



Sacramento Area Magicians

August 2006

Magic Flash

Newsletter of the Society of American Magicians Assembly 72

Monthly Meetings

Assembly 72 of the Society of American Magicians meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. We meet at the Mission Oaks Recreation and Parks District's Senior Citizen Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive in Carmichael. *Prospective members are encouraged to visit us anytime!*

Auction Alert!

Start cleaning out your closets now, the Annual SAM/IBM Magic Auction has been moved up to September 27! Don't miss the best magic deals of the year!

Annual Fundraising Show

The annual SAM/IBM Fundraiser is scheduled for September 16. Volunteers are needed to help set-up and take-down as well as sell drinks and candy at intermission. Please help us this year!

2006 Assembly Officers

President

David Wright 916-944-8454

wright.davida@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President

Leland Eiben 530-790-7470

leenassoc@hotmail.com

Secretary

Viktor Berry 916-362-8355

viktor2@mac.com

Treasurer

Allen Greenberg 916-483-4345

greenberga@placersierrabank.com

Board Members at Large

Richard LaVergne

Richard Hill



Wright writes ...

Psychic Entertainment and Bizarre Magick

By David Wright, President

Our theme for our next monthly meeting is **Mentalism**, a term we all know to mean any magical effect that denotes mental acuity. Tricks that fall under this broad subject connote clairvoyance, mind-reading, precognition, mind control, or telekinesis. It's interesting (to me) that the *Cyclopedia of Magic*, a reference book written Henry Hay in 1949, does not acknowledge the word mentalism as a term used by magicians. Therefore, the word must derive from a more modern time. Yet one of the earliest recorded performances of a mentalism act was by diplomat and pioneering sleight-of-hand magician Girolamo Scotto in 1572.

Whether you claim to possess supernatural powers (*ala Uri Geller*) or merely have learned to read body language (*like Darren Brown*) this month's performance theme affords you the opportunity to show off your mental feats. Come and amaze us with your mental magic. If you can display the most authoritative, commanding and charismatic stage presence than any other performer of the night you may win this month's Best Performance award.

At our next meeting we are also holding a workshop on **Bizarre Magic**. Bizarre Magic is another modern term (supposedly started in the late 60s by Charles Cameron and Tony "Doc" Shiels) that encompasses a broad spectrum of magical illusions, including Halloween magic, story-telling effects, Geek magic, and/or the weird and strange. Unlike traditional magic, where tricks are often performed the same way, most Bizarre Magic is completely unique to each performer. Bizarre Magic uses word play to a much greater degree than other types of magic and, therefore, may be funny, comical, and downright slapstick. It is not necessarily true that Bizarre Magic is ghoulish, ghostly, or ghastly. Bizarre Magic strives to touch the audience on a deeper emotional level than an ordinary magic act and is normally done close-up. It is more like watching small, intimate theater than a traditional magic show.

If involving an audience in outrageous theatrical routines appeals to you, this workshop will prove to be one that you won't want to miss. So, come to our next meeting and be prepared to share in the debate of what makes Bizarre Magic magical.

Visit our web site at
www.magic1.org/sam72



Minutes of the July 26, 2006 Meeting and Important Announcements

**By Viktor Berry and
Roscoe, the Magic, Giant, German Shepherd Wonder Dog,
Editors**

Thank you Leland Eiben for recording the minutes of this meeting in my absence.

The meeting began with President David Wright calling the meeting to order and recognizing guests Pam and Larry Impson from IBM Ring 192, and Henry Vandeloo.

The Ronald Mc Donald House requires us to have proof of \$1 Million in insurance before we are allowed to meet there. We are working to sort this out. **Meanwhile, we will continue to meet at Mission Oaks until we come to a resolution.**

In October, Mission Oaks will be closed for renovations and replacement of their air conditioning system. **It was decided that we will move the Annual Magic Auction to September 27 at Mission Oaks. We will hold the October 25 meeting on our regular day, but we will meet at Richard LaVergne's house.**

Sean Klein was invited up in front of the members and David Wright presented Sean with his Membership Certificate and Packet. Welcome to SAM, Sean! Good luck in your magic endeavors!

Treasurer Allen Greenberg reported that we have \$2,931.70 in our coffers.

A short discussion was held about our Assembly starting a Junior Assembly (SYM). At this time, it would be difficult to conduct with so few members volunteering to help run the club.

This month's performance theme is *Magazine Magic*. One could perform a piece of magic that was published in a magazine or it could be done using a magazine as a prop.

The first performer was our newest member, Sean Klein. Sean performed a card effect from the June, 2006 issue of MUM called *Small Triumph*. He asked a volunteer to choose a card and shuffle the deck. He explained that his son shuffles the deck with part of the deck turned face

up, and part turned face down. The final result was that the card selected was the only card that was face up in the deck!

