

# Magic Messenger

July 2020

I.B.M. Ring 210

S.A.M. Assembly 88

## ***A Candle in the Dark***

By Dr. J. M. Ayala – President

Welcome to July 2020 – this year has been somewhat of a surreal existence. It seems like only yesterday we were going about our normal everyday life without the persistence of bad news all day, every day. A pandemic. Isolation. Quarantine. Protesting. Violence. Death. Lather, rinse and repeat. Suddenly we are in July already and every increasingly looking forward to moving on.

How do you escape such a persistent thing that is, these days, coming at you 24/7? To quote one John Butler, “Close your eyes, open your ears and your mind and keep your feet on the ground.”

What he means by that is to turn off the televisions and phones. Go for a walk around the neighborhood or in a quiet park. Listen to the sounds around you, absorb it all in. Take the time to just find a quiet place to sit and meditate, concentrate on breathing in and out with a steady rhythm. Absorb the peace and quiet around you.

You might read a new book or re-read an old favorite, or you might (resisting temptation to watch or read the news) dive into your favorite movie or get lost in the episodes of your favourite program from yesteryear - *The Twilight Zone*, *I Love Lucy*, vintage sports games, or something like those.

It all comes down to taking time out for yourself, to re-center your mind and keeping your feet on the ground. All this may sound esoteric, eccentric, or philosophical to you, give it a try. It really works. Just simply closing your eyes and focus on breathing.

## **In Other News**

Some of you may or may not be aware that the Abbot Magic Get-Together for 2020 has been cancelled. After a lot of planning and thought they made the difficult decision in the best interest of the attendees and the community itself.

In the meantime, FAB Magic has announced that a gathering will take place in the area in August, complete with dealers, some performances, etc. Abbott Magic has nothing to do with this event, and the right to attend or stay home is yours, but if you would like further information you can contact Rick Fisher at FAB Magic. This announcement is purely for your information only.

### Meeting Information

If you did not attend the ZOOM meeting last month you missed out on one heck of a GREAT lecture by Kozmo! I am trying to get the recording so that you can check it out for yourself if you missed it, but those of you with an S.A.M. membership should have gotten notification of the lecture that he gave for the S.A.M. – the very same one he shared with us. If you log in to your membership account, you can watch it there as well!

We have been keeping an eye on the restaurant scene and have been in touch with Senate Coney Island and as it stands, we will not be able to have a meeting in person for the foreseeable future. Rest assured that as soon as we can, and as soon as we find out, you will too. That means for now, we will continue our ZOOM meetings and our next one will be **Wednesday July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. EST** – keep an eye on your inboxes for the link and remember, you can also call in with a telephone if you prefer to do that!

That is all for now. For those of you here in the United States, we wish you a fun, safe and **HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!** Remember to take care of yourself and to quote our very own **Joe Fusco**, "*May there always be magic in your lives!*"

*Dr. J.*



**How do you make a rabbit float? Put soda, syrup, and milk into a glass. Add one rabbit.**

## ***Notes from the Quill***

If you were able to join us last month for our meeting, we had none other than Kozmo Koz presenting his lecture to the group! It was very well-received, and he covered a lot of fun stuff. To summarize: He gave us some of the work on his product called *The Jar*, he talked about his Coin Matrix routine, which was inspired by John Kennedy's *Translocation*, and Koz turned that on its side!

He also talked about his adventures around the world as a street performer, gave insights to gathering crowds, getting the money and other fun stories from his past career and his life. It was a great lecture and it was very well attended, including some folks from Ring 22 and Ring 68 in Toledo! Thank you all for joining us!

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Dr. J. heard from Shirley Markley late last month and she and Jack are doing well, and she sends her best to all of you! We always look forward to seeing them when they can attend our in-person meetings!

## **Sad News...**

Sadly, the past couple of weeks have seen two great losses for the magic community. First, the co-founder of **L & L Publishing**, *Louis Falanga*, passed away on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Louis co-founded the company with Detroit native **Larry Jennings** (the two 'Ls' in L & L) and Louis eventually bought Larry out. Because of his service in creating learning and teaching videos of some of the greatest magicians in the world and in publishing some of the most lauded magic books ever written, Louis earned the nickname "The Magician-Maker". He was a huge influence on the careers of countless magicians of all types, and his legacy is secure.

Second, *Marvyn Roy*, known as "*Mr. Electric*", passed away at the age of 95 on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Marvyn had performed all over the world with his late wife, Carol. They appeared on 'The Ed Sullivan Show', 'The Merv Griffin Show', 'The Hollywood Palace', 'The Tonight Show', they played Radio City Music Hall and even opened for Liberace and Dean Martin! Marvyn was an inspiration to countless magicians over the years and while serving in WWII, as part of the second wave of soldiers to land in Normandy, he was wounded and later became a recipient of the **Purple Heart**.

Requiescat in Pacem, gentlemen.

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

Hello everyone and welcome to the Ex Libris article for July 2020! If you are a loyal reader of this column you will know that I primarily write about older books with a few newer or more modern ones here and there. This lockdown has encouraged me to read even more than I normally do and as such, I have some newer books to share with you in the coming months!

