

MAGIC MESSENGER

The Official Newsletter of the Ann Arbor Magic Club



S.A.M. Assembly 88

May 2018

I.B.M. Ring 210

Mentoring Magic by President Scott Mitchell

Hello everyone,

I hope you have enjoyed reading my little bits as much as I have enjoyed writing them. This month I have decided to take you on a journey into a little thing called 'my life'. I have posted several videos of me performing magic on YouTube and other social media. I have had some outstanding reactions to my videos and some that barely got any reaction at all. So, which videos would you guess were the biggest hits? Card effects? Was it a coin that vanished and reappeared in a block of ice? Was it something floating in the air? No, it was none of these things!

It was in fact the videos in which I told a story along with my effect that made it relatable to my viewers. I will give you an example: I did a video of me performing the effect *Banded* by Garrett Thomas; it is a great visual effect where a finger ring is handed out to be inspected. It is taken back put on the index finger and is visually seen to melt from finger to finger until it melts onto the pinky. Awesome effect, I must say!

This is what I have done: I tell a story about being a kid and not being able to afford the expensive magic props. I had seen a magician do the Linking Rings and it had such an amazing effect on me that I *had* to buy that effect. I went to buy it only to find that I couldn't afford it. So, I did the next best thing: I looked around for something that I could use to perform this effect. I found my father's ring but unfortunately, I only found one ring. So, I decided to see if I could get it to melt finger to finger instead of two rings melting and linking onto one another. So why does this effect get a better reaction than the others?

Making our audience see us on a relatable level is a huge thing. It shows that we are more than just a magic-performing machine. It shows that we are also humans - fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, etc. Telling a story

that highlights relatable topics to your audience is a good way for them to think he or she is just like me. So, try and put yourself into all your performances. Be true to yourself, who you are where you have been. Start doing this you will see how the reactions you get change. Of course, some of you already know (and maybe some of you don't), but don't tell a story relating something that you personally did not experience. No one believes an 8-year-old kid went to England, met the queen, blah blah blah.

The same goes for your character. Be the best you, not the next David Copperfield, David Blaine, or whomever you want to fill in the blank with. Be you and tell your stories using magic that fits you. Once you start doing that you will see your effects take on a life of their own. These are just my thoughts and opinions, but I hope they help you and are useful to you.

As always, leave room for magic,

Scott Mitchell
President

Adventures in Dictionary Land

Longevity, *n.* – Uncommon extension of the fear of death.

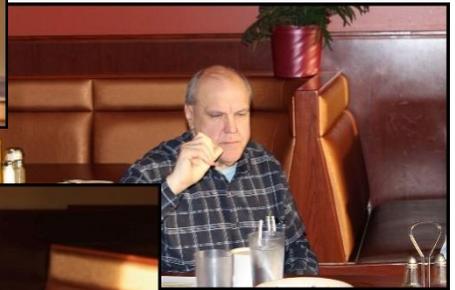
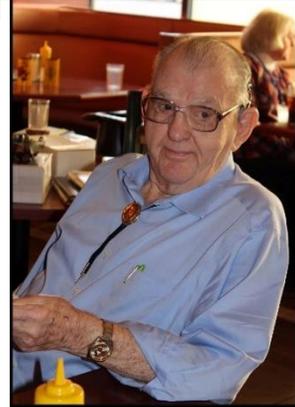
Megahertz, *n.* – One thousand aches.

Misfortune, *n.* – The kind of fortune that never misses.

**The only thing
flat earthers
have to fear...is
sphere itself...**

*I bought a toilet brush
a few days ago. Long
story short: I am going
back to paper...*

**What is the speed of
dark?**



TRIVIA QUESTION

Bess Houdini held annual séances on Halloween for ten years after the death of her husband in 1926. Which secret phrase did her husband Harry promise to use to prove that his ghost was trying to contact her?

ANSWER AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER!

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

Last month we had a Magic Mini-Mart event where members and even some guests showed up with some goodies to sell. A good majority of people spent the money they did not have on the stuff they did not need, and all had a great time!

