

IBM Ring 210

August 2026

IBM Ring 210

The Magic Messenger

**Davy Rothbart's
Family Performs
the Sword Chest**

IN THIS ISSUE

- Club Wins IBM Award
- Flea Market News
- Past President Jim Ruth



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

Annual Calendar

Aug 12	August Meeting
Aug 15	AAMC Picnic
Sep 09	September Meeting
Sep 26	Flea Market
Oct 14	October Meeting – Parlor Competition
Nov 11	November Meeting
Dec 09	December Meeting – Holiday Party
Dec 09	AAMC Board Elections

Other Events

Aug 05 - 08	Abbott's 88TH Get-together
Aug 18	Ring 22 Monthly Meeting
Oct 24	Parlor Show – Afternoon
Oct 24	Parlor Show – Evening

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

Coming Up



Aug 12 2026

AUGUST MEETING

Plymouth Community Arts Council
 Club Events, Monthly Meetings
 AAMC



Aug 15 2026

AAMC PICNIC

Kracken Acres
 Social Event
 AAMC



Aug 19 2026

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

REPEATING EVENT

Zoom Meeting
 Board Meetings, Club Events
 AAMC



Sep 09 2026

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Plymouth Community Arts Council
 Club Events, Monthly Meetings
 AAMC



Sep 26 2026

FLEA MARKET

St. Priscilla's Catholic Church
 Open House, Signup
 AAMC



Oct 14 2026

OCTOBER MEETING – PARLOR COMPETITION

Plymouth Community Arts Council
 Club Events, Competition, 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

My Fellow Compeers,

If there's one thing I've learned from spending ten years at sea, it's that no ship reaches its destination without a good crew. The same holds true for Ring 210.

This month, our club received some outstanding recognition at the International Brotherhood of Magicians National Convention. The **IBM Effective Achievement Award** was presented to the **Ann Arbor Magic Club (Ring 210)**—an honor that belongs to every member who has ever volunteered, lectured, performed, sold tickets, set up chairs, greeted guests, or simply showed up ready to support the club.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to **Wendy, Lincoln, and Don**, who were at the convention to proudly accept the award on behalf of Ring 210. They represented us with class, and we appreciate them standing watch for the rest of us.

Now, before anyone gets too comfortable celebrating, we've still got work to do.

Michigan Magic Day 2027 continues to move ahead on schedule, and every month we get a little closer. This convention will only be as successful as the volunteers behind it, so if you're waiting for the perfect opportunity to lend a hand, this is it. Whether you have years of experience or are brand new to the club, there's a place for you on the crew.

Speaking of opportunities, don't overlook our **Fall Parlor Show**. We're still looking for performers, and I can't think of a friendlier audience to debut a new routine or dust off an old favorite. Every great performer started by taking that first step onto the stage.

Before we get there, don't forget our **Magic Flea Market in September**. It's always a great opportunity to discover that hidden treasure you've been looking for, find a bargain on props and books, or pass along a few items that deserve a new magician to love them. You never know what piece of magic history might be waiting on one of those tables.

And of course, I hope to see many of you at our **Annual Club Picnic at Kracken Acres**, home of Mirf the Magnificent. Good food, good fellowship, a little magic, and plenty of laughs—it's one of the highlights of the summer and one of my favorite Ring 210 traditions.

As your president, I couldn't be prouder of what we've accomplished together. Awards are wonderful, but what they really represent is something much bigger—a club whose members care about each other and about preserving and advancing the art of magic.

Congratulations again to every member of Ring 210. You earned this recognition.

Until next month, keep your palms empty, your loads hidden, and remember... the real magic isn't in the props—it's in the people who share them.

Fraternally,

Cap'n Sean

President, Ann Arbor Magic Club (IBM Ring 210)



Ring Report

By Karl Rabe

We had a great meeting in July with lots of performances, learning, fellowship and jamming.

