



THE FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB NEWSLETTER



## LEVENT! (Need I say more?)

On January 19th and 20th, the Fort Worth Magicians Club hosted their annual banquet and held their officers installation ceremony. We then had Levent entertain us and I know that sounds simple but he was indeed a force of nature to reckon with! He went on a whirlwind of comedy and magic for over an hour! If you had missed out on this you really missed out on a treat as Levent added more into the show to really have some fun!

He also gave a whirlwind lecture as he went off from his standard lecture to not only teach us but to give us "Pro" tips which were much appreciated! You could really tell he enjoyed research and history with how he gave his lecture! It was over two hours of massive amounts of information that I'm sure all 34 people that were there will be taking time to unravel everything that they heard!

I would also like to thank all the people involved in helping make the event a success! James Ayala, Pam Hudgins, Vanessa Ayala, David Hira, Jeff Hallberg, Jordan 'Tiny' Burgess, Will Baffle and the folks at Texas Wesleyan University for helping us out with the venue!



## Fort Worth Magicians Club Officers for 2017

The officers for this year are:

Ross Lampe, President

Will Baffle, Exec VP, Program  
Chair

Tiny Burgess, Treasurer

Geoff Grimes, Flashpaper Editor

Matthew Martin, Secretary

Jeff Hallberg, webmaster

Rick Bircher, Historian

Don Lampe, Sergeant at Arms

Members at Large:

Pam Hudgins, Michael  
Dimsdle, Tom Smith.

Joshua Ayala, Past Presi-  
dent

Trustees:

David Hira, Jeff Hallberg  
and Matthew Martin.

Congrats to all!



## Club Dues (just the thing you want to see here huh?)

As the title states, that club dues are well.....past due! If you have already paid this does not pertain to you but if not we ask that you take care of this as your membership dues helps pave the way for the club to have the ability to bring in special lectures and do special events

throughout the year! The price is only \$25.00 and can be paid to our Secretary Matthew Martin so that he can get the information down!



## Special Executive Committee Meeting 1/31/2017

There will be a Special Executive Meeting planned for 1/31/2017 to be held at Old South Pancake House, 1509 S University Drive, Fort Worth, Tx. 76107. at 7:00 p.m.

This meeting is to talk about the plans and activities for the club this year in 2017. All dues paid

members are welcome to join. Be prepared to eat and have a great time!



Driving through a nice neighborhood in Murphy, TX (where?) you'd never suspect that one of those houses contains an almost complete collection of one magician's work. You'd be even more surprised to find out that almost anyone over the age of 40 knows exactly who this magician is, or at least they do when they hear the words, "It's easy, once you know the secret! TV Magic Cards!"



**Marshall Brodien performing Jack Gwynne's Temple of Angie - this illusion now resides in Mark Jensen's collection**

Famed Chicago area magician Marshall Brodien was far more than TV Magic Cards though, and brought many aspiring magicians their first taste of magic with a wide variety of magic sets and more. Here's a little background on how this incredible collection made its way to north Texas, and how Mark is helping to make certain that Marshall Brodien's name lives on in magical history. You'll really enjoy his talk at the meeting, that I can promise!



**Pie fight aftermath picturing L-R Cooky the Clown, Bozo and Wizzo**

You can also learn more from the book, *The Magical life of Marshall Brodien* by John Moehring, available at fine magic dealers as well as other booksellers.

**Thanks Mark, for taking the time to come from Murphy all the way to the Fort Worth Magic Club. I guess the first quick question is, how did you get interested in Marshall Brodien's work?**

As a teenager, I purchased my first Magic Set, one of Marshall's sets off of a WGN Muscular Dystrophy telethon. I still have that set.

**I know that you have a great friendship with Marshall and his wife. How does that kind of thing happen?**

I had started collecting Marshall's magic sets and had purchased the second magic set he produced. I couldn't tell if it was complete or not. I looked around and was able to find Marshall's contact info and gave him a call. We agreed to meet at a convention that we were both going to be at in a couple months so he could look at the set. We did and also found that we shared other interests such as magician Jack Gwynne.

