



# MAGIC MESSENGER



The Official Newsletter of the Ann Arbor Magic Club

I.B.M. Ring 210

September 2018

S.A.M. Assembly 88

## ***A Candle in the Dark*** – Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala, President

Hello everybody! Who is ready for autumn up here in the northern hemisphere? I know I am! With the arrival of autumn looming, that means one thing to a lot of people: the Halloween season is right around the corner! This also means that a lot of magicians might be thinking about Halloween-themed magic...So, what exactly *is* Halloween magic? It can be many different things from illustrating a scary story with a magic effect to producing mini pumpkins at the end of a Benson Bowl routine. It can be funny (like when you are using a bone wand...that is just plain humerus!), it can be ghostly and mysterious or even dark and spooky.

One of my favorite genres of this kind of magic exists even beyond the Halloween season – Bizarre Magic! If you attended the August meeting, you might have gotten a taste of just how broad Bizarre Magic can be. Member **Kevin Peshick** facilitated the Round Robin session on that topic and a lot of people were rather surprised!

Bizarre Magic is often misunderstood as meaning there is a lot of satanic blood and gore effects that go on. That is not the case. Bizarre Magick, as it is often spelled, includes things like wizard-style magic, ritualistic magic, strange/odd/grotesque magic, spiritualistic and mediumistic magic, etc. The effects used in bizarre magic are often very simple. Bizarre magick depends heavily on good storytelling ability to set the mood and the atmosphere.

On the other hand, you might prefer to construct a Square Circle using two nesting pumpkins, or you might perform the classic Hippy Hop Rabbits to a silly scary story, or instead of rabbits you might use ghosts, or mummies! Even simpler still, you might do a Silk Blend-o using “typical” Halloween colors of black, purple, green and orange. Further still, you might change a black & white Frankenstein silk to a colored one.

There are one-off effects like the now-classic effect called ‘The Web’, where a spider vanishes from a packet of cards and reappears on the back of the spectator’s hand, or the equally strange Razor Blade Trick. You might like the old Harry Anderson standby, the Needle Thru Arm. The idea here is that

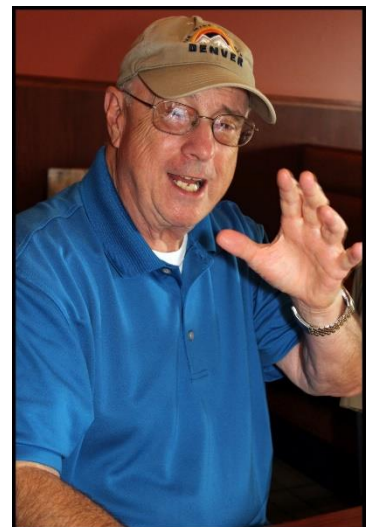
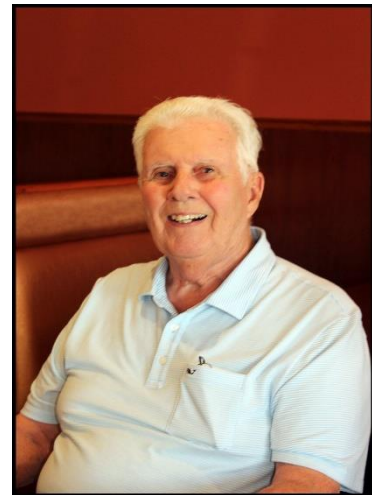
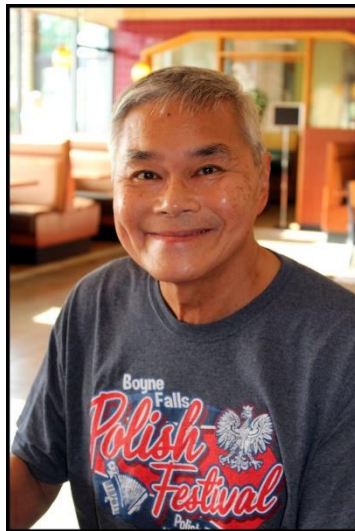
there are various ways to perform magic with a Halloween theme and they do not always have to be spooky, but they can all be *fun!*

Happy and Magical Haunting,

Dr. J

Hey, my new book about poltergeists is just flying off the shelves!

What do you call a puppy with a camera?  
A furtographer.



Upper Row, L to R - **John Osborne, Ming Louie & Jim Ruth**

Bottom Row L to R - **Barb Louie, Dan Jones & Bob Goodwin**



Upper Row (L to R) **Don Oesterwind,**  
**Jerry Heilman**  
**Art Goyette**



Left - (Previous members who re-joined the club): **David and Jacki Saunders.** Welcome back!