Mike Bogdas was our Featured Performer. He performed a great set with some old props from his collection.

- Mike performed a great glass penetration using a classic Dove Through Glass apparatus.
- Next Mike performed the classic square-circle with unique production items that were associated with different members in the audience... a bottle of booze and a clown nose for Tippy the clown; a card trick for the Canadian Bedard where the selected card appeared in a Tim Hortons coffee cup; a blow up teddy bear for Phil Mann; a penny for Lincoln; my autograph book for Mike Thorton to sign above Houdini and below Copperfield and finally a bird in a cage for Mirf.



Lincoln Stone showed his first-place prize from Tannen's Magic Camp. Then we had a Q and A with Lincoln led by Sean as members asked questions about the experience of Lincoln.



Then it was time for our Learning Session. Mike Thornton led a hands-on segment on cut and restored rope. Mike shared the basics of a method and walked members through the moves. Then further teaching was deferred until the end of the meeting where many gathered around and Mike provided more instruction and hands-on experience.



Then it was time for Member Performances.

- Guest David Rothbart performed with his two children. David recently hosted an event at the Ann Arbor Summer Festival with the assistance of Dan Jones. David and his daughter and son performed a variation of a sword chest using garden implements and a cardboard box. It was a very entertaining routine and David's son emerged none the worse for wear when it was over. Although to be fair, we did not see him take a drink of water to prove there were no holes.
- Karl Rabe performed a Gaëtan Blum routine where members of the audience pulled a skewer out of a box to get a random trinket prizes to fall out of the bottom. The last remaining skewer was for Karl which turned out to be a big wad of cash.
- Next Karl performed a lottery routine of his creation using the Binary Principle.
- Phil Mann the Magic Mann performed a coal to diamond routine.
- Robert Lange fled performed a nice menu routine. The cost of randomly selected courses from different cuisines amazingly added up to Robert's predication and available cash.
- Robert also did a nice Professor's Nightmare routine.
- Charlie Palko performed a nice routine based on something he learned at one of the latest Ring 22 lectures. Four randomly selected numbers (by Lincoln Stone) amazingly matched four random cards previously laid on the table.
- Finally, Dan Jones displayed a number of magic related display items he had discovered for sale at Hobby Lobby.



Hocus Focus

By Various Contributors

Mike Palko got some great pictures at our meeting. Thank you Mike!















Around the Town

By Karl Rabe

Next Meeting



August 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.



12 AUG



7:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Plymouth

Community Arts Council

774 N. Sheldon

Road, Plymouth, MI

48170



AAMC

[VIEW DETAIL](#)

Volunteer's Needed

26
SEP

FLEA MARKET

Saturday, St. Priscilla's Catholic Church

[EVENT DETAIL](#)

Other Events

AUGUST 2026



AAMC Picnic

The AAMC Picnic this year will be held at the Cap'n Sean Howell's Homestead "Kracken Acres" located in the next galaxy over at 5038 Hicks Rd, Albion MI 49224. As you are driving on the roads closer to our house, please be aware of the horse drawn buggies, wagons...

15 AUG

12:00 AM
- 11:00 PM

Kracken

Acres

5038

Hicks Rd,

Albion MI

49224



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

18 AUG

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.

19

AUG

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Zoom

Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2026



Flea Market

26 SEP

Exciting News. The famous Ann Arbor Magic Club Flea Market returns BIGGER and BETTER for 2026. You spoke and we listened. Vendors Tables are only \$10 each. Payment online or by card are \$1 more to defray PayPal charges. If you do not want t...

🕒 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
📍 St.
Priscilla's Catholic Church
19120
Purlingbrook St,
Livonia, MI 48152

OCTOBER 2026



Parlor Show – Afternoon

The AA Magic Club Parlor Show takes place at the beautiful Plymouth Community Arts Council conveniently located on Sheldon road just south of M-14. Seating is general admission. The doors will open 30 minutes before show-time. Soft drinks...