There were also some light sessioning sessions going on in the peripheries of the meeting room – people were talking about old magic props, new magic stuff, coins, cards and whatever else they were talking about!

Jack and Shirley Markley came to the meeting and entertained us with a few novel items, which Jack had constructed himself and was selling to any willing buyers. Jim Folkl came all the way down from Romeo to join us – it has been a hot minute since he has had the chance to get down here. It was good to see everyone again!

There were a few first-time guests for this meeting as well. On that note: **Mr. John Phillip Machniak** has been coming as a guest for some time and somehow, we hypnotized him into joining the A.A.M.C. so voting will take place at the next meeting. Welcome to the fold, John!

Do not forget to join us on Wednesday May 9th, 2018 for our next meeting where we will play a rousing game of Magic Jeopardy! No worries – it will be fun and not too difficult! See you all then!

Yours in the Secret Art,

Dr. J.

WANTED/LOOKING FOR

One of our members from the Toledo, Ohio area, Bill Rugh, is looking for the following:

I am looking to trade or borrow a copy of **MAGIC** magazine from July 2010. This issue had two different covers. This featured Chuck Jones with his **Mis-Made Girl Illusion**. I have several copies of the alternate cover with his wife Jan in the box. *I am looking for the first cover with his daughter Stacy (who is looking up at him). I can trade a mint copy of the alternate cover.*

If anyone has a copy, please contact me at chefayala99@gmail.com or 313.910.1041 and let me know. Thank you!

Chinese food to go: \$15. Gas to go pick it up: \$1.50. Getting home and realizing they forgot one of my containers: Riceless.

What is the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? One is a one-ton animal and the other is a little lighter!

Bread is like the sun: It rises in the yeast and sets in the waist!

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

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for May of 2018 and the final installment of the Chicago series! I hope everyone has been enjoying the warmer weather when it has been here – all these ups and downs are getting ridiculous! Well if you have not read any of the Chicago series articles yet, go back two months (time travel, if you must, but be sure not to let your 'other self' see you) and start there, and curl up with one of the great books and a cup of hot iced tea...

This month we are going to take a look at a third member of the Chicago Sessions group, **John Bannon**. John has been a rather prolific author and creator of many effects and he is widely known for many different products, many of them being close to self-working effects while retaining their strong punch. As of this writing John Bannon is a practicing lawyer (specializing in business litigation) in the Chicago area and still finds time to create, travel and lecture for various clubs and conventions all over the world.

Back in 1986 he published his first book *Mirage* and since then he has authored 15 other books. I will concentrate on my top two picks, the first of which is ***Impossibilia***, a 142-pages hardcover book published in 1990 by L&L Publishing. The book is split into four sections: EZFX, Side FX, Special FX and the Bonus Section called 'Real Men Don't Carry Coin Purses'.

In the first section you will find his now-rather-famous handling of

Triumph called *Play It Straight*, a version in which the spectator can shuffle the cards, face up into face down and the deck rights itself except the all thirteen cards matching the suit of the missing selection. *Tourist Class Travelers* is a clean, direct Cards to Pocket. *Creased Lighting* is his version of the *Mercury Card Fold* which folds the card into eighths as opposed to quarters.

In the second section you will find some very commercial coin work including a couple handlings for Matrix, a Chinese Coin penetration off a shoelace (followed by a Ring Off String effect), a Coins to Glass and a very nice 3-coin Coins Across which he calls Triple Threat. In Special FX there are just four effects: A playing card revelation, an Ace Cutting demonstration, three marked coins vanish and reappear in an envelope and a burnt, Torn & Restored cigarette paper. Each of these methods are easy but are not quite like you might expect!

The bonus section is a great read for anyone but especially for coin workers that use traditional style coin purses. It details various moves and sleights that can be utilized with a coin purse as well as some excellent coin effects using those moves and sleights. The final effect is a revelation for card work where a brass disk is shown to have the image of a previously selected card on it.

