

January



At the Downtown Anaheim Community Center

Wednesday, January 10th, 2023

250 E Center St, Anaheim, CA 92805

Doors open at 6:30 for Meet & Greet

Lecture starts at **7:00**

Officers:

President.....	Jason Burke
Vice President/Librarian.....	Harrison Kaplan
Secretary/Raffle.....	Jaron Lee
Treasurer/Webmaster.....	Phil Ureno
Sergeant at Arms.....	Western
Newsletter.....	Robert Widmer
Member-at-Large.....	Julian Devero
Member-at-Large.....	Brad Erickson

Welcome 2024!



December's Holiday Celebration

Members got together in December to celebrate the holiday season as well as celebrate the life of long-time club member Mel Bennett. Mel passed away earlier this year. Mel's good friend John Cannon shared his history of Mel's friendship and love of magic with the group. Mel will be missed.



OCMC President Brad Erickson let the group know the agenda for the evening. OCMC Secretary Joy Fujita then announced the new 2024 OCMC Board members. This was followed with a ice-



breaker event, Hot Potato hosted by Jaron. Many fun gifts were passed out to those that evaded holding the potato when the music stopped.



Afterwards, everyone enjoyed the delicious foods, salads, sandwiches, sweets, chips and drinks brought. Once finished eating, the club had a Broken Wand ceremony honoring to life of member Mel Bennett.

The evening finished with performances by Brad, Jaron, Alan, and Jason.





January 2024 Lecture

January's meeting will feature a mini-lecture from none other than Brettso-the-Great. Brett's lecture will concentrate on show-flow. Brett's been a regular in many club shows. His lecture is sure



to feature many great show performance tips. Don't miss what is sure to be an informative lecture.



2023 OCMC Schedule



January 10 th , 2024	Mini-Lecture w/Brettso the Great (show flow)
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It's time to pay dues for 2024

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.

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

This is the 10th 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

Apply It and Start Today!

Over the past year I've written a monthly column on the topic of learning magic. The topics I've covered can be applied to learning anything. In reviewing those articles, I notice two things:

- 1) I've covered a lot of ideas. That's great, but it can also be overwhelming. Where do you start, which one should I apply and build into a habit or use as ongoing motivation to practice, etc.?
- 2) I've only scratched the surface. Maybe that means that I can keep writing these articles, which I enjoy; but if the things I've already learned work – shouldn't I just apply them?

And that brings me to this month's topic – Pick something, apply it today, and see if it fits. If it works for you, make it into a regular

habit. If not, try one of the other ideas. As the Nike catchphrase goes, Just Do It!™

None of the ideas and methods work if they aren't applied. Today I'll give a brief summary of some of the concepts covered over the past months. My challenge to each one of you is to apply one of them to your own practice routine.

In March I wrote about defining why you want to learn magic (or to perform better magic). This provides us with the ability to determine what to focus on, and it gives us on-going motivation to practice regularly. If you haven't done this yet, take ten minutes and think about it. Think about why you want to perform magic, the kind of magic you do, who your audience is, and where you need to focus so that you can improve. Find your why – your motivation to become better. Write it down and read this every day – and then practice.

My next article discussed breaking any trick down into the smallest elements and mastering each of those elements. Even the most basic, self-working trick involves separate components that can be worked on and improved upon. Make each element perfect, put them together, and create the effect you are looking for.

In May I discussed one of my favorite books, *Peak*, by Robert Poole and Anders Ericsson. This book covers the concept of deliberate practice, and how it leads to mastery. I'd really like to encourage everyone to get a copy of this book and read it (or listen to the Audible version) over and over, then apply the concepts of deliberate practice you're your magic.

In June I talked about the incredible saxophonist, Grace Kelly and one of the best basketball players of all time, Kobe Bryant. The concept was to watch the video, study the video, and learn what went right and what didn't. Today I read a short article by Cliff Gerstman in the Ring 96 newsletter about how he got a good audience response to something he recently performed, but when he watched the video he was surprised to see that he was looking someplace that he shouldn't have been at a key moment. The video gave him the correct feedback. Remember to record every performance, and learn from

those recordings. I continued on the value of recording performances in July.

Being prepared was the next topic I covered. I discussed my own experience of not being prepared and doing a poor performance as a result. Never letting that happen again has been a great motivator for me. I decided that I will never attempt to perform a trick for anyone – not even for family or friends, unless I’ve practiced enough to feel good about the routine. Negative motivation can work – and if this hasn’t happened to you, let my experience motivate you. Practice anything you will perform in public until it is ready – be your best self.

In September I wrote about learning what to do when something goes wrong. Practice with a mistake in your routine and know what your “out” is. Something will go wrong – a lost pinky break, a dropped card, a prop failure, etc. What will you do? Did you think about it in advance? And, if so, did you practice it so that it will look like nothing went wrong? That topic followed the Be Prepared article in August quite well.

In October my article brought up a classical concert with phenomenal performers between the ages of 8 and 21 who played solos with a full orchestra. I also wrote about a podcast that focuses on philosophy. The idea was to find motivation and use that motivation. In the case of the young musicians – they inspired me. They didn’t become great by reading, procrastinating, thinking that they didn’t need to practice – they did so with hard work. Watching people who do great at their work is inspiring. The podcast included something about finding motivation by wanting to be your best, not because you have a duty to do so. Do it for yourself. The take-away is to find inspiration, and be motivated by striving to be your best because you want to excel.

Next I discussed one of my favorite phrases, “If you always do what you always did, then you’ll always get what you always got.” This was another attempt at pushing us to motivate ourselves to work on improving our magic. If you are doing something that works, keep at it. If you are not getting better, figure out what to do differently and try that.

I wrapped up the year with an article about sweating the small stuff, polish the fine points, don't settle for 'good enough.' Get into the fine details and make sure that every component of what you are performing is the best you can make it.

Again, my challenge to each of you is to pick one of these and apply it. Don't just think about it but do it. Let's all work on making our magic better and better in the coming year!

Other Events in the Area:



Ring 96 presents
a special lecture from...
The Godfather of Magic

Vinnie Marini

Saturday, January 20th, at 7 PM

Lecture fee: only \$10

**North Community Center
3333 Saint Cloud Drive
Seal Beach, CA 90740**

Vinny has been creating, sharing, and performing magic his entire life. He learned sleight of hand from Bruce Elliot as a teenager in NYC and has been in love with magic ever since. He is the author of multiple DVDs, the inventor of numerous original sleights, and collaborates with magicians from all over the world on his website (www.vinnymarini.com). He performs private shows regularly in the greater Los Angeles area and as well as the Magic Castle in Hollywood.



www.ring96.com

For more Ring96 info, visit their website @ www.Ring96.com