**Dr. J.**



**Bizarre!**



**Randy Smith**



**Rubber Bands!**



**Gospel Magic!**



**Kevin Peshick**

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

Hello everybody and Happy September to you! We have quite a bit of fun stuff coming up in the next few months but first, a quick recap of the August meeting for those who missed it: We did our annual Round Robin Education night and it was another resounding success! I spoke about the various effects and facets of Rubber Band Magic and I was rather impressed with some of the attendees that picked up some of the more advanced effects rather quickly! **Kevin Peshick** facilitated the Bizarre Magick station, demonstrating and talking about the more important parts of the genre from the proper props to the storytelling and how to set the atmosphere. Last but not least, **Randy Smith** ran the Gospel Magic station and he had quite a few giveaways, including a version of the Flap Monte with a gospel theme. He showed how you can take a good number of classical/standard effects and use them to illustrate various stories and verses from the gospel. THANK YOU to Kevin and Randy for your time and help this year!

Coming up this month we have our meeting on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> and the theme this month is **Rope Magic**! If you perform any sort of rope effect, including close-up versions like *Ring & String*, bring it along to share! Anything from *Cut & Restored Rope* and the George Sands *Sandsational Rope Routine* to *Professor's Nightmare* is welcome. We might even teach you how to do a very easy version of *Professor's Nightmare*! If you have something else you have been working on and wish to share, bring it along! The meeting is the same time, same place as usual – see you there!

Also, on Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup> we will be having our **World-Famous Annual Magic Flea Market**! If you have any goods to sell we have ten (10) tables left and if you want one, visit our website at [www.aamagic.org](http://www.aamagic.org) and look under the CALENDAR tab, or see Treasurer Rob Krozal at the meeting.

We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon!

Dr. J.



**TRIVIA QUESTION**

The magician seen here had a major handicap – he only had one hand. Despite this, he is considered one of the greatest sleight-of-hand magicians to have ever lived, and he could perform false shuffles with one hand better than many magicians can with two! He died in 2015 at the age of 86. Who is he?  
**Answer at the end of the newsletter!**

**The local wHole Foods store was having a special sale on doughnuts, bagels and Cheerios... everything at *holesale pricing!***

**They say you should test your fire alarms every month but boy, it is costing me a fortune in houses!**

**Did you hear about the team of Irish divers they sent down to the Titanic? They reported that, surprisingly, the swimming pool is still full!**

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

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for September 2018! I do not know about you, but I am ready for the autumn season to begin and these horrible, hot and steamy days to be over with! This month we see the school year start up again and with that, right around the corner, is October, which means to many of us, Halloween season! If you attended the August meeting and sat in with **Mr. Peshick**, one of the books he mentioned a lot is the one we are going to focus on this month. It is called **Tales of Enchantment - The Art of Magic** by *Walt Anthony*. It is a 252-page hardcover book published by *Leaping Lizards Magic* in 2010. As of this writing, it is also available as a softcover from Penguin Magic.

This is one of my favorite magic books of all time because it takes some familiar effects and gives them a bizarre twist or a wonderful storyline. You see, most bizarre and storytelling magic books focus on the close-up arena, but this book is the first to focus on those effects for a parlour/stage setting.

You will see effects like *Professor's Nightmare* set to a story about three monks, each with a different body type, a *Sucker Die Box* with a tea chest theme and a story about a young druid apprentice who learns a valuable lesson, and there is also a most wonderful and perfect story which illustrates what makes a *Light and Heavy Chest* is so heavy, and then so light! The point of this book is not to teach you how to perform the mechanics of every effect, rather how to create a better script or story or background for each of them. As such he does not necessarily describe in detail the mechanics of every effect, but it will be easy to figure them out and see how they work within the context of the presentations given.

There is a great story in here for those of you who have an old Lota Vase and wondered how you would present it – it may be *just* a story, but the faeries will make you ponder about the human condition. Another story used

for a PK Touch effect harkens back to the horrors of World War II and the death camps of Nazi Germany – a very emotional and deeply touching story when presented well, and it requires nothing more than a feather, plenty of practice and good storytelling. Examples of some other classic prop-based effects that are given the Walt Anthony treatment include the *Haunted Key*, *The Rice Bowls*, *The Zombie* and the *Milk Pitcher*.

In between these effects, Walt talks about the more important aspects of this particular genre, including character development, costuming, staging, ageing of props, setting the mood, creating the proper atmosphere, caring for your audience and much, much more. These are the most important aspects of this book and even though some of them are rather specific to the bizarre/storytelling genre, you can still cherry pick the lessons and apply them to any other form of magic. These are the true golden nuggets...but the rest of the book is just so yummy too!