Up next, Joe Chez started his routine with two hilarious jokes and then performed a magazine tear – tearing a single page of a magazine. Joe then licked the pages and stuck them together to restore the page! He also performed an effect from John Calvert using a butcher's knife to cut another sheet from a magazine that was again restored. Joe also performed a mentalism effect from George Westwood which consisted of cutting a clipping from a magazine after earlier making a prediction. He then gave a pair of scissors to a spectator who chose where he wanted to cut the clipping in half. The top of the clipping that was cut off matched Joe's prediction! Joe finished by explaining how he did his last effect.

David Wright chose to do two effects using four aces. The first effect, *Sleeve Aces*, came from an L&L catalog. David started by wiping the portions of the deck on his sleeves and magically producing the four aces at one time. The second effect, *Beyond Fabulous* by John Bannon, came from Richard Kaufman's *The Looking Glass*, Spring 1996 edition. David used the four aces he just produced to perform Bannon's variation of Henry Christ's ace trick where the aces are lost in the deck and found one at a time. Each revelation is more difficult than the last. The kicker is that the final ace also finds its royal flush companions!

Leland Eiben decided to do a mentalism effect by Carroll Fox. Leland picked up a magazine and began thumbing through it. A spectator was asked to say "stop" at any time and the page was then torn out and handed to the spectator. The contents of the page were then revealed by Leland as the spectator looked at the page to verify. Leland then showed everyone how it was done.

Rick Hill said that he had been running late and had

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The Greatest Performance I Ever Saw

By Quentin Reynolds

Performing under difficult circumstances can be off-putting to say the least. You turn up, the venue is cold or maybe the audience is less than you expected. The venue is devoid of atmosphere. Yet you have to go on and be brilliant. It certainly doesn't sound like a fun show, does it?

I've always been a fan of one-man shows. Probably because that's what I do myself. And while it's always good to watch other magicians perform, I find I learn more and get better ideas from watching performers in other fields.

Let me tell you about one of them.

Back in the 1980s I read that **Julian Chagrin**, a one-man mime show was coming to Dublin to appear in The Oscar Theatre. I immediately booked a ticket. What I didn't know at the time was that the management of theatre were having problems. They had forgotten they had booked the show and only started advertising at the last minute. There must have been financial problems also as there was no heat in the venue - and it was a cold and stormy November night. The audience consisted of twelve individuals, spread out all over the auditorium, the person nearest the stage being six seats from the front.

We all sat huddled in our coats and scarves.

Hardly a promising start.

The show starts and enter Julian Chagrin. He immediately brightened up the stage and performed as though it were a full house of raving fans. His enthusiasm spread out into the audience and soon we were caught up in the show and laughing heartily. He put his heart into the performance and never held back. Yet it must have been a very difficult show for him - an audience of twelve in a cold venue that should seat 300.

And still after twenty years it stands way out in my mind as the greatest example of professionalism I have experienced.

Afterwards I wondered why I never came across his name again. Surely someone with such a good show would

keep cropping up? Around 1997 I received an e-mail which had the CC section filled in with dozens of names.

Amongst them was Julian Chagrin. Could this be the same person? I e-mailed him and indeed it was! He is now living in Israel and working in television. Should he ever tour again be sure and catch him.

© 2006 Quentin Reynolds *Quentin Reynolds works as both magician and speaker. You can read about one of his programs at <http://www.speakingschools.com>*

July 2006 Meeting Minutes *(Continued from page two)*

to borrow two magazines from the Mission Oaks lobby because he did not have time to get any from home. He then borrowed a dollar bill from a person in the audience. Taking that dollar and one of the magazines, he gave them to another spectator. This spectator was to read the serial number, and by using the digits, turn to the page, then count down the number of lines by using the second digit, and count over the words using the next digits. He then revealed the name of the word that the spectator counted to. Rick said that this is a part of an impromptu routine he has been working on.

Tim Walker said that he was working on a new effect and that he had a few bugs he had to work out. He showed us a book and as he was explaining what he was doing, several paper butterflies came whizzing out of the pages!

A vote was taken and **Sean Klein** and **David Wright** tied for First Place! David awarded Sean a **\$40 Gift Certificate** for from **Murphy's Magic**. *Thank you, Mark Murphy for all of your support!*

Our workshop topic was Mentalism. A great discussion was held on the styles a performer might use to do Mentalism along with many other topics. The biggest problem for mentalists, and magicians wanting to do to mentalism it seems, is staying in character.

Mentalism will be the theme on August 23.

SAM 72 • 2006 Magic Calendar

DATE	PERFORMANCE THEME	WORKSHOP THEME
August 23	Mentalism	What is Bizarre Magick?
September 16	<i>SAM/IBM Community Show at Mission Oaks</i>	<i>Date subject to change</i>
September 27	Changed! Annual SAM/IBM Magic Auction	
October 23	Bizzare Magick at Richard LaVergne's house	How to theme your act

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 is this week!
August 23• 7:00 P.M. Theme – Mentalism!
Workshop – What is Bizarre Magic?