

MAGIC MESSENGER

The Official Newsletter of the Ann Arbor Magic Club

I.B.M. Ring 210

August 2018

S.A.M. Assembly 88

A Candle in the Dark by Joaquin Ayala – President

Hello everybody and welcome to August! This month I will make this a short but pensive article and I want to discuss the making of memories, specifically tied to *you*. What do I mean by that? Well let's dive deeper...

Whatever your status as a performer, you can always benefit from things that leave your audience with a memory of having seen you perform a miracle. This can be many things to many people, and sometimes people keep the strangest things. Let me tell you a quick story to relate:

I was performing for a private company at a trade show in Stuttgart, Germany back in 2012. This company had also hired me to entertain just *their* employees in their private hospitality suite after the trade show closed each day. The second evening I performed the *Linking Laces* by Paul Harris and David Jockisch (pronounced JOKE-ish), which is an effect that ends up with the shoelaces properly tied (truly) and the loops actually (really) linked.

Fast forward six months later, half way around the world to Vancouver, B.C. Canada - another trade show. I am working for a different company on the show floor and I see this guy come walking from way down the main aisle, and eventually I see he is carrying a shoe...it was the same guy from Stuttgart that I had performed the effect for and he brought his tennis shoe, still tied and with the loops still linked. Who keeps things like that?!

My point with that story is that even simple things like linked shoelaces can hold more power than we as performers realize. Taking a moment to add a simple "From: (insert your name here)" and a "To: (above their name)" on a signed playing card adds a very personal touch to a normally lackluster item. Or, you can turn something into an impossible object – such as a business card or playing card turned into a cube (via Kirigami) or twisted into a HyperCard. Think about the magic you already do to see if you can find something that can be even slightly altered, given a personal touch, and left with your audience participants as a memento and as a reminder of the impossible.

In closing: just remember that even the smallest thing can hold a lot more power – magical or illusionary, than we would ever think possible. That is part of the amazement, astonishment, the entertainment and the magic that we hope to give our audiences.

Yours in the Secret Art,

Dr. J.

TRIVIA QUESTION

What kind of magic wallet is shown in the photo???

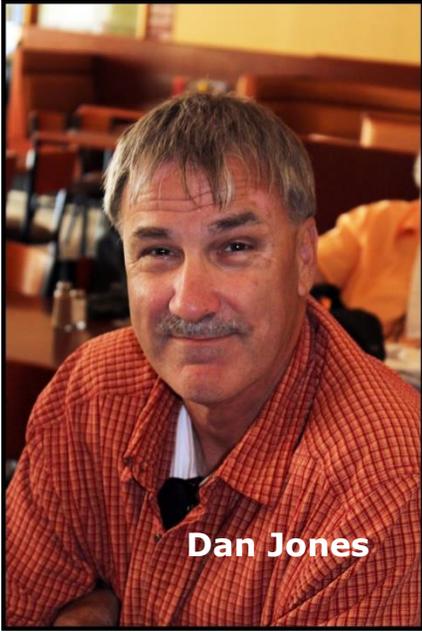


***HINT*:** The wallet seen here actually combines 3 different types of magic wallets in one... Answer at the end of the newsletter!

**MY FRIEND TOLD ME TO
STOP ACTING LIKE A
FLAMINGO, AND THAT IS
WHEN I HAD TO PUT MY
FOOT DOWN.**

**I went to my monthly
meeting for Plastic Surgery
Addicts Anonymous. I was
disappointed to see so many
new faces...**

**My insomnia has become worse and worse, and it is starting to
worry me just a little, but it is not like I am going to lose any sleep
over it.**