I have family in Northern Illinois that we would visit a couple times a year. While up there, I would drive into Geneva, Illinois to spend the day with Marshall and his wife Mary. Marshall and I also talked on the phone regularly.

By the way, the magic set was complete, although not in the best condition. Two weeks later I received a package in the mail from Marshall. It was a brand new, unopened copy of that magic set.

**How many pieces would you estimate are currently in the collection?**

Thousands - when I acquired Marshall's private museum it was over 250 boxes that filled a third of a semi. There were hundreds of magic sets, parts, photos, tricks, costumes, etc. And yes, I do have some duplicates...

**Is it just Brodien memorabilia, or did he have things from other magicians as well?**

The majority was related to Marshall's career, although there were items such as Jack Gwynne's original temple. Marshall also produced Lance Burton's and Siegfried & Roy's Magic set. I have original artwork, etc for several of these sets which is really cool.

**Personally, what's your favorite piece in the collection?**

That is a very difficult question to answer, but one of my favorites is one of his Wizzo costumes from the Bozo Show.

**There's an unusual, "Trick of the Month" style product that he consulted on. Can you say a little about that?**

That would be the Columbia House of Magic program, which unfortunately only lasted a couple months before being discontinued by Columbia House. Luckily collectors can still find a few of these partial sets. I'm fortunate to have the complete set.

**If people would like to see the collection in person, how could they do that?**

Give me a call if you are going to be in the area and I'm happy to give a tour. I am also selling some of my duplicates so if interested, it's a great opportunity to own a piece of history.

**Oh, and the important part, your websites!**

I've recently launched a website that highlights parts of my collection (Marshall and other areas) as well as items for sale, that I'm looking for, etc.

<http://jensencollector.com/>



Marshall visiting Mark Jensen's home in 2013. The illusion is the Stack of Boxes which Marshall used with

Thanks to Mark for taking the time to give you a taste of the great stuff he has to share with us at the upcoming meeting. Don't miss it!

# Magical Memories

Our own **Bruce Chadwick** has this great story

I don't know Marshall Brodien very well but I remember vividly as a child watching his TV Magic Cards and later TV Magic Set commercials in blazing black and white television broadcast. Later I bought some of the cards from a store, not so much for the trick but mainly because of the warm memory of watching the TV presentation that helped fuel my early love for our art and no doubt sparked the magical bug in the lives of thousands of people.

I do recall a very funny moment at a national SAM convention several years ago. The convention organizers put together a rapid "50 tricks in 50 Minutes" type of show with many well known magicians each getting up and quickly doing one of their signature magic tricks. Marshall was on the bill with his TV Magic Cards.

Marshall proceeded with his word-for-word patter just like he presented the trick on his early television commercial. However he ran into a snag. As he riffled the cards to show that the deck had apparently changed to the same card, he apparently "lost control" of the riffle and the cards sprung all over the floor.

Of course the audience knew something was up. Marshall stood there for a moment pondering the spread on the floor, shook his head and then pronounced "I never liked that trick!" He turned and walked offstage and the audience howled with laughter.

**Pix Smith** remembers TV Magic Cards

I never had one of the sets, though I whined and begged like crazy. I did though save my lawn mowing money and bicycle to the Eckerd Drugs near me. There was the display, with only one deck left! As I headed for it, I saw a lady walking that way, so I hustled over and grabbed it before she could take my hard-won treasure. She was headed for depilatory cream as it turns out, but that didn't lessen the feel of victory. I loved that trick, and watched the commercials so I could do it perfectly. And I still have the deck in pretty good shape.

Houston's **Bill Palmer** originally posted this on the Magic Cafe. Many thanks for his kind permission to share it here..

Marshall is a really interesting fellow. I met him at an MCA weekend in Las Vegas several years ago. I found him very approachable. I gave him one of the cards for the Cups and Balls Museum. I also asked him if he had a set of cups that he had used in performance that he would consider selling me for the museum.

After he went on line and saw what I was doing, he sent me a huge package of cups. He sent me a set of P&L cups that he had used to entertain some of the "people with black shirts and white ties" in Chicago. He also sent about a dozen different sets of cups from the different magic sets he had designed, along with several photos of him in various costumes, etc.

