning that" (facts, figures, concepts, theories) and "learning how" (gaining the skills to perform actions like magic, music, etc.). I've spent my life "learning that" and now I'm finding that "learning how" opens many new concepts for me; methods and practices that I haven't needed in "learning that."

I'm pretty sure that there are many approaches to learning to perform – and they may all be good. Over the next several months, I'll share some of my thoughts with you. Some of them may be rather esoteric, and some may be very practical. Some may help, and it's possible that none will. Each month, I'll likely cover a different general concept as it applies to learning.

I've found that my reasons for wanting to learn magic have changed. And this is changing the way I am approaching what I learn, and how I approach my practicing and my goals with each thing I learn. A little introspection on why I want to learn magic and what I want to do with it has helped me to know what to focus on. But it's also a moving target.

Then there are the multiple aspects of performance. How much time should I spend on technique vs. performance? What about character

and script? What can we learn from watching performances – both good and bad performances?

And, of course, a main issue for me is in benefitting the most from the time put into studying, learning, practicing, and rehearsing. I love the concept of Deliberate Practice from the book *Peak* by Robert Poole and Anders Ericsson – but how does that integrate with the concepts from *The Inner Game of Tennis* by Timothy Galway or *Effortless Mastery* by Kenny Werner? Or, more simply put – what's the best way to practice?

What about habits in general? Should we set aside a specific time to practice daily? If so, for how long, and what do we work on? Should the habit be about putting in the time, or in the process of being the kind of person who is always working toward improving their skill?

In the coming months, I'll deal with these topics and share some of the things I've learned and am still learning. Writing them will help me to better understand how to learn myself. I hope that reading them will help some of you to also get more from your practice time.



Other Events in the Area:

Ring 96 is hosting a magical lecture by Robert Baxt in February.

For more information, visit their website at www.ring96.com

Quote:

"Magic is believing in yourself, if you can do that, you can make anything happen."

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe —