

S.A.M Assembly 88

April 2026

I.B.M. Ring 210

# The Magic Messenger

ANN ARBOR  
MAGIC  
CLUB

I.B.M. Ring 210 & S.A.M. Assembly 88

April for April  
streaming onstage at  
our March Meeting

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- March Meeting
- Magic Mann

ANN ARBOR  
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# Annual Calendar

Apr 08	April Meeting – Close Up Contest
May 13	May Meeting – Kranzo Lecture
Jun 10	June Meeting
Jun 15 - 18	AAMC Magic Summer Camp
Jul 08	July Meeting
Aug 12	August Meeting
Aug 15	AAMC Picnic
Sep 09	September Meeting
Sep 26	Flea Market
Oct 10	Parlor Show – Afternoon
Oct 10	Parlor Show – Evening
Oct 14	October Meeting – Parlor Competition
Nov 11	November Meeting
Dec 09	December Meeting – Holiday Party
Dec 09	AAMC Board Elections

## Other Events

Apr 21	Detroit Magic Club Meeting
Apr 25	Michigan Magic Day 2026

Subscribe: [iCal](#) | [gCal](#) | [Outlook](#)

# Coming Up



16 APRIL 2026  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

REPEATING EVENT

Zoom Meeting

[VIEW DETAIL](#)



13 MAY 2026  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

## MAY MEETING – KLANZO LECTURE

Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170

[VIEW DETAIL](#)



10 JUNE 2026  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

## JUNE MEETING

Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170

[VIEW DETAIL](#)



15 - 18 JUNE 2026  
12:00 AM - 12:00 AM

## AAMC MAGIC SUMMER CAMP

Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170

[VIEW DETAIL](#)

# The Magic Messenger

The Magic Messenger is published monthly by the Ann Arbor Magic Club (AAMC). The AAMC the Hank Moorehouse Assembly 88 of the Society of American Magicians and Duke Stern Ring 210 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

The AAMC (est. 1971) is a Michigan Domestic Non-Profit whose focus is to advance the magical arts by making available equipment, education, mentors and opportunities for magical enthusiasts of all ages to expand their craft.

## Ann Arbor Magic Club Board of Directors

President.....Sean Howell  
Vice-President.....Wendy Stone  
Treasurer.....Rob Krozal  
Secretary.....Karl Rabe  
Sgt at Arms.....April Barrett

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The Ann Arbor Magic Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of each month at 7p at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

### Plymouth Community Arts Council

774 N. Sheldon Road at Junction Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170

Published by Karl Rabe using Generate Press Theme and Generate Blocks Plugin on WordPress.

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I.B.M. Ring 210 & S.A.M. Assembly 88

## In This Issue

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- The Vanishing Archives
- Funny Business





# The Ring Report

By Club Secretary Karl Rabe

Vice-President **Wendy Stone** presided over this month's meeting while President **Sean Howell** is away performing at the Bay Area Renaissance Festival in Florida. With the room full and energy high, we jumped straight into our **Featured Performer**.

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## Featured Performance – Phil Mann, *The Magic Mann*

Phil opened with a beautiful rose-themed sequence: single roses appeared, vanished, and multiplied until a full **bouquet of a dozen roses** bloomed in his hands.

He followed with a lively take on **The Yellow Bandana**, then closed by transforming delicate **soap bubbles into a solid glass sphere**, delighting the younger audience members.

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## Summer Camp Reminder

Karl reminded everyone that we are still seeking a few more volunteers for our **Magic Summer Camp for Kids**. Details and sign-ups are available on the club website.

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## Learning Session – Led by Mike Thornton

Mike guided members through practical card handling, including:

- Basic **false cuts**
- Smooth **false shuffles**
- A couple of reliable **card forces**

Everyone had decks in hand and time to practice the moves together.

# Member Performances

## ★ Robert Langefeld

Robert kicked things off with a slick **Sharpie-through-card** effect using a gimmick he built himself. The marker slid sideways through the card in full view before everything returned to normal.

