



Magic Messenger

December 2018

A Candle in the Dark by Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala – President

Hello! Welcome to the final newsletter for the year of 2018 – whew! That was one heck of a ride and 2019 promises to be even bigger for us as a club! We are bringing back the annual banquet, which will be held in February. For those of you that did not attend the meeting in November to hear the special performer announced: We have none other than **Mr. Gene Anderson** coming to entertain us!

Following that we have our now-annual benefit show with the **Westland Rotary Club**, all thanks to **Mr. Don Oesterwind** for helping us put the show together and help to make the partnership possible! We will be doing more workshops next year which will focus on specific subjects such as *coin magic, mentalism, bizarre magick, etc.* We are also aiming to do some more community outreach in order to attract some new and younger members.

This already seems to be a lot but if we all work together, we can make it all happen – the sky is the limit. I am certainly looking forward to seeing what we all accomplish together next year, and I want to wish all of you the very best of the season. Have a fun, safe, magical and Happy ChristmaHannuKwanzika everybody!

Yours in the Secret Art,

Dr. J.

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

Welcome folks to the December 2018 newsletter, the final issue of the year and my final issue as your faithful Secretary! Normally there are a few things in between the articles to help break them up, but this month is going to be a little different, so we are getting them out of the way, right away!

Last month we had nominations for the Board of Officers, to be elected at the meeting in January. The nominees are as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
President	Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala
Vice President	Don Oesterwind (rejected nomination)
Secretary	Randy Smith
Treasurer	Rob Krozal
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pam Smith

We also discussed at length the changes to be voted on regarding the third level of membership, which was outlined in an email you received earlier this week. E-mail ballots for absentee voting will go out the week before the January meeting.

Last month we had a blast with the coin magic, though there were only a few performers. **Mr. Bob Moyer** performed his wonderful take on **Hornswoggled** which based on the handling by **Michael Ammar**. Vice President **Dan Jones** demonstrated the versatility the classic *French Drop* technique, also using objects other than coins. President **Dr. J.** performed his version of the **Victorian Coins and Glass**, an effect created by **Dr. Kainoa Harbottle**. He followed this up (and also rounded out his demonstrations) by teaching a mini masterclass on Coin & Silk magic, performing and then explaining the **T.V. Surprise** production by **Jack Chanin**, the **Buckley Bag Production**, the **Buckley Bag Vanish** and a *vanish of a single coin using the silk*, which was also a demonstration that all of those simple techniques could be used as part of a longer routine.

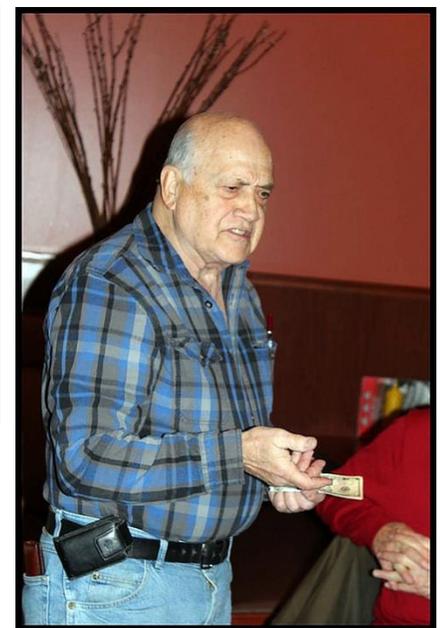
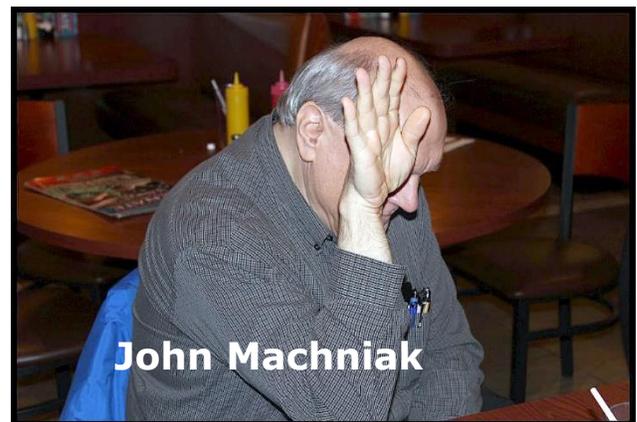
The **Ann Arbor Magic Club Annual Banquet** is being held on **Saturday February 23rd, 2019** at Mama Mia's Restaurant and Banquet Center in Livonia. It starts at 6 p.m. and we will have dinner, awards, a show and some fun & interactive activities for the attendees. Tickets are **\$30 each** and you can sign up until February 13th, 2019.

