

# MagicMessenger

The Official Newsletter of the Ann Arbor Magic Club / S.A.M 88 / I.B.M. 210

SEPT. 2016

## President's Corner

August. The last month of summer. A month chock full of magic conventions. Did you attend any?

Abbott's started out the month as always, being held in Colon the first weekend of August. I usually hit the dealer area and the flea market on Dallas St, but didn't make it this year. I had been out there the previous week to pick up a Flying Carpet illusion from Rick Fisher at FAB Magic, and was heading out west the following week, so I just didn't make it.

The last time I was actually there for the convention was in the early 70s. I bought their last remaining Super X Levitation. *I plan to go in 2017.* I know too many magic people in the Midwest to **not** go!

MAGIC Live! was held in Las Vegas the third week of August. I had been there last year, and it is hard to describe what all goes on there. 1600 magicians converged on the Orleans Hotel for 3 ½ days of magical fun. Top level magi from Lance Burton and David Copperfield to magi like me were there. They are usually held every 2-3 years. Next one is in 2018. *I plan to go in 2018.*

KidAbra was held the week after MAGIC Live! This is the **go to** conference for kid show performers. Magi like Barry Mitchell and Robert Baxt were there and presented. I've never been, but have been told it's one not to miss. *Maybe 2019?*

Why am I talking about these conferences? Magic Conventions are like magic club meetings on steroids. The foster camaraderie and fellowship, encourage learning and performance, and (hopefully) spark creativity.

On the whole, I find members of the magic community graciously helpful and willing to talk. I mean what other art or entertainment format

is there where those at the top of the game mix and mingle with those at the bottom?

When was the last time you attended a magic convention? When is the *next* time?

Lots of thing going on in September:

**Michael Ammar Lecture** Friday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. His Philadelphia workshop last month got INCREDIBLE reviews! You'll be in a small-group where you'll REALLY meet one of magic's greats, and get 1-on-1 hands-on help as he teaches you his VERY favorite magic tricks. The value of this experience is truly immeasurable. Tickets are \$25 online, \$30 at the door. Here's a link with a video of Michael talking about what to expect. Starting at 7pm, it's gonna be 3 hours of wonderful. <http://penguinmagic.com/p/7358>

LOCATION: Doubletree Dearborn, 5801 Southfield Service Drive, Detroit, MI 48228 (This is just south of Ford Rd across from Fairlane Mall).

**September Club Meeting:** Topic once again is “Book Magic”. Think wide. Bring in a favorite magic book and give us a little ‘book report’ and demo something from the book. *OR*, do a trick with a book (book test, etc). **Plus**, Jack and Shirley Markley will be joining us, and he has some great things to share with us!

**World Famous AAMC Flea Market:** is Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at Noon until 3pm. (Auction about 2:15ish). *We need helpers to set up at 10:30*. Dealers can come in starting at 11:00. Tables are still available (\$10 members; \$20 non-members). Admission is \$5.

**Looking even further ahead...** *October is Homecoming month!* Who will be crowned King and Queen of the Ball? We're planning a free lecture, and it's a great time to invite guests, both old and new, to see what the Ann Arbor Magic Club is all about!

We are very fortunate to have a member who just celebrated 60 years in the Order of Merlin! **Marvin Mathena** was recognized at the IBM National Convention in July, and at our club meeting in August.

*Congratulations, Marvin!*

*Stay Magical Everyone!*

**John Russell**

## Secretary's Report

Our special guest for the evening was Ken Cook, IBM representative for the Merlin program. He recognized Marvin Mathena for 60 years continuous membership in that prestigious order.



**CONGRATULATIONS MARVIN!**

The August theme was card magic, and from all appearances (and a few disappearances), it went exceptionally well with 8 members and special guest Ken Cook contributing. Another entertaining evening as the pics do the talking ....

