

# March



## OCMC Close-up Contest

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

**250 E Center St, Anaheim, CA 92805**

Show starts at **7:00**

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### **Officers:**

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## February's Workshop

Jason got the ball rolling by highlighting our two featured presenters for February's meeting. The evening featured 2 mini-workshops by Jaron & Harrison.

These two mini-lectures had just about everything. Harrison started us out by phoning in a card-trick (he may have been stuck in traffic and late arriving to the Community Center); realizing that The Show Must Go On! Harrison phoned in a wonderful card trick getting the evening off to a great start. Harrison let us know that many excellent magical effects presented over the telephone can be found in the publication, "PhoneTastic" by Joe Hernandez.



Harrison's late arrival will not count a Tardy; his delightful card effect cancels that out. Note: As Harrison and I are always the among the first to arrive at Board and Club meetings, the above story detail about Harrison's tardiness, is purely fictional.

Jaron took us home with a couple wonderful card effects, taking advantage of the rooms white board to guide us through the process.



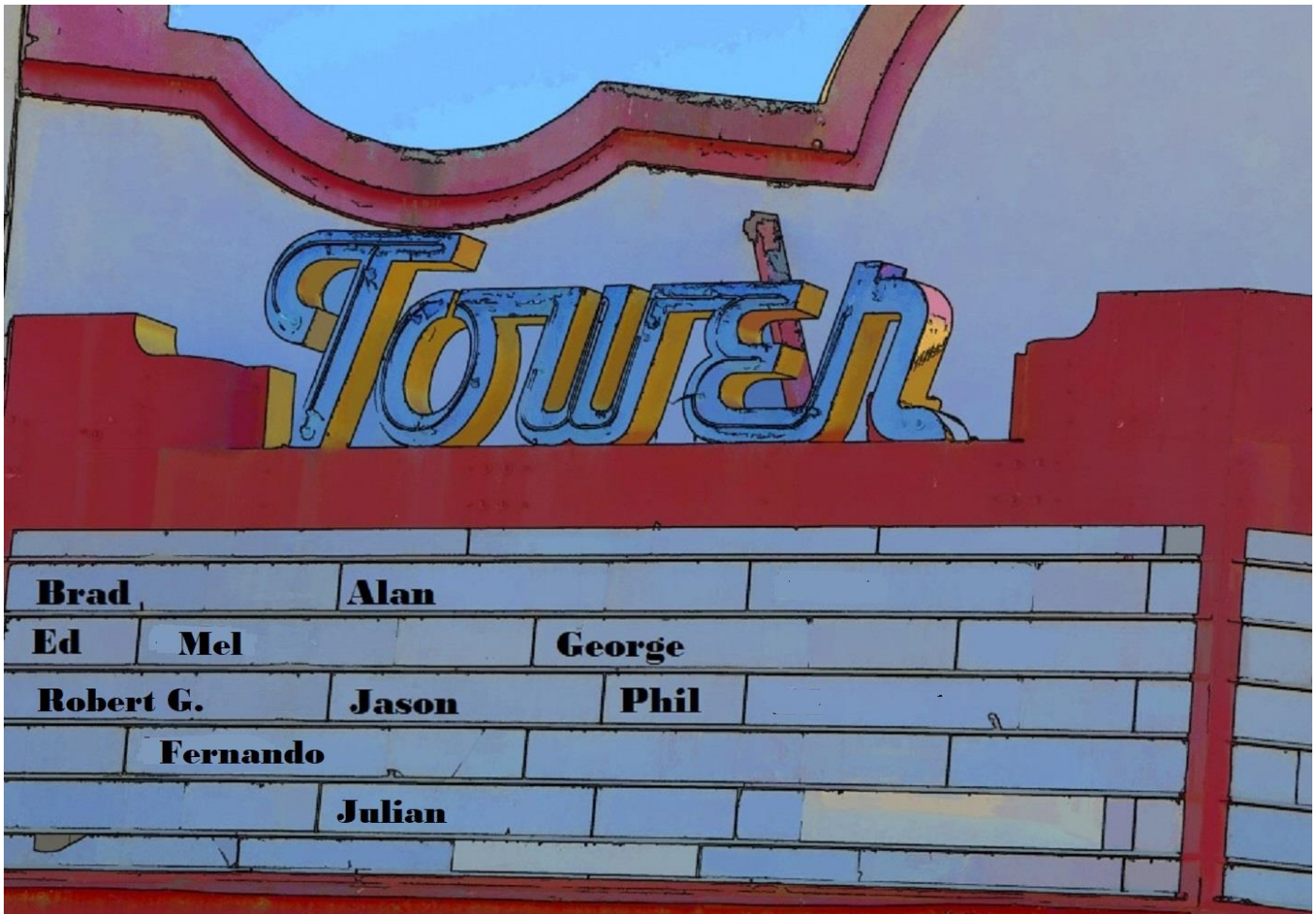
## Crazy-Man Handcuffs





# 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
- 7) Ed
- 8) George
- 9) Fernando



Orange County Magic Club invites YOU to participate as an audience member in our

# Close-Up Magic Competition

Wednesday, March 8 at 7:00 pm  
Space limited at this FREE event!



Downtown Anaheim  
Community Center  
250 E Center Street  
Anaheim, CA 92805



For more info, email [Brad@MagicByBrad.com](mailto:Brad@MagicByBrad.com)

2023 Dues can now be paid. We have given a two-month grace period. You will now need to pay \$5 for each meeting you attend, or, better yet, pay your dues at the next meeting.



**Just a reminder, 2023 dues are now due.**

**You can pay dues on the OCMC Club website:**

**[TheOCMC.com](http://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



March 8th	OCMC Close-up Competition
April 12th	Show Critique and Show & Tell (If you participated in the close-up competition and want to perform you act again and receive feedback, this is your night!)
