

# May



## OCMC Meeting

**At the Downtown Anaheim Community Center  
Wednesday, May 10th, 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**  
Sergeant at Arms/Librarian.....**Harrison Kaplan**  
Newsletter.....**Robert Widmer**  
Historian.....**Julian Devero**  
Member-at-Large.....**Jason Burke**

## April Meeting

Those who participated in March's Close-up contest, got a chance present their act again and get some feedback from club members. Brett, Brad, Ed, Julian, and Jason all performed parts of their act for feedback. Brett got the ball rolling, followed by Brad's very patriotic card mystery, Ed gave us a both a card and coin routine assisted by yours truly (me!). Julian performed an even more delightful presentation of his already great routine. Jason performed a wonderfully poetic version of the cups and balls. Although, we'd seen the acts, last month, the audience felt we were watching a new show with all the interesting (and quite frankly, sometimes-cute) modifications. Each presentation was followed some insightful critiques from the audience. It was quite fun.

After a ~~medium~~ long break, Brett got up to show us a credit card sandwich routine (Sorry Brad! No Peanut Butter & Jelly this time). Western followed and showed us a force and asked for feedback.







## Brad presented Jason & Phil with awards for their Close-up contest performances



**After the break, we had a brief Show & Tell.**



## **May's Lecture**

Mel's had to postpone this month's lecture due to a hip injury. Thoughts and prayers are appreciated for Mel for a speedy recovery.

Instead, this month will feature a Favorite Book discussion and Show & Tell. If you would like to participate, bring your favorite book on conjuring and give a short presentation on why it is your favorite book; perhaps, present an effect from that book.

We will also have a Show & Tell.

Hope to see you Wednesday 10-May at the usual time.

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



May 10th	Favorite Book Discussion / Show & Tell
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 fourth 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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I got started in magic about four months before everything closed, when Covid was discovered. At that point, I had taken magic classes at the Magic Castle for 12 weeks, I was fired up, and excited about magic and learning magic. I didn't want the classes to stop. But they did.

A few months later, I heard a podcast interview with Tyler Erickson of Stronger Magic. He gives private lessons on-line, and I was curious, so I booked a session with him and then took lessons from him for a few months. He introduced me to a book called Peak written by Robert Pool and Anders Ericsson.

Peak is all about methods for achieving excellence through deliberate practice, which consists of several components. In this month's article, I'll give an overview of these concepts and how they can be applied to learning magic.

- **Get Outside of Our Comfort Zone:** First, practice must involve pushing ourselves – getting outside our comfort zone. It's easy to illustrate this by thinking of exercising or memorizing a list. We get to a point in which doing more reps and learning more words seems impossible. The key is to push forward. Add one or two reps. Focus on one or two more words. That is the thing to work on. In magic we might know how to do a double lift and turnover, but what happens when we need to do a triple lift? Can we still get a break under the third card in a natural manner that doesn't bring attention to it? Do we need to use a different method? We need to continue to push ourselves. Got the triple lift down? Push yourself by learning to do pinky counts to any number of cards in the deck or learn a new routine with the triple lift, etc.
- **Be Focused:** We discussed this last month when breaking down a trick or routine to the smallest components and focusing on our problem areas. It might be something technical, something in your presentation style, a joke that isn't quite working, etc. Find that weakest spot and focus on it until it's polished. Then, find the next weakest stop, rinse and repeat.
- **Have Clear Goals:** We have also discussed this. Know what you are trying to accomplish. Break down the long-term goal into shorter initiatives. These goals should be very clear. Examples might be, "I want to tighten my script to eliminate every line and every word that doesn't move the routine forward and identify what lines to say at each magic moment," or, "I want to master the double lift so that I don't think about it, I don't look at my hand when doing it, and the movement of the cards is imperceptible."
- **Have a Plan to Reach Each Goal:** There are many practice methods, and we'll cover some here. But one thing is to schedule times to practice. Use spaced repetition (ten or fifteen minutes at a time with a single focus and repeated a few times a day) to meet the small goals that lead to your longer-term goal.
- **Monitor Your Progress:** Each goal and every step of that goal should be measurable so that you can monitor your progress. For

instance, “I want to complete 20 double lift and turnovers in a row with no mistakes, without looking at my hand, and while directing attention toward the card in my other hand.” If you only do 19 of the 20 then you didn’t meet your goal. When you can do the 20, and when you verify it with the video, you have met your goal and can move to the next challenge.

