



## THE FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB NEWSLETTER

March 2026

It's time for another meeting, and this month, there's a lot of magic going on, starting with our amazing lecture coming up from Gary Plants, so don't miss the meeting this Thursday, Mar 5 at 7 PM. Details on location on the last page, and more on the lecture later

Also this month, the Mid-Cities Magic Circle meets, an article from our own Dr. Geoff, and more!

Let's start with the doings from last month!

Bill Irwin, 2026  
President, opened  
the meeting,  
welcoming guests

### What happened, was...

Elena Ponsler and Ayden Kohnhorst. Passing the gavel to Program Vice President, Will Baffle announced upcoming lectures by Alain Nu and Gary Plants this spring with an additional area lecture featuring Nathan Kranzo.

It was then on to the guest lecturer for the evening, SAM columnist and author, magician, and storyteller Norman Beck. His lecture was the inauguration of his new lecture, "An Evening with Norman Beck." The key to much of the fun associated with a Norman Beck lecture is his self-deprecating style, delivered in his Southern accent with an Oklahoma drawl delivered in a Texas twang. Lines that set the tone for the evening included the following: "What are three things you'll never hear from a Texan?" Answer: 1) Pro-wrestling's fake," 2) "No loaded guns in our house," 3) "checkmate," and 4) "Alex, give me 'Shakespeare' for a dollar!"

A familiar performer in the Magic Castle close-up room, as well as a columnist on magic, magicians, and performing for almost 30 years, he's that but much, much more. Norman tells stories—"biggin's," even if they're not "whoppers." [No "Texas brag"! Just "Texas fact!"] His topic for the evening was the practice of magic throughout his career as the "gambler cop" for SCA Promotions in Dallas. A risk management

corporation, SCA specializes in "promotions and sweepstakes marketing, event and sports promotions," and more.

Aside from his services to SCA, a job that has taken him around the world "as a sleuth for cheats," Norman shared anecdotes of his magic-in-life, both on and off stage—a recollection of regaling moments in both winning and losing bets, each eliciting a "lesson in life." Nevertheless, magic was never far under the surface. He shared an opening card routine—a whimsical, comedy piece with President Bill Irwin, a coin-prediction effect with Michael Stein, and a signed card revelation with Matthew Martin.

To meet Norman on the street, you might mistake him for anything other than the "magic man" for which he is celebrated. Always self-dismissive (keep in mind, he's a member of the "FFFF" and a regular magical entertainer for Warren Buffet's shareholders group), Norman confesses in a correspondence that "my props are a pair of dice, two sponge balls, a deck of cards, and a thumb tip, wit, grit, and bullshit"—a fitting frame for his entire presentation! What fun!

Following a break, the evening continued with "works in progress," the theme for the meeting's program. Randi Rain set a high bar for the evening with a clever "cups and balls routine," framed in hilarious contrasting responses from two selected club members who delivered both positive and negative scripting drawn from a set of envelopes.

Next up, Ron Wilson shared highlights of a recent visit to "Monday Night Magic" in New York City. In that context he vanished the "statue of liberty" and returned it from its drawer box with the ample assistance of guest magi Elena Ponsler—move over David Copperfield (but just a little).

From behind his illusion stage show curtains, Will Baffle introduced a classic "Zig Zag Woman" cabinet. The room broke up in great fun when Will introduced Pam Hudgins as his assistant. A "senior citizen" of the club, Pam "wheeled in" with a medical walker wearing

What, happened, was... (cont's from p 1)

a bathrobe, his “mother” performing the “stand in” role for the detained assistant. The repartee between the exasperated, impatient “mom” and the frustrated illusionist brought the house down!

Visitor Ayden Kornhorst closed the “works in progress” with an outstanding mentalism routine for stage featuring selected club members in the audience. On that bright spot, the club adjourned to a late-night spread at the local “Hooters.”