I will begin this month by introducing you to a new personal favourite – *Rubinstein Coin Magic* by **Dr. Michael Rubinstein**. At the time of writing this is still a brand-new book, a 500-page hardcover published in 2020 by R.O.P.S. Press. I was fortunate enough to have this book for almost three whole weeks before its worldwide release on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. I was able to read the entire book and worked through 95% of it so far, and I am far from finished!

If you are familiar with Dr. Rubinstein (a now-retired D.V.M.) and have studied/performed any of his previously published work, you will be already familiar with a lot of the content in this book. That should not deter you from getting this book because just about everything has been completely updated. This book includes some of his marketed items such as *Fusion*, *Smileys* and even some work on his revolutionary *Rattle Purse*. Also included are many pieces that have never been previously published in print or on video. *These* items are especially a big treat!

I will go on record right now to say that this book is destined to become a classic that belongs on the shelf of anyone interested in coin magic, and to be of similar importance to *Modern Coin Magic* by **J.B. Bobo**\* and *Expert Coin Magic* by **David Roth**\*\* (both of which have been previously featured in this column).

This book begins by teaching the sleights and moves that are used and featured in the effects and routines throughout, the first of which is a signature creation of Dr. Rubinstein, the *R.O.P.S. Move*, which stands for Retention Open Palm Steal. It is a technique for vanishing a single coin. You will also learn a few other uses for this technique. The six chapters which follow are dedicated to false counts, click passes, transfers, Spellbound moves, various subtleties, switches, changes and so much more, including his work on the very devious *Stealth Palm*, which is every bit as stealthy as it gets when used correctly!

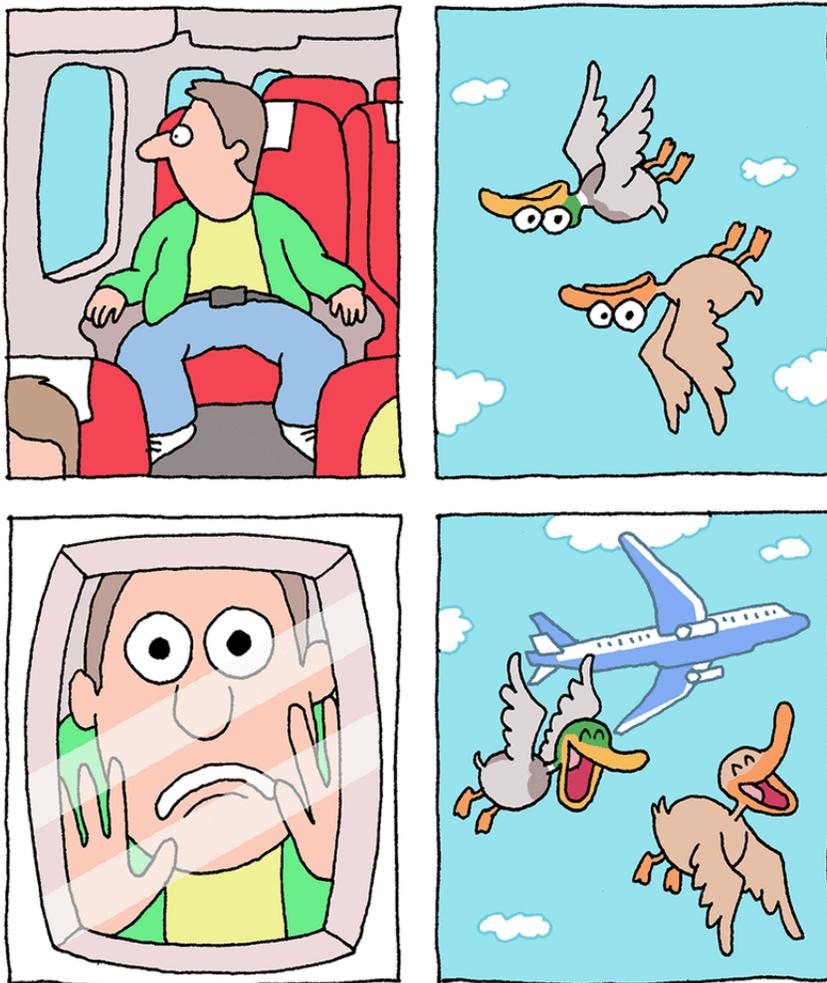
Section Two is where the fun really begins with all the routines and effects! The opening effect of Chapter Eight, *Copper/Silver*, is *The Purse and the Glass*, Rubinstein's homage to the **David Roth** *Purse and Glass* effect. This handling is also great for making use of the aforementioned Rubinstein



What do you call glass cookware in the Jamaica? Pyrex of the Caribbean!

Did you hear about the optometrist who fell into a lens grinder? He made a spectacle of himself!

I WENT TO SEE THE DOCTOR ABOUT MY SHORT-TERM MEMORY PROBLEMS – THE FIRST THING HE DID WAS MAKE ME PAY IN ADVANCE!



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AAMC Board Contacts

President: Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala / [chefayala99@gmail.com](mailto:chefayala99@gmail.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.**

**\*\*\*During the COVID-19 lockdown our in-person  
meetings are suspended. During this time, we will  
be using the ZOOM platform to host our monthly  
meetings.\*\*\***