## ★ Mike Bogdas

With **Lincoln Stone** assisting, Mike performed a comedy prediction routine. His “perfect match” turned out to be a **mirror**, only for him to flip it over and reveal the *real* correct prediction after all.

## ★ Karl Rabe

Karl shared a trio of what he calls “**Stupid Card Reveals.**”

- A classic Karrell Fox gag he first saw at the Grand Hotel: the failed search ending with the chosen card’s pips reflected on his sunglasses.
- A jumbo **Panella-style** reveal where the selected card appears between two blank boards.
- A quick comedic kicker to close the set.

## ★ Chuck Kimbrough

Chuck amazed the room by locating a selected card from a shuffled deck **behind his back**, with the deck sealed back inside the box.

## ★ April Barrett

April demonstrated how to twist a short string of beads into a tiny **bead dog**, balloon-animal style. She followed with a charming **Easter-themed change bag routine**, finishing with the production of a long, multicolored paper streamer.

## ★ Dan Jones

Dan performed a clever routine where the spectator ultimately selected the **only non-blank card** in the entire deck.

## ★ Ryan Hoffman

Performing for the club for the first time, Ryan delivered a smooth card routine in which his spectator, **Mike Bogdas**, impossibly located **all four aces**.

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## Social Time

We wrapped up the evening with a relaxed half hour of **socializing and jamming**, sharing ideas, moves, and good conversation.

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## Hocus Focus

By various club photographers

Hocus Focus is member photo contributions. If you have photos you want to share post them on our private Facebook page under the meeting they were taken at.





By *Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala, PhD*

## Max Malini: King of Magicians – Magician of Kings by Steve Cohen

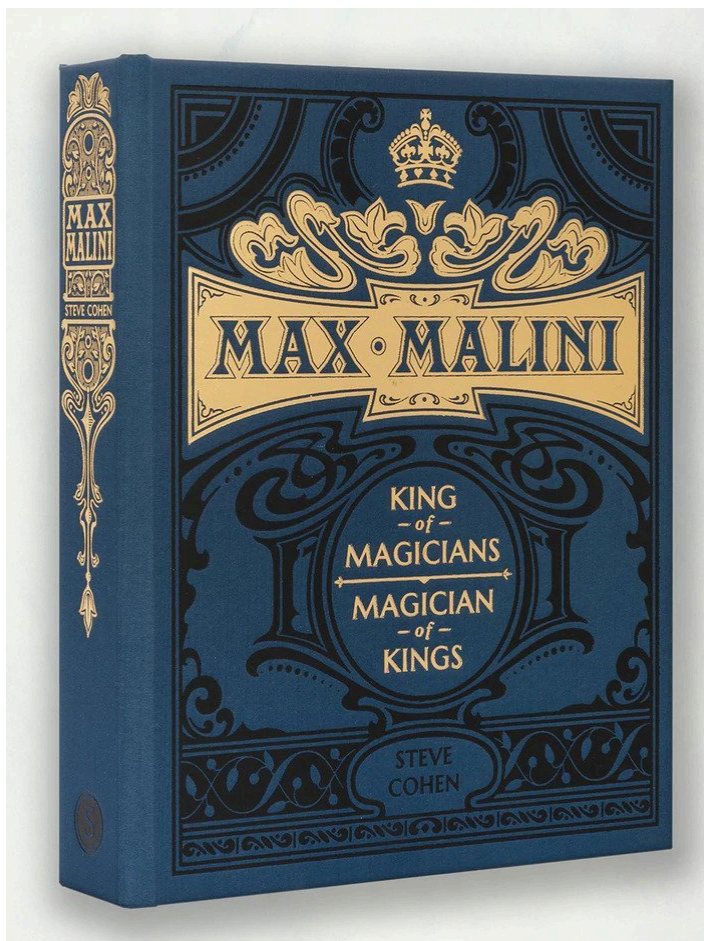
Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for April 2026! I know I bid you all a good incoming Spring season last month, and for most of you, that has been mostly the case. As for me, we

received a massive dump of snow from an historic blizzard on March 16th and 17th, which completely our car and half of our house. Thankfully, no damage occurred, but the icy conditions did remind me of something, which brought me to the book for this month.