He wouldn't take a cent for any of it, either.

I have seen him at each of the MCA weekends since then, as well.

He has stories about people he has entertained that border on the unbelievable. But, knowing his history, I know they are true.

And he is one of the nicest guys in the business

In a recent note, he said,

"I don't know what I could add about Marshall other than he was one of the few of us who really got rich from magic!"

## Dai's Die

(a routine to be accompanied by a fugue for tin horns)

I remember a lunch at On the Border a few years ago. I had been sniffing around Ebay and made a purchase of some odd-ball something or another, and it was a small package containing a clear cube and a sheet of mimeographed instructions. The title of the trick I knew would interest Bob White, so I brought it with me that Saturday

"Here Bob, have a look at this. It's something of Vernon's called Dai's Die. Ever heard of it?"

Bob had a look and said, "You know, there's a very interesting story about this trick."

When Bob White says something like that, you pay attention.

"Vernon was visiting the Magic Castle for an extended stay and living on the third floor with Jay Ose. He was returning to New York City on the bus to pick up what he called his "trunk" and Tom Palmer booked a lecture for him in Dallas on August 16, 1963 for five dollars a person at the Statler Hilton Hotel. It was on the bus from LA to Dallas that he came up with that trick. Tom (Palmer) was one of the Elders and marketed the trick called Dai's Die. That's what you've got right there."

Interesting didn't begin to cover it.

The Elders were a group of magicians; **Tom Palmer** was, according to Paul Siegel, the driving force. It was a small group of men that were "out of the box" in their magic thoughts and property productions.

More information came from both Paul and Van McGee, "In the group was **Cleve Haubold (Van Cleve), Harold Thomas, John Gladfelter** and **Bob Thorson**. There may also have been other contributors from time to time" Bill Palmer was able to add, "**Rose Gladfelter** was also one of the Elders. **Ralph Marcom** was not actually a part of the group, although he did collaborate actively with Van Cleve and Gloria in creating new material."

So, this little bit of foolishness that follows has a bit of history, and a strong Texas

connection.

### The effect

Six cards are laid out alternating face up and face down. A prediction is fairly shown, and placed in plain sight. Someone else may hold it if desired.

The spectator rolls the die until a satisfactory number is reached. That number corresponds to a card, and the prediction proves accurate.

Less than a minute, unless you do it right...

Routine next, method at the end.

### The routine

If you have never read Damon Runyon, you ought to. A great American author, the musical *Guys and Dolls* is based on just one of his stories. A terrific radio series called *Damon Runyon*

Theater ran from 1948 to 1949, and captured perfectly the argot of prohibition and post-prohibition New York. And since he, too has a Texas connection – while covering baseball spring training in Texas, he not only met Pancho Villa, but later joined an expedition into Mexico to capture him – he seems a natural inspiration for the following routine.

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Most folks have heard of the game of craps. It is simple, and one of any casino's most popular games. The idea is that you roll the dice, and then try to roll that number again before you roll a seven. Simple to learn, easy to play, and a lot of fun to watch.

Craps has been with us for a long time, and in fact, it is the centerpiece for many a story by the famous American author Damon Runyon. In his honor, I'd like to invite, let us say, you, please, to join me for a friendly game of a similar sort. A gracious round of applause for our player, who is, in this game, playing for each of you as well.

"Here we have a pair of dice. You may notice that there are no spots on them, but do not be concerned. I remember where the spots used to be, and so there is nothing to worry about.

"Now it is time for a little instruction in the game of craps. If you would, please roll the dice,. Very nice! You can see that you rolled an eight, or as we like to say in the game, 'An eighter from Decatur.' There is the three and there is the five. Gather up the dice, and roll again. As long as you roll an eight before you roll a seven, you win the money.

Look at that, a six/two – an easy eight! You win – Collect your winnings....oh wait, we are just practicing now. Sorry, sometimes it is knowing when to quit; sometimes it is knowing when to start.

"Let's go. Roll again. Do you see that? A seven! You win again!