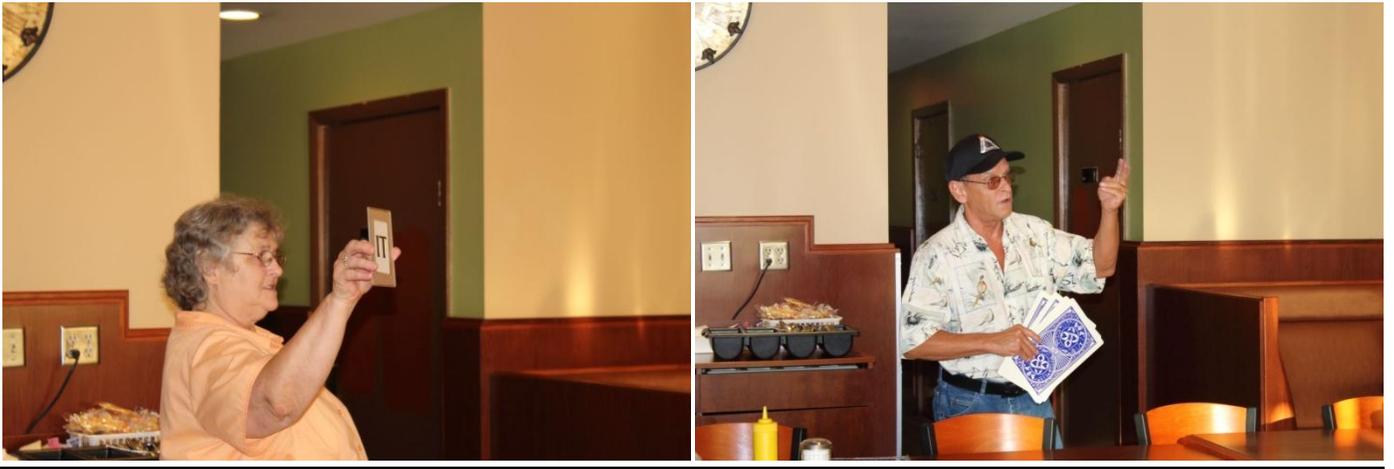


Ken Cook



Bill Brang

Duck goes into a pharmacy. Tells the pharmacist he needs some chapstick.  
Pharmacist asks "Are you paying cash?"  
Duck says, "No, just put it on my bill."



Pam and Randy Smith

This dog walks into a post office and says to the Postmaster "I need to  
send a telegram."  
The Postmaster says "OK, what is it?"  
The dog says "I need it to say, Woof woof woof woof woof woof."  
The Postmaster counts the words and says "Well, for the same price, I can  
put 3 more "woofs" in for you."  
The dog looks at him and says "But then it wouldn't make any sense."



Nick Pudar



Jim Placido

Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"



Michael Doyle



Rich Triemer

What's blue and smells like red paint?

Blue paint.

Q: What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back to you?

A: A stick

A grasshopper walks into a bar, the bartender says "Hey! I serve a drink named after you."

The grasshopper looks up and says, "Wow, you have a drink named Tim?"



VP Mark O'Brian addresses some well fed magicians !

### *Mathis' Musings*

Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.

There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity

No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.

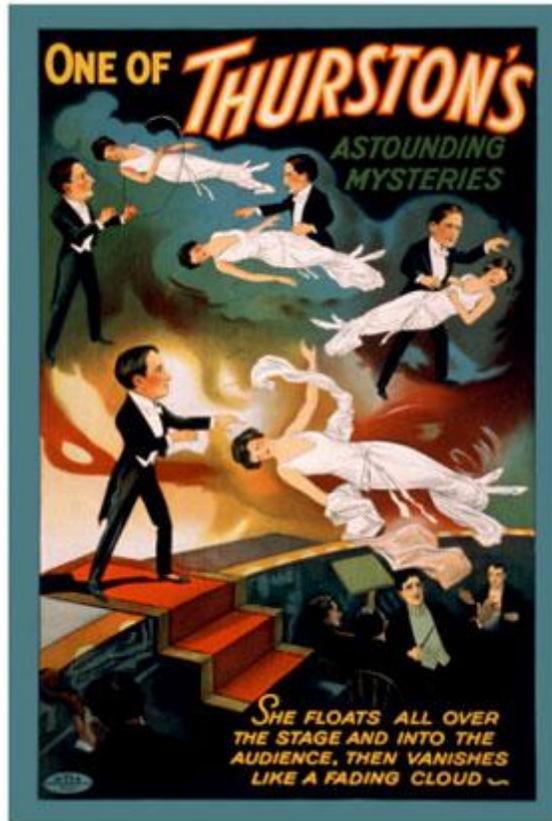
I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.

Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.

Be careful about reading the fine print - there's no way you're going to like it.

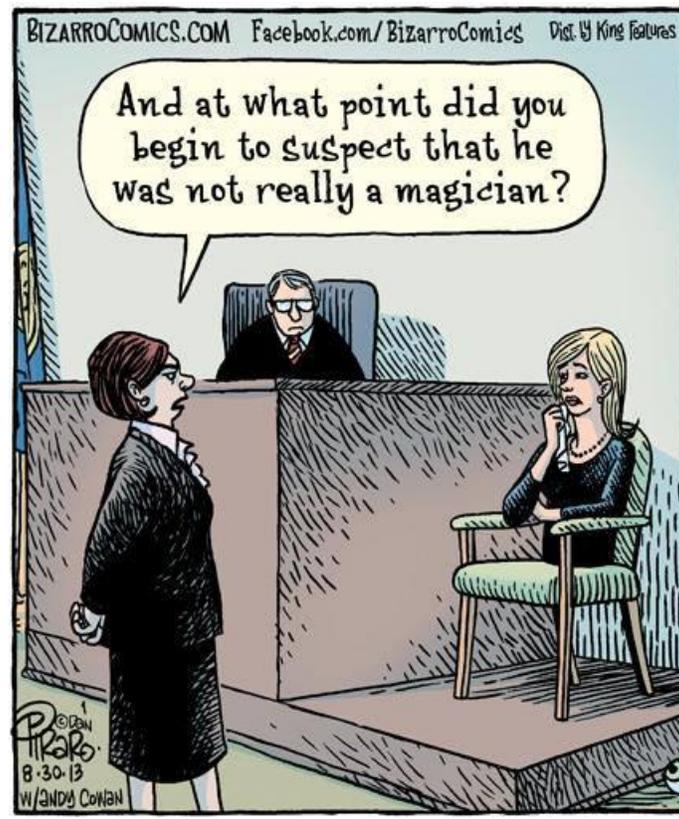
Money can't buy happiness but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than in a Ford.

