

Magic Messenger

May 2020

I.B.M. Ring 210

S.A.M. Assembly 88

A Candle in the Dark by Dr. J. M. Ayala

Hello everyone! As always (and especially as of late) I hope this finds you all well and safe in May of 2020.

This article was a bit of a struggle for me to write because many things that I would normally find inspiring have been...frozen, for a lack of better term. With this current pandemic hitting the entire globe, many things have come to a sudden and abrupt halt and that has left many people in various states of social and mental despair. Having experienced this quarantine with all the technology we have available to us, just imagine what it was like back in 541 A.D. or during the Black Plague in the 14th century...

That said, the world needs all the light and magic, in whatever forms available, that it can get. Magicians around the globe seem to have understood this – in the past month there have been several lifetimes worth of free magic shows, lectures and podcasts made available for anyone with an internet connection and time, something that many of us have had an abundance of for the last month.

These offerings have come from celebrated magicians like Franz Harary, Gregory Wilson, Joshua Jay, Andi Gladwin and more. Even David Copperfield dropped into a virtual club meeting (but not ours)! It seems to me that a healthy number of magicians have realized that in dark times like these, using every resource available, it is necessary to share their magic. For the time being that platform is the whole of the internet, on YouTube and in live chat rooms using things like Zoom. The response has been overwhelming and the brother/sisterhood among magicians has been heartwarming. It would be nice to see the latter continue full steam ahead once this pandemic is over and we return to some form of normal.

Did you take advantage of any of this free content? If so, which ones? Let us know about it at the next virtual club meeting this month!

Speaking of which, we held our first ever virtual club meeting on April 15th, 2020 and it was a resounding success! There were lots of laughs and jokes, camaraderie and even a few magic effects were shared! A few members did not join in on the video, but they did connect via telephone. It might knock your socks off to learn that Dan Jones even joined in with his webcam! Dan Jones! (Dan knows we love him – just could not resist!)

We used the Zoom platform and you may have heard about the security concerns surrounding that platform. They have made some headway on preventing some of the reported issues and they are continuing efforts to make it more secure. For those of you that are not comfortable with logging onto Zoom via internet, you can still participate in the meetings using your mobile telephone or, if you still have one, a landline. The call-in numbers will be listed with the other information on our May 2020 meeting and as always if you have questions, just ask us!

Anyway, that is enough out of me for now – I wish you all well and encourage you to get outside and safely get some of that fresh air out there. The weather is starting to behave a bit better now! I hope to see many of you at the May meeting and until then be safe and stay magical!

Dr. J.

President



If you spent your day in a well, could you then say your day was well-spent?

A patient bursts into a doctor's office, "Doctor, I believe I am a deck of cards!" The doctor calmly replies, "Go sit in the waiting room, please. I'll be dealing with you later."



Note from Dr. J. – “My family and I were on a trip to the Toledo Zoo a couple years ago and we stopped on the way down to get some snacks. Imagine our delight when we discovered the newest trend in gas pumping technology: *hoseless!*”

One just for magicians:

Q: *What is black, red, black, red, black, red?*

A: *A zebra with a sun burn!*

Secretarial Musings by *The Unknown Secretary*

This newsletter will be a bit different than most because this section will be quite short – there are some things to report on the last meeting but because it was a Zoom meeting, there are no photos to share. Besides, there was more conversation than there was magic being shared. We caught the rare glimpse of the floating head of **Pam Fusco**, which was reportedly making some cookies in the Fusco kitchen, **Dan Jones** performed a quick trick using a box that was assembled, clearly empty, from which silks were then produced.

Kevin Peshick shared a Jay Sankey card effect from his free lecture that same week. Beyond that there was a lot of conversation and joking going on. **Dr. J.** and **John Machniak** had a bread pun-off at the beginning of the meeting. Both were able to rise to the challenge and in the jokes were quite crusty.

We will be having a Zoom meeting again this month and that information will be sent out again in another email. Once again, if you are not comfortable using Zoom on your computer, you can always call in to the meeting via cell phone or landline using the telephone numbers and the meeting info, which will be included in that email. Take care and be safe!

