



December 2019

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

As we approach the final month of the year 2019, I have been looking back on the past 11 months at things that I have accomplished, the things that I wanted to accomplish and which of those goals, dreams and hopes were achieved, and which ones were not.

There were quite a few that were victims of distraction as they were started, and something else took over the priority. Is this a lack of solid planning, or a lack of good time management? I think it was sometimes a little bit of both. This is a good exercise for all of us to do at the end of the year because it highlights our priorities.

Did you begin a project that took you a little longer to finish than you wanted it to? Were you happy with the outcome? Why or why not? Did you lose the ten pounds that you wanted to lose? How about reading that stack of books you bought? Which things did you spend too much time on, and which ones could you be spending a little *more* time on?

I try and do this every year for the things that I set out to do, and my goal is to try and find ways to be more efficient in the next year, and to find ways to finish the things that are important to me (and/or my family) in good time.

I hope you all have a fun, safe and wonderful holiday season. Enjoy the time with your family and friends as much as you can. I look forward to seeing all of you in happy and healthy spirits very soon! **Happy ChristmaHannuKwanzikas** everyone!

Side note: If you want to participate in a Mystery Gift Exchange for the Christmas party in December, PLEASE send me or Rob Krozal (rkrozal@yahoo.com) an email and let us know. You can pay at the meeting – the cost is \$15/person. Let's have some fun at the party!

Yours in the Secret Art,

Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala de Cedoz
President

Secretary's Report:

AAMC November, Magic Collections

Almost all magicians have collectables whether it's special cards, posters or just an old prop for magic.

Dan Jones brought a few of his favorites, a large framed picture of Harry Blackstone Jr. and himself, a smaller picture taken of Harry Blackstone Jr. from the audience and a signed white handkerchief. Dan also had a signed playing card and picture of Larry Thompson, 'Mr. Whoodini' on Bozo the Clown.

Dan also showed a booklet put together by fellow member Bob Goodwin on Math Magic Routines and Number Forces.

Ken Magee has some large poster's, one six foot by 4 foot of "Alexander The Man Who Knows" and a second of the French version poster "El Gran Houdini with Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh".

Sean Naes had an interesting object that he made out of silver called the Sator Square. The Sator square or Sator Arepo is a Christian enigma beyond words. The earliest known appearance of the square was found in the ruins of Pompeii and is thought to be a hidden way for early Christians to signal their presence to each without fear of exposing themselves to persecution

Randy A. Smith, Secretary





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

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for December 2019! Recently I had attended an event where the best of the best products for a company were highlighted, and it was based on the annual revenue of each of the products. It was very interesting to see the variety of things that were named, as well as the parameters for being the “Best of the Best” for the year.

This reminded me of a book that was long out of print, which was recently rereleased this year (about a month or so ago), which is the focus of our article this month. It is a book called *Best of All Worlds* – a 377-page, hardcover book published in 2009 by The Magic Apple in California. It was written and compiled by **Brent Arthur** and **James Geris**, with **Bob Postelnik** and **Duppy Demetrius**, and it was illustrated by **Stephen Mitchell**. As mentioned above, it sold out rather quickly and has been out of print since the first run, and it was rereleased again due to popular demand.

If you have not figured it out per the title, this book focuses on various ways and means of performing one of the greatest card effects (if not *the* greatest card effect ever created – *Out of this World* (a.k.a. *OOTW*) created by **Paul Curry** back in 1942. If you are unfamiliar with the effect: Two face-up marker cards, one red and one black, are placed on the table. Using their intuition as to the color they think each face down card is, a spectator deals cards face down one at a time onto the marker cards. After a bit the marker cards are swapped from one side to the other and the intuitive dealing process repeated. At the end the blindly dealt cards are found to be perfectly separated into reds and blacks along with their marker cards!

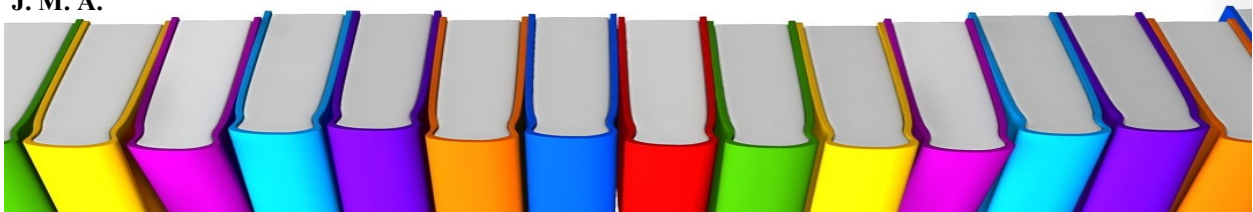
This is a very strong impossibility and the effect is not difficult to do. This book gives you many variations and it is even broken up into sections like *OOTW* with a $\frac{1}{4}$ deck, $\frac{1}{2}$ deck or full deck, gimmicked versions, ungimmicked versions, versions requiring a bit of set up, impromptu versions and more. The contributor list reads like a Who’s Who of magic: **Paul Curry, Alan Ackerman, Michael Ammar, Eugene Burger, Aldo Colombini, Steve Draun, Ed Marlo, Doc Eason, Norman Gilbreath, Martin Gardner, U.F. Grant, Roberto Giobbi, JK Hartman, Herb Zarrow, Gary Ouellet, Gregory Wilson, Juan Tamariz** and MORE! Whew!

Now, normally I would not necessarily talk about video products in these articles, but this one is relevant to the topic and very much worth mentioning. It is a marketed item called *Off World* by **Jean-Pierre Vallarino**. It uses a special deck that is a one-trick pony, but oh-so-worth-it! This version of *OOTW* is done with the deck *FACE UP!* The spectator does not handle the deck in this case (nor can they), but that is okay. The effect is the same, but they are naming the color they think the second-from-top card is, and because of how this handling works, they are always right! This is also worth checking out if the plot intrigues or interests you. Better still, your teacher is the excellent **Gregory Wilson** who is a great teacher and does a great job with everything.

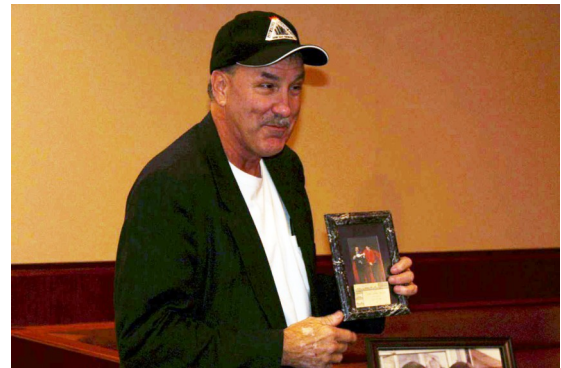
Well, that is all for this month folks – have a fun, safe and Happy ChristmaHannuKwanzikas!

Yours in the Secret Art,

J. M. A.



- ◆ Should vegetarians eat animal crackers?
- ♠ Daylight Savings Time - why are they saving it and where do they keep it?
- ♥ Buy your thermometers in the wintertime. They're much lower then.
- ♣ If your feet smell and your nose runs, you're likely built upside down.



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Have a question / suggestion / comment / contribution? We would love to hear from you! Get in touch with us!

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.

Bring a guest to a meeting! Perform! Join a Committee!