📅 24 OCT
🕒 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
📍 Plymouth
Community Arts Council
774 N. Sheldon
Road, Plymouth, MI
48170

Past Events

The Ann Arbor Magic Club was awarded the Effective Ring Achievement Award at the Annual I.B.M. Convention in St. Louis. This award was given to our ring for dedication, innovation, community service, and the development of an outstanding magic community. Congratulations to everyone in our ring who helps in keeping the magic alive. Our Vice-President Wendy Stone was able to accept the award onstage at the convention on behalf of the club. Members Don Oesterwind, Lincoln Stone and Phil Mann were also present. If you are interested you can view our submission [here](#).

The INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD of MAGICIANS

EFFECTIVE RING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Proudly presented to

RING 210 (Duke Stern Ring)

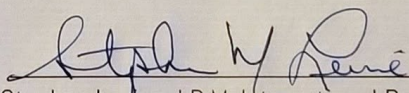
Ann Arbor, Michigan

*In recognition of dedication, innovation, community service, and the
development of an outstanding magic community.*

Issued JULY 2026



Sean Howell
Presiding Ring Officer


Stephen Levine, I.B.M. International President



Field Reporter Dan Jones says that **A group of AAMC Members attended Cameron Zvara's family magic show at the Livonia Civic Center Library on Monday evening July 27th.** Dan reports it was a wonderful show full of amazing magic, high energy audience participation and laughs. Cameron is a Michigander from Bay City who travels around performing shows and we try to see him whenever he's in town. Rumor has it that Kinetic Kay and Trevor Elliott went to the morning show. What a great show and a great time with friends.



In attendance this show were club members Wendy and Lincoln Stone, (Kevin Stone, our photographer) Dan Jones, John Machniak, Rob Krozal, Jody Gladden, Cameron Zvara, down front, Ryan Hoffman, Harry Hoffman and April Barrett.

John Machniak delivered his lecture on ESP and Psychic Phenomenon several times last month. If you weren't able to attend, John will thought transmit the details to you.



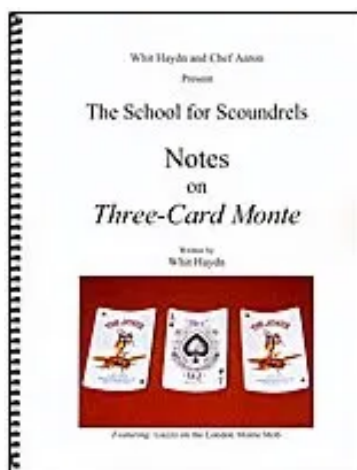


Ex Libris

By Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala, PhD

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for August 2026! I hope all of you have been staying cool because we have had a handful of scorching days up here, with a side of the air-you-wear...

This month as previously mentioned will see a continuation of the gambling/con game theme, and this one is something with which every magician is familiar, and some may even have seen it demonstrated. This month we will be looking at *Notes on Three Card Monte* by **School for Scoundrels/Whit "Pop" Haydn & Chef Anton**. This is a 154-page, 8.5" x 11" spiral-bound softcover book originally published in 2001 and illustrated with clear B&W photographs. The physical printed book is still available from the Scoundrels Store website for \$55.00/USD, or as a PDF file for \$19.95/USD. Physical copies can also still be found on the second-hand market.



As with the *Fast & Loose* booklet from last month, this is a full treatise on the Three Card Monte, not as a "magic trick" but as a genuine con game, in all its historic glory. If you have ever wondered how the actual game is played and operated, this will show you the way. As magicians, most of us are familiar with the packet effects played as a monte game, but almost none of them use any of the mechanics used in the genuine con.

You need not know anything at all about this con game because this book will teach you everything you need to know, everything like the difference between an open monte and a closed monte, the ideal types of cards to use and how to prepare them, the ways and means of the mechanics, including The Hype (the term for the actual sleight that does the work), the patterns and routining your layouts and your game.

