



THE FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB NEWSLETTER

January 2012—www.fortworthmagiciansclub.org—Volume 2012 Issue 1

Next Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 5, 2012 — Speed Room TR4202 Tarrant County College-River Campus

January Meeting to Feature Lecture with Lance Pierce—A Closed Meeting

Come January, the holidays are going to be over. Which makes me happy. We had our December meeting which was very fun, but was a lot of work for me. Creating a game show wasn't easy, but it was totally worth it.

For the January meeting we are going to have a great lecture from the great **Lance Pierce**. You are going to want to come to this meeting. Lance does elegant magic. This is the kind of stuff that you just don't see any more. While I am cracking jokes to help my magic, he is enchanting his audience with pure beauty and class. I encourage everyone to come and let's all learn how to step up our game.

We are also going to have a discussion from **Larry Heil** about putting a reason for our magic and he is going to help us in the next step in building our brand new act. Plus, we have **Matt** performing a mini act and we get to see who the "magic staff" gets past to next. Please note that this meeting is considered a closed meeting. To join the meeting, you need to be paid up on your dues. If you are not a member, you can pay \$20 to see the lecture. You can also use that \$20 towards becoming a member. It doesn't make you a member, though, but it does get you started. I hope to see everyone there. It's going to be a night of glorious magic!

Randi Rain



On A Personal Note . . .

[Editor's notice: This column is dedicated news about our members and friends in the greater North Texas magic community, particularly regarding those who are under the weather, recovering, and those of our community whom we unfortunately lose. As we can, we will provide mailing addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers for our colleagues and their families.

To this end, please send your information to the *Flashpaper* editor Geoff Grimes at ggrimes1@aol.com or call at 972-740-3125.

Please provide contact information as you can.

Prayers and Best Wishes

Fran Hatzenbuhler appeared chipper and enthusiastic at the December Christmas Party although she still faces possible surgery.

Logan Stadtman is back performing and seems greatly recovered from his own heart surgery—thanks so much for supporting the children, Logan, at the "Snowball Express" event this month!

Hal Hudgins is back in a big way after a long recovery from his own back pain. Hal had one of the biggest months ever in the past two years! Great news for each of our friends!

Features: Principles of Magic, Snowball Express, Kidz Rule, December Report, Magical Memory

December brings holiday giving and a lot of good fun!

The December 2011 meeting of the Fort Worth Magicians Club was our annual Holiday Party, a time where we blended the magic of the holidays with our own special magic.

Our president, Ash Adams, opened with a warm welcome to all of our members and visitors. We had more visitors than normal, as many of the members brought a spouse or other special guest to enjoy the festivities.



Then Ash performed a routine from his professional repertoire for us that started with a beautiful linking ring routine, progressed to an absolutely astounding rope routine, and closed with a wonderful bit where, instead of talking, he used a flip-chart to instruct his volunteer for a card routine, and he ended up producing the chosen card from his mouth. After he finished his performance, he passed the magic totem on to Matt Martin who will be performing for the club next month.

Randi Rain, our Vice President and Program Chair put together a fun gift exchange in the format of a Game Show called "Magic Bamboozled". All of the "contestants" were asked various, and rather challenging questions testing their knowledge of magical history. Each round showed us who know their magical history, and who didn't. Once it got down to the last two contestants, they had to prove their knowledge of magic by performing a move identified only by the move's name.

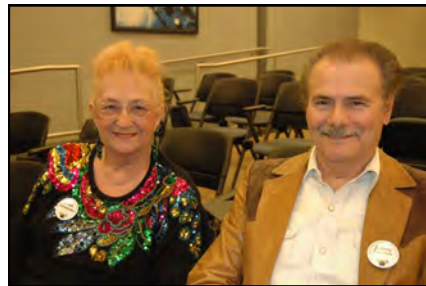
In the end, Mike Ince proved victorious, winning a beautiful hand crafted magic wand that would make any magician jealous.

IBM Ring 15 meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Tarrant County College River Campus in downtown Fort Worth. See www.fortworthmagiciansclub.org for more information.

Jeffrey Hallberg, Secretary.



Photos from our Christmas Party



The Fort Worth Magicians Club is a "family" of families and friends dedicated to the pleasure and performance of magical entertainment.

A FWMC Magical Memory ~ Name this Member!



Member hints: Born in Louisiana, our member has been doing magic for the last fifteen years.

