

THE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

FROM OUR WORLD-FAMOUS CLUBHOUSE, THE MAGIC CASTLE



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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:
The 20th Day of This Month

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Farewell to Our Princess



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OUR MISSION: *The Academy of Magical Arts* has been and will continue to be the premier organization in the world dedicated to the art of *Magic*. We are an organization that encourages fellowship, promotes the art, and maintains the highest ethical standards in our actions. We will provide a friendly environment where *Members* and their guests can enjoy the art and each other's company. Our goals and objectives are to advance the art and provide a positive image of *Magic* and *Magicians* worldwide.

As We Go To Press:

I WRITE THIS with a heavy heart because I just learned **IRENE LARSEN** passed away earlier today. Darkness may temporarily shroud this Castle she helped to create, but the incredible light of her spirit will always shine in and over it. Farewell Irene, we will always love you.

It's worth noting that all of this month's columns were done before Irene's passing. None of the writers were able to say what I know is in their hearts. Instead, we have a tribute to her starting on page 3. It's from and for all of the members she loved.

Another blow to our world was the recent loss of **TOM MULLICA**. Tom was among the greatest magicians of this, or any, generation. His magic and comedy appeared effortless. Like Irene, his passing caught us all by complete surprise. It was Jack Goldfinger who reminded me that, while saddened, we must be happy and celebrate the fact that these incredible people were in our lives to begin with. So that's what we'll do, celebrate their rich lives and always remember how they made us smile.

...

Magic is not supposed to be a puzzle, but there is something about magicians and fans of magic that attracts them to puzzles. The proof of that was the unexpectedly high attendance of the first AMA Puzzle Hunt. **BEN ROMAN** covers the particulars on page 19.

I remember well the packet trick craze of the late 1970s. It lasted well into the '80s and I must admit

to still having quite a few of these mysterious packets of cards safely stored in vinyl wallets. Like disco, packet tricks never actually died. They're still out there and, in many ways, are better than ever (something disco cannot hope to accomplish). I'm looking forward to seeing **MAX MAVEN**—who bears much of the responsibility for the original craze—recount the period, and more, in his perk, "Packet Full of Miracles." It's on March 7 in the Inner Circle. The details can be found on page 18.

Last month I promised you a new monthly feature in **BILL GOODWIN**'s column from the William W. Larsen Memorial Library. It's up and running (and *fantastic*) and I will let Bill share it with you. Go to page 27 to see what he has just for his readers.

Everyone knows that our Academy was founded in 1963. What you might not know is that the concept was born a decade before that. The Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences was created by **WILLIAM LARSEN, SR.** The organization even presented awards, including Fellowships (all members were called "Fellows"). "-30-" on page 30 shares a few more details about the forerunner of our organization.

This is quite a big issue because I chose not to remove something to make room for the additional content. So, please to enjoy and, as Irene always said, spread the love! Happy St. Patrick's Day. 🍀

Dustin
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It is with the greatest sorrow imaginable, that we announce the passing of my beautiful, beloved mother, Irene Larsen. She left us suddenly, but not before touching many, many lives deeply and permanently. She was grace personified. Her love is all around us. She will be missed forever. The family is grieving, and we appreciate your kind words and we know you are hurting too. We will never stop celebrating Princess Irene.

–Erika Larsen

IRENE LARSEN, 1936 – 2016

IRENE STOLZ was born in Stühlingen, Germany in 1936. As a young woman, she met an American soldier in Berlin where he was performing a magic show. The pair fell in love and she followed him back to the United States in 1957. Before she stepped foot into her new home, John Daniel took her directly from the airport to Owen Magic Supreme where she was measured for what is considered the first modern Thin Model Sawing in Half. That made Irene the first woman ever sawed in halves in the legendary illusion.

After their wedding, Irene and John traveled California performing in school shows, oftentimes giving three performances a day.

After leaving the school circuit, for a year Irene, John, and Bob Towner trekked across the country doing midnight “spook shows” in RKO cinema houses under the name “Dr. Doom’s Dungeon of Death.” John Daniel considered Irene “one of the finest assistants of all time.” It was John who first proclaimed her “Princess Irene.”

Irene and John had a son together, Dante—named for the great stage illusionist—and after they divorced, they remained close friends for the remainder of John Daniel’s life.

Irene met and began dating the man who would become the love of her life, William W. Larsen, Jr. While still dating her, Bill and his brother Milt opened The Magic Castle®. She was there from its inception and, after it opened in January



NOVEMBER 10, 1963

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED: IRENE LARSEN)

“If I ever see a magician mistreat his animal, I’ll personally see he’s never mentioned in *Genii* or hired at The Magic Castle.”

of 1963, was in the Academy of Magical Arts’ clubhouse on a nightly basis, welcoming its members and guests.

Irene and Bill married on November 10, 1963. They raised Dante and Bill’s daughter from another marriage, Wendy, and together they had their daughters Heidi and Erika.

A long-time animal lover, Irene sat on the boards of several animal rights organizations and was always vocal about how magicians treat their furry, feathered, and even scaled assistants. “If I ever see a magician mistreat his animal,” she once said, “I’ll personally see he’s never mentioned in *Genii* or hired at The Magic Castle.”

Irene continued performing as an assistant and, as revealed in last month’s newsletter, also as a magician. In that interview, she revealed that Kuda Bux had taught her an act that she performed at women’s organization luncheons and other events. Jay Ose also taught her several card tricks, which she



ASSISTING “DANTE” (BILL, JR.) WITH “THE LAZY MAGICIAN” (1977)

performed at the Castle when given the opportunity. And she continued to work as an assistant. One unforgettable turn was Bill’s recreation of Dante as performed several times at “It’s Magic” in 1977. On one of his many appearances on “The Dean Martin Show,” Irene assisted Orson Welles who often performed magic

during his appearances on such programs. She was his “Princess without a Middle.”

Irene was heavily involved with Bill’s magazine, *Genii*. Over the years she co-edited the publication. In the pre-computer days, she helped layout and paste up the magazine. From 1963 to 1999, Irene’s work with it included—but was not limited to—acting as its co-editor, co-publisher, and publisher. She remains on that magazine’s masthead as its Publisher Emeritus.

All of the work on the magazine took place on the family estate of Brookledge, the legendary property once owned by Floyd Thayer who traded it for the senior Larsen’s family estate in Pasadena upon his retirement in the 1940s. The Larsen family has lived there ever since.

The property boasts a three-story Spanish-style home and a second complex—across a brook that runs through the grounds—with workshops and a small theater; all built by Thayer. Virtually every great name in magic during the 20th century has spent time there—and Irene wrote a chapter 53-years long.

Just two of its many visitors were Siegfried and Roy. In Siegfried Fischbacher, Irene found a dear friend and kindred spirit. Along with Roy they shared a love for animals, but at one



LAYING OUT AN ISSUE OF *GENII* WITH BILL

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED: IRENE LARSEN)

... the light of her spirit—as dazzling as her smile—will shine forever over all those she touched so deeply.

point in their separate lives in Germany, Siegfried and Irene lived quite near one another. They remained close friends for the rest of Irene’s life.

Irene was elected to the Board of Directors and became the president in the early 1990s. She guided the academy and its clubhouse through one of its more difficult periods with both savvy and grace. There is a reason its membership designated her as “Honorary President for Life.”



IRENE AND SIEGFRIED (2013)

While magic was a large part of her life, her family was her whole life. Besides her son, Dante, and daughters Heidi and Erika, she is survived by her step-daughter Wendy and four grandchildren, Liberty, Lily, and Liam Larsen, and Jessica Hopkins.

Irene Larsen touched so many of us,



IRENE HUGS ANOTHER CLOSE FRIEND

as well as many outside magic. Her passing casts a darkness over all who knew her and only knew of her. But the light of her spirit—as dazzling as her smile—will shine forever over all those she touched so deeply.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Tippi Hedren’s Shambala Preserve, Last Chance for Animals (LCA), or other animal welfare organizations.

NEWSWORTHY NOTES

BANNED!

This news is taken directly from the minutes of the February meeting of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

“The fashionable bit of mentalism, (commonly called “SMASH AND STAB”), has been banned from performances at the club. This is the miracle in which the performer teases that he will plunge his hand onto an upright spike inside of a paper bag. After several incidents in which performers have actually plunged their hands onto upright spikes inside of paper bags, it’s been carefully determined that The Magic Castle® can survive without it.”

ALOHA ...

DON KUEHNE, 1930 – 2016

Long-time AMA member DONALD “DON” J. KUEHNE passed away in late January.

Don was extremely proud of being a Magician Member of the Academy. A member of the SAM, he was also a proud Shriner. He is survived by two children, four grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and his wife of 61 years, ZELDA.

BOB BROWN, 1921 – 2016

BOB BROWN, who gained popularity during the period he performed with BRENDA PAYNE as “Bob Brown and Brenda,” passed away in February.

Besides his classical dove act and countless appearances at magic conventions, he is well-known among magicians for his suspension that, even among knowledgeable magicians, defied explanation.



