

# July



## **OCMC Lecture\***

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

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

Doors open at 6:30 for Meet & Greet  
Meeting starts at **7:00**

\*Bring a deck of cards and a set of sponge balls to the lecture.

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### **Officers:**

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## June Meeting

June's meeting saw both a lecture on balloon sculpting by Ricky Ricardo Payaso, and a lecture on Origami by our own Joy (Nishijima) Fujita. The evening finished with Show & Tell.

Ricky got us started with a lecture of balloon sculpting. Everyone joined in the fun as Ricky guided us into creating some balloon art. It was a lot of fun.







Ricky guided everyone through each step in making a balloon rose and a balloon cat.







Ricky finished off  
this incredible lecture on balloon art  
with a display of club juggling.



After an intermission, Joy introduced everyone to the wonderful world of Origami.

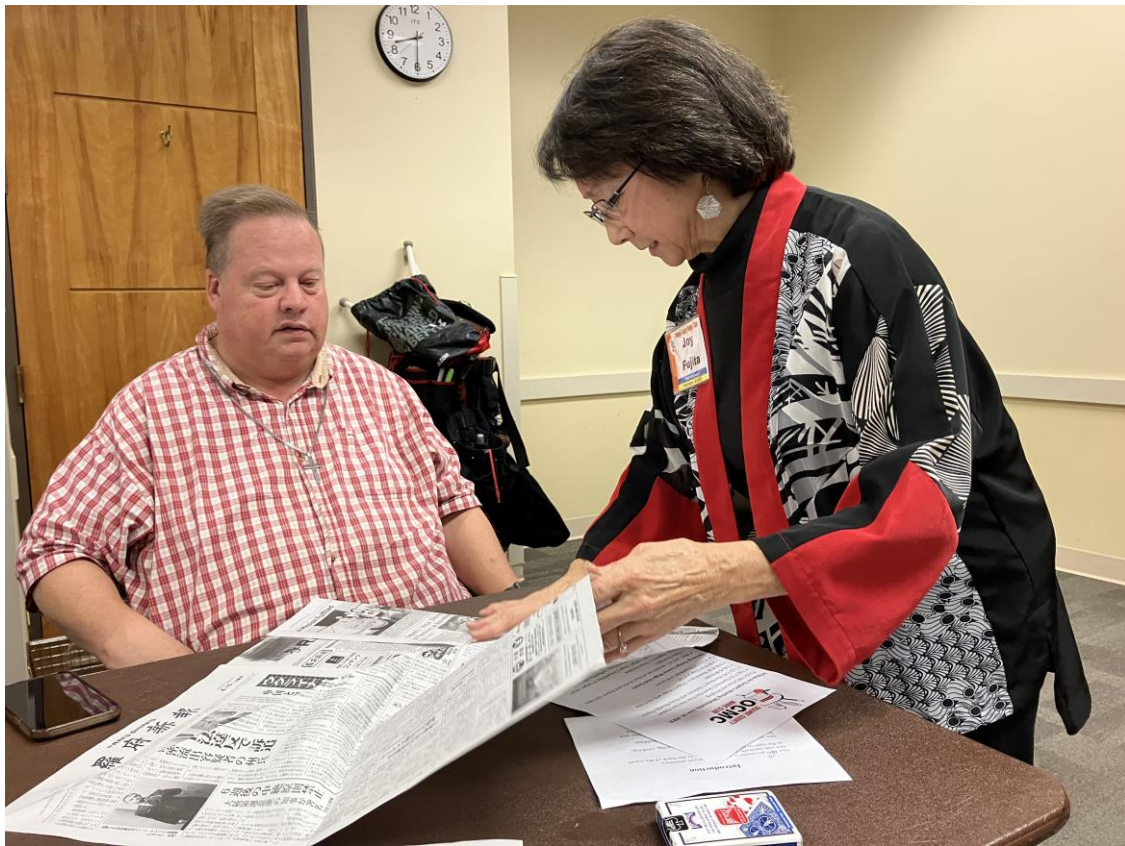




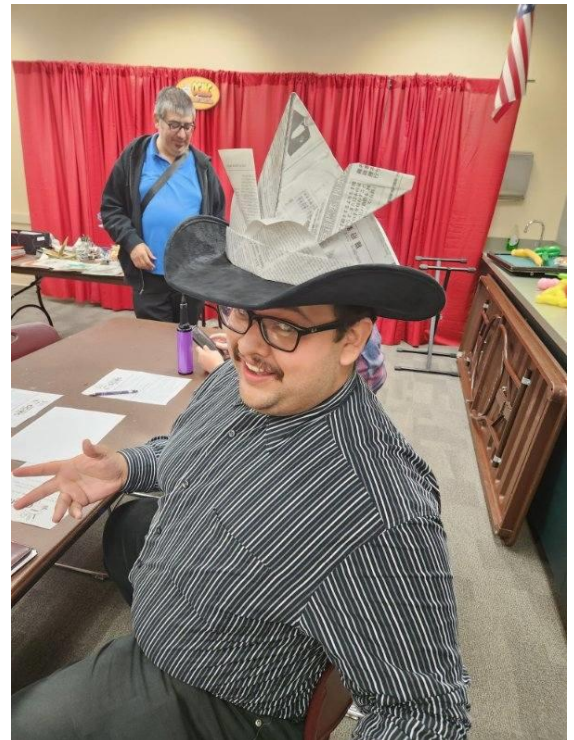




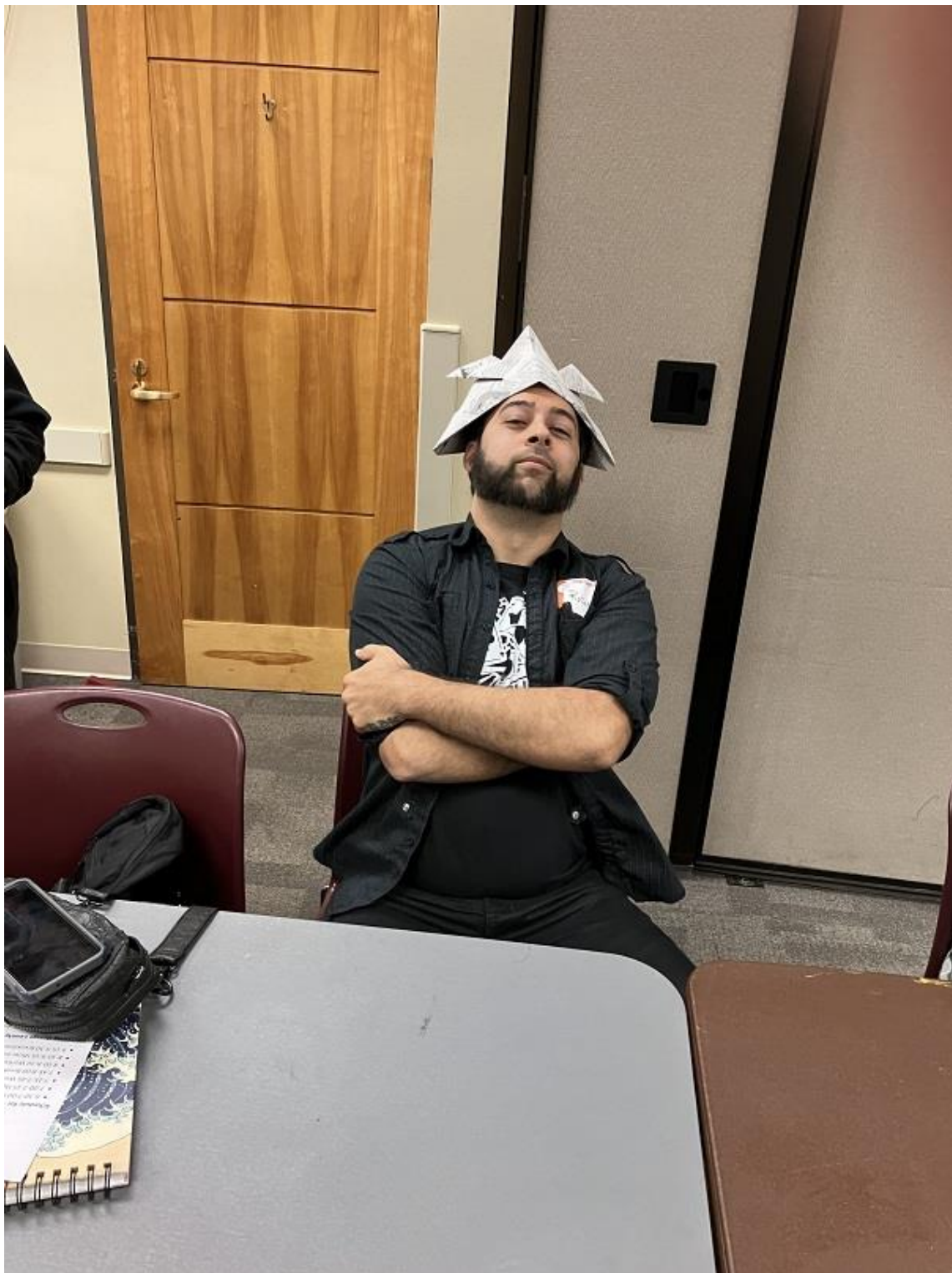
Paper folding has many uses in magic, from Dan Harlan's Starcle to Tarbell's Milady's Parisienne Hat, the possibilities are endless.







Joy guided everyone through each step in making their own Origami hat.



Guest Robert tries on his new Origami hat and finds it acts as a conduit in clearing the way for mental transmissions.