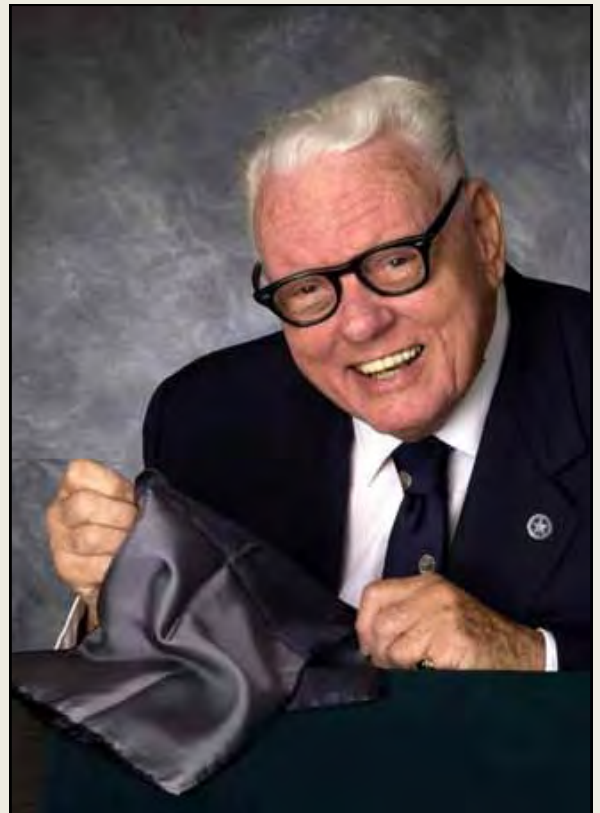
How did it all begin? When did we first feel the urge to “do magic”? Some say they can trace their affection for the magical arts as early as childhood; others, not until much later.

With this issue we begin a new FWMC special-interest feature called “A FWMC Magical Memory.” We’ll showcase a photograph of one of our members taken as a wee-one or as a budding magician.

Bring a photo of yourself as a youngster to our next meeting. Your editor will scan them and publish one each month in *The Flashpaper*. Elsewhere in this issue, we have identified our member (see page 5).

“Once Upon A Time . . . “

Reminiscences with Arthur Emerson



Renowned inventor and one of the most successful promoters of magical entertainment!

Arthur Emerson to begin new column!

FWMC member and trustee Arthur Emerson will begin a new column conjuring up his lifetime of memories in magic! What a magical gift!

2011-2012 Dues Are Now Due

In order to retain membership in the Fort Worth Magicians Club, dues of \$20 are repayable each October. Members who have not renewed their membership by January are dropped from the list of members. You can renew your membership by completing the membership application found on the FWMC website (www.fortworthmagiciansclub.org) or at the end of *The Flashpaper*.

Paid Members To Date:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Luther Adkins | Larry Heil |
| Richard Amon | Bill Irwin |
| Dana Archip | Bob Karlebach |
| Stacey Archip | Jess Langston |
| Larry Brown | Randy Keck |
| Rick Burcher | Matthew Martin |
| Bruce Chadwick | Richard Pemper |
| Louis Daniel | Elena Ponsler |
| Arthur Emerson | Randi Rain |
| Albert Fox | Michael Rubino |
| Marvin Gearhart | Libby Sharpe |
| Geoffrey Grimes | Russell Shead |
| Jeffrey Hallberg | Betty Jo Standridge |
| Don Hartman | Bob Utter |
| Brendan Hartman | |

Doug Wilson
David Youngblood

(December new members or renewals not listed)

January Birthday Greetings!

Larry Brown
Michael Dimsdle
Don Hartman
Bob Karlebach
Ray Landy

Whooo —
Hoooh!

Principles of Magic ~ a Guest Article by Bruce Chadwick



Editor's Note: *The Flashpaper* is grateful to FWMC member and past-president Bruce Chadwick for permission to reprint his article, "Principles of Magic." With this article, Bruce begins a monthly column on the art of magical entertainment.

NOTHING SUPERNATURAL. All magic tricks are just that; tricks. They are closely related to puzzles. When a person performs card tricks at a party, for example, everyone knows there are secrets to how they work. No matter how incredible magic card tricks are, no matter how impossible magic effects seem to be, simple contrivances, mechanics, psychological secrets, and sleight-of-hand are what make them work. Magic effects are accomplished only by purely natural means. Supernatural abilities are never involved.

REMEMBER THE IMPACT. As an experienced Texas magic performer and Texas magic shop owner, I encourage magicians as they learn how to do magic tricks to try and remember the impact a magic effect had on them the first time they saw it performed. It is easy to forget just how strong a magic effect is once a person knows its secret.

