

I was detoured into magic at 12 year old after a karate injury in Chuck Norris's studio in Los Angeles. I guess the detour was more fun than the main road. I studied library books and then discovered Bert Wheeler's Hollywood Magic and Joe Berg's shop. This led to performing magic throughout Junior High School and High School. My parent's joined The Magic Castle and I performed there on occasion. I kept up my interest and skills through college and medical school. In 1984 during my second year of surgery residency, Al Raskind sponsored me for membership in the Academy of Magical Arts (The Magic Castle). I auditioned and became a magician member. A year later I became a life member. I joined the IBM in 1987.

After my surgical residency, I went on to a fellowship in Surgical Oncology at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. While there, I performed for every lab seminar I was responsible for. Dr. Steven Rosenberg, who is still the Chief of the Surgery Branch, was a magician too so he gave me some leeway here. During my three years there (1990-1993) I met George Woo who initiated me into the Scorpions. George also introduced me to Darwin Ortiz who later took me on as a student for two years before I moved to Cleveland, Ohio. After auditioning on tape, I became a member of the Magic Circle in the year 2000.

I am currently a busy academic surgical oncologist. I practice and conduct research at our MetroHealth Medical Center. I am a full time faculty member of Case Western Reserve University as an Associate Professor of Surgery. I perform for charity groups or ask that people donate money on my behalf to charity organizations (American Cancer Society, Cleveland Health Museum, Ohio Cancer Research Associates) when I perform. I also do magic for my patients and the kids at the hospital when appropriate. My performance interest is close-up and parlour. I have a special interest in card magic but am comfortable with a variety of modalities. I also like mentalism and feel this has some of the greatest impact of what I do. I enjoy working as President (since 1996-after two years of V.P.) of Ring # 23 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (The Harry Blackstone, Sr. Ring).

My other passion in magic is collecting. I got the bug about 1991. I have been able to put together a few nice things. I collect Houdini, Thurston, Okito, Germain, Dunninger, Blackstone and others. Unfortunately, with paper memorabilia, I like many things- signed photos, letters, posters, books, etc. I started; however, with small brass apparatus and books, moved into larger apparatus and then more recently into paper items. I still like nice apparatus so I'm not totally paper focused.

I'm married. My wife is a homemaker but worked as a speech therapist for many years. I have two boys. One is 10 years old and the other 12 years old. They are into soccer, basketball, sports cards but also like magic. Between my work, family, and magic, I keep very busy.