



Magic Flash

Newsletter of the Society of American Magicians Assembly 72

From Dream to Reality:

A Magical Journey to Assembly 72

George Westwood has been a member of the Sacramento Area Magicians since August, 1986 and has been active in Assembly 72 from the beginning, serving as the club's first Secretary. George recently went on a hunt through the Assembly archives and has put together a brief history of our Assembly and a time line of important dates in it's creation and growth.

Here's George Westwood's report:

Sacramento Conjuror's Assembly 72 was formed in 1956, as per information passed on to me. Lloyd Jones helped establish the Assembly for the local magicians. *From the pages of the 'December 1957 issue' of M-U-M:* "The first anniversary was celebrated with a banquet and show on a Monday night, November 4, 1957 at the Lanai Restaurant. The event was attended by 72 Compeers, ladies and guests. Following the dinner, John Stone acted as emcee, and performed quite a bit of magic himself. The feature act that night was Fred Bonner as *No Foo Ling* and Sam Boclich did a superb Magic Clown act. They were followed by Compeers Allen Dudley, Roy Coleman, Curt Hoffman, Walter Rice, Tom Mapes and Robert Dippel. Charles Rymerrson and his guests closed the show with a Barbershop Quartet act."

Unfortunately the Assembly did not stay active for very long – only a couple of years or so at most.

In 1984, I was approached by a fellow co-worker who wanted to join the Society of American Magicians. He wasn't sure who to contact. With a little research, I was able to get him the needed information to join SAM and I ended up joining too. With some of the information I received, I was able to contact a couple of Associate Members, Art Gross and Stan Matty.

Our first meeting (before we became an Assembly) was held on May 21, 1986 at the home of Stan Matty.

Those who attended were Art Gross, Rick Kiefer, Stan Matty, Armie Westwood, and George Westwood.

Some of our goals were set that night: 1) At least one bit of magic should be performed at each meeting. 2) If possible, bring a friend who is into magic. 3) When the club "rules" were finalized, Art Gross suggested that we appoint or elect an entertainment chairperson.

In June 1986, Kevin Kelber joined our little group and Stan Matty volunteered to be our entertainment person until someone is elected.

By August 1986 the club had already found twelve prospective members: Art Gross, Kevin Kebler, Kathy Kersten, Robert Kersten, Rick Kiefer, Stan Matty, Barry McKee, Ken Pearce, Don Robinson, Tyler, Armie Westwood and George Westwood. Although we had twelve prospective members, only three showed up for the meeting. This brought a special message from yours truly:

SPECIAL MESSAGE! Sooner or later we will have a club here in Sacramento and it will be a good one. I'm learning all the time. I have a lot of good ideas. I do need feedback from the people. What do you want from a club?

Our newsletter introduced a new column in October 1986 called *New Faces*, which will profile our new members.

By December 1986 we had eight members who had become members of SAM National – only two short of the ten we needed to get our Charter. Greg Gregory joins. He has no magical experience but a great willingness to learn.

Dale Lorzo attended his first meeting with us in April 1987. He was a great addition to the club.

In May 1987, Dale Lorzo and Greg Gregory joined SAM and signed our Petition. It had been a full year of working to make the club a GO! It was no time to stop, and we continued to grow and improve.

'We've got ten! This was also the month we had our ten

(Continued on page two)

members of SAM needed to sign our Petition. The ten original members signing the Petition were: **Art Gross, Greg Gregory, Dale Lorzo, Stan Matty, Bob Kersten, Kathy Kersten, Kevin Kebler, Ken Pearce, Armida Westwood and George Westwood.**

In June 1987 we welcomed **Robert Brown** and **Dr. Lloyd Rich** to our group, and hoped we would be able to share many years of friendship and magic together.

At the July 1987 meeting we had a majority of our members present. It was the perfect time to select a name for our club and the decision was unanimous. We decided to call ourselves the **Sacramento Area Magicians (SAM)**. This name was suggested by **Dr. Rich** and **Sharyn Rich**.

Our *Petition for Assembly* was sent off to SAM Headquarters for approval in September and five more people expressed an interest in joining our club! We also had several guests join us at the September meeting – **Bill Etgen** and his son, **Allen and Diane Greenberg, Robert Mittlebach** and **Bob Raker. Richard Kowaleski** arrived early and gave us a demo of a few of the magic items he has in stock.

