

meet Dick Bowman, our local magician



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Who are the members of your family and how long have you lived in the Broadmoor neighborhood?

I am married to my wife of 47 years, Janet, and have two grown children, Andrew, 38, and Laura, 35, who graduated from CMHS. We have lived here for 22 years.

What is your profession?

I am a professional magician. In July, I became the National President of the Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.), the world's oldest magic society, with an international membership of 5000 magicians. My leadership will coincide with the 100th anniversary of Harry Houdini's election as President of the Society.

How did you get into Magic?

I started like many others, doing magic as a child, although I think most of the tricks were con games to swindle the neighbor boys out of their allowances. My magic interest waned until my 20s when the Air Force moved me to California, where I met a magician and we began trading tricks with each other. That rekindled my desire for performing and learning more magic. An Air Force remote tour in Saudi Arabia provided me time to study and practice magic to evolve my character and repertoire. That's where my alter ego, Professor Higgins, was developed.

Tell us about some of the highlights so far as a magician.

Performing in many countries and states around the U.S., I've been able to meet lots of great folks who enjoyed my magic, which made it fun for me. I do a dozen or so shows a year for the Broadmoor Resort for their holiday events and the Bee Bunch. There I get to meet people from all over who come to enjoy the area (which we get to enjoy every day!).



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What is it that you enjoy about performing magic?

I enjoy making people laugh. Whether it is children laughing at some crazy antics, or adults laughing at my off-beat humor and innuendos. I want them to laugh at the same time saying, "How did he do that?" Whether it is entertaining at a child's birthday party, close-up magic in the spectator's hand or a show for hundreds, the more fun my helpers have, the more enjoyable it is for me. Hearing the laughter and the applause keeps me feeling young.

Is there something that makes you unique as a magician?

Magic is the most exciting of the visual arts, filled with mystery and wonder. Magic is an art form unlike any other, where not just knowing how a trick or illusion is accomplished, but how to perform it and entertain audiences with style and skill. Magic can be enjoyed at any level, and creates a mental game within each viewer's mind of ideas as to how the trick was done. Usually the solutions created in their minds are much more complex than the actual workings of the tricks...that is unique among the arts.

What are some of your other hobbies and interests?

I swim to stay in shape and try to get to the ski slopes or the golf course when I can.

What is something unique about you?

I enjoyed a 20-year career in the Air Force, serving as a Logistics Officer, and also worked for several companies and the Missile Defense Agency. I have taught graduate classes for Webster University in Space Law and Policy, and Supply Chain Logistics for the past 18 years. My magic career was intertwined with those other professions.

Who is someone that you admire?

I admire many of the magicians that I have followed down the magical path, magicians who developed tricks and then kept the secrets carefully guarded, sharing only with other magicians. Houdini, Harry Keller, Thurston, Harry Blackstone, and Roy Benson are men I admire for their skill, ability to entertain and promote the art of magic. They paved the road in the art so that those of us today can enjoy learning, perfecting, performing and teaching magic.

What advice do you have for anyone else in the neighborhood who would be interested in magic?

Generally, people who are interested in magic don't believe they can learn or do not know where to get started. Fortunately, there is an Assembly of the S.A.M. here in Colorado Springs, the Pikes Peak Prestidigitators (www.170sam.org). Anyone aged 8 and up, regardless of their skill level, can come to learn, watch and practice magic. The junior group is for ages 8-17 and the adult group is for 18 and up. All that is asked is you have a genuine interest in the art of magic. Performing magic is something that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.



If you have an interesting story to tell, please contact Sara at lifinbroadmoor@gmail.com.