



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:
WWW.OAKLANDMAGICCIRCLE.COM

The Oakland Magic Circle
meets the first Tuesday of every month except July at
Bjornson Hall, 2258 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602
Doors open at 6:00 pm
April 2011

April Meeting Annual Flea Market and Auction

Tuesday, April 5, 2011
6:00 Doors Open

President's Message

Our March meeting turned out to be a really fun night. Members were encouraged to bring short clips of something magic related to share. Highlights included an early '90s OMC stage competition featuring a lovely young couple, Steve Segal's wonderful magical cartoon medley, a slice of Tod Browning's 1939 film *Miracles for Sale*, Slydini's Paper Balls over the Head, two excerpts from the late Dr. Albo's *Ultimate Thayer* DVDs, and arguably most awe inspiring, John Gaughan performing Robert-Houdin's famous automaton, *Antonio Diavolo*. Thanks to all those who attended as well as those who brought clips to share. A special thanks goes out to Frank Biafore III and the folks over at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach for supplying the audio-visual equipment necessary for our most excellent evening.

Speaking of Playland NATB, I was fortunate to participate in their Houdini Magic Weekend this past Sunday (see photo on right). I can't say how valuable Playland NATB has been in my growth as a magician over the past few years. I remember when I started doing stand-up comedy, I was both excited and frightened by the truth that the only way to get better at comedy was to actually do it - that is, perform in front of a live audience. Sure, you

could practice at home, bounce your routines off friends, and rehearse in front of a mirror (sound familiar?), and I did all of those things! But the most growth always came from actual performance - the flight time.

Playland NATB is a unique place where magicians can get that flight time. I encourage each of you to grab Frank at an upcoming meeting and ask him about performance opportunities. It's really an incredible resource for our community.

All the best,
Mike Della Penna



In the photo (left to right) are: Mike Della Penna, Frank Biafore III, Aldrian Estepa, Magical Nathaniel, Scott Alcalay, and Douglass the Magic Man. Also performing over the weekend, but not pictured: Jeffrey Korst, Bob Steiner, Nick Magic, and Majik by Jordi.

Minutes of Meeting March 1, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Della Penna at 7:15 p.m. Scott Alcalay reported that Amos Levkovitch, who headlined our 2007 Installation Banquet, has developed stage four lung cancer. Fred Casto displayed

the new Jim Steinmeyer book on Howard Thurston and the Dover 60 Great Magic Posters. He also placed eight videos of OMC performances in the library. Frank Biafore announced March 19-20 will be another Houdini weekend at Playland-Not-at-the Beach. Gary Meyer discussed the Balboa Birthday Bash at his theatre March 6th, featuring a Valentino movie filmed in San Francisco and a performance by former OMC President, James Hamilton. Manya Casto gave her Treasurer's report on the Feb Installation Banquet. Although it showed a loss she expects to make it up at the April Auction/Flea Market. After a brief discussion on the auction the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. for video night. Among the videos shown were two of Dr Robert Albo from The Ultimate Thayer, as a tribute to a great friend of the OMC who passed away Feb 21st.

Byron Walker, Secretary

Auction!!!

It's been raining for a week, there are no days off for school kids **or** teachers in the month of March, and yet I can't stop hearing the dulcet sounds of Andy Williams in my head singing *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year...* it must be time for the auction!

Everything seems to be shaping up quite well. A few things you might want to know:

- 1) Yes, you can reserve a table. Just email either Byron or I to make a reservation. If we confirm your reservation, we will hold your table until 6:00p.m.
- 2) The board has decided to move the start time up half an hour for both buyers and sellers. We will open the doors for sellers at 5:30p.m. and for buyers at 6:00p.m.
- 3) Amount of time per auctioneer to be based on amount of entries. However, regardless of amount, each auctioneer will receive *at least* eight minutes.
- 4) There will be a sign up sheet and printed guidelines available the day of the auction.

Performers Looking for a New Home

From OMC member Matthew Vallankal:
I am discontinuing the use live birds and animals in my shows and so I have a rabbit and 5 doves to give away for free along with their cages. They are in excellent condition.

Interested? Contact Mathew
37588 Fremont Blvd
Fremont, CA 94536
Telephone: 510-456-4964

Future Events

April- The Largest and Finest Magic Auction and Flea Market in Northern California!

May – TBA

June – Lloyd Jones Close-up contest for OMC Members

July – Annual Scott Alcalay Trip to the Alameda County Fair (no regular meeting)

August – OMC Intra-Club Stage Competition

September – OMC Inter-Club stage competition and Spaghetti dinner.

October – TBA

November – Nominations for 2011 officers

December – Election of 2011 officers

About Town

Eugene Burger to lecture at the ODD Gathering. The Gathering will take place in Livermore April 15th-17th. Eugene will lecture for three intimate hours on Sunday, from approximately 2-5 p.m. It will be an extra charge event, \$50 per person. Contact Scott Alcalay for more information or email him at scott@scottalcalay.com

GGG Dates and Lecturers Announced. June 16th-18th Lee Asher, Eric Jones, Bob White, Curtis Kam, Howard Schwarzman, and Steve Mayhew. <http://www.bamagic.com/> for more on the Golden Gate Gathering.

All news for the newsletter is due by the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Please send submissions to mikedellapenna@yahoo.com or byron.walker@comcast.net