A special meeting was announced for November 24th and all of the members were asked to attend to meet “a special guest.” **Robert Steiner**, President-Elect of the Society of American Magicians travelled to Sacramento to present us with our Charter and install our first slate of officers. We had worked long and hard for that moment and at times, almost gave up, but the future looked very bright that night.

The Officers for our first year as Assembly 72 were as follows:

- Art Gross, President;
- Dale Lorzo, Vice-President;
- George Westwood, Secretary;
- Allen Greenberg, Treasurer.

To be continued ...

Performers and Volunteers Needed

On Saturday, September 19, SAM will join with IBM 192 in presenting our annual magic show to benefit the Mission Oaks Community Center. The show provides funds to help support the Center. In addition, the clubs share a percentage of the profit; it's a monetary benefit for all! This event has been well attended in the past and has provided a great performance opportunity for SAM and IBM members. We are in the planning stages NOW! We are seeking interested performers. We are looking for family oriented stage acts. We also have openings for stand-up performers to do magic before the main show and during intermission. Finally, we need volunteers to help man the ticket and food sales counters and to help set up and tear down. Please contact a Board member and let us know how you would like to help. We need commitments by performers by the end of June or early July.

2005 Club Officers

President:

Rick Hill (707) 678-8807
rhill@ucdavis.edu

Vice President:

David Wright (916) 944-8454
wright.davida@sbcglobal.net

Secretary and Newsletter:

Viktor Berry (916) 362-8355
viktor2@mac.com

Treasurer:

Allen Greenberg (916) 483-4345
greenberga@placersierrabank.com

If you have not paid your local dues for 2005 yet, PLEASE pay them as soon as possible. You can pay at the meeting or mail a check for \$20.00 to our Treasurer:

Allen Greenberg
 5500 Oak Hill Court
 Carmichael, CA 95608-6644

Each member must pay \$12.00 a year for membership to Mission Oaks in order for us to use their meeting facilities. Please show your receipt to Allen Greenberg.

Monthly Meetings

Assembly 72 of the Society of American Magicians meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00p.m. at Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District Senior Citizen's Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., in Carmichael. Prospective members are encouraged to visit us anytime!

Notes from the President

Perhaps the most important item on May's agenda will be the vote to adopt the new By-Laws. These have been available for review and comment for the last two months. All of the comments that have been submitted during this review period have been considered and appropriate modifications have been made to the draft document. The only significant change since our last meeting has been to add the responsibility for the production of the monthly newsletter to the office of Secretary. Aside from that, no major changes were made and none were suggested at or since the April meeting. So, we anticipate the By-Laws to be adopted with minimum discussion.

At the March meeting, the Board was authorized to spend up to \$150 this year on videos, CDs and books to expand the library. Since that meeting, we were made aware that Lee Forrester's family was selling his considerable video and CD collection. I was able to purchase nearly 130 videos and CD's for our library. I actually made two buying trips. On my first trip, I spent the full \$150 dollars allocated in March. After I got home and thought back on all of the great material I had left, I couldn't help but return the next day and spend another \$150 to secure a larger selection for the library. I used the \$150 discretionary fund to do this. It is my hope that the group will authorize the full \$300 as a library expense. The items we added will cost us less than \$2.50 per item (for videos AND DVD's). We also have secured all of the commercial videos from the former joint SAM/IBM library (thank you IBM!). This means our library now has nearly 180 videos and CDs for the use of our members. Once I have finished cataloging the contents of the library, we will make the list available at meetings and on the web site along with the process to follow to check items out for your research. Remember, these are commercial products. They are made available for members of SAM 72 only and only for their personal research. Copyright laws and the SAM Code of Ethics forbid copying of any of the library material.

Again, I would like to thank Lee Forrester's family for providing this opportunity to the club. All of the items purchased from his collection will be marked as such in memory of Lee and his love for magic. The material from his library will serve as an invaluable resource for members of SAM 72 for years to come.

A few reminders:

If you present a workshop at one of our meetings, you will receive a \$25 gift certificate courtesy of either Grand Illusions or Murphy's Magic.

