

MAGIC MESSENGER

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

February 2017

Presidents Corner – John Russell

Magical Greetings Everyone!

I'm writing this month's article from a hotel room in Florida where I'm completing a lifelong dream of traveling and doing magic shows.

It all started back when I was about ten years old, reading a little booklet called "101 Ways to Make Magic Pay". One of the items talked about traveling the world on cruise ships (an idea I've shared with you all, but I've pretty much decided that "ship has sailed", for me, at least), or just traveling while performing. I mentioned that it was something I'd like to do to my Dad (who was always a supporter of my magic), and he said, "well, why don't you do that, then?" Fifty years or so later, here I am.

I head home in a couple days, having completed eight shows in seven days. Lots of miles and lots of fun but a lot of work. Except for the first half-day down here I haven't been able to do any sightseeing at all, which brings me to my point:

Magic gigs, as a general rule, don't just fall out of the sky into our top hat. They come as a result of effort. In this case, even though my shows were almost all done in the evenings, I spent the days and afternoons stopping in at every campground I passed, handing out my card and a promotional poster with booking information for **January 2018** (yep, you read that right)!

It won't end there when I get home: Following up is next on the calendar, as I get back with all those places I visited. In reality, this has been pretty much an all-work-no-play "vacation", even though it's been satisfying and the audiences have been great, it's been a very busy week. They don't call it show *business* for nothing. We like to focus on the *show*, but often forget about the *business*.

So, I leave this magical sermonette on this note: What are you doing to book shows? Don't sit on the couch and complain about it. Get out there and knock on some doors!

Gene Anderson's lecture last month may have been the best lecture I've ever attended! Full of extremely practical tips and ideas on presentation, and effects that I fully intend to adapt and place in my show (not all, of course), Gene shared his decades of performance experience with all who attended. There was literally something for everyone. Not to mention that Gene is such a down-to-earth nice guy and gentleman! I finally bought his book (didn't have it in the budget back on Michigan Magic Day) and brought it with me to Florida to read on my trip (of course, never found the time to do that down here! LOL!).

Speaking of **Michigan Magic Day**, the 2017 edition is being hosted by Ring 211 out of Grand Rapids and will be held on Saturday, May 20th at Grace Bible College in GR, with a pre-party on Friday, May 19th. It's being coordinated by Trino Schincariol, so I'm sure it's going to be excellent! That's all the information I have at the moment. I'll pass more along as I get it.

What do you want from our Club? Our transitional board meeting was held last month, and lots of ideas were shared. New board members are stepping right up, and I'm excited about the next generation of leadership! What we need right now are ideas along with the people to

help implement them. Might that be *you*? See you on **February 8th at 7pm** at the Senate! Bring the magic!

Magically Yours,
John Russell

Secretary's Report – Joaquin Ayala

Last month we had a great meeting. It started with the recognition of the new Board, which consists of the following:

President: John Russell (re-elected)

Vice-President: Mark O'Brien (re-elected)

Secretary: Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala de Cédoz

Treasurer: Scott Mitchell

Sergeant-at-Arms: Bill Brang

Congratulations to all of the Board Members on their appointments!

We also presented a long-overdue award to the family of **Gordon Schott, Jr. (The Amazing Gordo)**. They were awarded the **Entertainers of the Year** for the year of 2015 (better late than never!) Gordon's son **Nick Schott** was on hand to receive the award on behalf of the family – congratulations to you all! Also given a very special recognition was member **Marvin Mathena**, who has been an active member for 60 years in the **Order of Merlin** and has achieved **Excelsior** status. Congratulations, Marvin!

We had a number of guests that attended this meeting, including **John Phillip, Derek ?, Will Tupper, Robert, I.B.M. Territorial V.P. John Luka, Tom Holzer, Frank and Jackie, and Bob ?**

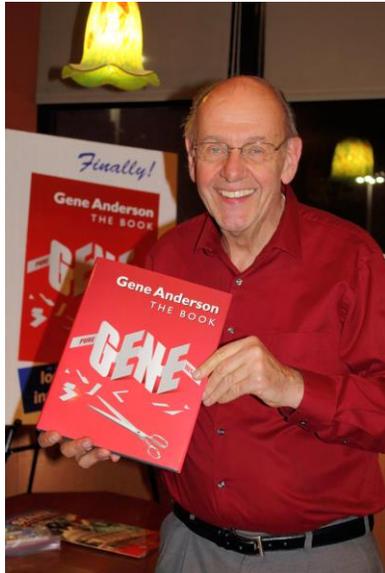
The highlight of the meeting was having the genial and entertaining **Gene Anderson** come to give his lecture entitled '**The Book**', which originally debuted at Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic. This lecture is based entirely on his latest work, which is subtitled '**Pure Gene-ius**', which is a very accurate title! The whole lecture was like a show-and-tell; first you saw the effects performed and then you learned how they were done, but it was not all talk. Gene further illustrated his points with the use of PowerPoint, using photos and drawings from the book but also various anecdotes and quotes to help clarify certain points.

Gene had encouraged the members to bring along a 'muggle' (non-magic folk) to witness the lecture, such as a spouse or significant other, the reason being that they could be used as assistants to show the group how laypeople react to the material. Furthermore, Gene passed out two questionnaires to the group during the break, each targeting both magicians and muggles. The reason was so that he could use the information from both groups to help mold and shape his lecture to *make it better and clearer to understand*. This information was then used to essentially rebuild his lecture, the final product of which was then presented two weeks later at **Magi-Fest** in Columbus, Ohio and it was a fantastic outcome!

