

# Magic Messenger

June 2020

I.B.M. Ring 210

S.A.M. Assembly 88

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

by Joaquin M. Ayala

Hello everyone and welcome to June! I hope everyone has had a chance to get outside and enjoy this beautiful weather we have been getting for the past few days. It may not last long – this is Michigan after all!

Over the past few weeks, I have been having lots of conversations with many friends, colleagues, and fellow club members. One common topic has of course been the new norm of social distancing.

To that end, have you been thinking about that with regards to your magic? If so, what solutions have you come up with? I have seen and come up with some rather clever ideas for new handlings of effects like that (if I do say so myself!) One such effect is the old *Tossed Out Deck* – me and a few other magicians have had the idea of using a net on a long pole to pass some gloves around, then the deck, and then proceed with the effect. Safe, yes, *and* it injects a bit of ridiculousness into the procedure – always humorous.

A magician that some of you may be familiar with, **Robert Baxt**, performed a live show a couple weeks ago that required participation for some of his effects. For one of them, he had a table set up off to the side, along with the prop, a pump bottle of hand sanitizer and a pair of gloves. He stood off to the side as the kiddo came up, and he gave verbal instructions. He said it was remarkably successful, nobody was bored by any of the extra sanitation safety procedures and it was inherently funny because he overplayed the abundance of caution, without neglecting actual safety.

I encourage all of you to think about how you can apply this sort of idea to your own work. For some shows and effects, it will be a challenge, but that challenge could spark more than a few great ideas in unexpected ways!

In other news: Most of you should be aware by now that we are heading down the tubes a bit with our club-sponsored convention, which we will be

debuting next year. The first order of business was to choose a name for the event going forward. We sent out a poll and gave everyone eight days to submit their votes, and you did not disappoint! It was a close race for two of the names, BUT we have a WINNER! The name chosen by popular vote is [drumroll in your head now] – the **Michigan Close-up Magic Convention!**

We would like to thank all of you for participating in the voting and taking the opportunity to help name something that we will all be a part of! That task being finished, we can now move forward with the booking of the venue and we can start working on other things that need to be done. For this we have a Convention Committee, and if you would like to join the committee and help with the planning and execution of things related to the convention, get in touch with Committee Chair Sean Naes (his email is on the last page of this newsletter). All help is greatly appreciated!

Alright – enough out of me. I will see you again in a few pages for the Ex Libris article. Until then, be sensible, be safe, spread love and magic and we hope to see you next week (**Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**) for our monthly Zoom meeting!

Dr.J.

President

I FINALLY FIGURED OUT  
WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY  
BRAIN: ON THE LEFT SIDE,  
THERE IS NOTHING RIGHT,  
AND ON THE RIGHT SIDE,  
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT!

### Most Common Lies Ever Told

- 1) It didn't do it.
- 2) I'm fine.
- 3) I have read and agree to all the Terms and Conditions outlined above.

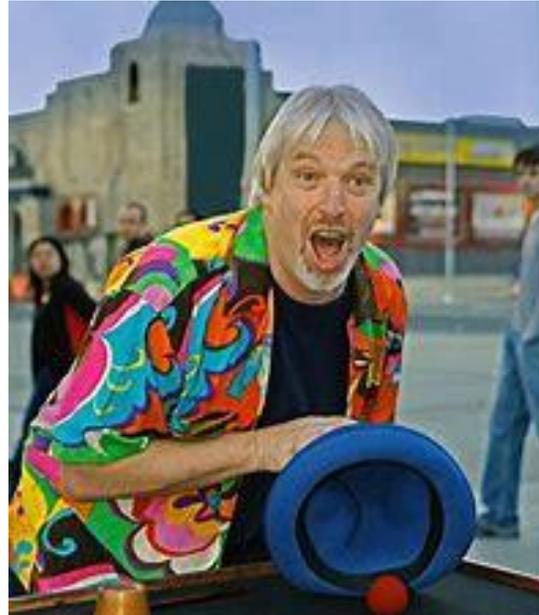
**I HAVE COME TO THE  
CONCLUSION THAT DRYER  
LINT IS THE CREMATED REMAINS  
OF ALL OF MY MISSING SOCKS.**



**PSSSST! Hey! Yeah, YOU! Dr. J. here, and I have a surprise for you!  
Our Zoom meeting next Wednesday will not be just us club  
members...we will have a guest lecturer coming in and you all get to  
be a part of it!!! So, who is this lecturer?**

**Well, you have seen me mention him before and you have seen me  
plug his online magazine as being one of the best deals in all of  
magic... [drumroll please!]**

**KOZMO KOZ** – Founder and publisher of Reel Magic Magazine ([www.reelmagicmagazine.com](http://www.reelmagicmagazine.com)), street magician, magic creator, dealer, funny and all around good guy!