Most of you will have heard a lot about the magician named Max Malini. He was famous for many things and quite a few quotes, but how much do we really know about the man behind his own legend? Max Malini: King of Magicians – Magician of Kings by Steve Cohen is a 521-page 8 x 10 format hardcover book, originally published in 2021 by Squash Publishing in Chicago, IL.

Many readers will know the author Steve Cohen, whose Off-Broadway show, Chamber Magic, is one of the longest-running, highly successful formal parlour shows in the history of the art. He is famous for his Any Drink Called For with the magic tea kettle, and of course, his expertise on Max Malini. He has also authored articles and small booklets for the magic community as well.

This book is genuinely luxurious, everything from the blue gilt book cloth and the textured end papers to the period-style Smyth-bound glossy archival paper. This book even weighs in at an impressive FIVE pounds! Cohen begins the book by covering the early life and the beginning of Malini himself, addressing some of the things that people already know or have heard about, and correcting some minor inaccuracies about that knowledge. There are some funny Yinglish quotes in there, to boot!



The first eight chapters cover a myriad of topics, from biographical information on Malini and his family, his business practices, his reputation (he was truly a well-respected man and magician),

his travels and exploitations, along with lots of photos (both colour and B&W), illustrations and poster reproductions. There are even a few magical techniques and one-off effects thrown in here and there for good measure. I thoroughly enjoyed this portion of the book because it was very well-written and covered a lot about an iconic magician, giving you insights to his charisma and character that were interesting, both on a professional and personal level.

The rest of the book is dedicated to his body of work across five further chapters (fourteen total), including impromptu magic and techniques such as palming, vesting, ditching of objects, etc. Some of the effects detailed in the impromptu section will be familiar to those of you who have read various beginner magic books, effects like Ring on Stick, coin vanishing/manipulation, impromptu Cups & Balls, Cut & Restored String, Obedient Matchboxes, and the Vanishing Glass Under Newspaper (which often performed with a coin and a saltshaker). These handlings, however, contain the Malini Touch. Among my favourites here include his equally famous Button Biting – wherein you bite the button off the jacket of an unsuspecting person and then restore it. The method(s) are varied, and not truly impromptu, but stellar if you can pull it off, and they are just oh, so Malini!

Among the effects in this chapter is the Brick from Hat, which leads right into the legendary “holy grail” effect for which Malini is best known: his production of a big block of ice from under his hat. Just think of the impossibility, given all that you know about ice, time, and whatnot...This is covered in great detail, including how anything can so easily become so legendary.

Chapter ten covers card magic, including several standard card sleights adapted by Malini. The effects themselves are all good, but they are nothing terribly uncommon among studied card workers. They include things like the General Card (one of my favourite effects, also related to Everywhere and Nowhere and The Universal Card), Card to Mouth, Card on Ceiling/Wall, Rising Cards and even a multiple-selection routine.

One killer bit that is hidden among these is under the subtitle of Gutter Magic. It details the story about Malini planting a worn and beat-up card for something that could potentially happen later, but which also may never come to fruition. Absolutely brilliant and very, very powerful. Side note: If you have seen the At the Table LIVE lecture by Nicholas Einhorn, you may remember that this idea was used in conjunction with a Rainbow Deck routine, which, in my opinion, is one of the strongest things ever. If you have not seen this lecture, you can find it through your favourite dealer as a DVD or a download. VERY HIGHLY recommended!