May 10th	Lecture – Mel Bennett
June 14th	Workshop w/Ricky Ricardo (balloons) and Workshop w/Joy Fujita (origami magic)
July 12th	Workshop w/Robert Gonzalez (single-slight close-up) and Workshop w/Jason Burke (TBD)
August 16th	Stage Competition (Exact date & details TBD)
September 13th	Mini-Lecture w/Brettso the Great (show flow) and Workshop w/Western Palacios (Daryl's rope & ring magic)
October 11th	Rehearsal & Critique for November Show (Those scheduled to perform in November will perform their act and receive feedback to polish their acts.)
November Show Exact date TBD	Ticketed Magic Show (Open to Public)
December 13th	Holiday Potluck & Mini-Show

The OCMC newsletter will regularly feature articles on magic written by Member George Reis.

This is the second of a series of articles in which George will share his thoughts on learning magic. He would love your feedback, so please feel free to email him to share your thoughts and ideas.



On Learning Magic

George Reis

[reis@imagingforensics.com](mailto:reis@imagingforensics.com)

This month, I would like to discuss our reasons for wanting to learn magic. In my own venture my reason for wanting to learn magic has changed. Because of this, two important aspects of my learning have changed – what I should learn, and what motivates me to learn (and therefore what to practice and improve).

Getting to know our why provides us with three great benefits:

- 1) It helps us define a goal for our learning and practice.
- 2) It helps us to figure out what to focus our learning and practice on.
- 3) It provides our motivation to learn and practice.

In the essay titled, *Lessons and Learning (I)* by Jamy Ian Swiss, he stated, “One of the most important guiding principles behind my approach to teaching is the subject of goals... Goals need to be

flexible, subject to review and revision,” and that goals, “can provide a consistent reference point.”

When I first became interested in magic, I just wanted to see and learn everything. I did not have an end, or goal, in mind, except to saturate myself with magic. Sure, I wanted to perform tricks for my friends and family. But I didn’t think about *why* it interested me, *why* I was becoming fascinated with magic, or if there was anything more that I wanted to do with it in the future.