The second book that I want to bring to your attention is ***Destination Zero***, a 209-page hardcover book published by Squash Publishing in 2015. The first printing of this book sold out worldwide in less than 6 months! As of this writing, a limited second printing is currently available. If you happen to miss out on the second run, while the first edition will not cost you a lot of money to obtain, they can be hard to find. This is a nod to the fact that people really love the material and are hanging on to the books.

Some of the standout effects in here include *Petal to the Metal* in which an audience member themselves divine the identity of a predicted card, *Perennial*, which is a Diary effect without the diary but there is a little bit of a Stranger Card ploy at work here, but this is a very effective version of the Birthday Card plot, a favorite of Simon Aronson, and this can be carried in your wallet. *Four-Sided Gemini* is a rather new (well, *new* in 2015!) variation on the Gemini Twins which is based on the *Four-Sided Triangle* by **Max Maven** from his 1977 ***Red Book of Mentalism*** (later as part of the ***PRISM*** book published in 2005 by Hermetic Press).

Perfect will allow you to predict a card after a spectator freely cuts, deals and stops at a particular card. *AK-47* is a great little gem where any card in the deck is merely thought of by the spectator, then the performer commits to one card and removes it from the deck, later showing that the card they removed exactly matches the thought-of card...Every. Single. Time! *Box of Doom* is one of my absolute favorite effects in this book and maybe, just maybe, even of all time! It is a very strong update of *The Trick*

that *Fooled Einstein*, remixing some elements from his earlier version called *The Einstein Overkill* from two of his earlier works, ***Six. Impossible. Things.*** (2009) and ***High Caliber*** (2013). Closing out the book is *Banco*, a great little bonus effect which is a high-stakes handling of the classic *Bank Night* effect.

If these effects all sound like hard-hitting, commercial pieces of magic to you, your thinking is correct. If you were to guess that there are some knuckle-busting effects in this book, you would be wrong! In fact, the title of the book itself hints to something that every effect in the book has in common: they are *all self-working!* Seriously! Furthermore, all of them are easy to do, but John Bannon goes far beyond the methodology of each effect and breaks down the effects to their bare bones, then teaches you how to dress each one up to become a self-working effect that does not appear to be self-working. He also covers why certain things should be done and others should not.

Two other honorable mention books by John Bannon are ***Dear Mr. Fantasy***, a 197-page hardcover published in 2004 by John Bannon, and his 2013 compilation work called ***High Caliber***, 305-page hardcover published in 2013 by Squash Publishing.

Be sure to check out the works by all three of the Chicago Session guys from this series: **Simon Aronson, Dave Solomon** and **John Bannon**. Further, explore their works that I was not able to cover in the articles – there are some truly hidden gems from among the three of them!

That wraps up the Chicago Series as well as the article for this month – be sure to join me again next month as we take another journey into the magic books of yore to dig for hidden magical treasures! – **J.M.A.**

TRIVIA ANSWER: *Rosabelle, believe.*
Rosabelle was a song that Bess used in her original act at Coney Island.

Further Adventures in Dictionary Land

Pokémon, *n.* – A Rastafarian proctologist.

Balderdash, *n.* – A rapidly receding hairline.

Lymph, *v.* – To walk with a lisp.

Time for another edition of Good Idea/Bad Idea!

Good idea: Taking a deep breath before diving into a swimming pool.

Bad idea: Taking a deep breath after diving into a swimming pool.

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. / 16 S. Main St., Clawson, MI 48017

(248) 280-5925 / Web: <http://www.wundergroundmagicshop.com/>

AAMC Board Contacts

President: Scott Mitchell / vonbodan@gmail.com

Vice President: Dan Jones / dmjones0701@yahoo.com

Secretary: Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala de Cédoz / chefayala99@gmail.com

Treasurer: Rob Krozal / rkrozal@yahoo.com

Sergeant-at-Arms: Pam Smith / pam1s2006@gmail.com

Librarian: Dr. Joaquin Ayala / chefayala99@gmail.com

Historian: Dan Jones / dmjones0701@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Karl Rabe / 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.