BOB BROWN (WITH BRENDA)

TOM MULLICA, 1948 – 2016

The influence TOM MULLICA has had on the art of magic is so great that his name will forever be mentioned among the greatest names in its long history.

In the 1980s, his Tom-Foolery Magic Bar and Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia catapulted him to international fame. For better than a decade the theater was a destination spot not just for magicians, but all people who craved his intimate form of magic, ventriloquism, and comedy.

Videos of his show are still for sale today: a testament to the timeless talents of this gifted entertainer. His story and magic were published in book form in *Show-Time at the Tom-Foolery* by Richard Kaufman.

After retiring from magic in the late 1990s, he thrilled and moved

Please email NEWSWORTHY NOTES contributions to newslettereditor@magiccastle.com. The deadline for the next issue is the 20th of this month. Anonymous contributions will not be accepted, however name(s) can be withheld upon request.

audiences for 17 years with his tribute show about his hero, RED SKELTON. The only such show authorized by the late clown’s widow, “Red Skelton – The Legend Continues,” enjoyed a long residence in Branson, Missouri. After battling and defeating leukemia, he then took the show on the road, touring much of North America.

Tom returned to magic in 2015. His comeback was highly anticipated and a triumph. His magic and wit were as sharp as ever. One moment of pure hilarity at the 2015 Genii Convention (pictured)—a simple knock-knock joke that stopped the show—is still talked about among attendees. Tom Mullica is survived by his spouse STEPHEN and many dear friends. ✿



TOM MULLICA SENDS HIS FRIEND AND THE AUDIENCE INTO HYSTERICS STOPPING THE SHOW FOR SEVERAL MINUTES

“I have truly loved serving the AMA as a board member and as president.”



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
ERIKA LARSEN

WELL FRIENDS, here it is, my final column. As much as I am looking forward to taking a break from BOD matters, and freeing up some of my time, saying goodbye is bittersweet. I have truly loved serving the AMA as a board member and as president. It's been an incredible six years, and the club is in a completely different place now than it was when I first was elected. What a long, strange trip it's been. I'm very pleased that we have been able to accomplish so much during my tenure. And I have a **lot** of people to thank this month. So please bear with me.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my fellow Board of Directors. It's a cliché to say it, but it really and truly has been a pleasure to work side by side with the current group. The level of commitment they have shown is humbling and gratifying. I can't remember a time when members have not grumbled about the powers that be, and there are those who seem to want to paint us as somehow nefarious or abhorrently greedy. The fact is, the BOD really cares about members. We care about your experiences, we care about how you feel, we care about the social fabric of our club, and we care about the art of magic. We also care about the future, and making sure we have the resources we'll need to survive. We are trying to fit all these pieces together by making firm and fair decisions. You have elected board members with integrity and high ethical standards. We're committed to doing the right thing for the right reasons. We aren't perfect, and we've made

our fair share of mistakes, but we have no problem admitting that and finding a way to fix things. Nothing is more important than continuing to better our club. And that's what we've been doing. The support of our members means a great deal to us. Thank you to everyone who has reached out constructively. You make it all worth it.

The first person I want to acknowledge is our current Vice President, **RANDY SINNOTT**. I have written about him before, and by now everyone should be aware of all he has done for our club. I will not even try to list his many accomplishments here. Randy is about as good as they come. He's a retired Marine Colonel, a first rate lawyer, an enthusiastic amateur magician, and an all-around stand-up guy who has spent countless hours working on behalf of the AMA. He has earned our trust and respect and I hope he will be our next president. I also want to thank our Secretary **JIM STIENMEYER**. I can sincerely say that it has truly been an honor working with this magic legend. Jim brings a wealth of expertise to the BOD. Due, in part, to his unparalleled magic knowledge, but just as importantly, he is keenly adept at weighing decisions with just the right ballast. When making group decisions, our process is greatly enhanced by his deft skill at stimulating thoughtful consideration. Furthermore, as secretary, he has taken on a myriad of extra tasks, from writing letters to members, ethics and grievances concerns, communicating with committee chair people, and most importantly, writing the minutes

for our monthly board meetings. Think about it: *Jim Steinmeyer* is writing our BOD minutes. I really don't think I need to say anything else except, thank you Jim. We are really fortunate to have you giving so much of your time and talent to the AMA.

Next up for some words from the Prez is **CHIP CHALMERS**, who I barely knew when he first got on the board, and who has turned out to be an incredible human being and dear friend. He has continually taken on extra responsibilities and gets things done without fanfare or drama. But they do get done. And done right. For instance, he took on the huge and thankless task of bringing our Standing Rules and other important documents up to date. This really needed to be tended to, and Chip was the perfect person for the job. In addition, he brings the experience of a seasoned television director and entertainment professional to the table, and this has proven to be of great value. We are so lucky to have him on the BOD. Thank you, Chip.

Moving onto our Associate board members, I'll start by saying that I am thankful to our Treasurer, **MAURICE NEWMAN**. He was there right from the beginning, standing up to the BOD early on when we had to fight to get control. He defended my honor and the honor of our fraternity. He has had a great deal of experience on the board, first as a Magician Member, and then as an Associate Member. This last term, he stepped up to the plate and served as our Treasurer, working closely with

(CONTINUED: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE)

JOE FURLOW to keep everything to budget and projections. I am happy to have taken this trip with him. I am also happy to have shared this journey (at least most of it) with SARA BALLANTINE. She's become a dear friend to me as well. I have loved having another woman on the board, balancing things out, and cheering us up, with her salty optimism and sage perceptions. She is always the first to volunteer to help out and is, by her very nature, completely devoted to the greater good. What a wonderful lady.

Last, but definitely not least, I have had the pleasure of working side by side with BRIAN TOLMAN. Brian always jokes that he's a "code guy," one of those fellows who is more at ease with computers than in conversations with other people. But Brian has always had the interests of the club at heart, and has a unique ability to relate to our members and diagnose problems. Incidentally, when we had website problems, we found out just how insightful and competent a "code guy" Brian is. He has carefully steered us around problems and he really saved the day where our website in concerned. Thank you Brian.

I could literally fill this entire newsletter with words of gratitude, though I run the risk of leaving someone out because there are so many people that deserve recognition. For instance, all of our committee chair people and members, our amazing staff, a host of members, friends, performers, the GLOVER family; the list goes on and on. At the risk of putting our patient editor, Dustin Stinett, in a bind, (sorry Dustin! [DS: No apology needed]) I will take up a little more space to single out just a couple more people.

The first is RICH COWLEY, who also got on the BOD when I did and made all the difference when it came to changing things over. He stood his ground and fought tirelessly to do the right thing on behalf of the AMA and it's members. We would not be where we are today without him. I am so delighted that he's now teaching Magic University. This is a great leap forward in terms of enhancing learning opportunities for those looking to become more proficient magicians. I feel happy just knowing that people are learning great magic from him and our other instructors. That's what it's all about. Thanks so much, Rich, for everything. Perhaps I'll see you in class one of these days.

I also would like to thank all of the Board of Trustees. As with the BOD, I am constantly amazed at the enthusiasm and passion they devote to the club. They have made so many exciting things happen. I hope I speak for everyone when I say that we all appreciate it very much. A special shout out to JON ARMSTRONG who I have worked alongside my entire tenure and who had the drive and initiative necessary to make massive overhauls in the way we do things. I am also so happy to have had the chance to work with Max

(CONTINUED)



SeaWorld's
Magic
WEEKENDS

Come be amazed at SeaWorld's Magic Weekends. Each weekend will feature different headliner illusionists who are sure to delight and astound, while strolling magicians entertain guests throughout the park.

STEVE WYRICK APRIL 2-3
MICHAEL GRASSO APRIL 9-10
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MICHAEL TURCO APRIL 30-MAY 1

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(CONTINUED: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE)

MAVEN, who has been a stalwart BOT member since that board came into existence. His sharp intellect and expertise will be greatly missed. **MARK WILSON** has been a perennial BOT member as well, and I send love and gratitude out to the entire Wilson clan. My deepest thanks to **DAVID REGAL**, **JOAN LAWTON**, **STEVE VALENTINE**, **ROB ZABRECKY**, and **JOHN LOVICK**. I think the world of all of these people and am glad to have had the opportunity to work with them.

Finally, because I can, (it's my last column, I can do whatever I please!) I would like to thank **JOE FURLOW**. I think it's clear to everyone what an outstanding job he's done. I know he has our respect and support because members tell me so all the time. Joe continues to work hard day in and day out and continually finds new ways to improve the club. I feel confident that he will continue to "hold down the fort" for many years to come, keeping us satisfied, secure, and successful. Thank you Joe.