I want to close out this article by thanking *each and every one of you* for an amazing two-term ride as your Secretary. I really had a lot of fun and I really enjoyed all the feedback I got from you over the last two years. I know Randy Smith will do an excellent job taking over for the next two years and I look forward to serving as your President for that amount of time.

Have a fun, happy, safe and magical ChrismaHannuKwanzika everyone and a prosperous New Year! I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Yours in the Secret Art,

Dr. J.



Left – **V.P. Dan Jones**
Middle: **Randy Smith**
Right: **Bob Moyer**



**Art
Goyette**



**Shiny
snot...**

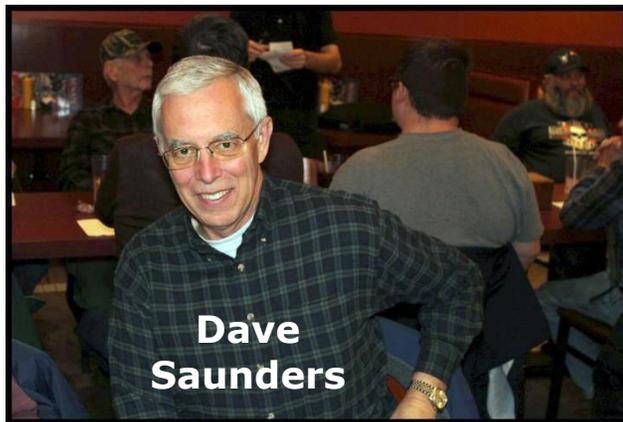


**Pam
Smith**

**Jacki
Saunders**



Dr. J.



**Dave
Saunders**



TRIVIA QUESTION

L&L Publishing has been a mainstay in the magic community for many years, publishing countless books and is even more famous for its instructional videos for magicians, featuring the work and material of many of the biggest names in magic. What do the two 'L's stand for?

ANSWER AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER



Loretta
Pulk



**WHY ARE DASHER
AND DANCER
ALWAYS TAKING
COFFEE BREAKS?
BECAUSE THEY ARE
THE STAR BUCKS!**

What do you get if
there is a fire in the
chimney when Santa
comes down? Crisp
Kringel!

*Santa Claus goes up and
down so many chimneys
every year that he is
thinking about getting a
yearly flue shot.*

What do monkeys sing at Christmas
time?

Jungle Bells, jungle bells.

Dan Jones ate a bunch of the
decorations off his Christmas tree
and came down with a bad case of
Tinselitis.

What language does Santa Claus
speak?
North Polish...

Why will Santa go down your chimney on
Christmas Eve?

Because it soots him.

Who makes toy guitars and sings, "Blue
Christmas?"

Elfis.

"Why don't we ever hear about 'Olive,'
the 10th reindeer?" asked Barbara.

"What 10th Reindeer?" asked Ming.

"You know. Olive, the other reindeer,
used to laugh and call him names?"

Ex Libris by Joaquin Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello folks and welcome the final Ex Libris article for the year, December 2018! This article is PART TWO of the article which we began last month, so if you have not read that yet, go back and read the November article first.

Last month we talked about ***The Art of Close-up Magic Volume 1*** by *Lewis Ganson*, published by L&L Publishing and in this article, we will focus on ***The Art of Close-up Magic Volume 2***. The second volume was first published in 1966 as a 286-page hardcover book and was published again in the same format by L&L Publishing in 1996.

Once again there is a great variety of effects given in this book. One of the most interesting ones to me was the Linking Ring effect which was culled from the *Symphony of the Rings* routine by **Dai Vernon**, which uses only three rings as opposed to the six used in the original Vernon routine. It really is a very pretty routine and is very well described.

Jan Van Rinkhuyzen (Rink) describes a number of classical effects, including *Cups & Balls*, a *Chink-a-Chink* using any light objects and a sneaky method and even a fun *Rope Through Neck* using a spectator.