That is all for this month folks – join me again next month as I dive deeper into this rabbit hole and explore yet another bizarre book! – **J.M.A.**

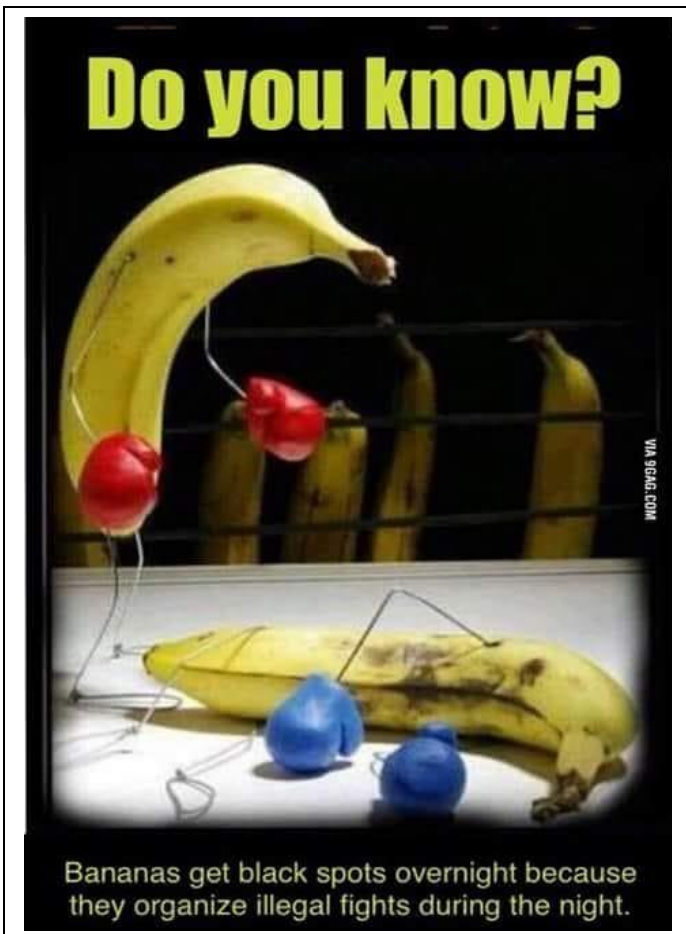
### **A Challenge for You...**

Since the meeting theme this month is Rope Magic, try this out: Find a piece of rope or string that is about 2 feet in length and tie the ends together. Find yourself a large ring with no slits, such as a bangle bracelet, a Ring on Rope ring, a large shower curtain ring, loose binder rings, etc. The challenge is to come up with a way to display the rope and the ring as both being absolutely separate, and then without breaking the ring or untying the rope/string, cause them to link (apparently or actually) and be able to display them in their linked state...

Ponder and play around with this, then bring your solution(s) to the meeting and show them off!

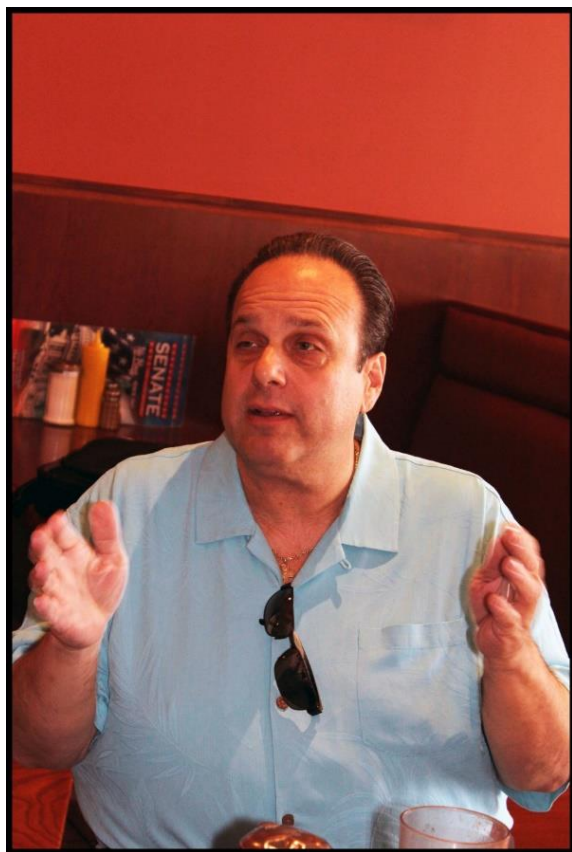
### **TRIVIA ANSWER**

The magician is none other than the Argentinian master, **René Lavand!** He lost the use of his right hand in a car crash at the age of 9. Many of you might know him from two of his more popular effects, *It Can't Be Done Any Slower (No Se Puede Hacer Más Lento)* and *Tres Migas (The Three Bread Crumbs)*, the first of which was performed on *The World's Greatest Magic II* in 1995.



A woman went to the doctor's office where she was seen by one of the new doctors, but after about 4 minutes in the examination room, she burst out screaming as she ran down the hall. An older doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was, and she told him her story. After listening, he had her sit down and told her to go relax in another room.

The older doctor marched down hallway to the back where the first doctor was and demanded, *"What is the matter with you? Mrs. Terry is 63 years old, she has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was PREGNANT?"* The new doctor continued to write on his clipboard and without looking up said, *"Well, yes I did! But I bet her hiccups are gone now!"*



**"This one dealer had this giant coin...it was *only* \$200.00, and it was HUUUGE! It was like, THIS BIG! I beat Rob Krozal to it and bought the last two he had!"**



**"Yeah, but I got the matching shells..."**

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**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.**