# Coming up!



A reminder that the date of the Austin Magic Auction has been changed to:

## March 14, 2026

Same Location: St Matthew's Episcopal Church

*(no changes to venue)*

We truly appreciate your understanding as we make this adjustment. Thank you for being part of what makes the **Austin Magic Auction** so special—we can't wait to share an even better experience with you on **March 14, 2026**.

AMA will be held

**March 14, 2026** at

**St Matthew's Episcopal Church**

8134 Mesa Dr.

Austin, Tx. 78759

## The Magical World of Reading

I believe that there is a “psychology” at work in the magical entertainment of people at all ages and that it changes as people mature. Understanding that “psychology” can better prepare us for creating more consequential experiences for our audiences. To the extent that we can connect our magic in meaningful ways to other important aspects of human experience, the more engaging our performances will become.



Recently, I have been focusing on the performance implications of a “magic show” versus a “magical experience.” As both a teacher and a children’s magical entertainer interested in supporting libraries, I have been developing materials for “The Magical World of Reading: A Magical Experience,” aimed at parents and their children entering or exiting libraries. What follows is a “context” statement—a foundational discussion, if you will—on the developmental psychology that relates magical entertainment to basic human experiences, particularly for very young people.

### Roles of Play and Magic in Early Childhood Development:

#### An Argument for Magic-in-Libraries

Young children begin to “grow up” into a world of their own making, and they have little choice in the matter. It’s in every child’s DNA. Emerging from infancy in a world in which everything seems unified, youngsters learn to manage its apparent disintegration (into an emerging sense of “self” vs. “non-self”) through play and magic. Their play is always ritualistic—“play-with-a-purpose”—aimed at establishing their authority. What children apply in their play in order to achieve that purpose is magic. For young children, magic is simply power, their imaginary source of strength through which they initiate control. Only through that control can they develop and maintain their sense of authority. Without that perceived authority, they will suffer a diminished sense of personhood or individuality.

The role that magic plays shouldn’t be underestimated. That magic is constantly streaming from their creative imagination. Therefore, it is abundant, always accessible, and its applications always reliable. On call 24/7, it’s first applied in children’s psychological separation from the mother, giving way to a growing sense of selfhood and independence. Always reliable, it’s through exercising their magic that children establish borders and boundaries, protecting themselves from the mysterious world around them and, fearfully, probably just

waiting in the next room, in the closet, or maybe even under their beds.

A child’s imaginary world, then, can be a frightening place in which they must constantly be on guard against both actual as well as potential threats. The antidote to the attending apprehension—and even terror they sometimes experience—is play. Through play, they begin to make sense of their world and by which they strive to exert control over it. In that play, they conveniently reduce everything into more manageable, simplistic dualities featuring imaginary heroes vanquishing villains and dragons, good fairies undoing the machinations of evil witches, and young magicians prevailing over the unbending “laws of nature.” What they discover through these imaginary conflicts is that “life is competition,” populated by “holy warriors” as the winners and “despicable monsters” as the losers.

While children’s imaginary worlds are dynamic, nevertheless, they are grounded. Their sense of self evolves as they consciously exert control based on an emerging set of rules. These rules govern their play, controlled by a set of ethical principles derived from a developing moral code. If, at the end of the fray, there are to be clearly identified victors and abject losers, then victories are possible only when all parties have agreed, from the beginning, to “play by the rules.” However, in a dynamic world, everything is subject to change. To accommodate change, the rules have to be malleable. They have to be adjustable in order to allow children to meet new challenges—an ongoing flow of competitions that never ends.

Hence, then, almost every child’s fascination with magical entertainment. Emulating what they have witnessed in or heard about “stage magic,” kids have been slinging “magic wands” since they could call out their own names. Their delight in it comes not, however, from witnessing in contemporary magic performances something surprisingly new and different. It stems, rather, from their recognition of what they have always understood: what “magic man (or woman)” is doing on stage is merely a reflection of how their own very magical universe has always operated, and they were right all along! It’s what philosophers call “associational theory,” the principle that “like” recognizes “like.” Accordingly, in his *Essay on Magic* (2015) Robert E. Neale claims, “We are all magicians”—the magicians and their audiences! “It is the role of the stage magician,” insists Neale, “to reflect the magic of his audience.”

