



Magic Messenger

The Official Newsletter of the
Ann Arbor Magic Club

I.B.M. Ring 210 -- S.A.M. Assembly 88
APRIL 2018



Mentoring Magic by President Scott Mitchell

Hello,

I hope this finds you all well. I want to talk to you all for just a little bit about making a routine that is not just a string of effects where one bleeds into one after another. At some point we have all been yelled at by the Missus because she has tripped over all the magic props that are oozing from our magic rooms. (Thank goodness she is not aware of the magic stuff that we have bought and didn't tell her about...) No worries - your secret is safe with me! Anyhow, there are a few issues that I have seen lots of performers having.

Number one: Most magicians take an effect and perform it right out of the box. No story, no connection or purpose for this random prop. This makes for a performance of prop-dependent magic, randomly strung-together. The next offense is doing the effect the exact same way, with the same jokes and same patter as the person that produced the effect, or even someone that we have seen perform it. Both issues lead to a less-than-memorable performance. The problem with the first issue is that every prop you use should have a reason for being there. Let me explain further.

Example #1: I have a strange tube sitting on my table. I pick it up and I do not say anything about it or what it does. Then, out of nowhere, I produce something or vanish something with it. I could have magically produced/vanished something in the most amazing way and for an audience it could be the closest thing to real magic. By not giving that prop a purpose or reason for being there, I am drawing undue attention to that prop, even if it didn't have anything to do with the method.

Example #2: This is something I use in my kid shows. The magic props are the Lollipop gimmicks, Crystal Cylinder and a Dove Pan. I know what you are thinking: "How does all that fit together and what purpose would all of them have together?" Here is what I do: I start with the Lollipop gimmick in a bag and do the whole bit where I got a bunch of lollipops on the way over to the show. Then after keeping my favorite one, I let a spectator grab one. Now they are all gone so we are going to have to make some together using magic!

First, we need some different colors and something to mix them up in, so I introduce different colored silks and Crystal Cylinder. I put them in the cylinder, cover the cylinder and do my magical gesture/word. BOOM! The silks have vanished and have changed into different colored tissue paper! I say that now is my chance to test out my new invention, the Presto Change-O Machine! I introduce the Dove Pan as the machine, I take a piece of tissue paper, tear it up and place it into the Dove Pan. I then place the lid on the torn tissue paper bits and then open it to show that they have turned into lollipops! The kids each take one and it is done. This gives you an idea of the path I am referring to. Everything had a purpose and props that would not be an ordinary item for a spectator to see is given a reason and a purpose.

The second thing is performing things exactly like someone else. You are robbing your audience of your true self and what you bring that is different from the other magicians out there. Let's face it: Magic is a field where the impossible becomes possible. It's a unique industry because of we can bend the rules of reality but if every time someone sees someone perform, and they hear the same joke the same way that another magician does it, the feeling of uniqueness and amazement is gone, and they think, "Seen it." It can also create somewhat of an odd feeling. What do I mean? Let's say this: If I am tall, bald headed and have tattoos and I performed an effect that was geared towards a smaller or "nerdy" type of performer, or I told a joke that highlighted a quality that me or my character do not have, it would seem out of place. Be true to yourself and who you are and use that to decide what kind of material you do or do not perform for your audiences.

As always leave room for magic,

Scott Mitchell
President

Adventures in Dictionary Land

Immediate v. To refrain from mediating.

Disaster, *vp.* What happened to the lady who backed into a propeller.

Pelvis, *n.* Elvis' second cousin.

There was a small earthquake in Fresno last night. Nothing was damaged, but it did destroy everything at the Etch-A-Sketch Museum.

The organizer of the organizational meeting of the Meeting of Organizers' Organization is pleased to announce that there will be a surprise speaker at the meeting as planned.

The warnings about not eating Tide Pods works on ladies...
But they rarely deter gents.

Notes from the Quill by Joaquin Ayala – Secretary

Hello everyone and Happy Spring (or Winter for our readers south of the equator)! If you missed our meeting last month, you missed a brand-new lecture from Nathan Kranzo! Fresh off a tour and television appearance in China, Nate gave his latest Magic Castle Lecture. It included some new work such as the effect which he called the Ex-Girlfriend Opener where a torn and restored paper heart turned into a balloon.

That was followed by a little bit of a mentalism effect where Nathan predicted a color and a finger that a person randomly chose. He concluded with a Newspaper Prediction and one of his old stand-by effects, the Tru-Test Magazine Test. He closed out the lecture by taking and answering questions about his appearance at the Castle and on television in China. A good time was had by all!

Last month the written instructions for using your newly designed membership cards went out right after the newsletter. For our snail mail subscribers, if you did not get a copy please let me know.

In this issue of the Magic Messenger, look for our very first digital Trick of the Month with a submission by none other than President Scott Mitchell! There will be a clickable link to both the performance and the explanation in the newsletter. Unfortunately, if you do not have access to the Internet, you will not be able to viEW these videos.

Join us at our next meeting on Wednesday April 14th at Senate Coney Island where we will be having our Magic Mini Mart! If you have items to sell, like that drawer full of items collecting dust, bring them along and show them off – one man’s junk is another man’s Treasure! See you all very soon!

Yours in the Secret Art,

Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala de Cedoz
Secretary

Trick of the Month

This month we feature President Scott Mitchell, who performs his rope routine which uses the Pop Haydn Pop Knot. He will then teach the Pop Knot portion of the effect. If you have a trick to share with everyone, be sure to let us know so you can be featured in a future newsletter! *Please do not share the explanation links with any non-club members. This feature is an exclusive benefit to having an A.A.M.C. membership!