Horace Bennett has his own section wherein he describes various coin effects, including more with an Okito Box, another with a coin purse and his handling of an oldie but a goodie, *Coins Through Table*.

One of the most in-depth sections is the chapter from **David Berglas** on sleeving techniques and effects. This is a detailed description of the techniques, the why/why not and everything else you need to know, including various effects to use them in. If the name David Berglas looks familiar to you, you may have seen his work in films such as 'Octopussy' and you might have even heard of the effect he is most famous for, '*The Berglas Effect*', also known as '*Any Card At Any Number (A.C.A.A.N.)*'.

There are a lot of now-classic effects described in this volume and if you were to buy just one of the two, I would highly recommend going with Volume 1, just based on sheer volume and variety. There is a lot of great things in the second volume, but the first one just has a greater variety and value, in my humble opinion. Michael Close recommended it for the same reason.

Well that is all for this article folks! It has been a lot of fun diving into the different books this year and as always, I will be back in January with

another one for you. Until then, have a wonder, fun and safe holiday and I wish for all of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2019! Keep the magic alive!

Yours in the Secret Art,

Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala



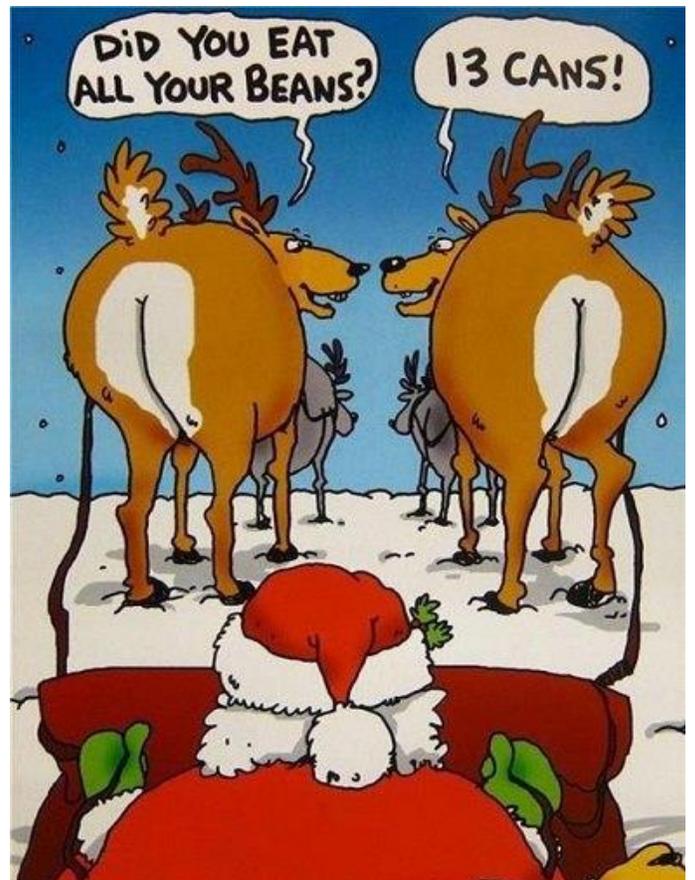
HOT TIP: Are your kids/grandkids/nieces/nephews misbehaving? Wrap empty boxes in Christmas wrapping paper and when they act up, toss one in the fire!

Mr. Goodwin: "Mr. Fusco, why does Santa use reindeer to pull his sleigh?"

Mr. Fusco: "Well, because malamutes cannot fly!"

TRIVIA ANSWER.

The two 'L's in L&L Publishing represent the names of the two founders, *Louis* and *Larry*. Specifically, they were **Louis Falanga** and the Detroit native, **Larry Jennings**. Louis Falanga still carries on with the business today, though Larry Jennings sold Louis his share back in the 1980s.



As a little Christmas bonus for all of you, here is a little holiday twist on the presentation of the old *Pea Can* effect but more specifically, the *Scotty York Candy Kiss Machine* version as made by **Viking Magic Manufacturing**. What exactly is a Candy Kiss Machine? Well if you are familiar with how a Pea Can works, then you know the method, but Viking made the “Candy Kiss Machine” Pea Cans just a little bit bigger than the old standard Pea Can so that it would hold a Hershey Kiss candy. My handling here is not methodologically different from the York version, but I did make a couple of changes to the props and added a nice poem to suit for the Christmas season. Nothing earth-moving, just a fun twist!