This is, unapologetically, the purpose of “The Magical World of Reading.” What children project about the way the universe operates in their imagination and their place in it has been right all along, and those secrets will be found and elaborated on the pages of every book in the library. Gradually, “what they learn” from reading “fills in the gaps” they discover in reliance solely on their “imagination.” “Words” with references in the measurable, physical

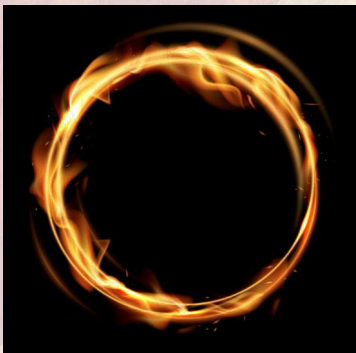
Tell some young people that need a little magic in their lives

# LEARN MORE THAN JUST MAGIC



world of the senses become the complements to the qualitative “abracadabra’s” they employed in managing their magic. Accordingly, then, what they learn from reading doesn’t limit the role of the imagination; rather, it enhances it, becoming its “helpmate,” strengthening their sense of power and authority, hence, their sense of personal value, validating their personal place and purpose in their universe. As the former Las Vegas magic headliner and owner of the McBride Magic and Mystery School Jeff McBride proclaims in The Show Doctor, “Magic is good medicine.” Just sayin’ . .

## DOC GRIMES



If you haven’t visited the Mid-Cities Magic Circle, it’s a group that meets monthly at Cotton Patch Café in Arlington. The point of the group is to improve performance of magic through feedback and discussion, and there’s always something interesting to see.

Check out the announcements sectioni for a bit more informatioin, or email Doc Grimes at [ggrimes1@aol.com](mailto:ggrimes1@aol.com) to get yourself on the email list, with reminders and topics on the monthly!

# Gary Plants lecture Thursday, March 5, 2026

For the March meeting of the Fort Worth Magicians Club we are proud to present a lecture by Gary Plants. This will be a close up magic lecture - if you are a fan of close up you will not want to miss this.

Lecture is free for dues paid members of the Fort Worth Magicians Club (dues are \$25), or \$25 otherwise. **You do not want to miss this amazing performer, and terrific teacher!**

Gary has told me he has a few new surprises in store for us as well!

## About the artist...

(with thanks to Magicpedia)

**Gary Plants** is a great teacher of magic, in part due to years of experience as a high school chemistry teacher. He has been interested in close-up magic for over 40 years, with a strong interest in gambling related material. Over time, he became good friends with the likes of Richard Turner, Steve Forte, Rod Dee, and Jason England.

His original tricks have been published in many books and magazines such as "Linking Ring", "Genii", "Precursor", "Apocalypse", "Imagick", and "Trapdoor." And since retirement, he's been a popular entertainer on a number of cruise ships with his closeup performances.

### Biography

Over the years Plants has attended many magic conventions including FFFF, 31 Faces North, Las Vegas Desert Magic Seminar, L.A. Magic History Conference, T.A.O.M., Columbus Magi-Fest, Dallas Super Session, OKC Super Session, and numerous I.B.M. and S.A.M. Conventions. He is probably best known for his handmade gaffed cards which he began making handmade in 1993. Plants has made cards for professional magicians all over the world under his magic business "The Card Plant". He has also worked on a number of magic-related projects, including Michael Ammar's "Easy to Master Card Miracles Volumes 1, 2 and 3.", "Del Ray America's Foremost Magician" and "Dai Vernon's Revelations - 30th Anniversary Deluxe Edition Box."

You can see the influences of Dai Vernon, Juan Tamariz, Michael Skinner, and Del Ray in his work, and his thinking behind many effects and moves is insightful and thoughtful. He's also published a number of highly sought-after works of his own. Don't miss your chance for an amazing magical experience.