If you bring in the most new members in 2005, you will have your local and national SAM dues paid by the Assembly in 2006. New SAM members will only pay national dues this year. Local Assembly dues are free for new members in 2005.

If you have some magic items you would like to sell, let one of the board members know in advance and if space allows, we will provide a table for you to display your items at a regular meeting.

I hope you are planning on attending the All Clubs Barbecue in June. This event is co-hosted by SAM 72 and IBM 192 and will be open to members and family of all of the Sacramento area magic clubs. This is always a fun event. Thanks to **Allen and Diane Greenberg** for hosting the event this year. Make sure you RSVP by June 10. Check out the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

Finally, we are still looking for performers and volunteers for the September 17 annual Mission Oaks Community Center show presented by SAM 72 and IBM 192. If you would like to perform on stage, do close-up or strolling before the show and during intermission, help set up, help tear down (please!), help with concession sales ... let a board member know soon!

Visit our web site for:

The latest news
and newsletters

www.magic1.org/sam72/

SAM Assembly 72 • 2005 Magic Calendar

Meetings begin promptly at 7:00 PM.

- May 23 Bob Sheets Lecture at the Clarion Hotel 7:00 PM
- May 25 Meeting Theme – Mental Effects – Workshop by Joe Chez on performing for special-needs audiences.
- June 18 Summer Barbecue – RSVP to the Greenbergs at (916) 483-4345
- June 22 Meeting Theme – Rope and String Effects
- July 1 Please volunteer to perform at the Mission Oaks show by this date.
- July 27 Meeting Theme – Impromptu Magic
- August 24 “Make it move or float”
- Sept. 19 Annual Magic Show at Mission Oaks - Please volunteer to work!

Find our Assembly activities in the Sacramento Bee's web site at
<http://ourtown.sacbee.com/SocietyofAmericanMagiciansAssembly72>

The Magic Flash

Society of American Magicians
Sacramento Assembly 72
Viktor Berry, Secretary
2827 Tiber Drive, #37
Sacramento, CA 95826-2533



Next meeting:

May 25th • 7:00 P.M.

**Mental Effects and
a workshop by Joe Chez**

April 27th Meeting Minutes

BY RICK HILL, PRESIDENT

We had a great turn out at the April meeting and we signed up a new member as well. **John Robertson**, already a national SAM member, joined our Assembly (details about his membership performance follow below). **Gary Berard** reinstated his membership in SAM 72 as well. Great to have you back Gary!

President Rick Hill covered several old business items. The Assembly authorized the Board to spend \$150 on new materials for the library. The Board has yet to make a wish list and members are encouraged to submit their ideas for additions to a board member. We are still working with IBM to get the SAM-specific and all commercial videos from the former joint library collection.

The group was reminded of the **All Clubs Barbecue** happening on **Saturday, June 18**. RSVP **Allen Greenberg** by June 10. Two lectures are coming up in May. **Troy Hooser** on May 17 and **Bob Sheets** on May 23.

A meeting is scheduled for the evening of May 2 with members of IBM 192 to start planning the September magic show at Mission Oaks Community Center. Anyone interested was invited to attend. Performers and volunteers are still being actively sought.

A draft of the proposed new By-Laws for SAM 72 was handed out and changes since the last draft were reviewed. Comments on the draft were solicited. There will be a vote at the May meeting to adopt the By-Laws.

Treasurer Allen Greenberg reported that the Assembly has \$2,803.07 in its coffers.

Under new business, Rick announced that **Dale Lorzo** is heading up a committee to plan a SAM banquet to take place in October 2005. Anyone interested in assisting should contact Dale.

Rick handed out a draft SAM 72 budget for review by the group.

Performers

The evening's theme was *Sucker Tricks*, and eight members volunteered to perform for the club.

Our first magician was **Bob Brown** performing a comedy card revelation. A lot of the comedy came from Bob's misbehaving prop – a table holding three balloons from which a chosen card has to appear. Bob's good humor and by-play with the stubborn prop was as entertaining as if the trick had

worked perfectly; the sign of a true showman.