This lecture is all set up, and best of all, it is FREE!  
Details will be sent in a separate email along with the link to the Zoom meeting. Keep your eyes peeled for that – this is one lecture you will not want to miss!



### ***The Machniak Mash-up***

Just a short note to recap what's been going on since the last newsletter:

We had a very good Zoom meeting. It ran almost 90 minutes. We had eight members tune in. Thanks to all that tuned in! I realize it's been very tough on everyone and I'm glad we are still interested in keeping up with what everyone else is doing.

I can also echo the President's fondness for the Paul Harris book. He's talking about a winner!

In case you haven't heard about the Abbott's Get-Together, it is being postponed till next year. I understand Greg has a few of the tote bags from this cancelled Get-Together with this year's date for sale. Do I smell a collector's item for sale?

On a lighter note:



Till next time,

**Frank**

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

Hello everyone and welcome to the Ex Libris article for June 2020! Did I just say *June*?! This year has just disappeared quickly and believe it or not it has been three months already since we started delving into the Paul Harris *Art of Astonishment* books. This month, we will wrap up our focus on that trilogy. *The Art of Astonishment Volume 3* by **Paul Harris** is a 324-page hardcover book published in 1996 by A-1 MultiMedia. As with the first two volumes this one was also published by the incomparable **Tony Dunn** and contains additional writing by **Eric Mead**.

The material in this volume follows the pattern set by the other two with everything from the classic to the quirky and outright ridiculous. One perfect example of the latter is *Peanut Butter and Jellyfish* where you cause the top slice of a peanut butter & jelly sandwich to float up off the sandwich, move around and float back down again. This can also be done with fast food burgers, etc. and yes, it really does work.

*Rumpled Splitskin* is a great bit with a signed business card that ends up as an impossible object, with the layers of two cards melded together. In *Leaf*, you tear a leaf off a tree and then restore it. How many of you remember the *Screwed Deck* where you have two solid halves of a deck that are literally screwed together, only to turn into a real deck? Well there is an impromptu version in this book! Right along with that odd bit goes *Unhinged* where a full deck inside the case is folded in half!

*The Bent Copper-Silver Transposition* is a nice bit where one of the coins is bent, and it happens in the hand of a spectator! *Sweet Stuff* is a pretty sweet transposition (pun intended!) of a coin and the sugar inside a sugar packet. For anyone that works in an office or group setting, there is an entire section dedicated to magic to suit – *Breakroom Boredom Buster* is a coincidence effect using a number of business cards which are torn in half, *The Client Confidence Sugar Shocker* is a number force using sugar packets, which I bet many of you are already familiar with. There is even a stunt called *The Burbling of a Pea* where you tilt your head back and use an air stream from your mouth to float a pea (a.k.a. *burbling*).

There is a lot of material in this book using various implements, along with essays and interviews and an experiment for how to create a real invisible human at the end. I encourage you to check out the whole trilogy but even just owning any one out of the three would provide you with plenty of excellent material to practice and perform. Until next time, take care and I hope to see (or hear) you on our next Zoom meeting! - J. M. A.

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AAMC Board Contacts

President: Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala / [chefayala99@gmail.com](mailto:chefayala99@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Don Oesterwind, Jr. / [don@safesteprecovery.com](mailto:don@safesteprecovery.com)  
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Sergeant-at-Arms: Sean Naes / [sean@naes.cc](mailto:sean@naes.cc)  
Librarian: Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala / [chefayala99@gmail.com](mailto:chefayala99@gmail.com)  
Historian: Dan Jones / [dmjones0701@yahoo.com](mailto:dmjones0701@yahoo.com)  
Webmaster: Karl Rabe / [krabe@comcast.net](mailto: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.**

**\*\*\*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.\*\*\***