Before I go, as my parting thought, I would like to revisit the AMA/MCI issue one last time. It really bothers me when members say they belong to The Magic Castle®, not the AMA. It's a complicated issue, and much of it is personal for me due to family affairs, but because the issue was controversial, members should know that the decision to brand the AMA was not some random corporate-type management idea. It was done for the benefit of all of us because we are AMA members. We should all be proud of what the AMA stands for, and we should embrace our togetherness, because that is how we are going to keep this ol' steamboat alive. Just recently I was on Facebook (yes, I need help) and I was elated to read a simple comment tucked away on a random thread. Here was a member I had never met, who just got it. And it meant a lot, because it came from one of you. I have been given permission to quote him here:

My view of the AMA somewhat parallels that of IBM and SAM. All three organizations have youth programs, community involvement, lectures, and are dedicated to promoting and advancing magic as a performing art. One major difference is that my local Assembly or Ring may meet in a church social hall or restaurant and the AMA has the world's best clubhouse. I find it sad that some members see the AMA as some vague parent company that operates a private club. Unfortunately, a considerable segment of the general public has the same image of the AMA. I think it would benefit the AMA if that misunderstanding was corrected.

Thank you **DOUG COUCH**. It's really that simple. You're all members of the greatest magic club in the world, because you all have become the greatest magic club in the world!

PREVIOUS



Don't fight, don't argue, don't worry about titles or letters or personal pride. We've all created something unique and respected. It would be a shame if we, as members, lose that sense of respect. The Academy of Magical Arts is unequalled in the world. We are a brotherhood, and that has been proven more than ever in the course of the past week, when we lost one of our most loved personalities, and a dear friend to many of us, **Tom Mullica**. Losing someone like Tom is almost unbearable, but being surrounded by people who love, support, and respect each other is extraordinary. It's real magic. And I am truly glad to know all of you. Signing off with love from me and my magnificent mother, and the entire **LARSEN FAMILY**.

Soon I'll be a civilian. See you around the clubhouse! xo 🍀

Erika

elarsen@magiccastle.com

Thursday, March 17, 2016

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

We celebrate the magic of the Irish with a decorated club and green beer at every bar! Members can also ask for a special off-menu entrée and dessert that are Irish treats available on request. And most importantly, wear your GREEN!

NEXT

A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES



JOAN LAWTON

AWARDS SHOW HOST

WITH GREAT PLEASURE, the Board of Trustees and Awards Show Producer, **DALE SALWAK**, announce that the host of this year's show will be **DEREK HUGHES!**



AMA members know Derek from his award-nominated appearances in the Parlour and his mind-blowing show, "Insomnia," that played a lengthy run at the Hotel Casa Del Mar in Santa Monica. There's much, much more to this very talented guy: as a magician, a comedian, an actor, and as a finalist on "America's Got Talent."

Another show note: Presenters and Fellowship recipients are being asked to wear formal attire. Thanks, Dale, for raising the bar. Everyone can now dress to the nines.

DEREK HUGHES WILL HOST THE AMA AWARDS SHOW ON MAY 15 AT THE SABAN THEATRE

ROBERTO GIOBBI

Internationally-known and respected author, performer, historian **ROBERTO GIOBBI** will be arriving in Los Angeles on June 3 and will be spending most of his time at The Magic Castle®. Here's most of his schedule so that you can make plans:

Saturday, June 4: "Card College Up-to-Date: What the Books Tell You and You Always Wanted to Ask." An intimate workshop at my home. Watch Facebook for information.

Tuesday, June 7: A special no-host dinner in the Dante Room (by invitation only). Roberto will be supplying the invitation list.

Wednesday, June 8: "The Magic of Roberto Giobbi: You're in for a Surprise!" Two-hour AMA lecture in the Inner Circle. For Magician Members only.

Thursday, June 9: A private event away from The Magic Castle®.

Saturday and Sunday, June 11, 12: "Stand-up Card Magic: Techniques, Tricks, and Presentations for Parlor and Small Stage." Two-day Masters' Seminar, \$300 per person payable via the AMA online Gift Shop. Includes two continental breakfasts and two lunches. Please bring playing cards.

NEW PHOTO POLICY FOR PERFORMERS

Acts working the Palace of Mystery are now able to take photos backstage, but not from the wings. In all other showrooms, photos may be taken after the performance when the room has been cleared. As always, performers (and all members) are not to request, and certainly not post, photos with celebrities.

(CONTINUED: TRUSTEES)

WHOSE HANDS ARE THESE?

If you know me well, you know how sentimental I am. The hands in last month's newsletter were those of Don Lawton. They were published in the month that features Valentine's Day and are now revealed in the month of Don's birthday. He'd have been 94 on March 5.

This gentle, Midwestern man with no theatrical or psychological training whatsoever, did the exact same show for troupes of Boy Scouts and in Beverly Hills mansions, all with the same effect: total entertainment.

Don was the Senior Host and Night Manager of The Magic Castle® for nearly 17 years. Only ill health stopped him for continuing. Thanks to those members who remember him. I'm sorry he wasn't around for more of you to get to know.

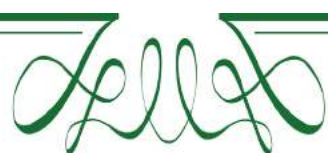


DON LAWTON

ALOHA TOM

In the tradition set by Bill Larsen, Jr., the members of the Board of Trustees say "Aloha" to one of magic's top creators and entertainers, Tom Mullica. He will be greatly missed. 🍀

Joan
 jlawton@magiccastle.com



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Outreach Committee News

ON SATURDAY, February 13, 2016 members of the Academy of Magical Arts Outreach Committee performed at the Children’s Hospital Orange County (CHOC) Annual Heart Party. This yearly event celebrates children who have experienced either heart transplants or procedures to repair heart defects.

Over 400 hundred people attended including the children, their parents, and siblings. Our performers included Mark Gibson, Victor Globa, Jacques Lord, and Armando Yee. They performed close-up magic and amazed the crowds bringing laughter and gasps with their intimate miracles. Many children went home with smiles and a sense of wonder and we all went home with great memories.

BLANKETS FOR HOPE STREET – THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS!

There are over 1,000 families “adopted” by the California Hospital Medical Center that live on and around Hope Street in downtown Los Angeles. On behalf of all AMA members, the Outreach Committee delivered blankets to keep these Hope Street families warm. These are not homeless families, yet they are families in need.

On February 19, Brandon Scott gave a special performance to over 40 kids and hospital staff at the Hope Street Family Center. Following the show, Marco Ehgartner and Annabel Gray arrived in the AMA van with dozens of blankets, all collected during winter at The Magic Castle®.

Three years ago, Brandon and AMA outreach member Annabel Gray learned

about the families’ needs and began the Hope Street Magic Blanket Drive. The staff and members of the Academy immediately responded with full support and generous contributions. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who brought blankets, Ray Forgette for coordinating our outreach efforts, our Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, valet staff for receiving and storing the blankets, and to Joe Furlow for facilitating the entire operation. Next fall, we look forward to renewing our drive to deliver blankets in time for Christmas 2016 and continuing through the end of February. Keep an eye on the newsletter for announcements.

The AMA Outreach Committee, chaired by Ray Forgette, invites AMA Magician Members to perform at various charity events year round, but we welcome volunteers from all levels of membership for future outreach events.

If you would like to learn more about the AMA Outreach program, please contact the Committee Chairman Ray Forgette at outreachchair@magiccastle.com.

Thank you for your continued support! 🍀

Victor & Brandon
AMA Outreach Committee

FROM THE LEFT:
MARCO EHGARTNER, ANNABEL
GRAY, BRANDON SCOTT,
AMY COSTELLO (CHMC HOPE
STREET FAMILY CENTER)



FROM THE LEFT: MARK GIBSON, VICTOR GLOBA,
JACQUES LORD, AND ARMANDO YEE



“I would like to congratulate those on both Boards over the last two years.”

CAN YOU BELIEVE it's already March? This year seems to be flying by, and with so many great things happening at the Castle, before you know it December will be here. Happy St. Patrick's Day, as all of us have some Irish in us this time of year.

ANNUAL MEETING

On March 20, the Annual General Meeting of the Membership will take place in the Palace of Mystery at 4:00 p.m. Besides the election results, speeches will be made by our outgoing BOD President **ERIKA LARSEN**, our outgoing BOT Chairman **JON ARMSTRONG**, our outgoing Treasurer **Maurice Newman**, and I will include a short operations report about 2015.

Over the last four years, the AMA has seen many changes. Upon my arrival in March 2012, the club was in disarray. Having survived the October 2011 fire, the massive job of rebuilding the club had just begun. Although the

physical building has been restored, the job of rebuilding the staff, the level of customer service, the level of magic, and the overall happiness of the organization was just beginning.

In my opinion, the club has come a long way in four years, and a lot of this has to do with the guidance of our Boards. I would like to congratulate those on both Boards over the last two years. We have been able to take a “good club” and make it a “great club.”

PUZZLE PERK

Kudos go out to AMA Magician Member **DAVID KWONG** and BOT Member **STEVE VALENTINE** for putting together a puzzle perk in February. From what I witnessed, those who participated in the event (over 100 individuals) very much enjoyed the entire evening, and I can't wait to do this again. What an amazing time for our membership.

