

# Magic Messenger

## The Ann Arbor Magic Club

I.B.M. Ring 210

April 2021

S.A.M. Assembly 88

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

Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala – President

Hello everyone! We hope you have all been well and enjoying the intermittent breaks in the cool weather – it has been nice! We hope that our fellow compeers and friends down in Australia have been safe from all the horrible flooding happening down there!

On the club front there is not a whole lot of anything new happening, except that we have begun a safe-as-possible return to in-person meetings as of last month, which by the way was a resounding success! We hope and plan on meeting again this month (April), same time, same place.

Outside of the club there are some things that are making a notable return, one of which is the 83<sup>rd</sup> Abbott Magic Get-Together. As with many things this year, the event is still up in the air, but they are trying their best to make it happen this year, safely. The dates are August 4, 5 6 and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The line-up includes Lance Burton, Jeff Hobson, David Williamson, Mac King, Kevin James and many more! So far, they are ONLY selling full registrations (no spouse or youth tickets) and the cost is \$300.00/USD.

Due to conforming with city and state guidelines, they are limiting the number of registrations this year to just 500 – for more information contact **Abbott Magic Company, 124 S. St. Joseph Street Colon, MI 49040 or call 1.269.432.3235**. You can also visit the Get-Together website at [www.magicgettogether.com](http://www.magicgettogether.com) and get the information there.

Sad news came from the Toledo Ring 68 group that long-time member, clown [Homer], magician, and all-around good guy, **Harold Twaddle**, passed away on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the age of 89. If any of you knew Harold, please send your well-wishes to [sisreal@accesstoledo.com](mailto:sisreal@accesstoledo.com) (**Steve Israel, President of Ring 68**) and he can pass them along.

That is all for now – please stay happy and healthy!

Yours in Magic,

**Dr. J.**

**SIDE NOTE:** I just want to point out to everyone that EVERYONE is welcome to bring things to share and/or perform to each meeting. PLEASE, if you bring something to share and want a chance to get up and perform it, raise your hand, or speak up – I try to make sure there are ample opportunities for people to share with us and participate, and I do not want anyone feeling like they missed out or were left out! WE are a CLUB and sharing is a big part of our success!

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

Hey compeers! Last month the March meeting was very well-attended as we had about 15 people showed up plus a guest and new-member candidate, **Phil Mann!** The theme last month was meant to be "Trouble & How to Get Out of It" but it turned into more of the war story/horror stories of how many of us had gotten into a jam and there *was no way out!* There were a lot of great stories that were shared and if you missed it – sue us! (inside joke just for Sean!) Among the members that came were **Bob Goodwin, Pam Smith, Jim Molnar, John & Frank Machniak, Mike Doyle, Ming & Barb Louie, Rob Krozal, Johnny New York, Sean Naes, Dan Jones, Phil Mann, Dr. J., and Don Oesterwind!**

We had a handful of performers who shared some great stuff with us. **Treasurer Rob Krozal** brought and showed off a fantastic box that could be used to vanish, switch, or produce various items, and he had a funny bit of impromptu scripting to go with it regarding Merlin and the Round Table...um...knights...

**Vice President Dan Jones** shared some great magic with a Change Bag, including a *Mis-made Flag*, as well as a classic bit of magic with the *Sucker Die Box*. **Sergeant-at-Arms Sean Naes** shared his close-up *Linking Rings* with us, and the **President of Ring 22, Johnny New York**, was also in attendance and shared some great memorized deck magic with us! **Dr. J.** followed up with some more memorized deck magic.

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Once again, this month we will be holding our monthly meeting IN PERSON at the **Senate Coney Island 34359 Plymouth Road Livonia, MI 48150** – meetings start promptly at 7 p.m., arrive at 6 p.m. if you wish to eat! The meeting theme this month is **Show & Tell** – if you have a magic effect, a prop, book, lecture notes or other magic-related historical item that means a lot to you, please bring it along and share it with us! If it is an effect, and if suitable, perform it for us!

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## *The Funny Bone*

Apparently, it is "rude" to poke someone in the forehead and say, "Skip intro!" when they begin speaking to you...

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather...Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

The person who invented 'Knock Knock' jokes should be awarded the No-Bell Prize!

Dan Jones asked me if my refrigerator was running and I said, "Yes." He said, "Okay, see you at the race tomorrow!"

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## ***Ex Libris***

By Joaquin Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for April 2021! This month I am changing course a tad and writing this article more as a memorial. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, an old friend of mine from Spain, **Ramón Riobóo**, passed away. This article will focus on one of the greatest books, written by Ramón, that many have not heard of – *Thinking the Impossible – The Birth of Amazement Through Subtlety*.

This book was originally published in 2002 in Spain as *La Magia Pensada*, by Ramón Riobóo Bujones and Laura Avilés. The English language edition was published in 2012 by **Hermetic Press**, written **Ramón Riobóo Bujones and Stephen Minch** and translated by **Rafael Benatar**. It is a 291-page hardcover book.