Scotty York Candy Kiss Machine

A Charming Holiday Presentation for Walkaround Performers

Effect

You bring out a small brass container with a cap on it, which the audience is told is a very magical object given to you by Santa Claus. You then introduce two pieces of wishing paper, one red and one white. They are rolled into a ball and dropped into the brass container. This is followed by a magical white cocoa bean, a sugar cube and a small piece of aluminum foil. The lid is replaced on the container, a few magic words and you pour out a holiday Hershey Kiss!

Requirements

A Scotty York Candy Kiss Machine* (made by Viking Magic Manufacturing)
Red and White Tissue Paper cut into about one-inch squares
Small piece of aluminum foil OR a dime
One sugar cube** OR a small white breath mint
Whole coffee beans
White acrylic paint
A bag of holiday Hershey Kiss candies***

Preparation and Setup

Using the white paint, apply to some dried coffee beans and allow to dry. Place a Hershey Kiss inside the Candy Kiss Machine. Place the gimmick and the cap in the bottom section and place in your right pocket. Have the other pieces in your left pocket.

Bring out the Candy Kiss Machine, remove the cap (keeping the gimmick in place) and give it to someone to hold. Bring out the foil (or the dime), drop it inside, then bring out the "wishing papers" (the red & white tissue papers), roll them into a ball and drop them inside the tube. Continue one at a time with the sugar cube and the white coffee bean.

Place the cap back on and make whatever magical gestures you like, speak a little spell and have your helper follow along. Pretend to remove the cap, secretly removing the gimmick and placing it in your left pocket. Have your helper cup both hands together and dump the Hershey Kiss out into their hands.

*If you do not have a Candy Kiss Machine (or any sort of Pea Can large enough to hold a Hershey Kiss), you can use a thumb tip to vanish the small bits – omit the sugar cube and just use the tissue paper, the dime and the bean. The handling follows this description.

**Instead of using a real sugar cube, do the following instead: Take a trip to your local JoAnn Fabric, Hobby Lobby, Michael's Crafts, etc. Look for the little wood blocks (like dice) and buy a small bag of ¼ inch cubes – they usually sell for about \$1 or \$1.50. Failing that, just buy a ¼ inch square dowel and cut off a small piece. Paint the whole cube white and allow it to dry. Apply a thin, even coat of white glue to three of the sides and either sprinkle white table salt over them while the glue is still wet or drop it into a small pile of salt. Allow it to dry and repeat with the final three faces.

This will look like a sugar cube, but it will never melt and will not get sticky in your pocket. This also eliminates the mess of pouring sugar from a sugar packet into the gimmick each time and prevents you having to discard both the loose sugar and the wrapper each time to clean up.

***The holiday versions of the candy usually come in wrappers that match the seasonal colors (such as silver, red and green) or the contents (such as silver with red candy canes) for white chocolate kisses with bits of peppermint candy in them. You can use whatever kind you like but change the color of the wishing papers to suit. Also, if your Kisses are just plain chocolate (not "white chocolate"), use plain, unpainted coffee beans and call it a 'cocoa bean'.

Thumb Tip Method

Start with the thumb tip and the candy kiss in one pocket and all the other necessary bits in the other. Bring out the thumb tip and candy in the same

hand, the opening of the TT upwards (obviously, right?). Bring out the wishing papers, the dime and the bean and drop them, one at a time, into the TT. Make your magical pass, recite your magical spell(s), secretly stealing the TT via your favorite method and reveal the candy Kiss.

You can also omit the tissue paper and use a single square of aluminum foil; if you make it just big enough, you can lay it out on your palm, place the "sugar" cube in the center and the bean on top of that, then wrap the foil around the bean and the cube, drop it into the TT and continue on. This makes it very easy to clean up by dumping everything as a unit out of the TT later. This same method can be done with the Pea Can handling to help speed up the presentation instead of dropping things in one at a time.