I was learning magic by taking lessons at The Magic Castle and seeing top performers every week. Then, as I started seeing other performances, I was noticing the difference between professionally performed magic and amateur magic; between experienced and novice magicians; and I was also seeing the variety of ways magic could be presented. My goal changed. I now wanted to become good in my technique as well as my presentation. I am still fairly new to the world of magic, but I’ve performed some and gotten some audience feedback. I know that I want to work on my performance skills even more – I want to know my routine and present it with confidence in a friendly manner that provides entertainment and astonishment. My goal has changed over time.

Your goal is likely different today than it was when you first started down the path of learning magic. You may have never thought about a goal regarding magic. If you think about why you are learning magic it will lead you to finding your goal. What is it that excites you about magic?

Knowing that goal helps us to know what to learn.

What should you focus on when learning magic? Based on your reason for learning magic, your *why*, you should be able to determine your focus. Do you want to perform impromptu magic for friends and family, or do you like manipulating cards or coins? Or maybe you prefer big stage illusions. Your goal may be to simply learn everything you can about magic.

If your goal is to perform big stage illusions in front of large audiences, then it's obvious that you don't need to get the latest mind blowing or fooling close-up trick featured by your favorite magic vendor. You don't need to focus on sleights, or on connecting with an individual while doing a card trick. Your goal may be in developing stage presence, learning how to build your own stage props, timing your routine to music, or just to watching as many stage magicians as you can and connecting with them.

On the other hand, if your goal is to perform kids magic, you may want to focus on developing your kid-friendly character, audience control, knowing how to make kids laugh and have fun but not overrun your show, etc. Your focus is easy to identify once you identify your goal.

If you want to be that walking encyclopedia or the author of articles on magic then you know what to do – read, watch lectures, gather information, etc.

Defining your *why* is key to finding the motivation that can push you forward in your learning. When distracted, it helps bring you back on track.

Business and personal productivity books are filled with information about finding your *why*. Most famous is Simon Sinek's *Start with Why*. (2) Jim Kwik provides a look at how we use motivation, mindset, and method to achieve integration and learn rapidly in *Limitless* (3). Books on building good habits like James Clear's *Atomic Habits* (4) and BJ Fogg's *Tiny Habits* (5) discuss the power of motivation. For example, from *Atomic Habits*, Clear states, "Feeling motivated gets you to act. Feeling successful gets you to repeat."

Once we do a little introspection and know why we are learning magic, and from that determine what to learn, we then need to do the work of learning and practicing so that we can meet our goals in the most efficient manner possible. Next month we can begin looking at methods for learning and practicing.

Please share your ideas and feedback with me regarding these articles. I'm learning as I go along, and your input will be valuable to me as I prepare future article.

(1) Swiss, Jamy Ian. Shattering Illusions: Essays on the Ethics, History, and Presentation of Magic. Amsterdam, Netherlands, Amsterdam UP, 2002.

(2) Sinek, Simon. Start With Why. Portfolio, 2023.

(3) Kwik, Jim. Limitless: Upgrade Your Brain, Learn Anything Faster, and Unlock Your Exceptional Life. Illustrated, Hay House Inc., 2020.

(4) Clear, James. Atomic Habits: An Easy and Proven Way to Build Good Habits and Break Bad Ones. Random House Business Books, 2023.

(5) Fogg, B. TINY HABITS. 2022.



# Raffle



February's raffle was a little different from previous raffles. Along with a wonderful selection of magical prices, we had a door price, and several mystery prices. Everyone went home a winner!





Joy announcing the winner of tonight's door prize.



## **Other Events in the Area:**

For more information, visit their website at [www.Ring96.com](http://www.Ring96.com)

Quote:

"One time, this guy was bothering my mother, and me and my brothers had a stern talking with the guy and a little bit of physicality with him. So he disappeared. But I'm not a magician."

— **Mr. T** —

And a bonus 2nd quote:

Anthony Dorian : One mustn't study a magician too closely. Don't look up his sleeve, and never look under his hat. Just sit back, Mrs. Coogan, and let him do his act.

— **Bill Bixby** —

**(as Anthony Dorian from 1973 pilot episode of The Magician**