GENERAL MUSINGS

from General Manager **Joe Furlow**



JANUARY SALES

January was extremely busy, which is very rare in the food and beverage industry. As many of you read last month, our sales can be attributed to the VIP and regular (red in color) guest cards that are handed out by members. In the future, and upon my recommendation, the expiration dates will be modified so they all don't expire January 31.

In next year's renewal package, each member will receive eight regular guest cards and four VIP cards. The VIP cards will continue to expire on January 31; however four of the red guest cards will expire November 30 and the other four red Guest Cards will expire February 28. With that we hope to spread out when your guests try to redeem the cards so we can avoid the “end of January” rush.

BIRTHDAY DINNERS

Starting May 1, we will begin a new

program in which all members will now receive a complimentary three-course “Birthday Dinner” during the month of your birthday in the dining room. Chef **JASON SPERBER** and his crew will be ready. I realize that starting the program already into the year does affect those whose birthdays have already passed, but don't worry, this program will be around next year and no one will be missed.

To accomplish this goal, we need to know in which month your birthday falls. We ask that all members sign onto the website and update your personal information. We would also like you to update your address, phone numbers, email address, and of course, please add your birth date. See **TRISH ALASKEY**'s article for more information.

AWARDS SHOW 2016

The 48th Annual Academy of Magical Arts Awards Show will be held Sunday,

(CONTINUED: JOE FURLOW)

May 15 at the Saban Theater in Beverly Hills. Tickets will go on sale Monday, March 7 and can be purchased through www.TicketMaster.com (search "Academy of Magical Arts") or the Saban Box Office (818-879-5016 or www.sabantheatre.com). Ticket prices have not increased and those who purchase a ticket will gain automatic entry into the Castle for the after party.

We will again be offering shuttle service and a pre-party here at the Castle, much as we did in 2015. For those who purchased the shuttle ticket, the fun began and ended here at the Castle. This makes travel to the Saban very easy both ways. We will have some more information next month in the newsletter on how to sign up.

The show program for the Awards Show, does include advertisements. We are selling the ads now, and if you are interested in purchasing one for the upcoming show, please email me at jfurlow@magiccastle.com. This is a great way to advertise your business and support the AMA:

- Centerfold: \$1,800

- Inside Cover: \$900
- Inside Back Cover: \$900
- 2 Page: \$1,000
- Full Page: \$600
- Half Page: \$350
- Quarter Page: \$200

VOLUNTEERS

Please remember that our first Volunteer Faire will be held on Sunday, April 3 between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. We are looking to hold an event in which all committees will be represented (with the exception of the Audition Committee) and will answer questions from interested members. Being a volunteer is a wonderful way to get involved in the AMA, and to surround yourself with other members that share a passion for the art of magic. The committees that will be represented are Ethics and Grievance, Castle Knights, Marketing and Branding, Elections, Outreach, Heritage and Library, and Decorating.

Hope to see you around the club! 🍀

Joe
jfurlow@magiccastle.com

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Say Jay Hynes

ALTHOUGH SAY JAY is a part time employee, the confidence and level of customer service she brings to the front desk is outstanding. While we have had other Employees of the Month from this department, Say Jay has a proven to be one of the best. I can say most managers feel comfortable when Say Jay is at the

desk and I know members appreciate her personality and passion.

Born and raised in Seattle, Say Jay is a musician by trade. She teaches music, dances, performs, loves acting, and being out in nature. She plays several instruments including the violin and piano. She recently sang the part of "Millie" in the classic musical "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."

When asked for a quote about working at the Castle, Say Jay gave a unique response:

Here I can smile, here I have fun,
The Castle warms my heart like the sun!
I'm so happy,
Love that I can be, part of this world!

Say Jay exemplifies "The Castle Way." We are very proud to have Say Jay on our team.

Congratulations to Say Jay Hynes on being chosen as the AMA January 2016 Employee of the Month! 🍀



“The reason why we’re here is because of love—the love of magic.”

Irene Larsen, Co-Founder

The Magic of MEMBERSHIP

Trish Alaskey



HELLO MARCH, hello members! As you may have read in JOE FURLOW’s column, I have more great news on a wonderful new benefit currently in the works which will make its debut at the start of May 2016.

All primary members of the Academy of Magical Arts are welcome to celebrate their birthdays with us here at The Magic Castle®. Not only will you get a fun “Birthday Button” (encouraged but not required) from our front desk staff when you come in for your special day, but in the dining room, you will receive a complimentary three course dinner as well. Dinner will include one appetizer, one entrée, and one dessert of your choice off our regular menu.

We are still working on the behind the scenes details of this project, but I should definitely have more information to share with you next month. For now, we ask that you help us get prepared by signing up for this offer at your earliest convenience.

To sign up, please log in to the member’s only section of our website at www.magiccastle.com/members. If you have trouble logging in, please contact me via email at talaskey@magiccastle.com and I will issue you a new temporary password to get you logged in.

Once you are logged in, please click on **MY CLUB** then **MY PROFILE** and **VIEW PROFILE**. From there you will see a bunch of options, including a section to add your photo. Right next to where your photo is (or should be), on the right hand side, there is a button that says **EDIT**. Click there and fill in or update all of your contact information, including the section to list your birth date. That birth date

section is what will sign you up for this new benefit. While you’re there doing all of that, please be sure to fill in your emergency contact information which is right below the contact information area. I spoke about this section in last month’s column and feel it deserves another mention. And don’t forget to hit save!

Rules and Regulations:

- Offer is valid only for Birthday month and expires at the end of that month
- Secondary members and guests are not included in this offer
- Offer cannot be traded in for cash
- Additional discounts of any kind will not apply
- One additional person in party will be allowed to receive the 20% member discount in the dining room
- Offer can be used for Brunch, Dinner, or Friday Lunch
- Alcohol is not included but soft drinks are

That’s it for now. Please stay tuned for more information next month. If you need anything in the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me and I will be happy to help.

Enjoy the month! 🍀

Trish
talaskey@magiccastle.com



- Thomas Fenady
- Jonathan Blake
- Theresa Clark
- Jeffrey Clark
- Richard Manfredi
- Yana Tammakh
- Pierre Mayer
- Rick Heath
- Arthur Matioossian
- Ryo Muraoka
- Greg Otto
- Charles Firestone
- Rob Hollander
- Barri Lynn Hollander

New Members: Don't forget to sign up for your New Member Orientation! Contact: memberservices@magiccastle.com

ATTENTION MAGICIAN MEMBERS:
ANOTHER BENEFIT of MEMBERSHIP in The ACADEMY of MAGICAL ARTS!

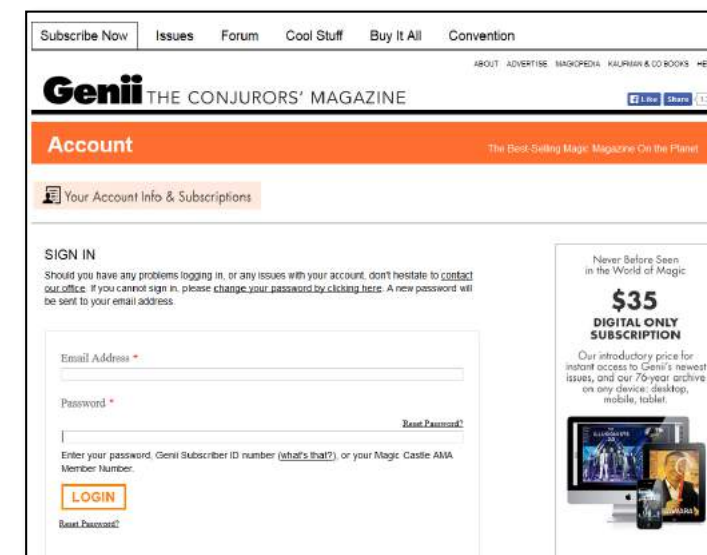


THE BEST-SELLING MAGIC MAGAZINE on the planet, which has been closely associated with The Magic Castle since its inception, is available to you absolutely free of charge as a perk of your Magician Membership.

To access your digital subscription to Genii, which also includes all 77 years of back issues, please follow these steps.

1. Go to www.geniimagazine.com
2. Click the orange "Sign In" button in the upper right corner.
3. Enter the email address which the AMA has on file for your membership (make sure it's the correct one).
4. Enter your AMA membership number (just the numerals).
5. Click "Login."

Academy of Magical Arts Members:
Take Advantage of your FREE Digital Subscription to Genii!



MEMBERS ONLY

RESERVATIONS

HOTLINE

9:30AM-6:00PM
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK!

(323) 928-7040

ELECTION COMMITTEE NEWS

BOARD MEMBER VOTING PACKAGES

All eligible voting members should have received their ballots and instructions for the AMA Board Elections. Please read the instructions carefully and make sure your return envelopes include your name and member number on the back flap. All ballots must be received by the office of Agnew Brusavich no later than March 13. Questions and concerns may be addressed to Member Services Director Trish Alaskey at talaskey@magiccastle.com

AWARDS SHOW VOTING

The AMA Elections Committee is excited to announce that nominations for the 2015 Showroom Magicians and Lecturer of the Year awards is scheduled to begin on March 7. To simplify voting, and increase participation, this year's voting will once again be conducted online and moderated by Elections-America. The AMA Board of Directors and Board of Trustees encourage all Magician and Associate Members to participate and vote accordingly.