You will find ideas and inputs from a few contributors like **Gazzo** and **Ron Wohl**, **Bob Kohler** and even the legendary **John Scarne** (who, himself, wrote a veritable masterclass book on this con game – see *A Treatise on the Sucker Effects of Three Card Monte* by **John Scarne & Audley Walsh** from 1933). In fact, the Scarne book is likely responsible for more people learning about the genuine version of this con game than any other book out there, until the School for Scoundrels came along.

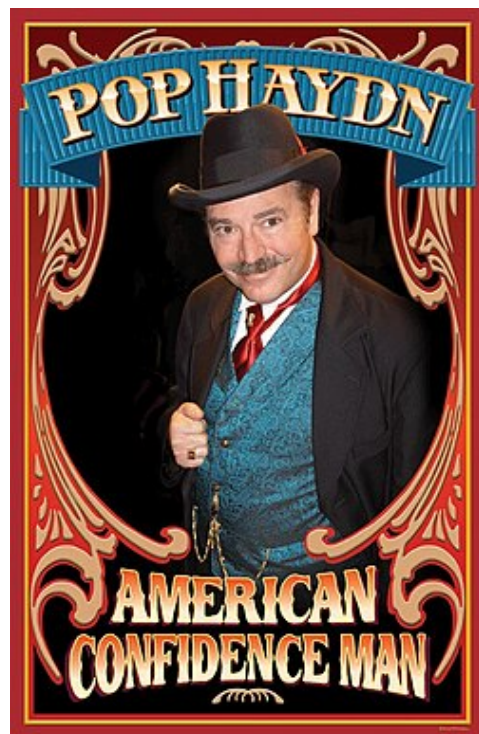
Other things you will find in the book are interviews with police officers from various cities in regards to the legal side of this con, how it is played on the streets, the hooks and come-ons, the ways in

which real grifters get away with it, busting up a monte game, developing a con game character/persona, and even a bit on how to photograph a real monte or shell game on the streets and not get caught!

Again, I bring this to your attention as magicians because it is an adjacent art (the art of the con), real or implied, but in any case, it is something that really draws an audience in (that is the whole purpose to begin with!) and you can get a lot of entertainment value out of a genuine demonstration of a real con game. Audiences always delight in seeing it because to them, it absolutely looks like real magic.

I always carry three Bee back cards in my wallet, ready at any time to launch into an actual demo of the con, and it is something I can easily get a solid 10-15 minutes out of, no gaffs necessary. If you ever run into my friend **Michael Vincent**, ask him to do the monte for you because he also always carries the necessary cards and if it is good enough for Mike, it is good enough for all of us!

As an aside, I will point out that this booklet also has a companion video available for purchase, and I highly recommend purchasing that as well. On the Scoundrels Store site, the physical DVD is sold, as of this writing, for \$55.00/USD and comes with a free downloadable version of the full disc. The download sells for \$35.00/USD. You might think that both of those prices are a little high for the product, but rightly so – just think of the kind of information being shared on them. People have and will, doubtlessly, continue to buy the School for Scoundrels products as genuine educational materials for their own nefarious intentions...



I highly recommend BOTH the book and the DVD/download because it is a lot of fun to demonstrate, it gets your audience involved and entertains them in many different ways. Well, that is all for this one and please join me again next month when we will conclude our exploration of scam/con game related materials. Ciao for now!

--- J. M. A.

Editor's Note: If you ever get a chance to see Pop perform or lecture, go! He is a fantastic combination of seasoned pro, humorist, sleight of hand expert and creator all rolled up into one. Every move has been honed over countless performances over countless years. He has heard every

quip and comment and has a response for them all. Every trick he performs has his unique twist applied so it isn't just the run of the mill performance. You will not be disappointed -Karl Rabe



The Vanishing Archives

By Mike Bogdas

The Vanishing Archives

Let's jump back in time with the **Vanishing Archives** — where old magic club columns reappear like a perfectly timed silk. Back when current member **Jim Ruth** was President of Assembly 88, the Michigan magi were serving up high-quality entertainment that still delights today. (Why do time-traveling magicians never get lost? Because they always follow the *vanishing* points!)

