

May



At the Downtown Anaheim Community Center

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024

250 E Center St, Anaheim, CA 92805

Doors open at 6:30 for Meet & Greet

Meeting starts at **7:00**

Officers:

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

April's Close-Up Contest

OCMC held it's annual close-up contest in April. OCMC Executive Board member Phil Ureno M/C'd the event, featured magicians performed in this order:

- 1 - Western
- 2 – Jaron
- 3 – Robert R
- 4 - Jasmine
- 5 - Alan
- 6 - Julian
- 7 - Brett
- 8 - Jason

The 4-judge panel included, Ken Sands, Brent Walski, Harrison Kaplan and Brad Erickson.



This year's contest offered a variety of excellent magic.



















We saw 8 great acts at our annual close-up contest. Jason, Jasmine, Robert, and Julian were all recognized for amazing performances.





May's Meeting

May's meeting will be a Workshop / Show & Tell. Those magicians planning to perform in June's Close-up Show will have a chance to show their act to the club.



2024 OCMC Schedule

May 8	Workshop / Show & Tell
June 12	Close-up Show
July 10	Michael Mezmer (Tentative)
August 14	Stage Competition Show 5:30-9:30 (Assembly Room)
September 11	Open Workshop
October 9	Jam Session / Show & Tell
November 13	Dress Rehearsal
December 11	Holiday Potluck



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 14th 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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Summary and Transition

This month's column will be a transition. I will move from the topic of how to approach learning magic to a series of book reviews. In this column I'll summarize some of the topics covered in the past and introduce the ideas I have for the book reviews. I'd appreciate any ideas that you might have as to what you would like to see in the upcoming months.

In my search for learning how to do things, as opposed to learning things, I have found that there is no substitute for practicing – and practicing properly. And, before we practice, we need to decide what to practice. Let's take a look at those three items.

What to practice? This depends on where we are in our magic experience and what we are practicing for – are we getting down

card controls with the overhand shuffle, learning a new sleight, polishing our patter or the magical moment reveals? Not focusing leads to slow progress – or no progress. I've wasted countless hours in practicing one thing until it's only passable, then another, then another – only to find that not only do none of these get beyond the passable level, but I regress to a state of each move ending up rather poor. Our first step is to determine what to focus on – whether it's a move or a full routine, and not allow ourselves to get distracted.

Then we need consistent practice. Our practice should be daily. If you miss a day, it's not a big deal. If you miss two in a row then you might find that it becomes easy to skip and you no longer have consistency. There are a few things that I find help me to practice consistently.

First is to make it easy to practice. I leave my table with my close-up pad near my office door.

The only thing on this table is what I need for what I'm working on. Every time that I walk by it, I can spend five or ten minutes working on something. It's easy to pick up my cards and work on a given move, or pick up my ring and rope and work on being looser with a couple of my moves. If something isn't easy about practicing, I am less likely to do it.

Some people in the business and personal productivity fields use the phrase, "If it's scheduled, it gets done." If we have a set time to practice every day, and we put it on our calendar, we can set a regular routine of daily practice. For many of us, this works. For me, it sometimes does – but I'm not as good at keeping to that schedule as I wish.

Some experts in building habits discuss using anchors or triggers to build a new habit. This is something that you already do that you use to prompt yourself to take a new action. For instance, when you pour water into your coffee maker, also pour a glass of water and drink it; or, when turning on your computer in the morning, write

down your biggest priority for the day. For practicing, this might be, immediately after getting dressed in the morning, practice magic for ten minutes; or, after loading the dishwasher, practice magic for 20 minutes. Or, every time I walk by my close-up table I will practice one thing.

Next comes practicing correctly. For me, this means breaking down the thing I'm practicing into small steps, using a mirror or recording videos, and not moving to step two if step one has an issue. I recently learned the strike double lift. It looks like one move with no preparation – but this simple looking move that takes a couple seconds to execute involves a very specific grip, a lot of pressure, striking the edge of the cards in a specific way, raising the finger, grasping the cards, and then turning them over. What is that, seven components? If I mess up on the second step, the rest may not work. So, when practicing this, if I mess up on step two or three – I stop and figure out what's going wrong, and I work on correcting it before moving on. I'm not claiming that this is the only way to approach practice – but it is what works for me.

The bottom line, determine what to practice and keep your focus, make practicing easy, and then set an anchor or trigger so that you practice consistently. By doing so, I'm finding that I am able to consistently work on something specific and improve – learning to become a better magician.

Now for a brief introduction to the future of this column. I have learned a lot from a variety of sources including business and personal productivity books, biographies, books on magic performance, magazine articles, etc. My reviews will not be about books that focus only on tricks – but on books, podcasts, articles, and lectures from all of these genres that I have found helpful in becoming a better magician. If you have any specific books, articles, or other sources that you'd like me to look at, please pass the titles along!

Other Events in the Area:



Some of our members volunteered to perform magic for a event organized by Joy at the Lomita Railroad Museum. Magicians pictured are Brad, Joy, Jason, Phil, Yancy, Alan, and Western.

Ring96 Events

May 18th, Close-up Competition at the North Senior Center, 3333 Saint Cloud Drive. Seal Beach, CA

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