

IBM Ring 210

May 2026

IBM Ring 210

The Magic Messenger



Eric Bedard wins Close-up Contest

IN THIS ISSUE

- Close-up contest results
- A corny roast from Mike B
- A new book review



Annual Calendar

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

May 03	Ring 22 Joshua Messado Lecture
May 19	Ring 22 Monthly Meeting
Jun 16	Ring 22 Michael Bregar Lecture

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Coming Up



May 13 2026

MAY MEETING – KRANZO LECTURE

Plymouth Community Arts Council
 Club Events, Lectures, Monthly Meetings
 AAMC



May 20 2026

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

REPEATING EVENT

Zoom Meeting
 Board Meetings, Club Events
 AAMC



Jun 10 2026

JUNE MEETING

Plymouth Community Arts Council
 Club Events, Monthly Meetings
 AAMC



Jun 15 - 18 2026

AAMC MAGIC SUMMER CAMP

Plymouth Community Arts Council
 Class, Signup

AAMC



Jul 08 2026

JULY MEETING

Plymouth Community Arts Council
 Club Events, Monthly Meetings
 AAMC



Aug 12 2026

AUGUST MEETING

Plymouth Community Arts Council
 Club Events, Monthly Meetings
 AAMC

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.



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

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

The Ann Arbor Magic Club meets the 2nd 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

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The President's Corner

By Sean Howell

Fellow Magicians, last month's meeting was a fantastic showcase of talent as we held our annual close-up competition—and what a night it was! With a full slate of six performers, the room was packed with strong magic, bold presentations, and just enough mystery to keep even the saltiest old sea dogs guessing.

A hearty thank you to all who stepped up and shared their magic:

- Eric Bedard
- Ryan Hoffman
- Chuck Kibrough
- Ming Louie
- Michael Thornton
- Robert Langefeld

And a well-earned congratulations to our winner, **Eric Bedard**, whose performance rose above the rest and claimed the treasure. Nicely done!

Events like this are the lifeblood of the Ann Arbor Magic Club. It's not just about fooling your fellow magicians (though that's always a worthy quest), but about sharpening your craft, testing new material, and supporting your crew along the way. Whether you were performing or watching from the crowd, you helped make the evening a success.

Now then—set your sights on the horizon, because this month we've got a real prize coming aboard.

We're excited to welcome Nathan Kranzo, presenting his latest magic lecture. Nathan has spent over two decades performing and lecturing across the United States, Europe, and Asia, earning his reputation as a creative powerhouse and a practical thinker in the art of magic.

He's the author of seven magic books and the creator of hundreds of original effects, with work published in *MAGIC*, *GENII*, *MUM*, *The Linking Ring*, *PENUMBRA*, and beyond. He's also served as a columnist for *MUM* magazine.

Nathan has consulted for Penn and Teller, appeared on *Wizard Wars* and *Houdini and Doyle*, and was most recently featured on *The Amazing Magicians*, which held the #1 spot in China for ten straight weeks.

In short—this is no ordinary deckhand. This is a master of the craft, and a lecture you won't want to miss.

So hoist the sails, gather your gear, and make your way to the next meeting. Opportunities like this are part of what makes our club such a treasure.

Until then, keep practicing, keep performing, and as always—

Keep the magic alive,
Sean "Cap'n Sean" Howell
President
Ann Arbor Magic Club



Ring Report

By Karl Rabe

We had a great turnout for our annual Close-Up Competition. Six members performed at six different tables while spectators watched. After a 5 minute performance, the Captain Sean rang the bell and the performers rotated to the next table while the audience stayed put. In this way each audience member was able to see each performer's act.



Close-Up performers Chuck, Eric, Mike, Sean (Emcee), Robert, Ryan and Ming

- Ryan Hoffman performed a card routine from Card College. Two cards selected from a shuffled deck were returned to the deck and completely mixed. Ryan was then able to find the selected cards.
- Chuck Kibrough kicked off turning the back of a freely selected card green in the spectator's hands. The rest of the deck had red backs. Chuck finished by causing two quarters to appear, one at a time, under a glass sitting on top of a deck of cards in his hands.
- Ming Louie performed a classic of magic Coins Through Table, taught to Ming by Slydini himself. Four silver dollars magically pass through the table one-by-one.
- Eric Bedard - Started with a fantastic multi-phase card warp routine with a bill and a card that ended with a flash card restoration. Next was an ambitious card routine with an Omni Deck (Clear block of plastic) finale.
- Mike Thornton kicked off with a multi-phase sponge bunny routine intermixed with lots of little bits-of-business including squeakers, fake viagra and other jokes and gags. Mike then closed a with an entertaining Chop Cup routine using a lemon and lime for the final loads.
- Robert Langefeld, one of our newer members, kicked off with a three coin routine. The coins vanished from his hands one-by-one and then reappeared. For a finale, the last coin transformed into a packet of one dollar bills. After passing several out for examination, Robert changed the ones to twenties and then back again. And finally, using one of the bills, Robert seamlessly transitioned into a multi-phase bill penetration using a pencil.