PROTECT THE SECRETS. The art of magic is protected when its secrets are protected. A magician must learn how to overcome the temptation to expose the secrets of tricks. This is magic's most important rule. If everyone knows the secret of a trick, then the effect of that trick is no longer astounding. Excitement diminishes and the effect's entertainment value dwindles. It is the secretive nature of magic effects that gives them their mystery and charm. And surprisingly, most people do not want to know the secrets of tricks. Rather they just enjoy being amazed and mystified. When a spectator asks how a trick works, a magician should just be polite and simply say that it is against his code of ethics to reveal its secret.

DON'T WARN THEM. Magic tricks are most powerful when an audience doesn't know what's coming. The magician who tells an audience that he is about to make a handkerchief disappear has just challenged his audience to "catch him if they can." The element of surprise has been greatly diminished, a primary ingredient why magic effects mystify. Rarely should a magician tell an audience what he is about to do before he does it.

DON'T REPEAT A TRICK. In the same way a joke is not as funny the second time it is heard, a magic trick is not as powerful the second time it is seen. Their climax gives both jokes and magic effects their impact. When the climax is known, impact is lessened. Magic is always more powerful if an audience is left with only first impressions. Therefore magicians should resist the urge to repeat a trick.

Also since audiences tend to watch more closely the second time a trick is performed, they are much more apt to discover its secret. So when spectators say, "Do that again," what they are really saying is "Now that we know what you are going to do, do it again so we can discover the secret!" As we have performed illusions professionally for many years in Fort Worth magic, Dallas magic, and Houston magic circles, we have adopted the rule to never perform the same trick before the same audience a second time using the same secret.

ENTERTAIN WITH MYSTERY. There are three types of magical entertainers: (a) the magician who performs his tricks like they are just puzzles, (b) the magician who does not respect his magic effects, and (c) the magician who seeks to entertain and mystify. Through our many years of experience as a Fort Worth magician, Houston magician, and Texas magician, we know that the most entertaining magician is the magician who entertains with mystery.

DON'T BE COCKY. A magician should be aware that due to the nature of magical effects, it is easy to fall into an "I can do something you can't do" attitude. Such attitudes are very irritating. Cockiness and arrogance tends to create discord that few people find pleasant. A magician should try his best to entertain his audiences with congeniality, and at the same time fool the heck out of them!

AVOID PARALLEL COMMENTARY. A common pitfall for magicians is for them to tell their audiences verbally what they are doing as they perform. Magicians who do this usually haven't planned beforehand what they are going to say. In the cut and restored rope trick for instance as a magician apparently cuts a piece of rope in half, there is no reason for him to say "I am going to take this pair of scissors and cut this ordinary white rope into two separate pieces." It is usually odd for a magician to tell his audience what he is doing as he does it.

(Continued on next page)

Principles of Magic (continued)

DON'T RAISE SUSPICION. A common mistake for most beginning magicians is to point out what should be obvious. For example, if a magician displays a gimmicked cup that he wants his audience to think is not gimmicked, why would he say, "I have an ordinary ungimmicked cup?" Such an attempt to sway suspicion may cause suspicion, and this is especially bad if indeed the cup is not ordinary! It is usually better for a magician to just casually display the cup to his audience and treat it as ordinary. Nonchalance will lead an audience to conclude that the cup is ordinary when in reality it may be gimmicked to the hilt.

IT'S DONE WITH MIRRORS. It is a good idea for a magician to initially practice his tricks and routines in front of a mirror. A mirror is a great tool to help a magician learn what an audience will see. Mirrors are also helpful to for checking angles when learning new sleights. It is not good for a magician to always practice in front of a mirror however, for he can become psychologically dependent upon watching himself as he performs. A good alternative to the mirror is the video camera. By its use, a magician can see himself perform while he is at leisure. This will allow himself to critique himself more readily and get a better view of his overall performance.

NERVOUSNESS DISAPPEARS WITH CONFIDENCE. A magician should never perform a trick in front of an audience until he has first rehearsed it thoroughly. When he becomes confident in his ability, much of his nervousness will disappear. Also as a magician performs the same magical effects and routines in the same way time-after-time in front of audiences, more confidence will grow. He will know what he is going to say before he says it. He will know what he is going to do before he does it. He will know how an audience usually reacts at different points in his routine because he has performed it many times.