TENTATIVE VOTING DATES

NOMINATION BALLOT: MAGICIAN MEMBERS ONLY

Nomination voting by Magician Members will begin Monday, March 7 and continue through March 27.

FINAL BALLOT: MAGICIAN AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Final voting by Magician and Associate Members begins on April 11 and continues through April 24.

ONLINE VOTING PROCESS

Elections-America will once again contact each eligible voter with email instructions regarding ballot access and voting procedures. ✻

Dale

Dale Boatman, Elections Chairman

Dale175@aol.com



Castle Perks Presents



Okay, the title is rather lofty, but the wordplay was too appealing to refuse. You'll feel the same way about this Perk, as Max Maven explains the history of packet magic, discusses theories on packet handling, and performs some of his best packet creations. As some of the methods will be taught, this Castle Perk is for *magician members only*.



Monday, March 7, 2016 | 8:00 p.m. | Inner Circle

Castle Perks Presents



MAGIC Makeup & Monsters:

The Creature Effects of Mike Elizalde

Join hosts Daniel Ulin and Steve Valentine for an evening with Academy Award-nominated makeup artist (and AMA magician member) **Mike Elizalde**. Mike's many credits include "Hellboy," "Men In Black," "Men In Black 2," "A.I. Artificial Intelligence," "Fantastic Four," and "Hellboy II: The Golden Army."

He will talk about his illustrious career (over 65 feature films!), his FX studio Spectral Motion, his interest and experience in magic, and much more. You won't want to miss this special engagement as we will most definitely hit capacity and be standing-room-only.

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 | 8:00 p.m. | Inner Circle



The Artful Deceiver: Arthur Trace

3/26 & 6/25

Pasadena
Conservatory
of Music

100 North Hill Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91106

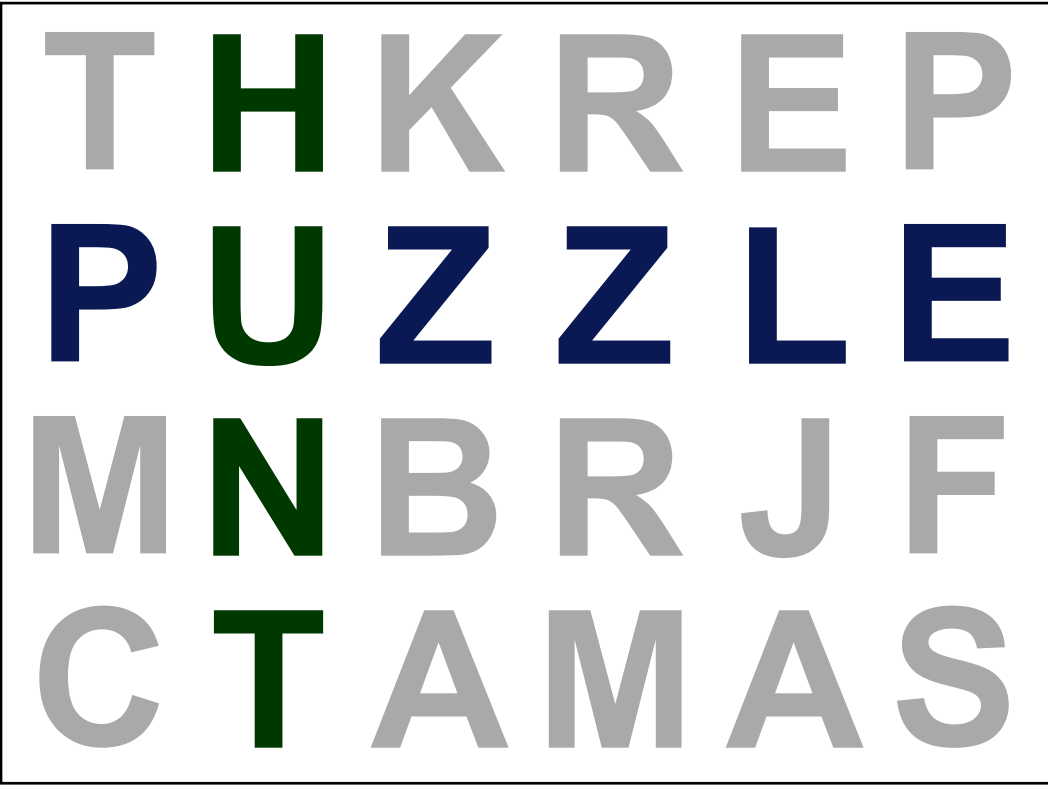
"One of magic's
bona fide superstars!"

-Chicago Tribune

For more info and to purchase tickets, visit:

arthurtrace.com/magic-shows-los-angeles

AMA members receive 10% off by using promo code: castle



It was expected that members might enjoy being challenged by David Kwong’s word puzzles, but few knew just how much until the success of the first Magic Castle® Puzzle Hunt.

By Ben Roman

AS THE SPECIAL EVENTS Manager, I must admit I have a very fun job. It’s a lot of work we do in the Events Department, but fun nonetheless. We get to continue annual, time-honored traditions like Founders’ Day, the AMA Awards Show, Halloween Week, our

New Year’s Eve soirée, and more. We’ve begun some new traditions in more recent years that have become member favorites like our Super Bowl and Oscars viewing parties, the Half-Christmas fund raiser, Members-Only Nights, special evenings out to shows at the Pantages, and more. And it always gives me—and my team—tremendous pleasure to introduce a new event that’s a hit with the membership. Most recently, last year’s Pajama Party and last month’s Singles Awareness Day party are prime examples of brand new events that were not only successful in having fun, but successful in accomplishing a rare feat: bringing together both

Magician and Associate Members to fraternize and frolic in unison.

One particular brand new event I’m proud to report was a wild success is the inaugural “Magic Castle Puzzle Hunt.” On February 1, over 100 magicians, associates, and their guests packed the Inner Circle and Peller Theatre. The eager horde, composed of 18 teams, battled to solve pages and pages of puzzles designed by AMA Magician Member and *New York Times* crossword constructor David Kwong. Teams solved puzzles at their tables but there were dozens of clues hidden all over the room—most in plain sight!

Trustee Steve Valentine introduced David at the stroke of 8 o’clock. He explained the rules, and then the teams were off to the races. Over the course of an hour and half, the energy in the room was palpable: rabid with excitement to solve mind-bending ruses and riddles.



TEAMS OF SIX WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE CLUES THAT WILL LEAD THEM TO THE PRIZE: AN AMA GIFT CARD FOR EACH TEAM MEMBER

(CONTINUED: PUZZLE HUNT)

Some members arrived at the event already with their own team of six. However, most were not and had to be put into a team with other duos, trios, and quartets. This lent itself to an unexpected result: AMA members getting to know other AMA members and bonding through the common objective of fun—and winning of course.

As teams began to solve puzzles, they were able to see the connection between all the answers which then led to another larger puzzle which led to a



CLUES WERE EVERYWHERE TO BE FOUND IN THE INNER CIRCLE AND THE TRICK WAS TO DECIPHER THEM

series of digits which—if correct—would unlock the mystery box that contained the grand prize (an AMA gift card for each team member). No puzzle expertise was needed, the only requirement was enthusiasm.

Now this wasn't David Kwong's first ever puzzle hunt party. In fact, most recently, he'd had a smaller puzzle hunt in the exact same location with his close friends to celebrate his own birthday. David has uniquely combined his expertise in illusion and passion for film. A former member of the DreamWorks Animation story department, David consulted on "Now You See Me," "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone," and "The Immigrant" to name a few. He studied the history of magic at Harvard University. As a veteran puzzle creator, he has constructed crossword puzzles for the *New York Times*, *LA Times*, and other national publications. He frequently serves as a puzzle consultant for film and television. Learn more about him on his official website: www.davidkwongmagic.com.

The event was such a sweeping success that talks for the next Puzzle Hunt are already underway. It was a testament to how much members enjoy doing activities at the club. And, most importantly, it brought together magicians and associates for fun and fellowship. Events like this make me happy to do what I do here at the club. I encourage all

members to watch for announcements in the monthly newsletters, bimonthly Flash Paper email updates (every other Monday), and the online member calendar (www.magiccastle.com) to keep up with the most up-to-date information on special events and happenings at your Magic Castle®. I look forward to seeing you at our next event! 🍀

Ben
broman@magiccastle.com



DAVID KWONG: MAGICIAN AND MASTER PUZZLER

STROLLING MAGIC SHOWDOWN 2016 – PART ONE

CAN YOU BELIEVE it's 2016? That's okay because that makes it time to have a Strolling Magic Showdown: our first for 2016.

On Tuesday, March 15, we will be back in the Inner Circle for a great evening of fun and magic.

Registration starts at 7:00 p.m. and the games begin at 8:00. The Strolling Magic Showdown is one of the best attended and most talked about member events at The Magic Castle®. Plan on being part of it. How can you be part of it you ask?