After the performances were complete, members voted on their top three favorites. After all the ballots were counted, our president Sean Howell awarded the coveted Close-Up Trophy to Eric Bedard. Mike Thornton and Robert Langefeld were a close second and third respectively.

Congratulations to all our contestants. It was great to see some newer performers bravely get out there and show their stuff. That is what our club is all about!



Hocus Focus

By Various Contributors

We got some great pictures of our close up performers and audience members at our meeting.

The Magic Messenger



Ming Louie



Ming performs for a guest, Lincoln and Ken



Rob, Barbara and Don



Ryan Hoffman



Mike Thornton



Eric performs for Brian, Austin and Mike Reuter



Chuck Kimbrough



Dan, Mike & Charlie



Robert Langfeld



Robert performs for Jody, John and Bob



Ming Louie

Around the Town

By Karl Rabe


Next Meeting




May Meeting – Kranzo Lecture

We are pleased to welcome a good friend of the AAMC back for a lecture. Nathan Kranzo will be lecturing for our May Meeting. This event is free to all AAMC Members in good standing. \$10 for Detroit and Toled...

 13 MAY

 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

 Plymouth
Community Arts
Council

774 N. Sheldon
Road, Plymouth, MI
48170

 AAMC

[VIEW DETAIL](#)

Volunteer's Needed

15 - 19
JUN

AAMC MAGIC SUMMER CAMP

Monday, Plymouth Community Arts Council

EVENT DETAIL




Other Events

MAY 2026



May Meeting – Kranzo Lecture

We are pleased to welcome a good friend of the AAMC back for a lecture. Nathan Kranzo will be lecturing for our May Meeting. This event is free to all AAMC Members in good standing. \$10 for Detroit and Toledo members and \$15 for all...




 **13 MAY**
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
 Plymouth Community Arts Council
774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170



Ring 22 Monthly Meeting

Repeating Event

Our friends at The Detroit Magic Club (Ring 22) generally meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Please check their Calendar to confirm

 **19 MAY**
 7:15 PM - 9:30 PM
 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
749 W. 14 Mile Rd., Clawson, MI 48017



Monthly Board Meeting Repeating Event

All members in good standing are welcome to join the AAMC Monthly Board Meetings which are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month from 10am to 11am via zoom.

20

MAY

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Zoom Meeting

JUNE 2026



June Meeting

The Ann Arbor Magic Club meets the second Wednesday of each month. Anyone with an interest in magic is welcome to show up to a meeting and see what it is all about.

10 JUN

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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



AAMC Magic Summer Camp

Magic Summer Camp is co-hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC) and the Ann Arbor Magic Club. As a volunteer you will teach kids magic. The camp runs Monday through Friday from 9am to Noon. If you can not attend every...

15 - 18 JUN

12:00 AM - 12:00 AM

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



Ex Libris

By Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala, PhD

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for May 2026 (YIKES!) I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the revival of life in the northern hemisphere!

This month I was feeling a tad nostalgic. When I was still performing magic full-time, one of my staples and my biggest upsell for my corporate clientele was doing private parlor shows for their employees, after hours, at the trade shows. It is one of my favorite performance formats because it allows for a wide variety of effects while keeping the groups a little more intimate.

Since our club also performs parlour shows for the public on occasion, it reminded me of a most wonderful book that was released back in 2020, *Parlour Tricks* by **Rhys "Morgan" Jones** and **Robert "West" Tay (Morgan & West)**. It is a 356-page hardcover book and published by Vanishing, Inc. Magic. It is another luxurious book with a green leather cover, gilded titling and even comes with a handy sewn-in bookmark.



In this tome you will find quite the variety of material, all of which, in this case, comes from the show the duet performs in the real world. The material within is not something you will learn and then go out and perform in a show, especially not by yourself, without some work in making it fit the style and personality of your own duet. If you plan to perform these effects on a solo level, be prepared to do some work. I say this not to scare you away from this book, but just as something to be aware of.