The second performer was prospective member **John Robertson**. He proved himself a worthy Assembly member with a dazzling display of close-up/stand-up magic. First he performed a linking and unlinking rubber bands routine. That was followed by a ring on string routine and he closed with an in-the-hands *Coins Across* routine. Nice work John. And congratulations to our new member!

Charlie Fass followed John. Charlie had someone hold a large envelope containing his prediction and then displayed a jumbo deck whose cards had each been split in two. A card was selected from each of the mixed half-decks. The two selected half-cards were shown to not match. But Charlie's prediction did match. It was a single card made up of two half-cards that matched the chosen half-cards!

After a humorous story by **Joe Chez**, **Gary Berard** presented a card effect. After a spectator shuffled the deck, Gary removed a prediction card. Then, the spectator selected, signed and returned a card to the deck, which Gary shuffled. The top and bottom cards were shown to not be the selection and removed. The spectator chose a card from the deck, which also was not the selection. This too was removed. Gary then showed that the prediction card he removed and tabled at the outset was the selected signed card. Further, the three indifferent cards removed during the course of the effect had magically transformed to the mates of the selected card!

Joe Hogan performed three effects. For the first, he had a card selected and rubbed on the spectator's cheek before having it returned to the deck. Joe then spread the cards and sniffed them. One "stuck" to the end of his nose and was removed from the deck. It was the chosen card. Then Joe performed card on forehead. Finally, he borrowed a watch and tied it to the end of one of three ropes hanging from a wooden rod. The watch was on the right hand rope. Passing the ropes behind his back caused the watch to jump to the left hand rope. Behind the back again to bring the watch back to the right. After appropriate jeering from the audience, Joe passed the ropes behind his back the watch jumped to the middle rope! *(Continued on Page Six, on the other side)*

David Wright discussed the properties of the mysterious element Bluetonium, which looked mysteriously like a blue silk. He placed it into his hand and it transformed into a loop of chain, about 18 inches in diameter. Using this chain, David performed a stand-up (no table required) version of fast and loose (a street gambling game of old).

The last performer was Rick Hill. He presented an effect using two matchboxes. Sympathetically, when the drawer of one was closed the other opened. This was shown to occur regardless of the orientation of the matchboxes. Rick finished with the Bruce Cervon version of *Card Warp* using a card and a dollar bill instead of two cards.

The membership selected Gary Berard as the best performer of the evening.

Workshop: Dale Lorzo and Bill Brooks presented a workshop exploring the variety and development of two classes of magic props: money makers and divination devices. They had a display of about 25 of each type of prop - about 50 props all told. Many were from Bill Brooks' extensive collection. They labeled all of the items and passed around key sheets. All were invited to take a look at the props before the presentation actually started. Dale Lorzo displayed each prop and provided a brief history of the item, including its manufacturer and country of origin. The secret working of many (not all!) of the props were disclosed. Several were demonstrated as well. It was an interesting and informative look at two kinds of props used in the past and present. Dale and Bill know their stuff and questions were expertly fielded.

Yes Compeers, it's time again for the

Annual Sacramento Area All-Magic Club Barbecue

Hosted by SAM Assembly 72 and IBM Ring 192

Saturday, June 18th
starting at 5:30 PM till ?

Where:

Allen & Diane Greenberg's Home
5500 Oak Hills Court, Carmichael
(Off Garfield Ave. just North of Cypress Avenue Intersection)

Who:

**Members of SAM Assembly 72, IBM Ring 192,
Magicians Circle of Elk Grove and the Sierra
Sorcerers & their immediate families and
significant others.**

Cost:

**FREE! (That's right!) if you bring a potluck
item. And if you don't? Your cost will be \$6
per adult & \$3 per child.**

**The pool and spa will be wet and
ready for fun! Plan on surprises,
prizes and great company ...
and of course ... **MAGIC!****

So, what do you need to do?

**1st – RSVP no later than June 10 to:
Allen Greenberg (916)483-4345 or email
to greenberga@placersierrabank.com**

2nd – Bring a food item

Assigned below by the 1st letter of your last name
A through G – Salad, Side Dish, or ??
H through P – Snack, chips, or hors d'oeuvre
S through G – Dessert

**Remember, it's FREE! So bring an effect or illusion,
or just your wits to share while we mingle, eat and have fun.**