"Once more. Give them a toss, there you go, your point is nine. Roll again – four. Still in the game – again....six, close call, again....double fours - eight the hard way. Come on now, luck is with you – all you need is a nine....Seven! Oh, sorry, that is a losing roll. This is how the game operators make the money. The math is with the house. But do not worry, our game is a little more fair than this one, though it may use the same gaming instruments!

"By this time, I hope that you have found that the dice are fair. Nothing funny about them, all the rolls are fair rolls, right? I mean, you saw them with your very own eyes. Now, to make things even more fair, if you would, please choose one of the dice, for yourself, for this will be your die in our little game.

"Are you certain that is the one that you want? Are you positive that it is fair? Give it a couple of rolls yourself to make certain.

"This die will no longer be needed, but these cards will, as well as this piece of paper, on which is written something concerning the outcome of this little game. Now, what is written is very specific, and if it proves correct, then the house wins. If it

*(Continued on page 7)*

is incorrect, then you walk away the winner of the evening.

“Are you ready? Then let us commence. The rules are simple. You roll the die, and if you like the number that you roll, we continue to the wager. If you do not, then you may roll again until you are happy with your number – or until the cops arrive to bust up our evening’s entertainment.

“Let us commence.

“And now, you are happy with your number? Again, tell everyone what that number is.

“You had the choice of either die, you had the chance to roll again, or to stop one roll earlier, but you chose this time to stop, and you rolled a six. Had you chosen a one, two, three, four, or five, things would have been different, but you chose the six of hearts....

“If you would be so kind, please read what is written on the paper....

“The number you rolled did correspond to the red card. It looks like, sadly, the house has won.

“Now, do you think that you have acquired a taste for gambling this evening? No? Then I think that though the house may have won the last battle, you have made the decision that will win the war. The race may not always be to the swift, nor the victory to the strong, but that’s how the smart money bets. And I am going to bet that these folks will reward you with a nice round of applause for your efforts.”

### **Method**

Needed: Two blank-faced dice, and six cards. Only two are specific, the red-backed Ace of Clubs or Spades and the blue-backed Six of Hearts.

*Recommended:* Red-backed Ace of Clubs or Spades, blue-backed Two, Three, Four, and Five of either black suit, blue-backed Six of Hearts or Diamonds.

Alternate the cards face up and face down in any order (though it can be handy to keep track of them) with the red

six face down in the second position and the red backed black ace in the third position from the top (or bottom – it doesn’t matter, as you’ll see.

Lay out the cards in a row; you will have, from either the right or the left, a face up card, a face down red six, a face up red-backed ace, a face down black card, a face up black card, and a face down black card. The only two important cards are the face down six and the face up ace. For purposes of explanation, let’s assume you have the above laid out from your left to right and that the face up cards are the five and the three. I try to keep the five anywhere other than in a fifth place from either end.

After all the *fol-de-rol*, designed to get a lot of time out of a tiny, yet good trick, you are left with a selected number.

Here is the business, per number:

### **One**

“You could have rolled a five (turn it face down), three (ditto) or any other number between one and six,(scoop up and deliberately gather all the cards, leaving the ace alone on the table) but you rolled the one, the same as the ace in a deck of cards (there is no need to point out that the backs of the cards you have put away are blue. We see

them) If you would be so kind, please read what is written on the paper....

### **Two**

Start at the left end, and say, “You could have rolled a one (pick up the card and scoop up the others as you continue), three, five, or any other number, but you rolled a two – the second card – right there. If you would be so kind, please read what is written on the paper...”

Turn the card over to reveal the red card, giving no importance to the value of the card at all. As you are picking up cards four, five, and six (position wise)in the row, show them black without calling attention to their value. No reason to get people thinking

### **Three**

Start at the left end, and proceed as in two, but don’t turn the cards face up – turn them all face down as you call attention to their number in the row, and put them away, leaving card number three in place...

### **Four**

Start at the right end, and proceed as in 3, or is that 2, or 2 and 3... the point is that the cards are turned face down and gathered as every position is counted, leaving card number four.