The focus of this tome is card magic. Ramón was a fantastic magician who was a professional screen writer, director and journalist and he put a lot of thought into his magical art. He had a lot of great technical ability, but not necessarily in a knuckle-busting way. Ramón got a late start in magic, and while he picked up a lot, he preferred to use subtleties to fool you.

Case in point: This book is filled with magic that is pretty close to self-working card magic, and most of them use, you guessed it, quite a bit of *subtle* handlings and nuances. Nothing difficult.

He begins by describing his philosophy on magic, as well as his way of handling the basic sleights and moves used in the book – things like secret additions, crimps, Biddle Counts, and things like that. The most difficult thing in this book involves the use of a memorized deck (you must already have a stack memorized, or learn from another source), which is an immensely powerful tool worth acquiring, but is by no means required to use the material in this book.

In fact, some of the material in here is reminiscent of the **Juan Tamariz** *Verbal Magic* in that you can do the magic over the telephone, and it is absolutely stunning magic!

This book was followed by a second one written by Ramón in the same vein as this one, but that is a discussion for another time. In the meantime, I highly encourage you to check out this book. You will not only discover one of the best Spanish magicians that ever there was, but you will also learn some strong, hard-hitting magic that is not difficult to perform and in the process, pick up some different ways to execute some old moves in ways that make them better!

Yours in the Secret Art,

**J. M. A.**

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Below is an excerpt for an impromptu coin effect that, when done correctly, looks like you have done nothing, and to magicians, looks like some decent sleight of hand work. In truth, it is rather easy and highly effective, and it comes from the pages of an old periodical called "*Chaps Scrapbook*", published by Franklin "Frank" Chapman. This excerpt is from the January 1939 issue:

### SUCKER COINS

Here's a very recent addition to my impromptu list. Or, rather, recently "renovated."  
Thanks to Paul Morris!

A short time back I published, in my Genii "Corner", a coin trick involving two half dollars and a dime. The trick, as originally outlined, was good. I've used it many, many times. But it will never be used that way again. The twist that Paul Morris has added to it makes it a topper. I'll take space enough to give you both versions. You won't regret my doing so!

Place one half on left palm, and on it the dime. Other half on top of dime. Pick up both halves, by edge with first finger and thumb of right hand. Raise them about 8 or 10

inches above outstretched left palm -- holding parallel. (Don't stretch palm too tight or coins will "talk" at the crucial moment) Drop lowest half on left palm and bring right hand to position beside it. (In dropping just let go of side held by finger. Contact with thumb will cause it to revolve, carrying dime with it --underneath.) Dime has vanished! Spec turns over half on left palm -- and finds dime. Now --repeat the trick. BUT in picking them up this time, do not hold halves too close together. Leave space for dime to slip through. Bring right hand over left palm with natural swing, tilting halves so dime slips into curved right fingers. Lowest half now dropped on left palm. Other half dropped beside it. Where's the dime? Spec turns the halves over but can't find it! (Performer has quietly dropped it in side pocket.)

And now -- the Paul Morris improvement! A tiny dab of wax on one of the half dollars. The dime goes on the dab of wax. Thus eliminating all possibility of a "talking coin". In repeating the trick (for the finish) just push the dime off the wax and put it on the other side of the half dollar so it will not stick. And, as if that were not enough, Paul continues: - "Using the dab of wax, I perform the first part of the trick -- dropping one half on left palm, then the other --and asking, 'Where's the dime?' I lift up each half', without turning it over, and say, 'Gone. But we'll let this half dollar go the same way -- maybe they'll show up together.' I then take the half with dime stuck under it, hold it in right hand, close hand, sleeve the half, and say, 'Gone.' (Point, with Left forefinger, to right pocket as arm drops to side and hand catches coin from sleeve.) Then put right hand into trouser pocket (with coin), separate the dime from half, and bring 'em both out with the remark, 'Where you find one, you always find the other!' (Unquote -- It's an O.K., Paul. And I believe you've really started something. Plenty of fine moves, and unusual effects, can be had with those three coins. We'll hear more of this later!) What do YOU think about it, Mr. Scrapbook Subscriber?

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I really recommend you give this a try – it can be done with coins like quarters and dimes, more commonly seen these days, but the weight behind a half dollar is what really helps with the turnovers. Once you get that knack, you can make any sizes of coins work.

Also, as for the magician's wax: Most of us have some of that lying around, but you can also experiment with other light-duty adhesives like a piece of double stick tape that has been folded onto itself a few times, making a small bundle with a little height. You can also try using Zots, a brand of peel & stick circular tabs. The Zots also come in various thicknesses too – some are almost like a dab of hot glue.

Have fun with this one and play around with it – you will enjoy it and best of all, it is easy to do!

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