

## *Ex Libris* by Joaquin Ayala, PhD.

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for November, 2015! This month we start getting into the holiday seasons here in the U.S. It is a time for thanksgiving, a time for celebrating and a time for family. For many of us, it also means getting a unique gift for that special someone, or giving someone something that they will remember or cherish forever. Whether tangible or intangible, sometimes we never know just how impactful a gift can be.

All of this and more is the subject of our book for this month, '**Gift Magic**'. There is no singular author because it is a team effort by various members of the Jeff McBride Mystery School staff, the primaries of which are of course, Jeff McBride, Eugene Burger, Dr. Lawrence Hass, Dr. Robert Neale and George Parker. The premise of the book was to discuss the power of magic effects which leave participants with a gift, something by which to remember not necessarily the performer, but the 'moment of magic'. Each of the effects leaves the participant with a small object, and all of them are about the giving of magic as a gift. It also discusses the philosophy of gift giving, outside of just the performance of magic and there are interviews with each performer in regards to that topic. Further, 100% of the proceeds go to the **Rich Bloch Encore Foundation**, an organization focusing on helping magicians in times of terrible need.

To illustrate the idea behind the book, here is a brief description of one of the effects from the book. It is called '*A Simple Gift*' by Dr. Larry Hass. The theme of the effect is the making and procuring of wishes. I will provide the given script as the description of the effect itself.

"You know, there is magic all around us, in grand things and in simple ones...like the everyday wishes we make. Tell me: did you make a wish on your birthday this year? And did you really, truly wish it would come true? Well...touch my hand right here. I just made a wish. And it really came true! [*The performer opens their hand to reveal a little glass star.*] This wish is for you. Keep it, and sometime today make a magical wish of your own."

The effect touches on the premise of wishing upon a star. Little glass stars can be found in craft stores and if you cannot find those, you can use small glass hearts and even pennies will do. Anything that is associated with luck, in general, will work. The object can be produced in any way you like, but the simpler the better. It can begin inside a thumb tip or you can begin with it in finger palm or thumb palm. The effect is usually done one-on-one or for a small, intimate group. The whole goal of this effect (and the others in this book) is to give them an experience to remember and a token to help carry on that moment of magic.

The purpose of the book is to help you understand the true definition and purpose of gifting, what it means to give and receive them. It also helps you to look at your own magical pieces to see where you might apply these ideas. Is there something you already perform that leaves people with a unique and memorable gift (that is not a business card)? How would you use that effect to give people the best experience possible? Until next month, keep the magic alive, have a warm, safe, magical and happy holiday season!