### **Five**

Start at the right end, and proceed as in number two, but paying little attention to the values of the cards and casually displaying the faces without calling attention to them. The cards are turned face up as they are gathered. Obviously,



## Two

Start at the left end, and say, "You could have rolled a one (pick up the card and scoop up the others as you continue), three, five, or any other number, but you rolled a two – the second card – right there. If you would be so kind, please read what is written on the paper..." Turn the card over to reveal the red card, giving no importance to the value of the card at all. As you are picking up cards four, five, and six (position wise) in the row, show them black without calling attention to their value. No reason to get people thinking

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Start at the right end, and proceed as in 3, or is that 2, or 2 and 3... the point is that the cards are turned face down and gathered as every position is counted, leaving card number four.

## Five

Start at the right end, and proceed as in number two, but paying little attention to the values of the cards and casually displaying the faces without calling attention to them. The cards are turned face up as they are gathered. Obviously, you say "five" and "fifth" instead of "two" and "second."

## Six

I like this as the best outcome if you are using cards numbered ace through six. "You could have rolled a one, (pick up the ace face up) a two (scoop it up with the ace), a three (scoop it with the other two), a four, (turn it face up and scoop it up) or a five (scoop it up and put the cards away – be careful with that red-backed ace) but you rolled a six. Half a boxcar, sometimes considered an incredibly unlucky roll, but a six. You rolled a six, That only happens about 16.6 percent of the time. If you would be so kind, please read what is written on the paper...."

In short, if the position is important, emphasize that and downplay the actual values of the cards. Don't be shifty, just don't give them any importance. If the value is important, Stress the values of the unchosen cards, but lay off before you get to that six, which you can't show, and move it along.

**Another note** – Vernon was very specific about the wording of the "prediction." I have seen this presented as

"You will roll the number of the red card."

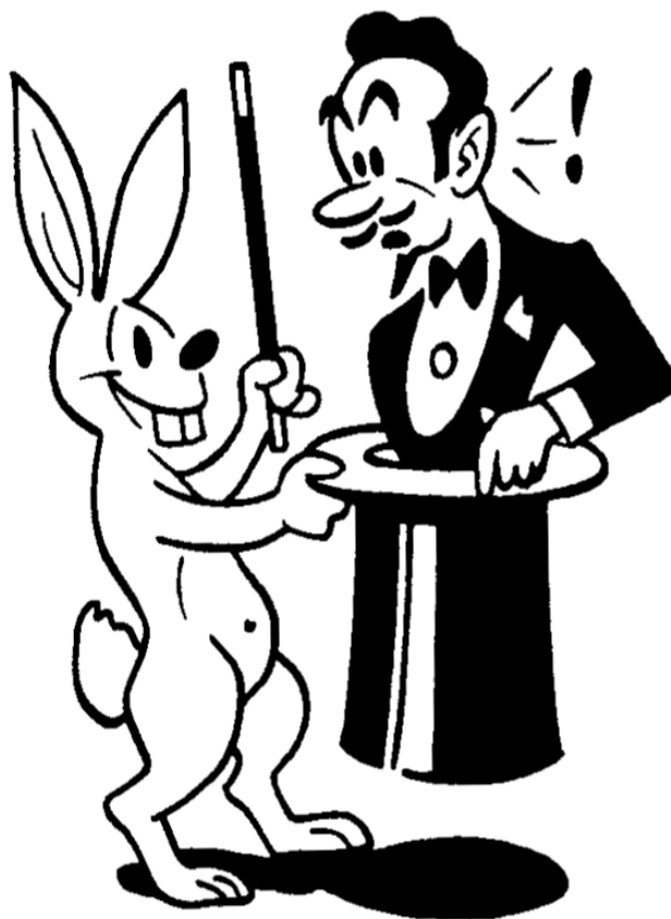
It doesn't play as well.

This trick has some great examples of Vernon's thinking. The revelations are casual and point out the least of what is necessary to make the biggest impression. It's a whimsical idea, and a lot of fun. It involves an audience member, and this routine makes the spectator a big picture winner in the end.

– The original Dai's Die had a clear cube for the die (actually a pretty neat novelty in the 60s), and the mimeographed instructions gave the card placement and the outs. Please don't blame anything else above on Vernon or the Elders.

Special thanks to Arthur Emerson, Van McGee, Bill Palmer, Paul Siegel and Bob White for their help with background information on the Elders. Thanks Jared Kopf for catching a couple of egregious typos and a bit of plain old dumbth.