Dan Jones



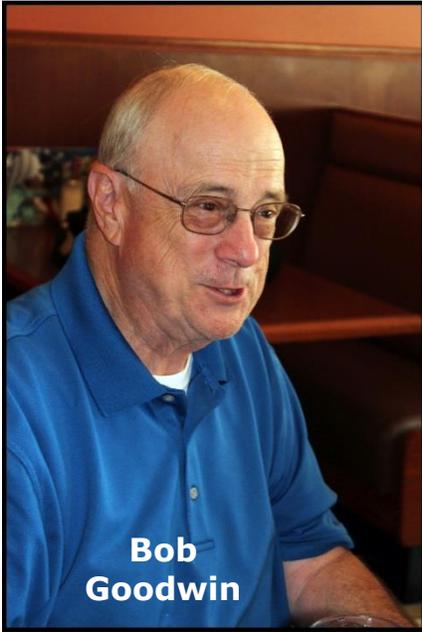
Kevin Peshick



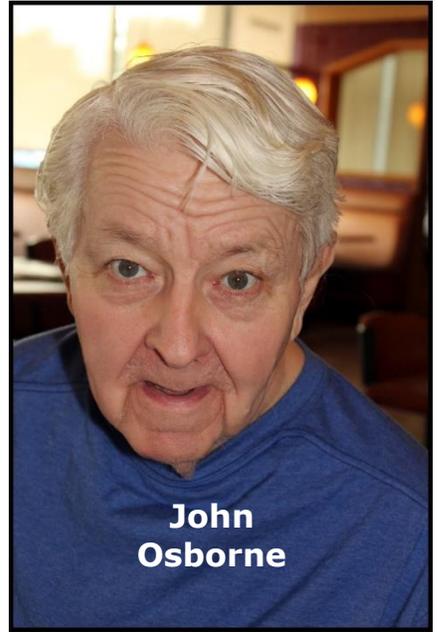
Dr. J.



Rob Krozal



Bob Goodwin



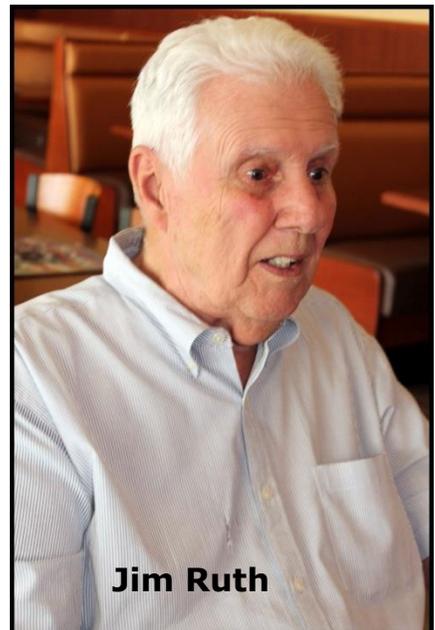
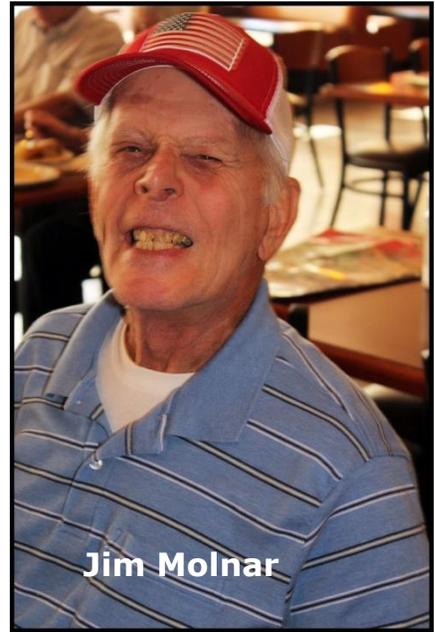
John Osborne



Mr. Bonejangles



Don & Rob Recap I.B.M. 2018



Notes from the Quill by Joaquin M. Ayala

Hello everyone! Can you believe we are already over half way through 2018??? How did that happen?! Last month we all played a [reportedly] educational game called "Who Am I?" and the meeting got a bit derailed when a private party of 20-something people were seated in our normally private meeting space. It kind of drained all the fun out of it after two minutes of trying hear and be heard over *that* group...

This month we are going to be having a Round Robin Teaching Session, the same as the event we had last year, only this time we have just three stations instead of four. **Kevin Peshick** will be discussing/teaching *Storytelling/Bizarre Magic (Magick)*, **Randy Smith** will be discussing/teaching *Gospel Magic* and **Dr. J.** will be discussing/teaching *Rubber Band Magic*. This is an interesting range of topics, but it will be a lot of fun for all – you can visit as many of the stations you like or just sit through one station for the whole time, the choice is yours! Each of the lecturers will also be taking questions after they finish their presentations.

As you read this (presumably anywhere from August 1st to the 4th) the Abbott Magic Convention will be going on and we look forward to hearing about it from those who attend(ed)!

Also, we will be having our annual flea market on Saturday September 15th and as of the publication of this newsletter (1st of August) we have sold five (5) tables, and there are fifteen (15) remaining – reserve yours now to avoid disappointment! See me at the meeting to sign up for a table or visit our website at www.aamagic.org and look under the CALENDAR tab for the PayPal button and informational flyer. See you all next week (except for Rob Krozal – he is ditching us this month – [sad face])! – J. M. A.

Adventures in Dictionary Land

Bacteria, *n.* – The backdoor of a cafeteria.

Bananosecond, *n.* – The time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement.

Caterpallor, *Adj.* – The color you turn after finding a grub in the apple you are eating.