All members of the AMA can be a judge. All you need to do is come down to the Inner Circle between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. to register as a judge. Then sit back at a cocktail table and have the magicians come to you. For the next hour or so you will see magician after magician as they stop by with their "A" material. Once you have seen them all, you mark your ballot, we add up the votes, and announce the winner. We will have a no-host bar so you don't even have to go upstairs to refill your drink.

To compete you need to be a Magician Member of the AMA. You too will register between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. At 8:00 you will be set free to travel from table to table to perform and impress the judges and guests.

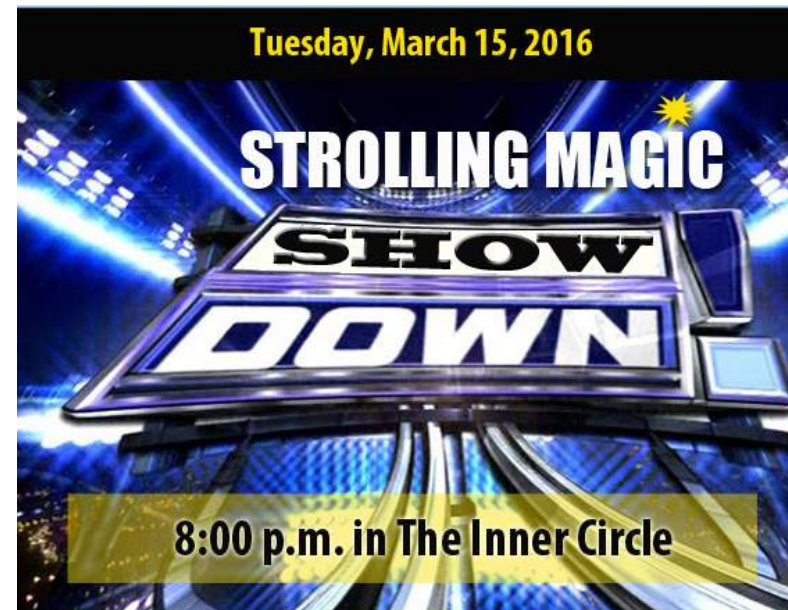
The Strolling Magic Showdown is always a wonderful time, and this one should be even better. So get the word out and I hope to see you there.

Please email me at ssmith@magiccastle.com if you have any questions. 🍀

See you on March 15,

Scotto

Scott "Scotto" Smith
Strolling Magic Showdown Chairman



Tuesday, March 15, 2016

STROLLING MAGIC SHOWDOWN

8:00 p.m. in The Inner Circle

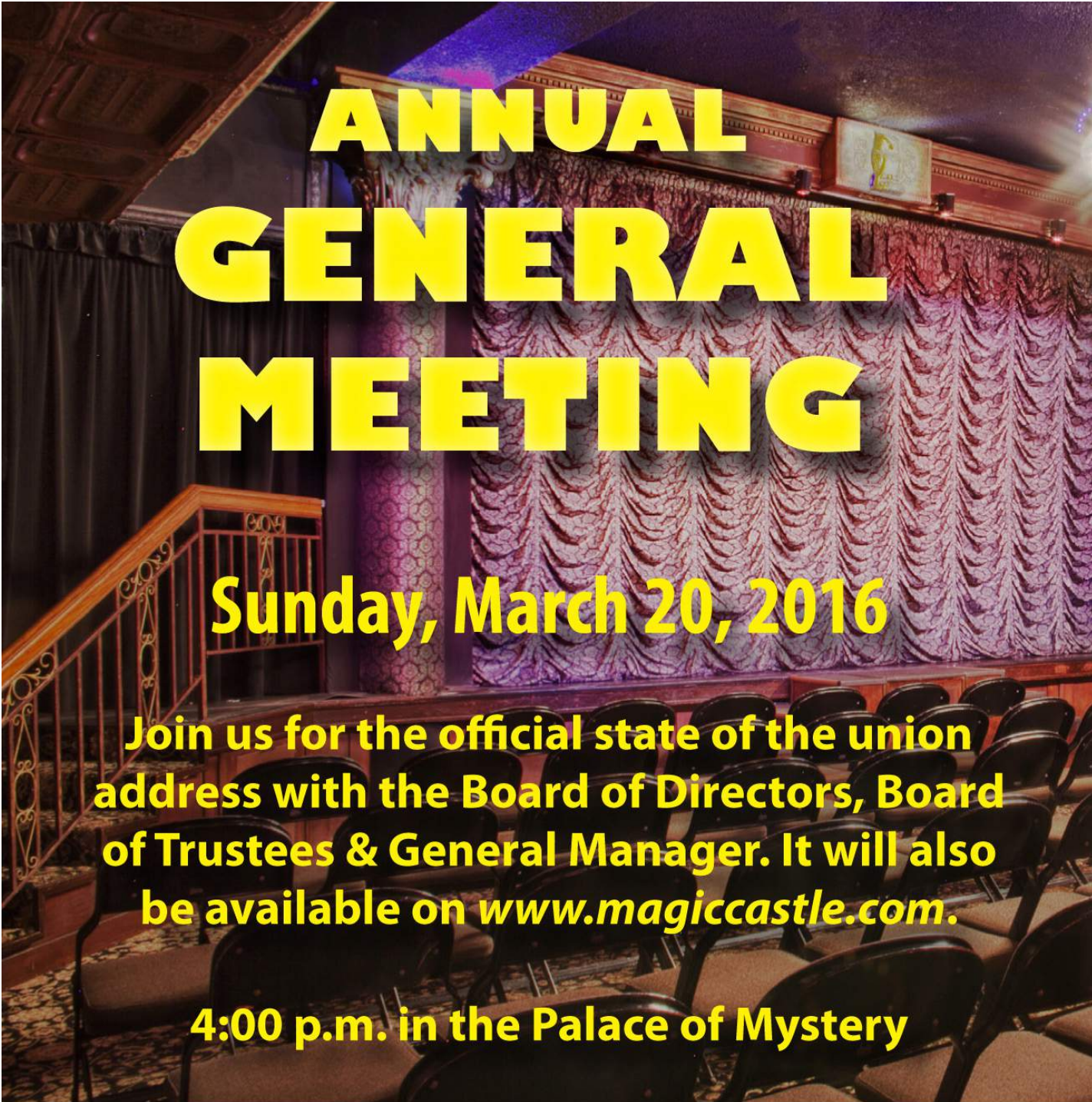
The Strolling Magic Showdown is back and better than ever! You will want to make plans now to attend a guaranteed night of pure magic and fun!

What is Strolling Magic?
Strolling magic is the magic you see at a cocktail party, conventions, or a hospitality suite (to name a few of the many potential venues). It's close-up magic geared for small groups of 4 to 5 people. The magician comes to you while you're socializing and dazzles you with magic right before your very eyes! Everyone has a front row seat to the action.

The SHOWDOWN!
We will turn loose some of the best strolling magicians for one hour to do everything they can to mesmerize you, astonish you, and take home the title of the Strolling Magic Showdown champion!

All members are welcome to attend and judge. However, only magician members are eligible to compete for prizes and the title of victor. There is no fee to enter or participate. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. to sign-in as a judge or competitor during the cocktail hour. Questions? Contact: **Scotto Smith**, the official Showdown Referee at: ssmith@magiccastle.com

Let's get ready to rumble!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Join us for the official state of the union address with the Board of Directors, Board of Trustees & General Manager. It will also be available on www.magiccastle.com.

4:00 p.m. in the Palace of Mystery



ALL NEW 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF IT'S MAGIC!

SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2017
3:00PM
CERRITOS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
CERRITOS, CA

STARRING:
MICHAEL GRANDINETTI
KYLE KNIGHT AND MISTIE
DANA DANIELS
VICTOR & DIAMOND
MICKEY O'CONNOR

FOR TICKETS PLEASE CALL: (800) 300-4345 OR VISIT WWW.CERRITOSCENTER.COM

NOW PLAYING AT THE MAGIC CASTLE

Jack Goldfinger, Entertainment Director

FEBRUARY 29 TO MARCH 6

CLOSE-UP GALLERY

Early-Early: Tim Isaac
Early: Mike Pisciotta
Late: David Malek

PARLOUR OF PRESTIDIGITATION

Early: Bob Cassidy
Late: Jimmy H.

