

# April



## OCMC Meeting

**At the Downtown Anaheim Community Center  
Wednesday, April 12th, 2023**

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

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

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### **Officers:**

President.....**Brad Erickson**  
Vice President/Raffle.....**Jaron Lee**  
Secretary.....**Joy (Nishijima) Fujita**  
Treasurer/Webmaster.....**Phil Ureno**  
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Historian.....**Julian Devero**  
Member-at-Large.....**Jason Burke**

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

OCMC's Close-up contest in March was a huge success.

OCMC's Sergeant at Arms Harrison started the night out with an overview of the judging criteria for the contest and then introduced the judging panel. Ken Sands has owned his own magic shop for decades and has previously lectured for our club. Harrison, and Ken were joined by Cliff Gerstman, primarily an Escape Artist, current Secretary and past president of Ring 96 making up the judging panel.

## Harrison lays out the judging criteria.



1. Introduction
2. Opening Effect
3. Deportment
4. Dress / Costume
5. Material / Tricks
6. Transition from  
trick to trick
7. Character / Acting
8. Interaction  
w/Audience
9. Speech & Patter
10. Closing Trick



Alan



Brad



Julian



Phil



Jason



Mel





Ed



George



Jaron



# The winners of the 2023 Close-up Contest



Jason



Phil





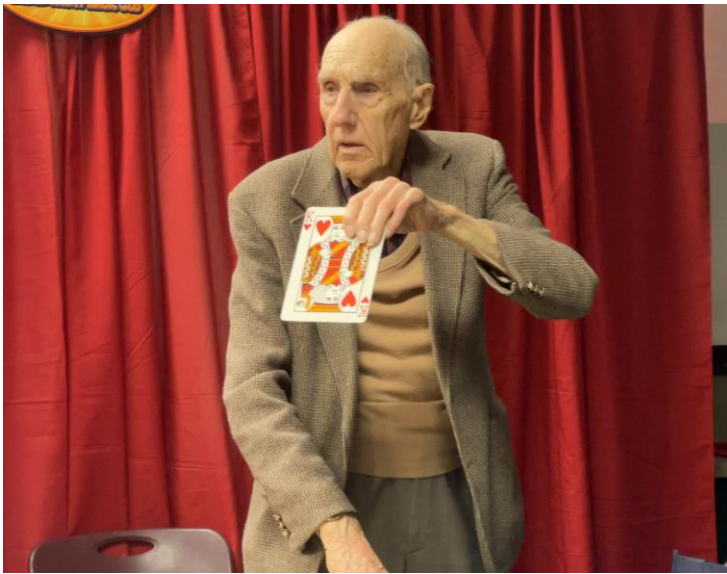
Alan





















## April's Meeting

If you participated in the close-up competition, April's meeting will be a Show Critique where you will get feedback from other club members on your performance.

Afterwards, time permitting, will be a show-and-tell.

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



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 third 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

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In the first article in this series, I wrote an introduction to the topic of learning magic. In the second article, I wrote about determining why we want to learn something in magic to help us decide what to learn and to provide motivation to learning and practicing it. This article will deal with breaking this down into the smallest components and practicing them in short segments until they are mastered.

Maybe we want to learn a technique like a double lift or the Elmsley Count. Maybe we want to learn someone's version of a trick, like Whit Haydn's version of the Chicago Opener. We might be working on a script or on building a transition between two tricks, or even making a trick our own by personalizing it. Presentation techniques are something that can always be improved and might be what we want to work on. No matter what our experience or skill level in magic, there is something for us to learn.

Every one of these can be broken down into separate components, and the first step is to divide the thing we're working on into the smallest components and to practice those components.

I love comparing this to music. If you struggle with a section in a song you are learning, you identify that section and work on it. Maybe you work on playing back and forth between two notes. Then you add a third note, and the fourth note. The reason for the difficulty may be that the transition between the notes requires difficult fingering, or it may just be a transition you aren't used to, or the articulation may be in a different style than you are used to. But you focus on the difficult parts and break them down to the smallest components and build them up.