- **Maintain Motivation:** It becomes easy to lose motivation. Maybe the progress seems slow, or it’s difficult to keep to a practicing schedule, or other things take priority, etc. This is where knowing why you are doing this is helpful. Maybe you want to be as good as someone else you saw perform, or maybe you want to win a competition, or you just want your spouse to see how good you have gotten. Keep that reason, your ‘why,’ in mind. Write it on index cards that you put in conspicuous places like your bathroom mirror, your computer screen, your steering wheel, on the refrigerator door. Keep your why in front of you so that you don’t lose momentum.
- **Use Strong Mental Representations:** Before each practice session take some time to close your eyes and visualize yourself succeeding. Imagine you are performing in the location of your dreams and you nail the routine. Everything flows. You are flawless. The audience goes wild. This helps to put you in a state of success and flow. Do this before each practice session.
- **Use a Coach:** In the book, deliberate practice is differentiated from purposeful practice. In purposeful practice there isn’t a set curriculum with a specific path and accepted grading systems, but there is in deliberate practice. As such, it’s possible to find entire schools and programs in fields that use deliberate practice – chess, music, and sports, for instance. In the world of magic there isn’t such a curriculum. But we can still use a coach, teacher, or mentor to help us push ourselves to incorporate purposeful practice and push ourselves to reach our potential. I have found that when I took group classes at the Castle, on-line one-on-one classes with Tyler, and some in-person classes with our fellow member, Western, that I have made more rapid progress than at any other time.

These techniques are what Tyler used in my lessons with him, and when I incorporate them on my own, I make much better progress than when I don't. There is much more in the book, and I highly recommend it. But, whether you read the book or not – try applying these techniques and you should see some significant progress. Keep challenging yourself to reach your potential, don't settle, set practice times in your calendar, identify your reason for wanting to get better and let it keep you motivated, and get in the flow.

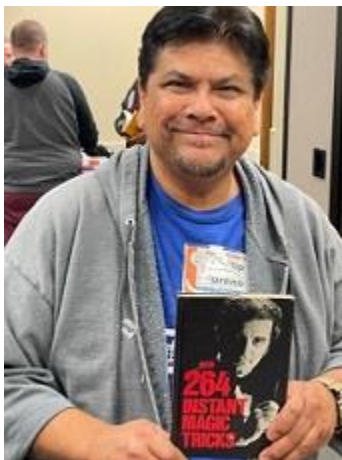
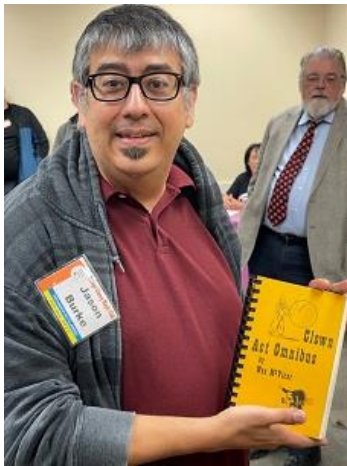
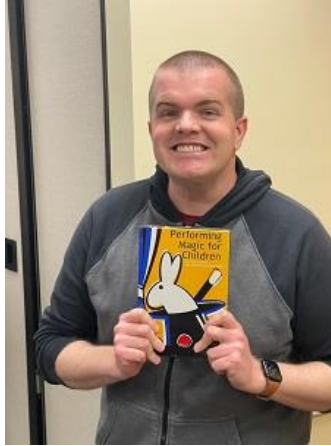
Please share your ideas and feedback with me regarding these articles. I'm learning as I go along, and your input will be valuable to me as I prepare future article.



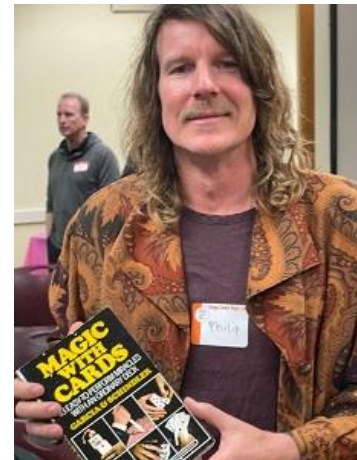
# Raffle



Brad conducted this month's raffle. There were a few very prized items up for grabs.



Many Happy Winners !





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

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)

Quote:

"Many a good trick has been ruined by  
improvement.."

— Al Baker —