Magically,

The Unknown Secretary



Above: All suited up and ready for my COVID-19 Quarantine Magic Show!

Left: Spryte the Woodland Faery levitating a tennis ball! Just look at that concentration!

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

Hello everyone and welcome to the Ex Libris article for May 2020! If you read the article last month you will know that we started delving into *The Art of Astonishment* books by **Paul Harris**. If you did not read the article, go and read it now. I will wait... ..

Back now? Good. We will pick up again this month with *The Art of Astonishment Volume 2*. This is a 324-page hardcover book originally published in 1996 by **A-1 MultiMedia** with illustrations by **Tony Dunn** and additional writing by **Eric Mead**.

There are a lot of interesting pieces of strange in this volume. Some of the more esoteric ones include *McGimmick*, which is a way to do the old *Rice Jar Suspension* only you are suspending a McDonald's milkshake on one finger...then there is the storied *Fizz Master* where you cause the carbonation to travel from one can to another! Both of them really do work, but they seem ridiculous!

One of my absolute favorite effects is *Cardboard Connection*, a *Linking Ring* effect that uses two cards with their centers torn out. There are also some four or five variations given for the different phases. This naturally leads to the impromptu three-card version called the *Immaculate Connection*, which was performed on the *Champions of Magic II* by **Luis DeMatos**.

Overkill is a very strong and easy-to-do prediction effect with multiple prediction revelations, thus the title. *Double Decker* is an engaging presentation for an easy Color-Changing Deck and an interesting tabled false cut with a funny name, *Up the Ladder and Down Your Shorts*.

One of the best and purest coin effects ever created will be found in this book – *Twilight*, created by my friend **Tayari Casel**. The next time you talk to **Don Oesterwind**, ask him how amazing a guy Tayari is! *Twilight* is an effect that uses a mirror to produce four coins, which are eventually vanished back into the mirror. There are a few very nice variations in the book, including a version that makes parts of fingers appear! This is one of my top five coin effects that is always in my repertoire.

Some other interesting bits include *Carpet Critters*, a strange and perhaps untested way of getting the impression of a lamp rim to appear in your carpet. Most of you will no doubt be familiar with the **Harry Eng Impossible Bottles** – small glass bottles into which unaltered objects are impossibly

placed. You will learn the process and how to go about making one of your own in the section called *Eng's Bottles*.

Last month I mentioned the curiosity called the *Perpetual Motion Coin Myth* and this month I will close with the mention of another: *The Collapsing Marble Myth*. The idea is that you show a clear glass marble, which is then placed on top of a tiny eye drop bottle. The marble then slowly shrinks until it falls through the teeny tiny hole and inside the bottle. You can then shake it and hear it rattling around inside. A solution to this exists, and I have been chasing it for years, but I have yet to find the perfect blend of necessary things to make it happen.

Well that is all for this month folks – join me again next month as we wrap up our look into the AoA series with Volume 3! Keep the magic alive!

Dr. J.

A POLICE OFFICER STOPS A MINIVAN FULL OF ELDERLY LADIES BEING DRIVEN BY AN OLD GENTLEMAN BECAUSE THEY'RE ONLY GOING 25 MPH, STOPPING THE MID-DAY TRAFFIC.

THE POLICEMAN ASKS THE DRIVER WHY HE WAS GOING SO SLOW.

"WELL THAT'S THE SPEED LIMIT, ISN'T IT? THERE WAS A SIGN SAYING 25 AND EVERYTHING!" THE DRIVER DEFENDS HIMSELF.

THE POLICEMAN SIGHS, "NO, SIR, THAT'S THE NUMBER OF THE HIGHWAY YOU'RE ON. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SPEED LIMIT."

"OH, SO THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS..." SAYS THE DRIVER, LOOKING SHOCKED.

THE OFFICER LOOKS AT THE REST OF THE VAN AND NOTICES THE GRANNIES ARE LOOKING SOMEWHAT FROZEN AND STIFF.

"WHAT'S UP WITH THE LADIES?" HE ASKS THE DRIVER.

"UM..." THE DRIVER SCRATCHES HIS HEAD, "YOU SEE, WE JUST GOT OFF HIGHWAY 150..."

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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.*****

