

# Magic Messenger

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

FEBRUARY 2018

## Mentoring Magic by President Scott Mitchell

Hello everyone, I hope this finds you all well. With all the change going on in the club it shakes things up a bit. Sometimes that is what we need, so before I go on I would like to say **thank you** to all members of the board from last year (2017) - you guys did an outstanding job and have left some big shoes for us to fill!

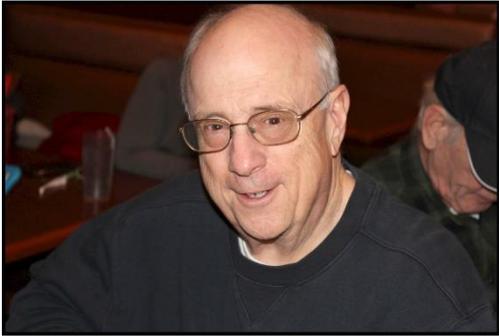
So, change. Why do we fear it? Is it the unknown? Is it because we get comfortable in our ways? Yes and no - some people have the mind set of, 'if it isn't broke, why fix it?' I have a different view on it: We can always do something to make it better, so let's change it. You can apply that to anything in life.

This will be a year full of changes, some you may love some you may not. I want this to be a journey for all of us to grow but know that we are all working towards the common goal of making this club *more fun* and having *more activities*. I want to give you all reasons to say, "this is why I am a member of the Ann Arbor Magic Club!" I want to add value to being a member of this club, so let's make a change. I want all of you to know I want you to speak up, tell us your ideas, get involved and ask questions! Thank you for joining me on this trip – let's make this **the** club that others talk about! As Always...

Leave Room for Magic,

Scott Mitchell  
President

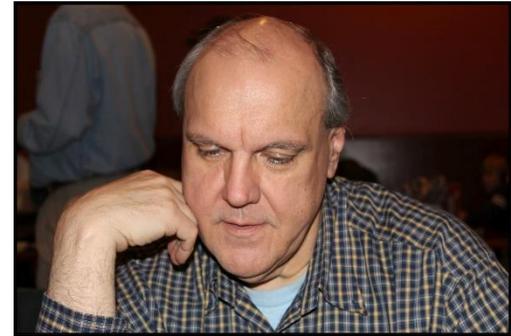
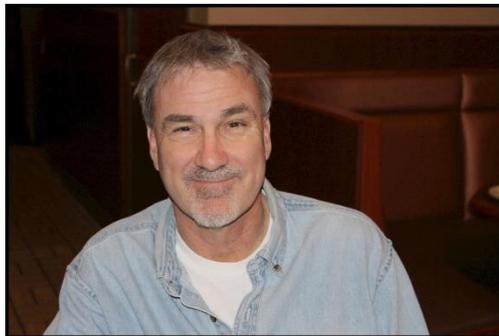




**Above Left:** Bob Goodwin  
**Above Center:** Karl Rabe  
**Above Right:** Michael Doyle

**Left:** Life Member Marvin Mathena  
**Right:** Treasurer Rob Krozal

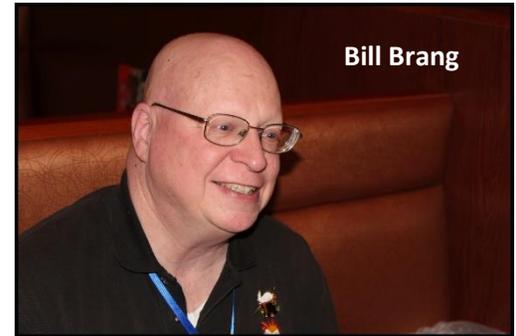
**Lower Left:** Ken Magee  
**Lower Center:** V.P. Dan Jones  
**Lower Right:** John Machniak



**Left:** Mark P. O'Brien

**Right:** Mrs. Molly Larson-Mitchell,  
 Elliott, Ileana and Annie





I used to be addicted to soap, but I am completely clean now.

---

If a towel had a sense of humor, it would be dry.

---

Why do seagulls fly over the sea? Because if they flew over the bay, they would be bagels!



I friend of mine just found out he was color blind. The diagnosis came right out of the purple!

---

I ordered 2,000 LBS of Chinese soup. It was Won Ton.

---

A man was recently fired from the M&M factory for throwing out all of the 'Ws'.

### Adventures in Dictionary Land

**Conference** *n.* – The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present.

**Conference Room** *np.* – A place where everyone talks, no one listens, and later everyone disagrees about what was said.

**Doctor** *n.* – A person that kills your ills with pills and later kills you with the bills.

**Diode** *n.* – Two long poems.

#### Notes from the Quill by Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala

As many of you may know, inclement weather back in December caused our meeting to be canceled, which also meant that our scheduled lecture with Nathan

Kranzo was also canceled. Good news for those of you wanting to see Nate again – we have rescheduled the lecture for our March 2018 meeting! The lack of a December magic club meeting was said to have made Santa Claus sad. It made me sad too!