Pro Tip: Since nobody sees the Pea Can gimmick when you remove it, and since most of them still tend to talk a little when being removed from the main tube, here is a way to fix that: Wrap a little bit of Scotch tape, cellophane tape or a thin piece of clear packing tape around the gimmick in a single layer, being sure to cover the whole side of the gimmick beneath the lip, including the bevel at the bottom. If you really want to take it all the way, you can put a piece on the very bottom of the gimmick too. You can also use electrical tape, but again, make sure you only use a single layer of any tape to avoid making it difficult to remove with ease. Test the fit before using it in performance.

A Short Intro and the Script

I tend to keep a few beans, the little squares of tissue paper, the sugar cube and the dime or small ball of foil inside the gimmicked portion with the plastic cap on (you might have a cork instead of a plastic cap). I bring it out and dump everything on the palm of the participant and show them the inside of the Pea Can as being empty – just show it casually. Ask them if they know what it is, and whatever they say, that is when I begin the script.

"This is a very magical wishing machine given to me by Santa Claus a long time ago. I know it sounds silly, but we can demonstrate how it works:

[pick up a piece of the red and/or white tissue paper and drop it in the Pea Can] *A few pieces of wish paper.* **[pick up the sugar cube and drop it inside]** *A little sugar (or mint) for something sweet.* **[pick up a coffee bean and drop it inside]** *A very special cocoa bean for the magic.* **[pick up the dime or the foil bit and drop it inside]** *A little bit of silver to make it pretty.* **[place the Pea Can in their empty hand and have them hold it in a loose fist]** *Now we recite the poem to activate the spell:*

May your holidays be happy days, filled with love and laughter, and may each day bring joy your way in the year that follows. To Santa we say: I wish he may, I wish he might grant me this wish I wish tonight! [take the Pea Can back, remove the cap, secretly stealing away the gimmick portion, then slowly dump out the Hershey Kiss onto their open palm]

Merry Christmas, friend, and Happy New Year!"

Final Thoughts

The Scotty York routine ends with you stealing a small handful of Hershey Kiss candies after you dump out the one from inside the load chamber, then you shake it upside down and apparently dump out a bunch of them. This is a great ending, but with the presentation that I give above, I feel it is not necessary and may even be too much because you are talking about one very special wish, not an overabundance of wishes. Give this presentation a shot and I think you will have a lot of fun with some very good reactions.

As the dogs back home in Spain would say, "*Fleas Navidad a todos! (Fleas Navidad, everyone!)*"

One More for the Road...

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus got into the lift (elevator) at the Ritz Hotel in Paris. As the lift travelled from the 5th floor down to the ground level, one-by-one they noticed a €100 note lying on the floor of the lift. Which one picked up the €100 note and handed it in at the front desk? Santa Claus of course, the other two do not actually exist! HO, HO, HO!

My Holiday Wish by Dr. J.

Hello there! I was going to wait until the December meeting to reveal this letter but for those of you that may not be able to attend the meeting for whatever reasons, I will put it here below. This is my Christmas letter to all of you, my fellow members of the Ann Arbor Magic Club:

"Thank you all for being here tonight. I want to take a moment to read you this letter so that I might say "thank you" to each and every one of you that hear (or read) this letter. This year the club has been through some bit of turmoil, but it was not so bad that we could not fix it with a bit of hard work and some good magic.

It is my sincere hope that in the past year as your Secretary that I have been able to keep you informed about all matters in the club and that you have enjoyed the newsletters for even the past two years. I hope that they have been, at the very least, informative and at most, entertaining to read.

As your President pro-tem for the past six months, I sincerely hope that in working with the rest of the Board of Officers – Mr. Jones, Mr. Krozal and Mrs. Smith, that we have been able to create a fun group that you all feel welcome in, and where you all can come to enjoy yourselves in the company of others and share the thing that we all love: MAGIC!

Personally, I wish to thank all of you for putting your trust and your faith in me to lead the club. It has been no small task and hopefully, we are on the right track to getting the club to grow again, to having lots of fun, lots of laughs and a bright future. I also could not have done it without the help of my fellow Board members – a very big thank you to all of you!

Wherever you are and wherever you go, please remember we need YOU to help make this club a family, we need your input, your communication and for you to put your trust in us – all of that is of great value to us. Happy Christmas to all of you, my friends, and I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2019!

Yours in the Secret Art,

Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala de Cedoz, Ph.D.

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/>

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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.**