PERFORMANCE BRINGS REFINEMENT. The polished magician is the magician who has performed his act in front of live audiences many times. The more a magician performs a particular trick or routine, the more polished his performance will become. Proper timing, flow, and continuity will become apparent. The rough edges of the performance will become refined.

Even the best magicians in the world must go through this trial and error process. Granted seasoned magicians are more apt to see polish more quickly because of their experience, but magic performance is still refined only through multitudes of performances. Magic is a performance art form and it requires patience, endurance, and trial and error before proficiency and high art is reached.

BUYING MAGIC. One of the most enjoyable aspects of magic is acquiring and learning new effects. However great magicians are not usually famous for how much they know or how many tricks they own. Rather they are recognized for doing a few effects well and for being entertaining when they perform those effects. Since magic effects are expensive and there are thousands of tricks available, a magician should buy his effects only from a reputable magic shop that is willing to help him make good choices and provide quality equipment. These are the goals of our Illusion Warehouse magic shop. Our prices are competitive and we don't carry questionable items. We try to develop relationships with our customers, help them progress in learning superior magic effects, and be mindful of their needs as they learn the art of magic.

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Magic in North Texas

David Blaine to appear in January

David Blaine will perform on January 12 in the AT&T Performing Art Center as part of the "Brinker International Forum Series. The 8:00 p.m. program is entitled "David Blaine—The Art of Magic."

From the promotional website:

Blaine began his career with street magic, performing card tricks, levitation, and illusions. Recorded live in front of everyday people by a small camera crew, this act provided the basis for his breakthrough television specials, which included David Blaine: Street Magic and David Blaine: Magic Man. Blaine has set and broken several world records, and The New York Times referred to him as a "modern day Houdini."

<http://tickets.attpac.org/single/EventDetail.aspx?p=22534>

FWMC Magical Memory Identified (from page 3)



Hal "Doc Haliday" Hudgins, as a youngster, January 9, 1945.

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TRUSTEE (Term Expires 2015)

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APPOINTED TAOM REPRESENTATIVES

Bill Irwin, Ren Clark IBM Ring 15

Mark Miertschin, Bruce Chadwick SAM
Assembly 138

"Kidz Rule" by Bill Irwin

Cook Children's Young Magicians Club is made up of kids 7-17 who are junior volunteers for Cook Children's Medical Center. The next meeting date is Jan. 27 at 7pm in the Atrium. Sponsors are **Susie Schulwitz** and **Bill Irwin**. For more information contact Susie at 682-885-7566.



James is smart, ebullient, and fun on stage. He has a fun show for kids, but more recently he has been performing a twenty minute mental set for adults and getting great responses. James is also seven. With his partner, and dad, leading the dialogue with the audience, James sits back and thinks – identifying dates on coins, chosen cards, touched objects, and colors that are selected by the audience members. James is fun and entertaining, offering a youthful exuberance for people wanting a lift. For the last couple years he has attended magic events with his dad and watched other performers as well as participating in shows himself. In the photo, he is seen holding a picture of a clown, but in this case he has drawn the picture well before the show began - and it matches what the audience members drew. He will even sign it for you. As a member of the club James has performed for the patients and parents

who attend the monthly events. Being a junior volunteer for Cook Children's, James is able to provide a wonderful service by providing a little relief for kids who can share his joy.

In the future, expect more articles or biographies about our Cook volunteers, and/or lessons related to performing for or with kids.

So here is a short lesson:

In a conversation with Steve Kissell, a very experienced children's performer, we discussed what explains James' successful performances. There is no denying, James is a seven year old and is growing and learning like any young man his age. What makes the difference in his performance is that he may perform for other kids and/or adults, but he nor audience volunteers are treated like 'children'. That is to say, they will not be talked down to or made fun of because of their youth. Having gags backfire on a child volunteer, dressing a child so that only he/she is looking silly, or even using language other than how you would formally address a young man or woman will kill an act (and should). If something silly is to happen, make it happen to the adult. Now you are talking funny, not exploitive.

Kidz Rule #1: Treat your audience, and kidz, with respect.

Club Calendar—January, 2012

FWMC December Meeting—Thursday, January 5 at 7 p.m., in the Speed Room TR4202 at Tarrant County College-Trinity River Campus, corner of Cherry Street and Belknap, downtown Fort Worth. **(A Closed Meeting)**

Monday Night Magic—Each Monday evening at Humperdink's Restaurant at Six Flags Drive, Arlington. Gather around 7 p.m./informal. Strolling performers are appreciated in the dining area before 8 p.m.