As President Russell pointed out, there is absolutely something for everyone in this lecture – cards, ropes, props and more. A few examples are **Picto Transpo**, in which an audience volunteer and the magician draw a picture of each other on two white boards and then sign the backs. The whiteboards are then placed into two envelopes and in an instant, they change places! This is very direct and gets the audience involved from the get-go. Another example is his very comical interpretation of the Die Box, which in this case is presented in tandem with a poem

about Old Mother Hubbard, and his *Knot Dr. Seuss* which is a series of knots tied in a rope whilst reciting a Suess-esque poem, and at the end, the large, messy knot falls off the rope and leaves a short piece behind.

A fun time was had by all as Gene answered questions and got feedback – we thank him profusely for taking the time to come and share his wonderful material with all of us!



Gene Anderson

Gene Anderson Lecture
THE BOOK
Pure GENE-ius



The Book Lecture Poster



Dan Jones, Bob Goodwin & Ken Magee



Bill Brang & Marvin Mathena

My therapist suggested that I tell my wife about my magic addiction by writing her a letter. I just cannot pick up the Penn & Teller...

Yesterday at the post office a clown held the door open for me. I thought it was a very nice jester!

Did you hear about the man in Paris that jumped off the bridge? He was in-Seine...



Joaquin Ayala & John Russell



John Luka

A news headline today: All Toilets Stolen from Birmingham P.D. Police Have Nothing to Go On.



Karl Rabe

**What do you call a magical owl?
HOO-dini!**



Mr. and Mrs. George Mathis

WARNING: There was a short fortuneteller who escaped from a local prison. There is a small medium at large!

Be careful what you say around optometrists – they tend to make a spectacle out of everything.

EBAY is useless...I did a search for 'lighters' and all they had were 13, 749 matches!

Facebook for nursing homes: The Social Security Network

Ex Libris by **Joaquin Ayala, Ph.D.**

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for February, 2017! This month has been a month of making many new connections, connections with people, events, ideas, memories and more. This led me to think of a classic of magic and my personal favorite magic effect, the link to my interest in the art of magic. Yes, the Chinese Linking Rings. This month I will focus on a book and a pamphlet. The book is called *The Real Secrets of the Chinese Linking Rings* by **Pete Biro** and the pamphlet is called *Lord and Master of the Rings* by **Jim Cellini**.

When Pete wrote his book it was quite literally the work of a lifetime of study, learning and performance, and a book of this particular type on the linking rings was long overdue. The book starts off by talking about the known origins of the effect, amply illustrated by many of the earliest known depictions of it being performed. The book goes on to include *many* of the now-standard classic as well as some novel routines for the linking rings. Examples of each include the *Okito Ring Routine*, the *Symphony of the Rings* by **Dai Vernon**, the *Al Koran Three Ring Routine*, the *George Blake Perverse Ring Routine* and modern interpretations of the plot, including the *Comedy Linking Toilet Seats* (yes, toilet seats!). Besides the many routines that are detail with full descriptions, visual aids and diagrams, there are many different techniques you will learn that are necessary for performing this classic effect.

There are many hints, tips, gags, tricks and ideas for using with the rings, as well as sections that cover the *Linking Ropes*, *Linking "Things"* (like balloons, keys, etc.), the *Linking Finger Rings* and even a story about the *Linking Coat Hangers*. It includes the Odin book reprinted in full, which includes not only his famous routine but also his equally famous count used to display the rings. There is a section of conversations with luminaries such as **Paul Daniels**, **Levent** and **Robert Harbin** about the rings, the methodologies, the ring size variations and much more. Also included is an excellent (but by no means complete) list of references and resources on/for the linking rings from the venerable **Etienne Lorenceau**.

As magicians we often talk about simplifying our magic to make it more "pure". There are as many ways to do this as there are magic effects and they all differ depending on the props, the performer, the genre, etc. With his *Lord and Master of the Rings*, **Jim Cellini** did exactly that with the linking rings by using *just two*. Many people would argue that it is *too simple*, that no matter how well you hide the method, people would guess at one and they would be correct.

That aside, the Cellini routine is one of the most beautiful ring routines you will ever watch and it is most certainly (at the very least) a great exercise in thinking outside the box, especially where simplifying your magic is concerned. Moreover, this booklet is presented (and was intended) not as a complete routine, but rather a series of different ways to visually link and unlink a pair of rings, many of them silent in nature. It is up to you to choose the ones that you like and put them into your own sequence, whether that is a two ring routine or a part of an 8-ring routine.

A DVD was released by Kozmo Magic back in the early 2000s titled *The Lord and Master of The Rings*. Cellini performed a routine with just two rings and went on to explain the various moves and techniques seen in the booklet. It is a thing of pure beauty to watch and you can see a performance of this on YouTube, or you can find the DVD at www.kozmomagic.com.

That is all for this month folks and until next time keep the magic alive!

Hello again, folks! I just wanted to slide this quick note in here to all of you so that I can ask you to bear with me as I experiment with different ways of formatting the newsletter. Jim did an excellent job for two years and I have big shoes to fill (hey Jim, Bozo called and he wants his shoes back!). I will be changing the layout from time to time to keep it fresh, interesting and, hopefully, entertaining!

In the meantime I would LOVE to get your feedback on the newsletters each month as far as the content and the layout. If you have any funny jokes, puns, memes, ideas, cartoons, photos or comics to share, please send all feedback and correspondence to chefayala99@gmail.com and thank you all very much! Oh, and FOR THE TRIVIA QUESTION FOR THIS MONTH – YOU MUST ASK ME IN PERSON!

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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 2nd Wednesday of each month at Senate Coney Island Restaurant - 34359 Plymouth Rd, Livonia, MI 48150-1500. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. Come at 6 p.m. if you want to eat.