Chapter Eleven covers Platform Magic, things like Color-Changing Silks, Cut & Restored Rope (which includes some work by Detroit-native magician Bob Stencil), Button Biting (again, with different methodology), Chinese Linking Rings, Chinese Water Bowl Production and two more legendary (there's that word again) effects, the Malini Egg Bag and the Blindfold Card Stab, the latter two being effects most associated with Malini outside the ice block production, in my opinion. Both effects receive a veritable workshop's worth of space in this book, and rightly so.

The Blindfold Card Stab and the Malini Egg Bag were effects also associated with another megastar of magic, the venerable Johnny Thompson, who certainly popularized both with a modern audience, alongside magician Bob Sheets, who gives his insightful thoughts to the Card Stab herein.

Chapters Twelve, Thirteen and Fourteen cover a bit more about Malini and his magical philosophy, as well as his obituary in Yiddish and Japanese. The rest of the almost-100 pages covers the appendices I-III and the acknowledgements for this book. In 2026 a second edition was printed and released; the second printing includes minor corrections, updates, and additions, as well as a new binding color, but is not substantially different in content from the first edition. It is also exactly the same in terms of its luxurious features.

Until next month (May?!?!), keep the magic alive and enjoy whatever weather you have – we may be snow-free by July up here!

-jma



# The Vanishing Archives

**By Mike Bogdas**

As I flip through dusty old magic club magazines from years gone by, it's fun to revisit the creative ways our Ann Arbor Magic Club kept the wonder alive before everything went digital. Back then, sharing a great lecture meant more than just hitting play — it often involved real effort, creativity, and a touch of old-school showmanship that feels charmingly antique today.

Remember when our in March meeting of 1985 was grandly advertised as “M&M Nite” and Ron Sturgell single-handedly turned the church basement into a 1980s Blockbuster? In an era before smartphones could hold an entire magic library in your pocket, Ron heroically dragged in a television the size of a small refrigerator and a VCR that looked like it could double as a medieval torture device. He wrestled that beast into the room with all the grace of a magician attempting the Miser's Dream with bowling balls.

The payoff was pure gold: first up, the legendary Ed Marlo calmly demonstrating card sleights so devious they still make today's Instagram card flourishes look like a toddler playing with Uno cards. Then came the riotous Tom Mullica show, taped live at The Tom Foolery in Atlanta—a man so smooth he could vanish cigarettes, bills, and probably your dignity, all while leaving a room full of jaded magicians howling with laughter. And because nothing says “sophisticated magic lecture” quite like a giant bowl of M&Ms being passed around the room with the precision of a classic Cups and Balls routine, we had Marlo, Mullica, and M&Ms—proof that even the treats were performing sleights of hand that night.

Fast-forward to today, and we just pull out a phone, tap once, and boom—same classics appear instantly. No extension cords that could trip a herd of elephants, no frantic rewinding, and zero chance of the tape getting tangled like a botched linking rings routine. Times have definitely changed, but the magic remains eternal!



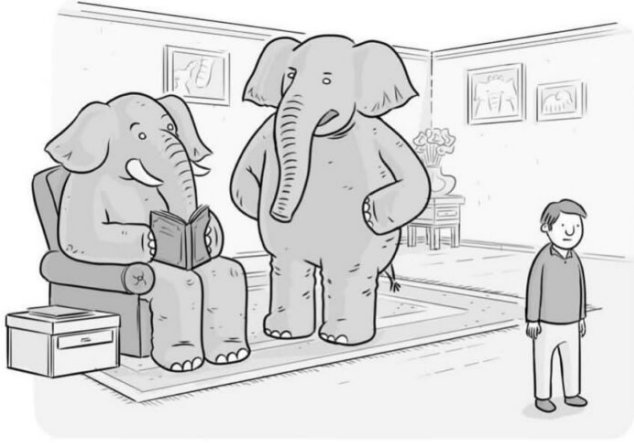
# Funny Business

**Various Contributors**

Your board hard at work!



# One of the Kings of Funny Business Soupy Sales!



*"It's time we talked about the Carl in the room."*

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