Let's look at the double lift as an example. There are several separate components to this move. The first is the setup: separating two cards from the rest (which requires multiple steps). A common way to do this is to slide cards with your thumb over your fourth finger (pinky), one at a time. When two cards have been slid, you keep the break with your fourth finger, and slide the two cards back into place. When that's done, you keep the break so that there is no line in the front of the deck and no visible gap on the side of the deck.

If this is a brand-new move for you, you might work on these separate components in order. If not, you may choose the hardest part and work on it. If you are working in order, the first component may be to simply master sliding a single card. Begin by holding the deck in mechanics grip and sliding a single card over your pinky and letting it fall to the table. Do it again, and again, and again. Master it. Do it when watching TV or when sitting at a red light (you don't have to look at the cards). Practice it for 10 or 15 minutes today, and tomorrow, and the next day. Feel that single card as it slides across the fourth finger. Know when a second card accidentally goes across and stop, reset, and practice more. Master this very simple move and know what you feel.

Work on this for 10 or 15 minutes two or three times a day until it is perfect every time.

Next, do the same with two cards. Slide one card across your fourth finger and as it slides across, put pressure on the next card to peel off two cards. Let them fall to the table. Do it again, and again. Work on this for 10 or 15 minutes. Repeat this two or three times a day until it is perfect every time. It should never be only one card, and it should never be three cards. It should be exactly two cards. Every time.

Next is the exercise to bring those two cards back in alignment with the deck while holding a pinky break. Practice doing this over and over for 10 or 15 minutes. Note how big the gap is between the cards. If you are using a deck with borders, such as a Bicycle deck, is the gap larger than the border? Work on it until it isn't. Practice this daily, in multiple 10-to-15-minute time periods, until it is perfect each time.

Now, can you do these without looking at your hands? Record yourself with your webcam or your phone and see if you do as well while looking at your audience. As before, practice in short segments of 10 to 15 minutes, multiple times per day, over multiple days.

That example was to illustrate taking a single technique and showing how it can be broken down into separate components, and doing multiple, short practice segments of each component until it is mastered and combining those components to master the technique.

The same can be done for every aspect of our magic performance. With presentation, are we showing the reveal in a manner that astonishes the audience and provides them time to understand what happened and react? Did everyone see the found card or the multiple sponge balls in the volunteer's hand? What steps can be practiced to be sure this happens? How do we hold the card or present the volunteer's hand? Where do our eyes look? Are we using an object (magic wand, for example) to direct the audience's attention? Are we pausing long enough for the audience to see what's happened?

Each of these can be practiced separately, and then together, in the same manner as I described for the double lift. The same can be applied for every aspect of magic that we want to work on. The key elements are breaking things down to the smallest components,



mastering each component, combining the components together and mastering them, and practicing in short time periods multiple times.

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.



# Raffle



Joy announced the winner of tonight's door prize. He was a guest visitor of the club winning some beautiful Origami Flowers and a box of Hawaiian cookies.



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

15-April: Ring96. Tom Ogden

26-April: Ben Seidman lecture at the Magic Apple in Studio City on Wednesday, April 26, at 6:00 pm. Cost \$25. Call the Magic Apple for more information: (818) 508-9921

May 6<sup>th</sup>: Magic Castle Swap Meet

May 20<sup>th</sup>: 2023 Ring96. Close-up Competition

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

## **Giving Back to the Community**

In March, The Orange County Magic Club had an opportunity to do some Community Outreach.

Four of our Magicians donated their time and talents to help an organization called CAMEO through an organization called Assistance League of Long Beach. For over 30 years CAMEO has supported under-served, academically promising students from the Long Beach Unified School District high schools and Long Beach City College. Their member volunteers are working professionals who provide one-on-one mentoring support to enhance each student's educational and personal development.

The evening was filled with Magic. In fact, the theme for the evening was "The Magic of Mentoring" and it was festively decorated with Magic themed decorations such as a super-sized five-foot-tall magician's top hat. They even had a life-sized Rabbit walking around. It was a CAMEO Fundraiser and Fashion Show and Luncheon.



The Magicians that represented The Orange County Magic Club were: Julian Devero, Western Palacios, Robert Gonzalez, and Phillip Ureno.

Below are some pictures of the event. Thank you gentlemen for representing The Orange County Magic Club.



Quote:

"No matter what hand you're dealt, don't let  
anyone tell you you can't play."

— Richard Turner —