BE SURE TO LOOK AT WHERE THE CLUB  
IS MEETING NEXT WEEK ON THE NEXT  
PAGE!





## Upcoming Club News by Will Baffle

Hello everyone!

I'm EXCITED bout what is coming up for this year! I will know more after next week's planning meeting but I can certainly tell you that we are hoping to have LOTS more activities for the club this year! But lets get started with next month!

February 2, 2017 7:00 p.m.

We already have started out with a bang having Levent perform his show and lecture for us so lets keep the momentum going! We are going to have

Michael Dimsdle perform a version of his award winning competition act for us!

Michael Stein then will take over and amaze and astound (you really don't want to miss this!) and last of the performers will be none other than Dal Sanders!

In the second half we will be having a special guest present our Collector's Corner: Mark Jensen (make him feel welcome and maybe he will join!) And lastly we have David Hira to teach us a trick! Trust me when

I say its going to be a very full evening!

As far as snacks are concerned lets do a potluck meaning that we could use drinks (non alcoholic...I know!) and whatever snacks you think folks would enjoy! Please let me know if you plan to bring anything to make sure that we will have space for you.

Our location will be:

**4055 International Plaza  
Fort Worth, Tx**



## Future Magic

You may or may not be aware that there will be some big shows coming through the area this year.

The Illusionists are coming back to the Dallas/Fort Worth area! That means its time to get tickets again for this fantastic show!

I have also heard that the folks

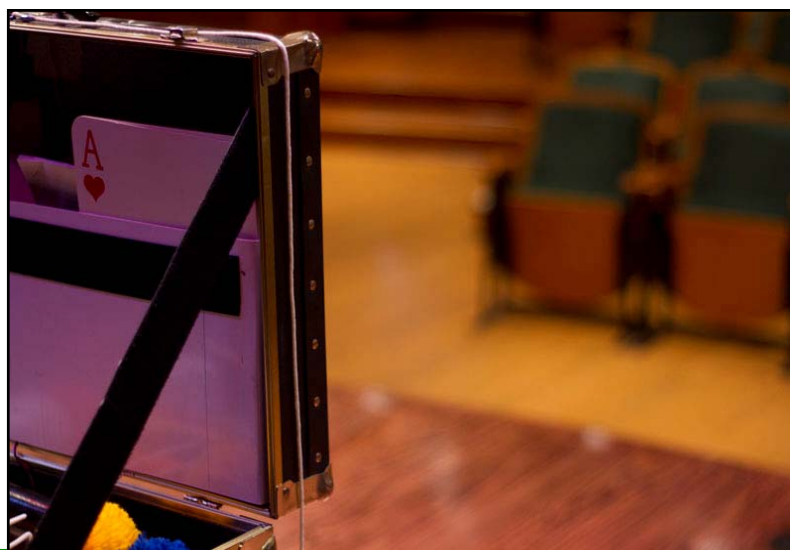
that produce The Illusionists area also having another show travel through this area in June known as Circus 1903 and the ringmaster is none other than David Williamson. From what I have heard of this show it will be a spectacular show to see! Get your tickets now to avoid the rush!

**New location!**

**4055 International Plaza  
Fort Worth, Texas**

**Enter at west entry**

**Ground level, no stairs, near Hulen Mall, inside loop (n. of interstate 20) Behind Home Depot.**



## Club Officers

Ross Lampe	Don Lampe
President	Sergeant at Arms
Will Baffle	Joshua Ayala
VP/Program Chair	Past President
Matthew Martin	Members at Large:
Secretary	Pam Hudgins
Jordan Burgess	Michael Dimsdle
Treasurer	Tom Smith
Jeff Hallberg	Trustees:
Webmaster	David Hira
Geoff Grimes	Jeff Hallberg
Flashpaper Editor	Matthew Martin




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**Thanks to Mark Jensen  
and Bruce Chadwick and  
a HUGE thanks to Pix for  
gathering stories and  
routines for us to enjoy!**

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# May your dreams be touched by **MAGIC!**

**Karrell Fox**