PALACE OF MYSTERY

Pop Haydn
 Yuji Yamamoto & Mariko
 Dale Salwak

PELLER THEATRE

Matthew & Prakash

W. C. FIELDS BAR

Brian Gillis

FRIDAY LUNCH

Mike Pisciotta

SATURDAY & SUNDAY BRUNCH

Nancy Jean Gray

MARCH 7 TO 13

CLOSE-UP GALLERY

Early-Early: Michael Perovich
Early: Norman Beck
Late: Bodine Balasco

PARLOUR OF PRESTIDIGITATION

Early: George Schindler
Late: Jamy Ian Swiss

PALACE OF MYSTERY

Matt Marcy
 Seiya
 Dimmare

PELLER THEATRE

Max Maven

W. C. FIELDS BAR

Chef Anton

FRIDAY LUNCH

Norman Beck

SATURDAY & SUNDAY BRUNCH

Chuck Jones

MARCH 14 TO 20

CLOSE-UP GALLERY

Early-Early: Jesse Dee
Early: Shawn Farquhar
Late: Steve Valentine

PARLOUR OF PRESTIDIGITATION

Early: Carl Andrews
Late: Ron Saylor

PALACE OF MYSTERY

Kyle Knight & Mistie
 Greg Otto

PELLER THEATRE

Naathan Phan
 Robert Ramirez

W. C. FIELDS BAR

Jeff Martin

FRIDAY LUNCH

Shawn Farquhar

SATURDAY & SUNDAY BRUNCH

Jeff Martin

MARCH 21 TO 27

CLOSE-UP GALLERY

Early-Early: John Accardo
Early: Michael Rangel
Late: John Steiner

PARLOUR OF PRESTIDIGITATION

Early: Mark Gibson
Late: Jeff Black

PALACE OF MYSTERY

John Shryock & MariLynn
 Eric Buss

PELLER THEATRE

Rich Cowley
 Randy Gastreich

W. C. FIELDS BAR

Steve Wastell

FRIDAY LUNCH

Michael Rangel

SATURDAY & SUNDAY BRUNCH

Jeanine Anderson

MARCH 28 TO APRIL 3

CLOSE-UP GALLERY

Early-Early: George Tovar
Early: Henok Negash
Late: Johnny Ace Palmer

PARLOUR OF PRESTIDIGITATION

Early: Jon Stetson
Late: Daniel Sylvester

PALACE OF MYSTERY

John Ferrentino
 Jason Bishop

PELLER THEATRE

Tom Frank
 Shawn Eric

W. C. FIELDS BAR

Bob Bolivar

FRIDAY LUNCH

Johnny Ace Palmer

SATURDAY & SUNDAY BRUNCH

Funny Eddie

MAGICIAN ONLY LECTURES

3:00 to 5:00 p.m. | Parlour of Prestidigitation*

(Magician Members In-Good-Standing Only)

MARCH 6

MIKE PISCIOTTA

Join The Magic Castle's popular pub magician as he lectures on a range of effects involving coins, cards, and—more importantly—the psychology behind the routines. Mike will also discuss his thoughts on practice and how to be the best magician you can be.

MARCH 13

NORMAN BECK

“Getting Magic to Unlock the Door”: Magic is a form of entertainment but Norman uses it as a tool to unlock doors that have no key. The lecture is full of effects and ideas that can be used in the real world. Most of the lecture is based on cards and the one gaffed deck with which he always performs. You will learn cons that you have never seen before as well. Norman has spent the last 21 years on the road for about 200 days a year and he plans on sharing this School of Hard Knocks with you.

MARCH 20

NO LECTURE

Annual General Meeting. Be sure to attend!

MARCH 27

NO LECTURE (EASTER)

**Time and location are subject to change pending capacity, scheduling, and popularity.*

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHTS

March 28 & 29, 2016

One of the few opportunities for you to bring in underage guests into the club during our evening hours (13 years-of-age and older). Standard dress code will be in effect.



Executive Chef Jason Sperber



FEBRUARY 29, MARCH 1, & 2

Grilled Top Sirloin topped with blue cheese and roasted shallot demi glaze.
Served with roasted garlic whipped potatoes, and vegetables.

VEGETARIAN: Crispy egg pant over lemon herb risotto.

Topped with baby artichoke, tomatoes, mushrooms, and melted burrata cheese.

VEGAN: Tofu and vegetable stir fry over brown rice.

MARCH 7, 8, & 9

Pork ossobuco served over parmesan polenta with seasonal vegetables and Madeira wine sauce.

VEGETARIAN: Potato parmesan gnocchi, tossed with sun dried tomatoes, baby artichokes, sautéed spinach, English peas, and spicy arrabiata sauce.

VEGAN: Angel hair pasta tossed with sun dried tomatoes, baby artichokes, sautéed spinach, English peas, toasted cashews, and spicy arrabiata sauce.

MARCH 14, 15, & 16

Grilled swordfish, roasted rosemary fingerling potatoes, seasonal vegetables, tomato and olive relish.

VEGETARIAN: Artichoke ravioli sautéed with wild mushrooms, arugula, cherry tomatoes, chardonnay and roasted garlic oil.

VEGAN: Artichokes stuffed with bread crumbs, sautéed zucchini, tomato, roasted garlic, and herb oil.

MARCH 21, 22, & 23

Mojo roasted half chicken. Boneless half chicken marinated in citrus, garlic, and aromatics, served with creamy polenta, seasonal vegetables, and pan au jus.

VEGETARIAN: Puff pastry filled with roasted red peppers, sautéed kale, wild mushrooms, burrata cheese, and served with fresh tomato sauce.

VEGAN: Black orca bean and spring vegetable ragout in spicy tomato and vadouvan broth.

MARCH 28, 29, & 30

Shrimp Tagliatelle. Shrimp sautéed with kale, garlic, cherry tomatoes, and white wine, served over tagliatelle pasta.

VEGETARIAN: Four cheese manicotti with spring vegetable and tomato ragout.

VEGAN: Squash stuffed with wild rice and vadouvan seasoned vegetables with salsa verde.

Just a reminder that if you have any questions about these or any other items on our menus, please feel free email me. Thanks. 🍀

Jason
jsperber@magiccastle.com



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mar. 1: PERK: "As If"

Mar. 2 & 9: The Illusionists "Night Out"

Mar. 7: PERK: Max Maven's Packet Full of Miracles

Mar. 15: Strolling Magic Showdown

Mar. 17: St. Patrick's Day

Mar. 19: Juniors Day (Closed for Brunch)

Mar. 20: 2016 Annual General Meeting

Mar. 23: PERK: Magic, Makeup & Monsters

Mar. 27: Easter Bunny's Visit (Brunch)

Mar. 28 & 29: Young Adults Nights

Apr. 3: Volunteer Faire

Apr. 16: Spring Swap Meet

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

May 7: Kentucky Derby Party & Bourbon Tasting

May 8: Mother's Day

May 15: AMA Awards Show

May 30: CLOSED: Memorial Day

Jul. 4: CLOSED: Independence Day

Jul. 25 – 31: Future Stars Week

Jul. 25 & 26: Young Adults Nights

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Events are "All Members Welcome" unless otherwise indicated.

Keep an eye out for detailed information on these events and more in upcoming AMA Newsletters, Flash Paper Emails, our online member calendar on www.magiccastle.com, and our Members Only Facebook Group!

Questions? Contact Ben Roman, Special Events Manager, at: broman@magiccastle.com



Special Limited Engagement For AMA Members

THE ILLUSIONISTS

WITNESS THE IMPOSSIBLE

The box office smash "The Illusionists" is coming to Hollywood's Pantages Theatre! On two special nights, the AMA has a limited block of tickets that includes dinner at The Magic Castle®, transportation to and from the theatre, and a ticket to the show!

*\$120/person**

Ticket price includes:

Prix fixe dinner at 6:00 p.m. with complimentary house wine, tax & gratuity

Shuttle service between The Magic Castle® and the Pantages Theatre

Orchestra-level ticket to "The Illusionists"

Wednesday, March 2, 2016
Wednesday, March 9, 2016

To purchase a ticket (only 24 available for each date), go online to:

<http://pantagesmagic.eventbrite.com/>

Password: **AMAMEMBER**

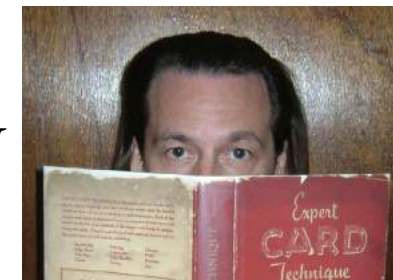
Purchase your spots before they sell out!

Questions? Contact Ben Roman at broman@magiccastle.com.

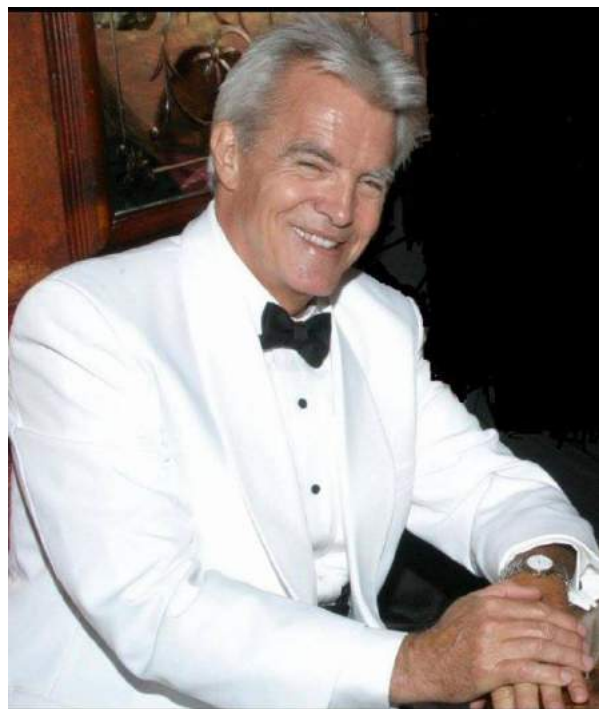
**Ticket price does not include nominal EventBrite processing fee.*

THE WILLIAM W. LARSEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BILL GOODWIN



THIS MONTH I want to start by talking a bit about AMA Life Member **JIM PATTON** who passed away on January 24, 2016. To most magicians, Jim is best known as the editor of the "Magicana" column in *Genii* magazine from February 1989 through November 1992. However, members of the AMA will remember him as the friendly bartender with a deck of cards in his hand. Jim's residency at the Owl Bar and later at the Hat and Hare allowed those of us who loved card



JIM PATTON

magic to find a kindred soul. Jim's knowledge of the intricacies of sleight of hand with cards always provided our members with many stimulating conversations.