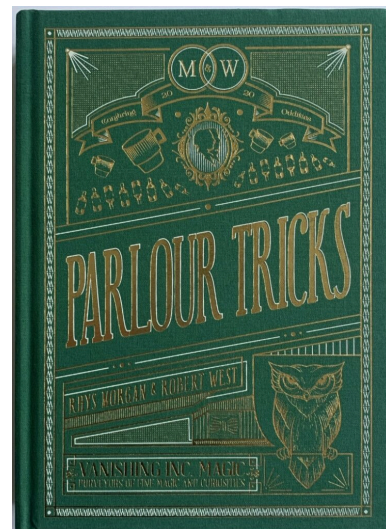
First off, their style is that of a Victorian-era vaudeville-esque setting, and the effects are written so that the characters play off each other. There is plenty of by-play, and the philosophies and theories that the authors share is quite profound, based on their solo work and their working together as a duet.

That all being said, everything in this book can absolutely be updated and changed to fit any modern style and situation. There is some work on a costume quick change, a wonderful use of an Impossible Bottle (unfamiliar with this one? Look up Harry Eng Impossible Bottles), one of the best Cards Across solutions I have ever used, and some very clever two-person code work. I really appreciate their approach to creating theatricality, writing the audience into the show and some of

their other thoughts on developing an act for a modern show, and all of this can be applied to you, whether you are a solo act, a close-up performer, a parlour performer or even part of a duet.

Many of you will be familiar with our own wonderful duet from the AAMC, **Bill and Karl Rabe** and one of their signature pieces is the *Multiplying Bottles*, which gets the Morgan & West treatment in this book as an opener called *The Restarting Bottle*, and the way they perform it reminds me of the playful nature that the Rabe duo exudes in their interpretation.

In TOCA (Thought of Cards Across), you see ten black cards and ten red cards; one person merely thinks of a card, and it travels across to the other pile. In this case, it requires a gaffed set of cards (the official set made by Card Shark, and only \$35.99/USD at the time of this writing) and it is super, super clean! There is a wonderful effect using a ribbon, a bag and a borrowed finger ring and a bunch of random rings with a startling finish. *The 40 Digit Hyperbrain Act* would especially be enjoyed by our mathematical magic wizard, **Bob Goodwin**. There is even a very intriguing transposition between two people involving a waistcoat, a shoe...and a carrot!



As a bonus, this book includes a link to a live performance of Morgan & West showcasing the material in the book. Including this was a great idea because of the nature of the act and the effects it contains. It gives you a chance to see the magic come alive off the page, to see their interpretation of it, and to also give you a chance to see how you would have to change it to suit your own needs. In my own head, I can see performers like duos of Karl & Bill, **Don Oesterwind/Dan Jones** and for all the wonderful work he does, even solo performers like **Lincoln Stone** taking the material in here to all new heights and styles.

That is all for this month, so please join me again in June as we get ready for summer and get ready for another study assignment...the fun kind!

J.M.A.



The Vanishing Archives

By Mike Bogdas

Some traditions in magic never truly vanish—they just get better with age, like a well-worn deck that still forces the ace of spades every time. Back in 1995, the Ypsilanti crew showed how a close group of magicians can turn a simple backyard corn roast into something truly special. Why did the magician bring corn to the club picnic? Because he heard it was a-maize-ing for close-up work! Today, that same spirit lives on in our club, complete with endless card tricks and the occasional silk that refuses to stay vanished.

From M-U-M Assembly Report

We held our annual Corn Roast at the home of Harry and Mary Colestock. This has become a favorite event of our club. It is a chance for us to bring together our families for an afternoon of eating, magic, and fun. It is also a time to see old friends who have not been around for a while. The turnout was good and we could not ask for a more beautiful day. Everyone brought a dish to pass and the Colestocks provided the delicious sweet corn from their garden.

After stuffing ourselves on the large quantity of food, we began doing our favorite magic tricks. People broke into groups to exchange stories and catch up on what's been happening. Randy Shaw demonstrated his skill with many different card tricks. Chris Moss demonstrated some of his new equipment, and many of the youngsters were trying their hand at juggling (outside, of course).

There were old friends we hadn't seen in a while and new faces (including many children and future magicians). We had scheduled a lecture, but it was canceled at the last minute because the lecturer could not make it. Of course, there was talk about the many club events coming up, such as the Flea Market, Faith In Action, and Michigan Magic Day 1996. All in all, it was a wonderful time.

And just like that, another slice of magic history refuses to stay vanished. The Ann Arbor gang showed us that a backyard corn roast—complete with sweet corn, card tricks, and impromptu

juggling—can still deliver the real goods. It's the same spirit our Ann Arbor Magic Club tries to capture every summer with their own picnics: good food, great company, and just enough magic to keep the grown-ups smiling (since the kids rarely show up anyway). And hey, we're still running those flea markets and hosting Michigan Magic Day all these years later—proof that some traditions refuse to vanish, even if the scheduled lecturer occasionally does.



Funny Business

By Karl Rabe and various contributors

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