## Show & Tell















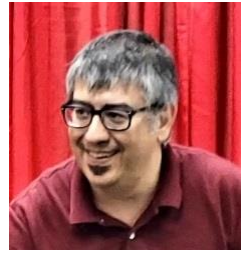
A man with grey hair, wearing a red and white checkered shirt, is holding a large, pink, balloon-like flower on a green stem. The flower has multiple rounded petals, giving it a bubbly appearance. The man is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.







Robert



Jason

## July's Lectures

Workshop w/Jason Burke

And

Workshop w/Robert Gonzalez

Hope to see you Wednesday 12-July at 7:00

Bring a deck of cards and a set of sponge balls to participate





**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



July 12th	Workshop w/Robert Gonzalez (single-slight close-up) and Workshop w/Jason Burke (Sponge Balls)
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Show and Tell and Magic Jam
August 30	Stage Competition 7:00 pm. Open to the public (Large Room)
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 3rd	Magic Show Friday \$10 adults and \$5 children 12, 7:00 pm (Large Room))
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Show and Tell and Magic Jam
December 13th	Holiday Potluck & Mini-Show

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

This is the 6th 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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Last month I discussed the value of recording videos of your performances so that you can watch them with a critical eye and learn from them. I closed the article stating that I'd discuss the value of watching recordings of other magicians. This article will cover that, but first, an additional reason to record yourself – to get feedback from others.

I went to an Open Mic in June and performed a short trick. I asked a friend to record my performance. I felt like I did well, I had good audience response, I felt comfortable performing – almost to that “in the flow” state, and my patter was my own and seemed to fit the trick I was performing.

After watching the video, I still felt good about it. I saw a couple of little things I'd like to change, but overall, I thought it was good. So, I posted it on YouTube <<https://youtu.be/PI0c1nOXbBc>> and sent the link out to ask for feedback. I hoped that non-magicians would tell



me if they found the performance fun, magical, entertaining – or not. I hoped that magicians would point out something they think I did well, and something that I could improve. In both cases I got what I asked for from several people – but will focus on the feedback from the magicians here.

I received very useful feedback from four magicians. Interestingly, each of them had something different to suggest. The advice ranged from technique to stage presence to scripting and originality.

I can't fix everything at once, so I focused on what I considered to be the two biggest things and performed it again two weeks ago. I did better. I focused on one other thing and performed it again last week. I did better still. By focusing on one or two things to incorporate at a time, I was able to make my presentation better.

Getting feedback from others is valuable, but it can also be confusing. If everyone says the same thing, it's easy to know what to work on. Too much advice from too many people can be confusing. Some feedback might be wrong. In this instance, I agreed with all the feedback I received, but I also knew I couldn't incorporate everything at once, so I decided what to focus on.

The bottom line is to use the recordings of your performances to get advice from magicians who you admire, think about what they say, and then work on the one or two biggest issues. In the future, when asking for feedback, I am going to try to be more specific. I will ask, what is one thing I should keep doing and what is one thing I should change. If I get the same feedback from multiple people, I'll know that it's probably what I should focus on.

Now to the topic watching others perform.

My day job is in forensics. Part of that includes testifying in court as an expert witness. One of the most valuable things I've done to prepare for testifying is watching other experts testify. I have watched experts in multiple fields testify, including DNA experts, psychologists, physicians, dentists, fingerprint examiners, human

factors engineers, etc. I've also watched experts in my own field of photographic and video analysis.

Each time I watch someone testify, I look for something to learn – how do they explain something complex in a simple way, how do they use analogies, do they use illustrations in an effective way, do they appear confident (if so, why), do they seem nervous (if so, what makes them appear that way), are they keeping the jurors' attention, etc.

With magic, I try to do the same thing. I don't need to see someone do the same routine I do – I just need to see magicians perform. How do they show the magical moments, is the routine engaging, does it look like magic (and why or why not), is the audience engaged, what is their persona/character, what is their style, etc.?

A wonderful resource for videos of great magicians with commentary by Jamy Ian Swiss is the Take Two archive housed by Magicana <<https://www.magicana.com/take-two>>. There is a numeric index and an alphabetical index. Some of the magicians featured include David Roth, Eugene Burger, Daryl, Albert Goshman, Fred Kaps, Dai Vernon, Juan Tamariz, and on and on.

For me, watching the performances and reading Swiss's essays help me to become a better magician. Whether you use this resource or you search for performances on your own, watch them with an eye for learning. Not learning technique, but learning performance, persona, and style. Study the greats and see what they are doing that sets them apart. The goal is not to copy them, but learn from them so that you can become better in your own routine using your own style.

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



**Everyone was a winner!**  
**Thanks to all who participated!**  
**All proceeds go to our club.**





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

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

Quote:

"You don't get into magic, magic gets into you."

— **David Blaine** —