



# Portland Society of Magicians

est. 1922

**April 13, 2019**



### Schedule

Doors open at 5:30 for  
Estate Sale

Welcome at 7:00

Teach-in and Showtime theme is  
Dinner Magic

Teach your favorite dinner magic  
trick, then sign up for showtime!



Congratulations to  
Alex Killian for  
winning an impressive  
trophy in the Magic  
Jam Competition!

**President's Letter Page 3-4  
Don't miss it!**

### **A Few Dues are Still Due**

Dues are \$25. Spousal dues are \$15.  
Make checks payable to PSM.

- 1) pay in person or
- 2) by mail to Jim Brinkman, 6600  
SW 92nd Ave Suite 140 Portland,  
OR 97223



<b>Month</b>	<b>Snacks</b>	<b>Teach-In</b>	<b>Showtime 9:00 p.m.</b>
January 12, 2019	Jim Straight	Walk Around Magic Aaron O'Neil	Rope Magic
Feb 9, 2019	Brinkmans	Teach-a-Trick	Valentine Magic
March 9, 2019	Aaron O'Neal	Mike Sturgeon One Ahead - One Behind Principle	March Madness Ball Magic
April 13, 2019	Betty Galucci	Dinner Magic	Dinner Magic
May 11, 2019	Robert Brown		
June 8, 2019	Mike Sturgeon		
Sept. 14, 2019	Duane Duvall		
October 12, 2019			
Nov. 9, 2019	Roy Yotsuuye		
Dec 14, 2019	Food provided by YOU!	Installation of Officers	Holiday Showtime

Dear Members:

Happy Spring! The warm weather and sun seem to bring out the magic in everyone. We have some amazing things on the horizon:

First, we are finalizing a date in May for our massive estate sale. This will be a weekend day where we bring in everything and fill the entire Stamp Society. Our plan is to keep the room open for extended hours (maybe 6 hours or so). We will keep you posted when a date is established.

Second, Frank and I are finalizing a date for our big summer fund raiser at his outdoor performance space. I have suckered Cary Heim and Dan Waterman to perform for us. We are looking at dates in July and will coordinate with the magicians soon. It should be an amazing opportunity to see some of the best local magicians in a beautiful outdoor space.

Greg Moreland and I are working with a couple of lecture groups that are considering adding Portland to the tour. I think we have convinced them that Portland is ready, and our local magic community will come out to watch and support these magicians. Once we have something concrete nailed down, I will let the club know. I am very excited. There are some great magicians looking at adding Portland to their stops.

Thank you for all of your continued support. I have been having so much fun at the club meetings. We have a few new people that have reached out via the website and are planning on attending this month or next. One family is moving up from the Bay Area looking for a new magic home. I won't tell you their names (in case there are any California Haters in the club. Lol).

## MY MAGIC JAM INSIGHTS

It was another great Magic Jam this year. I thought the magicians were the most humble, approachable, funny, and knowledgeable group I have seen come through in the few years I have attended. I had a couple of insights that I thought I would share for anyone interested. I have been struggling with my own magic road the last couple of years. At various points I have decided I will only do my stage act. Then lately I have really enjoyed some of the corporate strolling events. The struggle of where to spend my creative energy is always a problem. With work and family there are limited free hours in the day, so when I do practice where do I start?

One of the magicians at the Jam made the statement, "Entertainment first, magic second." This is something I have come to realize in my own performing, but I decided the last two years to test this idea. I had my wife, boys, and mother attend the public magic shows the last two years at the Magic Jam. After each of these shows I posed a very specific question, "Who was the best magician."

I will not name names out of respect for the performers, but the answer both years was very telling. The magicians they told me were the best were not the most technical magicians, they were the best performers. Both of the men they named did the least complicated and most basic magic performances. They didn't light fires, produce bottles, or vanish a car. Instead they told stories, made people laugh and left the audience feeling great.

It has caused me to rethink my entire act. Where can I add comedy? Is there a way to weave a story or connect with people on a deeper level? Can I simplify the routine or change the moments? For most of us we just do this as a fun hobby and want to collect some magic, learn a few tricks, and be amazed. But for the people that have asked me about corporate gigs or getting paid I cannot strongly encourage you to work on the scripting and performance of your art. You will find most of the best magicians have theater backgrounds or do stand up and improv. It's being able to entertain and connect with people. No matter how good your tricks are, if people don't enjoy you as a person you will be lucky to get them to sit for two effects. I can tell you this from performing at large parties. There are certain people that don't enjoy magic. You can spot them the second you approach the table. These are usually groups I let know that I will be just showing them one trick and I usually try and do something fun or funny and not necessarily amazing. If they like it then I can usually stick around and show them a few more tricks. If, however they don't seem to care, I just thank them and move on. Not all people like magic and not all people like you. It's a sad but true fact.

Jay Sankey once said, "The hardest part about magic is not the tricks. It's getting people to care." I am really going to work on finding ways to connect with my audience and get them to engage. I will be talking to many of you about ideas and thoughts and would really appreciate any feedback. I would like to try a couple of these performances for the group during Show Time and hear what people have to say. It's a great way to test run an idea before I get it out to the public. That is one of the great things about the club. I seem to always walk away with great lines for my shows. Carey, Duane, Brian, and many of you will leave me in stitches and I have no shame in my game...I will steal all of your great lines! Lol. Thank you all for making magic fun and allowing me to spend one night a month with some of the most caring and friendly people I have had the experience of meeting. The club has become a second family and the outpouring of support from all of you mean the world. Now go share the gift of amazement with the world! It's needed like never before...