Our January meeting was short, sweet and to the point. It was our elections meeting where we elected a new Board of Officers. Except for the two Presidential candidates, all other nominees ran unopposed and only the Secretary (yours truly) ran unchallenged. After a long, drawn-out campaign plagued by mud-slinging and card throwing, Scott Mitchell was elected as our new President!

Here I want to take a moment to make everyone in the club aware of a new feature in our newsletter. It is part of our campaign, as pointed out by President Mitchell, to add value to having a membership with our club. Each month, starting in March of 2018, we are going to feature a Trick of the Month article. Do you have an effect that you would like to put in the newsletter? Please send it to us via e-mail, a short video (for all you tech-savvy members), a copy in person at the meeting or even a telephone call!

We are trying to avoid the need for photos or illustrations, so if you need help describing your effect, just let us know and we will get it done for you! ***We ask that all submissions be original effects, or your own handling of an effect and that proper credit is given with the submissions.*** All submissions will be considered and will be selected for inclusion in the newsletter at random each month. I am looking forward to seeing what everyone conjures up!

I will also remind everyone that dues were due last month and if you have not paid them yet, there is now a \$5 late fee for each level of membership. Please see Treasurer Rob Krozal to renew or visit our website [www.aamagic.org](http://www.aamagic.org) under the MEMBERSHIP tab. Keep the magic alive!

Joaquin M. Ayala de Cédoz  
Secretary

### **Further Adventures in Dictionary Land**

**Acre** *n.* Someone that aches.

**Carnation** *n.* A country where each citizen owns an automobile.

**Colander** *n.* Someone who arrives with you on the same plane.

**Exercise** *n.* Former body measurements.

**Maritime** *n.* The hour of a wedding.



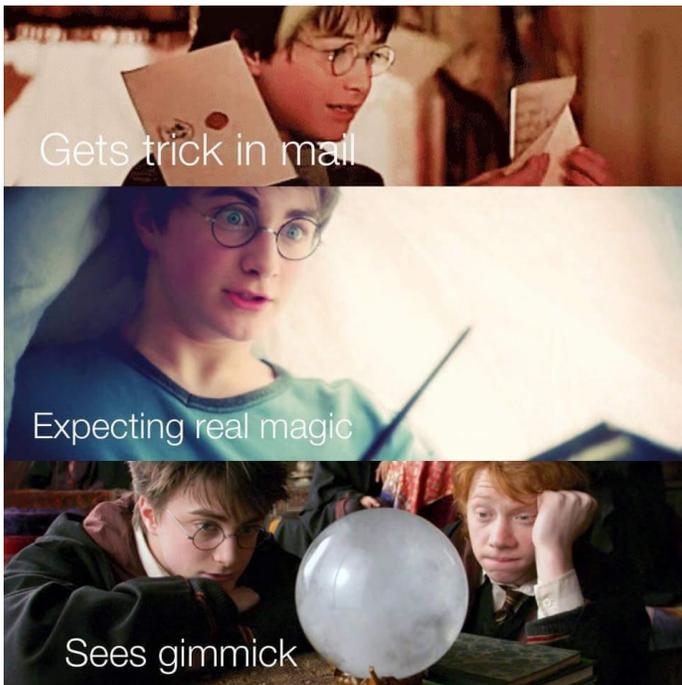
Hint: He shares a name with a pre-Colonial Native American leader...

### TRIVIA QUESTION

The magician pictured on the left is from Virginia and is a well-versed writer, editor, musician, storyteller, singer, dancer, actor, choreographer, director, composer, teacher, professor, designer, historian and playwright (*whew*)! He is known for including Afrocentric idealisms and principles in his presentations. He is the artist-in-residence for the Dept. of Dance at Randolph College and the special programs director for the Africa House Gallery & Studio in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Who is he???

ANSWER ON PAGE 7



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

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for February 2018! This month I will be in Chicago quite a bit as I work on getting a publisher for a book that I am currently working on. While there I will once again have the opportunity to session with a group of magicians including **Simon Aronson**, **John Bannon** and **David Solomon**. One of the many things that they all stress in their own work is having a good foundation on which to build your magical knowledge, and that leads me to what I want to focus on this month. First, I want to preface that with the fact that both Simon Aronson and David Solomon were students of the late **Ed Marlo** for *over 15 years*, as was **Jon Racherbaumer**, the author of the book we will be discussing this month.

The book is called ***Counthesaurus - An Abecedarian Handbook of False Counts and Displays*** (Counthesaurus is an amalgam of the words *count* and *thesaurus*). This is a 209-page soft cover, spiral bound book published in 2004. The title says it all – this is a book that focuses solely on false counts and false displays with cards. Most of them are related to packet effects, but others also apply to chunks of cards all the way up to a full deck.