Performance: https://youtu.be/hh_YfbSgr78

Explanation: <https://youtu.be/DVXuBOMngtw>

TRIVIA QUESTION

This month I am going to be sneaky – there are no photographic hints, but there is something else for this one, SO: **It takes 12 decks of cards to make a brick.**

How many decks does it take to make a cube? The clues to the answer are hidden throughout the newsletter and are in the right order to spell it out. The answer will be given in the form of where to find each of the clues, and that list will be given at the end of the newsletter! Happy hunting!



Nathan Kranzo



Jim Ruth



Michael Doyle



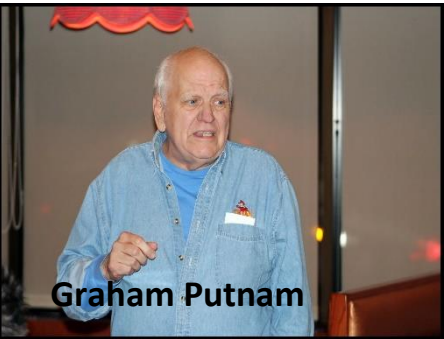
Magic Jay



Eli Portala



**Gene
Fogel**



Graham Putnam



Karl Rabe



Barb & Ming Louie



Bob Reed



Nathan Kranzo



Marvin Mathena

When you light a lighter
it gets lighter until it is
too light to light.

The Sarcastic Pessimists support
group meeting has been cancelled,
so let's all pretend we didn't see
that coming.

Ex Libris by Joaquin Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for April 2018! Hopefully you are all enjoying the lovely spring weather that has finally started to arrive – the fresh spring air is, well, a breath of fresh air! Last month I began a triad (of sorts) to be discussed, based solely on the Chicago Sessions group (a continuation of the Marlo group). I started with Simon Aronson and three of his books and this month we are going to look at another Chicago guy.

David Solomon is our focus for this month. David has been a friend of Simon Aronson for over 30 years and they were friends even before they met **Ed Marlo**.

Dave and Simon met Eddie at the same time, but they were already quite familiar with his work, having read many of his manuscripts and books previously. In 1982, Dave and Simon co-wrote 182-page hardcover book called **Sessions**, which was published by Savaco, Ltd. This book is a collection of some of the better ideas that came out of their sessioning together, thus the title, but it also includes some ideas, moves and sleights from other magicians including **Yomoji Kuno, Ed Marlo, Fred Braue, Don England** and **Brother John Hamman**.

A few of the stand-out items are the *Quadruple Spellbound* (which I mentioned in the last article), *Aronson vs. the Observation Test* and *S-O-See Thru*, all from Simon Aronson. The *S-O-See Thru* is particularly interesting because it is an Okito box and purse effect, and coins were something that Simon did more of early on in his magic career and is something he is not particularly known for. Two of the standout effects from Dave Solomon are *Refined Oil & Water* and *Mr. Clean*, a Palindrome Card plot effect where a Joker moves down a packet consisting of an A, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in order, then the order reverses. Dave Solomon is a magician that loves card plots, evidenced by his many variations of various plots, such as the aforementioned *Refined Oil & Water, Jazz A, 2, 3, 4* (the first effect in this

book) and his *Mexican Poker* (not in this book), which is as close as you will ever get to a self-working handling of a Ten Card Poker Deal.

One of the books that Dave is most well-known for is his **Solomon's Mind – The Card Mysteries of David Solomon**, a 233-page hardcover book published in 1997 and written by yet another famous Chicagoan, **Eugene Burger**. This book is split up into sections, starting with *Magic For Laypeople*, followed by *Magic for the Planned Close-up Shows*, *Magic for Sessions* and finally, *Prepared Magic for Sessions*. The categories are self-explanatory, and all include multiple effects to suit. Some of the more prominent effects to come from this book are the **Alex Elmsley Diamond Cut Diamond**, *Dunbury Delusion Revisited* (a classic Charlie Miller effect with a twist), *Cannibals* (the Lin Searles plot gets the Solomon treatment), *Technicolor Oil and Water*, *Full-face Universal Card* (a Universal Card effect where the full face of each card is seen before they change), and *Breaking Up Ad-jacent* (a very nice twist to the now-classic Aronson effect, *Ad-jacent*, the spectator card stab that fooled the Professor!).

The third book I want to mention is **The Wisdom of Solomon**, a 212-page hardcover book published in 2007 by Pro Print, written by **Dave Solomon** and **Jeff Siegfried**. This book could just as easily have been called Solomon's Mind Part 2 as it has very much the same style and layout of that book, though the descriptions at times can be seemingly incomplete or imprecise. That is due to some of the effects being hard to describe in a precise way, but if you really pay attention to the handlings and read through with props in hand, you should get most of them just fine. That said, there are some great pieces in this book. Among them are *Hofzinsler King City* (a very nice version of the Hofzinsler Lost Ace plot), *Diamond Bar* (a gaffed handling of the classic effect by **Daryl**) *Solomon's Gypsy Curse* (a straightforward but very clean handling of the classic Peter Kane effect), *Everywhere and Nowhere* (another classic Hofzinsler plot where four cards appear to be the same card), and *Kissing Cousins Twice Removed* (a Solomon twist on a little-known Paul Curry effect).

Well there you have it folks – tune in again next month when we wrap up this Chicago trio with the third and final member of the Chicago Session group. Until then, enjoy the weather and get out there and share the magic!
– **J. M. A.**

TRIVIA ANSWER:

SEVEN letters are on **page 1.** / **ONE** letter is on **page 2.** / **FIVE** letters are on **page 3.** / **SIX** letters are on **page 4.** If you put them all together you will spell out the answer. If you cannot find them, I will give the answer at the next meeting. Email me if you cannot make it!

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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.