Jim had the confidence of many of the great magicians such as **BRUCE CERVON**, **LARRY JENNINGS**, **DAI VERNON**, **CHARLIE MILLER**, **MICHAEL SKINNER**, and **JOHN CARNEY**. His presence and warm smile will be sorely missed.

Board of Trustees member **STEVE VALENTINE** came up with the wonderful idea that we include performances of effects from the many volumes in our library. So, starting this month

we have a link to a video that will feature these performances. We start with a tribute to the late **JERRY MENTZER**.

Prolific magic author Jerry Mentzer passed away on January 31, 2016 at the



JERRY MENTZER

age of 75. In 1969, he founded Magic Methods, a magic mail order business. Through the years he wrote over 40 books on the craft of magic presenting effects by such great magicians as **EDDIE FECHTER**, **PAUL HARRIS**, **ROY WALTON**, **J.K. HARTMAN**, **HORACE BENNETT**, **CURTIS KAM**, **PETER KANE**, **NICK TROST**, **MAX MAVEN**, and **LUBOR FIEDLER**. In addition, he shared his own magic with us through his books and magazine articles and won the Linking Ring Award for his March 1972 One Man Parade in *The Linking Ring* magazine.

Mr. Mentzer's books were an important part of my magical knowledge as I pursued the craft during my youth. Unfortunately, our

(CONTINUED: LIBRARY NEWS)

“Jerry Mentzer has left the magic world richer by his contributions.”

paths never crossed as it would have been wonderful to meet him. Being a lover of card magic, I was drawn to his *Card Cavalcade* series. I perused his book *Counts Cuts Moves and Subtlety* so many times the cover fell off.

Jerry Mentzer has left the magic world richer by his contributions. Click the “clapper board” at the bottom left to see a few of those contributions from his famed *Card Cavalcade* series.

JULIE JONES contacted the library and presented us with three scrapbooks put together by AMA charter member HUGH RILEY (M29). Assembled in the 1930s and '40s, these scrapbooks include newspaper clippings, ephemera from magic clubs, letters, show and convention programs, comics, magazine articles, magic society membership cards, and business cards.

One item in this collection that will be of interest to AMA members is a 1940 newspaper ad for Hills Bros. Coffee featuring GERALDINE CONRAD, wife of WILLIAM

LARSEN, SR. We thank Miss Jones for thinking of the AMA as the repository for these scrapbooks.

BILL BOWERS has presented the library with a collection of convention, banquet, and show programs. Of interest are the programs for SIEGFRIED AND ROY’s “Beyond Belief” show, REVEEN’s Souvenir Program, and the program for the 1982 F.I.S.M. convention. Bill has also gifted the library with many issues of magazines and booklets that are already in our possession.



We will place these titles on our sale shelf for our members to purchase.

DENNIS FOREL brought in a series of children’s magic books for our collection. These eight books, written by TOM MASON & DAN DANKO, include such titles as *The Book of Ghostly Magic* and *The Book of Mealtime Magic*. In addition, Dennis has included JOHN RAILING and DANNY ORLEANS’ *The Book of Master Magicians’ Magic*. Thanks, Dennis.

PAUL GREEN brought in many decks of cards, all green of course, for us to sell at the next Swap Meet. We appreciate you thinking of us, Paul.

DANIEL ULIN presented us with a baker’s dozen of JAY SANKEY DVDs. Nine of the titles are new to our library. They are *Dough*, *Snowstorm*, *Nailed!*, *The Art of Sleight of Hand*, *Smashed!*, *Final Fusion*, *XL*, *Bigger Finish*, and *Wrap It Up*. I personally love *Wrap It Up*. A unique effect with a diabolical method. The duplicate Sankey DVDs will be sold in the library to our members.

NORMAN GILBREATH of Gilbreath Principle fame has presented us with his new book *Beyond Imagination*. Those interested in card magic with no sleight of hand will find this book of interest.

CLIFF GERSTMAN brought in a hard copy of his online escape magazine *The Chainletter*. This edition covers all the issues from 2015. In addition, he has gifted us with PDF versions of the entire run from 2010 to the present. These have been placed on our computer system for our members to enjoy. Many thanks, Cliff.

After lecturing for our club, SHOOT OGAWA donated his new DVD, *Easy Hard 2*, for our members. Half of the tricks are easy while the other half are more difficult. Knowing Shoot’s incredible ease with difficult sleight of hand, the term “easy”

(CONTINUED: LIBRARY NEWS)

as used here is certainly relative. And **BODINE BALASCO** lectured recently for our Junior Society and we have obtained a copy of his lecture notes entitled *Creating Desired Results*.

MARK WENZEL has given us **GIGI PANDIAN's** novel, *The Masquerading Magician*, as well as a children's book, **HP NEWQUIST's** *Abracadabra*. Thanks, Mark.

Members **RICHARD LANDON** and **DAVID PERRY** brought in magic magazines to give away to our members. Mr. Landon's two large boxes of *MAGIC* magazines disappeared very quickly.

Finally, we received these DVDs for our collection: **JOHN COX** presented us with an animated children's movie, *Houdini – How Little Harry Became the Great Houdini*. Library Committee Chairperson **CAROL MARIE** gave us *The Great Buck Howard*. Thanks to both of you.

We were also presented with a few other items which we already have on our shelves. For a complete list of everything we have received recently, please click the Donor Link at the bottom left of this page.

I'll see you next month. ✨

Bill

bgoodwin@magiccastle.com

WE LOVE OUR DONORS!
 Please click here for a detailed, printable list of all of the items recently donated to your library by our wonderful benefactors.



Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday:
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday:
1:00 to 3:00 & 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Sunday (if lecture):
1:00 to 3:00 & 5:00 to 10:30 p.m.

Sunday (if no lecture):
1:00 to 5:00 & 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

MAGICIAN MEMBERS: DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE SALE SHELF IN THE LIBRARY



Presenting the very first deck of **ACADEMY OF MAGICAL ARTS**
PLAYING CARDS
 \$10 each

Available now in the gift shop or online at www.magiccastle.com/product/cards-ama





THE ACADEMY OF MAGICAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

THE FIRST FELLOWSHIP presented by The Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences was announced in July, 1952 in the pages of *Genii*. A Literary Fellowship was bestowed upon **DR. HARLAN TARBELL**. "Interim Awards" and Awards of Merit had been proclaimed prior to this first major award in the months since **WILLIAM LARSEN, SR.** founded the AMAS in April of the same year.

In January of 1953, the first full slate of major awards for 1952 were revealed: The Editor of the Year was **PETER WARLOCK** for his work on *Pentagram*. The Trick of the Year was the **JARDEN ELLIS RING**. The Book of the Year was *MODERN COIN MAGIC* by **J.B. BOBO** and published by **CARL W. JONES**. Finally, the Magician of the Year, a "Professional, full-time purveyor of a full evening show of magic, highly skilled sleight-of-hand artiste and close-up worker, and author ..." was **J.B. Bobo**.

Award winners would be selected by the Directors of the AMAS, the recipient's names to be published each year. This, of course, was Bill Senior's plan. He would not see its fruition. On July 5, 1953, at the age of 48, William W. Larsen, Sr. passed away in a Los Angeles hospital after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage.

BILL LARSEN, JR. would take over editing his father's magazine as well as helping to run his academy. He published the 1953 awards in February of 1954 and subscribers would continue to receive their AMAS membership cards in the mail. Along with **GERRIE LARSEN**, publisher of *Genii* (AND Bill's mother), The Academy was instrumental in getting the Governor of California, **GOODWIN J. KNIGHT**, to proclaim September 18, 1954 "Magic Day in California."

In subsequent years, mentions of the Academy in the pages of *Genii* became few and far-between. By the end of 1957, the dream that was The Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences had faded away into obscurity. Temporarily. 🍀



THE ORIGINAL LOGOS OF THE
ACADEMY OF MAGICAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



CARICATURE OF WILLIAM W. LARSEN, SR. THAT OFTEN
ACCOMPANIED HIS EDITORIAL COMMENTS IN *GENII*

-30-