2011—2012 Dues Now Due

Please make arrangements to renew your FWMC dues in the next month or so or join us anew. The form is now online. Dues for "Active Members" are only \$20.

Fort Worth Magicians Club Sparkles at the 2011 “Snowball Express” Dallas Gala!

American Airlines flew eleven charter flights of United States military families to Dallas during the first week in December for the Sixth Annual Snowball Express event.

The week-long slate of activities is intended to bring together families who have lost a parent or other family member to the wars in the Middle East.

Forty busses provided by Dallas County Schools collected the families at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Dallas for day long excursions to “Six Flags Over Texas,” “Billy Bob’s Restaurant” in Fort Worth, the Windspear Opera House, and other venues.

For the first time, member of the Fort Worth Magicians Club participated during four of the days at the Sheraton.



Rick Burcher is surrounded by “Snowball Express” youngsters at the Sheraton Hotel on December 9th.



FWMC member Elena Ponsler (left foreground) dabs colorful paint on the face of an eager young boy as a part of the “Snowball Express” evening of entertainment for the younger 5—11 year-old set. Yuri Ramos, a Mountain View College student and officer in the “Mark Wilson Magic Club at Mountain View College, looks on in a break in her own face painting.

Monty Clegg, Hal Hudgins, Rick Burcher, Geoff Grimes, Logan Stadtman, and Elena Ponsler entertained hundreds of the younger kiddos on the 37th floor dedicated just to their pastimes, giving parents opportunities to connect with each other and to share their stories.

Bobbie Johnson, “Snowball Express” volunteer coordinator, responded, “Magician’s Club, face painters, & story tellers—please pass all this to all of your team that helped out. You did a remarkable job!”

Hal Hudgins noted, “You stand there doing tricks that you have performed for years in other strolling arenas—restaurants and parties, but then from time to time, it hits you that each child standing around you excited over your magic has lost a parent, and it all becomes very sobering.”



Monty Clegg peers into the paper bag where something magical has just happened!



Dues Payment Form

The Fort Worth Magicians Club



To keep our club roster up-to-date, please fill out this entire form. Please PRINT carefully! Return this form along with cash, check or money order made payable to The Fort Worth Magicians Club to the address printed below. Make a second copy if you need a receipt.

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

BIRTH (DAY AND MONTH): _____ SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME: _____

DATE SUBMITTED (MONTH AND YEAR): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: HOME _____ OFFICE _____

SEND FLASHPAPER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY: () WEBSITE OR () US MAIL

MAILING ADDRESS: STREET OR PO BOX: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

IBM NUMBER (IF ANY) _____ SAM NUMBER (IF ANY) _____

Type of Membership: (check one box only please):

() **ACTIVE** - A person eighteen years of age or older, proven active in magic, and who has been accepted by the Club. Active Members may vote, hold office, serve on committees, and enjoy all the activities of the Club. **Dues are \$20 per year.**

() **ASSOCIATE** - A spouse or professional assistant of an Active Member, and who is eighteen years of age or older. Associate Members do not vote or hold office, but may serve on committees and enjoy all the activities of the Club. **Dues are \$20 per year.**

() **JUNIOR** - A person fourteen years old or older, and under eighteen years of age. Upon reaching eighteen years of age, Junior Members automatically become Active Members provided they are dues paid members in good standing. Junior Members do not vote, hold office, or serve on committees, but do enjoy all the activities of the Club. **Dues are \$20 per year.**

() **ASSOCIATE JUNIOR** - A person under the age of 14 who is screened for approval by the Executive Committee prior to being granted membership. He must be accompanied at Club functions by a legal parent or guardian who themselves must be an Active, Associate, or Honorary Life member of the Club. Upon reaching the age of 14, Associate Junior Members automatically become Junior Members provided they are dues paid members in good standing. Associate Junior Members do not vote, hold office, or serve on committees, but do enjoy all the activities of the Club. **Dues are \$20 per year.**

() **HONORARY LIFE** - A person who has significantly contributed to the advancement of the art of magic internationally, or a person who has been an Active Member of the Club for at least 25 consecutive years and who has made an outstanding contribution to the welfare of the Club. Honorary Life Members are elected by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, and then a majority vote of the Club at a Monthly Club Meeting. **Honorary Life Members have the benefits of Active Membership without further dues payments.**

Submit a filled out copy of this statement along with cash, check or money order made payable to The Fort Worth Magicians Club to Jeff Hallberg, Secretary, 713 Ridgewood Circle, Hurst, TX 76054, Phone 817-479-3186