### Booklets

Dallas Lecture Notes (2004)

Hawaii Lecture Notes (2011)

Gary Plants on the Zarrow Shuffle (Written by Stephen Minch) (2004)

Michael Skinner's 1995 Lecture Notes (Written by Gary Plants) (1995)

### Card Items

The Magnetized Cards (2000)

Impossible Close-Up Rising Card by Gary Plants (2000)

Ring in Card Box by Gary Plants (1995)

Hofzinser Transparent Card (2000)

Capitulating Cards (James Swain) by Gary Plants (2004)

Protean Pack by Gary Plants (2006)

Longer and Leaner by Gary Plants (2000)

Glim (2012)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MAGIC IN THE LIVING ROOM...

Eight years ago Magic in the Living Room began, so come celebrate with the usual suspects, and some other suspicious folks Tuesday, March 3. Wander over after voting for spirits, pizza, and lots of magic!



Amazing Attractions PRESENTS...  
**TUESDAY MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> 7PM**  
THE LIVING ROOM @THE LINE BAR  
940 E. BELTLINE · RICHARDSON  
RESERVATIONS: 214.720.2262  
ADMISSION IS FOR ADULTS 21 AND OVER.  
**TICKETS \$15**  
(INCLUDES 1<sup>ST</sup> DRINK)

MAGIC IN THE LIVING ROOM

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE EIGHT YEARS OF MAGIC, COMEDY & FUN!

This all happens at The Line Public House – 940 E. Beltline Rd., Richardson, TX.

Magic In The Living Room is an amazing evening unlike any other. Working with the Dallas Magic Club, Dal Sanders hosts a fresh nightclub / party experience featuring new faces in the world of magic and performance art. At the events you can expect new guest magicians, close-up magic, other variety performers and more.

<https://livingroom.wellattended.com/events/magic-in-the-living-room>

## THE IMPROV IN ADDISON...

DFW's longest running magic show returns to the Addison Improv every other Saturday at 2pm.



with Mike Williams

**FAMILY Magic & Comedy SHOW**

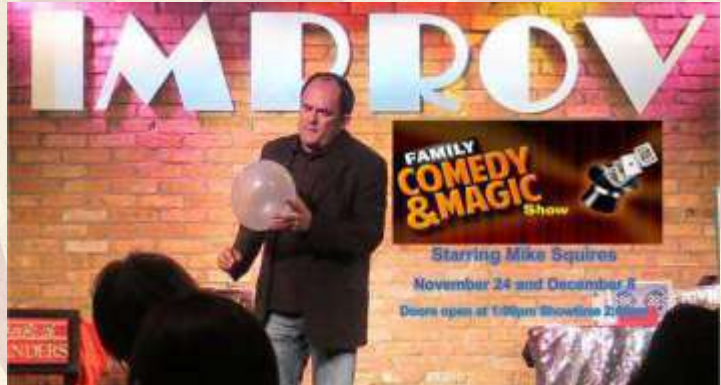
EVERY OTHER SATURDAY

Show starts at 2pm doors open at 1pm, so you can enjoy lunch with family and friends before the show.

Go to [www.improvaddison.com](http://www.improvaddison.com) for ticket info.

## THE IMPROV IN ARLINGTON...

Mike Squires headlines shows at The IMPROV in Arlington on alternate Saturdays. Mike will casually blow your mind. Doors open at 11:00am for lunch and the show starts at Noon.



Go to [www.improvarlington.com](http://www.improvarlington.com) for tickets.