And remember .... Politicians and diapers should be changed often, and for the same



*Who is the woman pictured in the Howard Thurston She Floats levitation poster?*

Answer at the end of the Messenger



(Compliments of Scott Mitchell)

## **Around the Town:**

For complete listing of magic events in Michigan, visit **John Luka's** site  
<http://www.johnlukamagic.com/mi/events.html>

## **Jim Folkl**

*Ex Libris* by **Joaquin Ayala, PhD.**

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for August 2016! I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer – we have just a couple of weeks before schools are back in session and we start to head into the transitional season of Fall. This month we are going to focus on **Hofzinsler's Card Conjuring** by Ottokar Fischer. The book focuses on the card magic of Johan Nepomuk Hofzinsler, considered by many to be the father of modern card magic.

The book was originally written in German in 1910 and was titled *Kartenkünste*. Now this book is interesting for a number of reasons. First it was limited to 500 copies but when the Germans blitzed London in October 1940, the bookbinders lost their building and 80 of the 500 were destroyed. Secondly, Hofzinsler had nothing to do with writing the book; he died in 1875 and Fischer took interest in his work much later, so he relied solely on descriptions of the friends and students of Hofzinsler.

Fischer was not a particularly good writer and with the second-hand sources and the English translation, the material differed greatly from its original source making it difficult to follow and understand at times, which caused problems with reconstructing the sleights and effect. Despite that it is because of this book, however poorly written, that we have a record of Hofzinsler and his body of work. Without it he and his work may well have been lost in the mists of time.

The book contains a number of effects using normal cards, duplicate cards, double sided (as in double faced and double backed cards), partial deck stacks and even some effects using mechanical props and apparatus. Without a doubt two of the effects for which Hofzinsler is most famous are *Remember and Forget* and perhaps more famously, *Everywhere and Nowhere* are both described with multiple methods for each. These are very strong pieces of card magic and if performed properly they are still very commercial and viable today. Another curiosity that many have never heard of are his Transparent Cards; if you are not familiar with those, you show the back of a playing card to an audience member with a strong light behind it and they see that it is a black card, because of course the light is coming through the card. It turns out not to be their card, but when you snap your fingers and turn the card over, it is a red spot card – their selection! Various ideas are given for the use of these cards.

There are many different sleights and singular effects that are attributed to Hofzinsler, such as the Hofzinsler Pass (which is sometimes called the Hoffmann Pass), the Hofzinsler Spread Force, Magnetic Cards, the Slip Force and the Top Change, among many others.

This book is a great source of information if you can find a copy and as far as I am aware, it is not even available in e-book format. There are other books available with regards to Hofzinsler, the two which come to mind are *Non Plus Ultra Volumes 1 & 2* by Magic Christian (only comes in a set) and available through the Conjuring Arts Research Center, and the other book is *The Magic of J.N. Hofzinsler* by Ottokar Fischer (translated by Richard Hatch). Both sets run north of \$200/USD but are worth every penny, especially if you are interested in the history of card and stage magic and the effects that are now considered to be classics.

That is all for this month everyone, and I look forward to ‘seeing’ you all here again next month when we take a look at yet another classic tome in magic. Stay tuned to find out what it is and have a magical month!

-J.M.A.

*The woman pictured in the Howard Thurston  
She Floats levitation poster was the mother of actress and  
comedienne Imogene Coca. Sadie Brady Coca was one of  
Thurston's main assistants !*

"[Magic information provided courtesy of MagicTricks.com.](http://MagicTricks.com)"

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**Check out our Facebook Page “Ann Arbor Magic Club”**

**Have a question / suggestion / comment / contribution?  
Contact us!**

**Bring a guest to a meeting! Perform! Join a Committee!**

**The Ann Arbor Magic Club meets the second Wednesday of the month, at the Senate Coney Island Restaurant, 34359 Plymouth Rd, Livonia, MI 48150-1500 . Meetings start at 7pm.**