One of the greatest tools that a magician can possess is an arsenal of ways to display cards, whether it is displaying four cards while hiding a fifth among them (as in the *Ascanio Spread*) or counting four cards as four and hiding the third card from the top (as with the ***Ghost Count***, *a.k.a. the Elmsley Count*). Jon Racherbaumer is not only a long-time student of Marlo, he is also a prolific author of many, many books related to card magic, all based on his own work and that of Marlo. He is a scholarly magician with quite the encyclopedic knowledge of all branches of magic, but especially the pasteboards.

In this book he offers all the basic counts you may already be familiar with, such as the aforementioned *Ascanio Spread* and the *Elmsley Count*, and among those the counts like the ***Flushtration Count***, ***The D'Amico Spread***, ***The Buckle Count***, ***The Jordan Count***, ***The Hamman Count***, ***The Olram Subtlety*** and ***the Veesser Concept***. Even more than that, there are many different variations on each item, as well as versions that are a blend of one or more technique, all of them offering a way to falsely count or display the cards in view. These are all basic building blocks that can (and *should*) be used as the foundation of your magic routines; indeed, many of them are considered *standard moves*, for example, the *Elmsley Count*, *the Buckle Count*, *the Ascanio Spread* and *the Hamman Count* are all things that you see in a lot of descriptions related to card effects.

One thing that a tome like this allows for is to find alternatives to standard moves, but also, it serves as a reference for when you come across a count or display that you are unfamiliar with. This may not have every single one in existence within its pages, but it is pretty close to containing all the ones that you are likely to ever need and perhaps, even more than you will ever use. There are 78 counts and displays given in this book! What is more, although this book focuses on these counts and displays for use with playing cards, many of them can easily be adapted to groups or packs of card-like objects if it suits your need, things like a packet of small papers, ESP cards, bank notes, business cards, etc.

One of the neatest little ideas I have ever seen in a magic book of any sort is in this book and that is a ***Count Drill*** detailed at the end of this book. What that is specifically is a drill – it is a systematic way of practicing, to learn and gain proficiency with, the various items in

the book. I can even be used for other similar moves from *other sources*. It has all been laid out in an easy to follow format and will certainly give you a nice workout.

So, there we have it – an excellent book that is very useful for developing a strong foundation upon which you can build your card magic skills. This book is for all skill levels as everyone from beginners to advance cardicians will find this reference book a very valuable resource. That is all for this month folks – get out there and share the magic and remember: Comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable! – **J.M.A.**

## NEWS STORIES TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOURSELF

A man was hospitalized recently for swallowing \$250,000.00 in large bills. No change is expected.

A man was nearly arrested last week when he caused a disturbance at a disco hall while wearing a suit made completely of mirrors. Police say he apologized once he had a chance to sit down and reflect.

Breaking News: NASA Sends Probe to Uranus. People Everywhere Giggle.

Convicted hitman, Jimmy “Two Shoes” McClardy, confessed today that he was once hired to beat a cow to death in a rice field using only two small porcelain figures. Police admit that this may be the first-known case of a knickknack paddy whack.

### **TRIVIA ANSWER**

**Hiawatha Zaccheus Johnson, Jr.**

### **Even Further Adventures in Dictionary Land**

**Catacomb**, n. What a feline uses to straighten its hair

**Hole-in-One**, n. What an amateur golfer gets when he reaches down to get his ball out of the up and his pants rip.

**Thesaurus**, n. A dinosaur that studies words.

**Support our local brick & mortar magic shops!**

**ABC Magic Shop**  
69 N Walnut St, /Mount Clemens, MI 48043  
(586) 790-3700  
<http://abcmagicshop.com/>

**Wunderground Magic, Inc.**  
Phone: (248) 280-5925  
Email: paul@wundergroundmagicshop.com  
Mail: 16 S. Main St., Clawson, MI 48017  
Web: <http://www.wundergroundmagicshop.com/>

**AAMC Board Contacts**

**President:** Scott Mitchell / [vonbodan@gmail.com](mailto:vonbodan@gmail.com)  
**Vice President:** Dan Jones / [dmjones0701@yahoo.com](mailto:dmjones0701@yahoo.com)  
**Secretary:** Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala de Cédoz / [chefayala99@gmail.com](mailto:chefayala99@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Rob Krozal / [rkrozal@yahoo.com](mailto:rkrozal@yahoo.com)  
**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Pam Smith / [pam1s2006@gmail.com](mailto:pam1s2006@gmail.com)  
**Librarian:** Dr. Joaquin Ayala / [chefayala99@gmail.com](mailto:chefayala99@gmail.com)  
**Historian:** TBD / [annarbormagicclub@gmail.com](mailto:annarbormagicclub@gmail.com)  
**Webmaster:** Karl Rabe / [krabe@comcast.net](mailto:krabe@comcast.net)  
**Website:** <http://www.aamagic.org/>

**Check out our Facebook Page “Ann Arbor Magic Club”**  
Have a question / suggestion / comment / contribution? We would love to hear  
from you! Get in touch with 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.**