## MORE DFW MAGIC...

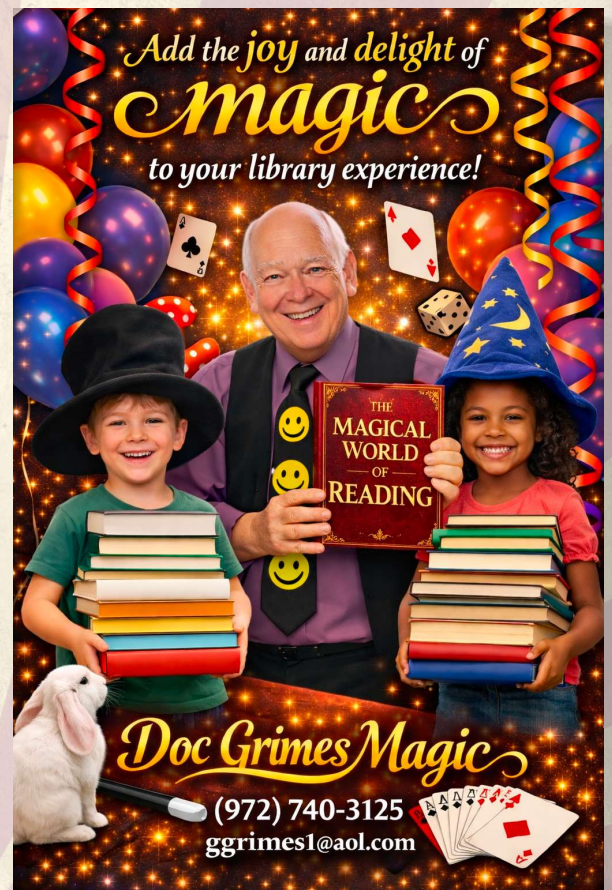
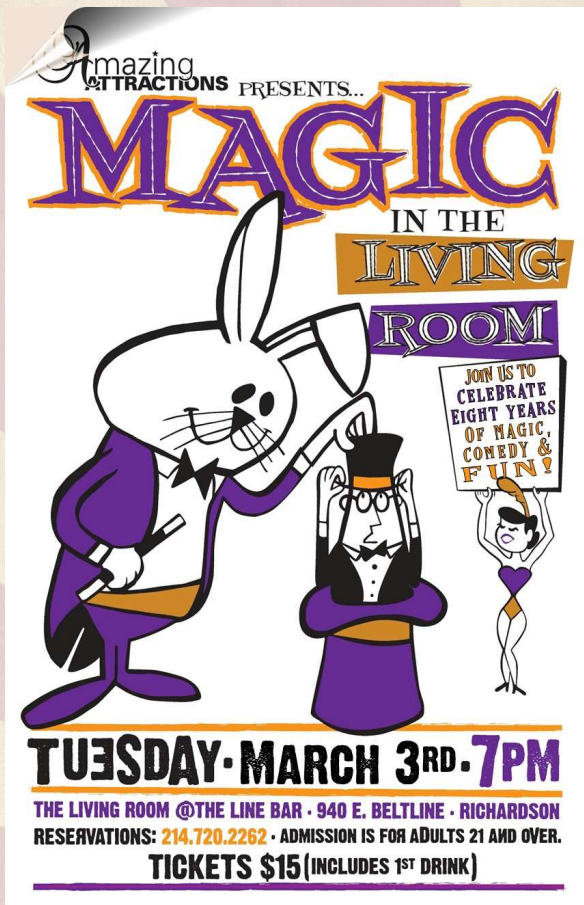
**Fort Worth Magic Club** – 1st Thursday of each month – 4055 International Plaza, Fort Worth, TX 76109 – [www.fortworthmagiciansclub.org](http://www.fortworthmagiciansclub.org)

**Fort Worth SAM 138 Alliance of Illusionists** – meets on the Third Thursday of every month at 7:00pm - Illusion Warehouse - 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth. For more information go to [www.sam138.com](http://www.sam138.com)

**Mid Cities Magic Circle** – meets on the second Tuesday of every month online. This group is not really a magic club at all. It is more like a Special Interest Group that meets together every month to learn more about the Art of Magic. Contact: Geoff Grimes at 972-740-3125 or email him at [ggrimes1@aol.com](mailto:ggrimes1@aol.com)

**Mark Wilson Magic Club** - Meets at Dallas College-Mountain View Campus. Check out their new website at [www.mvcmagicclub.com](http://www.mvcmagicclub.com)

**Second Saturday Magic Sale** – Magic, Etc., Fort Worth's premier magic shop hosts a Second Saturday Sale every month where magicians can score good savings on props and supplies. Magic, Etc. is located on Forest Park Boulevard at I-30 in Fort Worth.



