



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
May 2011

Our May Meeting will feature:
Professor B's Flea Circus!

***No dogs, please.**

Schedule for Tuesday, May 3, 2011

6:00p.m. Doors Open
6:30p.m. Teach-In**
7:10p.m. Business Meeting
7:45p.m. Flea Circus
8:30p.m. Members Perform

President's Message

Things you will see for sale at next year's auction:



Wasn't it grand, though?

The auction was a wild success. We sold out all of our available tables and made over \$400 for the club! Thank you to everyone who attended, sold, bid, auctioned, haggled, laughed, learned, set up, cleaned up, tracked bids, bagged items, made coffee, assigned tables, and made the night one of the best

magic events of the year! If you have any feedback or suggestions for next year, please do drop me a line. The board is committed to making our April auction even more wonderful each year.

Our May meeting will feature Professor B's Flea Circus. If you haven't seen Jerry and his fleas perform, you are in for quite a treat. I'm told he might even give us a little history and background of his wonderful creation after the performance!

This meeting will also feature the return of the Teach-In. This month, none other than Fred Casto will teach an excellent, (almost) non-gimmicked version of pen through bill. **Please bring a crisp one-dollar bill and a regular ballpoint pen so that you can participate.

At 8:30 p.m., any member is welcome to take the stage and perform a five to ten minute piece. It could be something sideshow inspired to go along with the flea circus theme... or just something that you've been itching to workshop in front of some folks.

It is sure to be a most excellent evening. I look forward to seeing you all there!

All the best,
Mike Della Penna

**Broken Wand -
Richard Tuck**

As many of you know by now, OMC member Richard Tuck passed away earlier this month. Below is an excerpt from a message his partners, Frank and Tim, sent to the Playland community. I asked Frank if I could share it with our community as well.

I, too, want to express what tremendous joy Richard brought into the world. He had a

way of making each person he spent time with feel special. It is our duty to keep his spirit alive by continuing to bring joy to all those whose lives we touch. -MDP

From Frank and Tim:

It is with great sorrow and joy that I let you know that Richard Tuck, driving force and creator of Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, passed away Tuesday evening, April 12, at home with his partners Tim and Frank by his side. For those of you who knew Richard you know how many lives he touched and how incredibly positive and generous he was. It is for that reason I can't help but also look for what joy we can find at this time. I am happy he passed away at home, as he wished, and that Tim and I were able to help him at such a special time.

We were fortunate enough to know this was coming too soon down the road, though we also were surprised at how quickly he passed once he realized he could let go, that he needed to think of himself rather than the rest of us. It was his wish that there be no immediate memorial service. The last thing he wanted was to have people gathered in his name, downcast and speaking words like "sympathy," "sorry" and the like while referring to him.

It was his wish that everyone be able to process the news at their own pace, and then when the time was right to have a joyous occasion to celebrate his life—so that is what will take place. There will be a gathering at Playland to celebrate his life, with people sharing stories of the best of times with Richard, music, food, fun, and performances by some of his friends and the people who frequently perform at Playland. The date of this event is likely to be in July and we will announce the date as soon as we have confirmed it. We will be sending out & posting information as it develops.

Alex Ramon Show
Thoughts from Vice President
Mark Tarses

Alex Ramon had a big magic show at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek on April 16. Tickets were \$25 to \$45. Nearly every seat was occupied. This just goes to

show that despite the weak economy, people will pay for a good magic show!

The show was at 2:00PM on a Saturday, so a large portion of the audience was made up of families with small children. Besides Alex, the show included Tweedy, a very athletic clown from London. Tweedy was there for the amusement of the kids. He performed a comedy barbed wire linking ring routine that was very clever. The audience was enthusiastic. There was a large mob of people at the end of the show waiting to meet Alex and Tweedy.

Alex performed several tricks that I have not seen him do before. The most impressive was the production of a female assistant out of a clear plexiglass box. He also performed a zig-zag box routine, a dove production, linking rings, escapes, and multiplying balls. The show ended with multiple card fountains all going off at the same time, except for the fountain in his hat, which unfortunately, did not seem to be cooperating. Card fountains are notoriously temperamental.

Future Events

May – Teach In, Flea Circus, Open Performance

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

Aldo and Rachelle Colombini Lecture. Tuesday, May 17th 7:30p.m. New Vision Methodist Church. 450 Chadbourne Ave. Millbrae, CA \$20.00 for SAM #2 members - \$25.00 non-members.

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