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

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for August 2018! I hope everyone is having a great summer full of sun, splashing and magic! As I write this article I am on a train just leaving my beloved city of Chicago, a city that I well consider a second home (or technically, third, after Barcelona

and where I currently live in Michigan). In every way imaginable, I have always felt a deep connection with the city of Chicago – but perhaps especially in the magic sense.

One of my favorite magical dynasty families has a connection to the city and they are the Bambergs, specifically **Theo Bamberg**, a.k.a., “**Okito**”. In fact, the book we are going to focus on this month is called *Okito on Magic* by Theo Bamberg and Robert Parrish. This edition is a 216-page hardcover book originally published in 1952 by **Edward O. Drane**, commonly known as **Enardoe**. The book was illustrated by Robert Johnstone.

The book begins with a description of the career, thoughts and theories on magic of Okito himself. This is probably one of my favorite parts about this book, though in comparison to the rest of the book it is a relatively short portion. There are many stories about other performers that he was great friends with, others he was a great admirer of and others still that greatly inspired him and his work. He talks about various performers that he saw and worked with over the years, including from his youth. He also reminisces about beautiful old theaters where he saw magic acts performed and where he himself was a performer as well.

Part Two is a selection of effects which cover the gamut of close-up and platform effects with some stage effects thrown in for good measure. These are all, at the time this book was written, considered strong and classical effects in magic – the Cups & Balls, the change of a playing card, cigar and cigarette magic, silk magic and it even discusses things like vanishing cloths (cloths used to vanish objects) and hat loading devices. He also talks a bit about Slydini – a very interesting tidbit if I do say so.

This is followed by a sub-section on small magic – magic that is all about close-up work, including work from **Max Malini** like his *Button Biting Trick* and his *Brick Trick*, along with the very first and original handling of the Okito Box, of which Theo Bamberg was the creator. This part is followed by a section of medium sized magic, which is magic best suited to the parlor or small stage and includes effects such as the *Bill in Lemon*, *L’Homme Masque*, *Rising Cards*, *An Egg and a Canary*, *The Enchanted Rice* and another Okito original called *Linkage* in which a number of individual (loose) chain links are placed into a container, a mystical pass is made and when they are dumped out of the container, they are all linked into one long chain!

This, in turn, is followed by a section on large magic – magic suitable for a larger stage and contains classic items such as *Multum in Parvo*, *Where do the Ducks Come From* and *Vanishing Bowl of Water*. This edition of the book

is rounded out with four effects aimed at magic with living (hopefully!) people.

There was a second, expanded edition of this book published by Magic Inc. in Chicago in 1973. It contains a fifth section of 25 additional pages (for a total of 241 pages) with the subsection titled "Additional Okito Originals". It details seven effects that did not appear in the original book, among them is the *Impossible Lit Cigarette Vanish*, *Ringer* (which is an ungimmicked Ring Off Ribbon) and *Oho!*

Well that is all for this month folks – if you like to read short biographies and books with a good variety of effects which require little to no adjustments to be relevant today, give this book a try! Join me again next month when we will discuss a book that will help you get ready for the Halloween season! –
J. M. A.

The Club Librarian Says...

One whole year ago in August of 2017 in the Ex Libris column, I wrote about the *Books of Wonder* by **Tommy Wonder** and **Stephen Minch**. You will recall that I had mentioned they were very expensive to obtain as they were long out of print and very highly desired, BUT, they are *BACK!* In print again for the first time in 22 years, they can be found at your favorite magic dealer for the same price as the original set - \$90/USD for both volumes! No doubt these are very limited so if you have ever wanted a set, now is the time! These are exact reprints of the originals, right down to the texture of the dust covers and the color of the cloth cover. The only difference is the updated copyright info.

TRIVIA ANSWER

The wallet shown is the **B.K.M. Wallet** made by Anthony "Tony" Miller. It is a combination of the Balducci/Kaps and Mullica wallets. The Balducci wallet is a card loader wallet that uses a notepad as a guide for the card to go into the zippered compartment. The Kaps wallet is the same kind except it uses a plastic slide as a guide and the wallet is usually a bit smaller. The Mullica wallet uses a dual wallet setup where the card ends up inside the smaller, inner "wallet" (more like a checkbook cover). If those three names sound familiar, you probably know who they are: **Ed Balducci** (the self-levitation guy), **Fred Kaps** (all-around Dutch master magician) and **Tom Mullica** (comedy magician and cigarette act guy).

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<http://abcmagicshop.com/>

Wunderground Magic, Inc. / 16 S. Main St., Clawson, MI 48017

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

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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.**