It's almost here!

The world's only St. Paddy's Pickle Parade & Palooza is in Mansfield on Saturday, March 21, 2026!

On top of an exciting lineup of live music, the entertainment continues inside the historic Farr Best Theater with a magical experience the whole family will love. Join us for "The Crazy Fun Magic Show Will Baffle You!", a high-energy performance filled with mind-bending tricks, audience interaction, and moments that will leave you wondering, "How did they do that?"

Tickets are just \$10 per person and will be available for purchase at the door, making it an easy and unforgettable addition to your day. Showtimes are at 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., so you can catch the magic between live music sets and festival fun.

# OVER THE TOP IN TEXAS TAOM 2026 CONVENTION

**Hilton Post Oak, Houston - Labor Day Weekend 2026**

Hosted by Gene Protas TAOM President 2026 & The Houston Magic Clubs

## FEATURING THE MAGICAL TALENTS OF

**John Bannon - Caesar - Eric DeCamps  
Jared Kopf - Armando Lucero - Mike Pisciotta  
Jake & David Rangel - Chip Romero  
Jamie Salinas - Garrett Thomas  
Paul Vigil - Geoff Williams  
The Illusions of John Shryock & Mari Lynn**

**2026 Guests of Honor - The Great Scotts:  
Scott Hollingsworth & Scott Wells**



**September 4-7 2026**

visit [TAOM.org](http://TAOM.org) for info & to register



# New! MAGIC, FLIGHTS & BITES™

Magic, Flights and Bites expertly combines magic, wine (or other tasty drinks), and appetizers for a fun, social night out. Guided by professional magicians, you'll learn simple tricks that make you look like the star parent, favorite relative, or top salesperson. Magic is the Ultimate icebreaker! We provide a relaxed atmosphere, all the props, and



Learn from a professional magician!



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Have fun keeping secrets from your friends\*



step-by-step instruction for a creative, unforgettable experience.

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**Amazing  
Attractions**

\* = friends not included; you must provide your own friends; if you have no friends, a friend will be assigned to you.

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**Magic, Etc., Fort Worth's premier magic shop hosts a Second Saturday Sale every month where magicians can score good savings on props and supplies. Magic, Etc. is located on Forest Park Boulevard at I-30 in Fort Worth.**





## Monthly Magic Mentoring Workshops

For More Information  
[chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com](mailto:chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com)  
[www.IllusionWarehouse.com](http://www.IllusionWarehouse.com)  
 Fort Worth, Texas



Have you ever wished for a magic teacher? How about someone to help guide you with hands-on instruction? The Illusion Warehouse magic shop in Fort Worth has put together monthly teaching workshops to help you advance as a magician. Called Monthly Magic Mentoring Workshops, the events vary. Past topics have included Cups and Balls, Rope Magic, Thumbtip Magic, the Chop Cup, and Basic Sleight-of-Hand. Email [chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com](mailto:chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com) to be put on the contact list for upcoming monthly events.

The Illusion Warehouse is a 4000 square foot facility dedicated to the art of magic. Conveniently located in south Fort Worth for over 25 years, the location houses a full retail magic shop, party room, theatre, museum room and workshops for Chadwick Illusion Fabrications. It is also the monthly meeting location for the SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists. 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas, phone 817-832-6062, [www.IllusionWarehouse.com](http://www.IllusionWarehouse.com)

The FlashPaper is a publication of the Fort Worth Magicians Clubs, a group of magical enthusiasts and magicians that meet on the first Thursday of most months, with occasional exceptions.

You can keep up with [club news on Facebook](#), or by checking the web site <http://www.fortworthmagiciansclub.org>



**The next meeting will be Thurs. March 5, 2026 at 7 PM at  
4055 International Pl  
Fort Worth, TX 76109**

**Exit Hulen from I20 West, and the building is in the area behind  
the Home Depot**

**Watch your email and the Facebook Page for more details!**