Ypsilanti, Michigan

Assembly 88 held its February meeting at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Ypsilanti. Hank Moorehouse proposed a change of site for future meetings and it was decided to hold the March meeting at Hank's Magic Emporium.

The magic program for the evening was of high quality, featuring back-to-back routines of stand-up magic by Mike Baumgardner and Walter Musial. Mike opened with the disappearing and reappearing wand. Then he presented his great Monster of Chopper Mystery — a clever use of a chopper with a sponge hobgoblin, a cut and restored rope and silks from a bottle led to the finale — the production of a dove from a breakaway box.

Hardly waiting for the applause to die, Mr. Magic, Walt Musial, entered to produce a glass of wine from a silk and caused the stripes on the silk to rotate before our eyes. After squaring a circle, causing a bottle to move from one tube to another and then vanish, Walt showed us a series of beautiful handling of silks in a vanishing archive of effects.

He then caused rice to multiply and produced a huge bird cage. He closed with the smooth presentation of the old sponge-balls-under (or not under)-the-bowl trick, with a surprise production of a silk fountain from the bowl. Walt's careful attention to routining allows him to do a lot of magic in a short time while always seeming to move in his good-humored, leisurely way. And that's entertainment!

What a night Assembly 88 had back in Ypsilanti! From Mike Baumgardner's wand vanishes and that wild chopper mystery featuring a sponge hobgoblin and a surprise dove, to Walt Musial stepping in with wine-from-silk and rotating stripes — the silks were flowing and the audience was charmed. The evening wrapped up with multiplying rice, a massive bird cage, and a silky fountain finish that left everyone smiling.

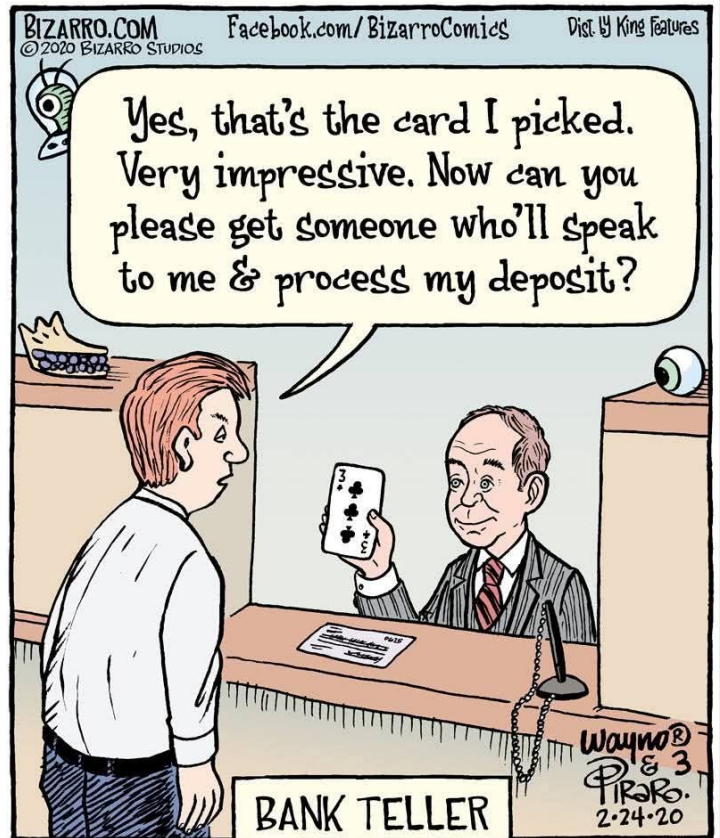
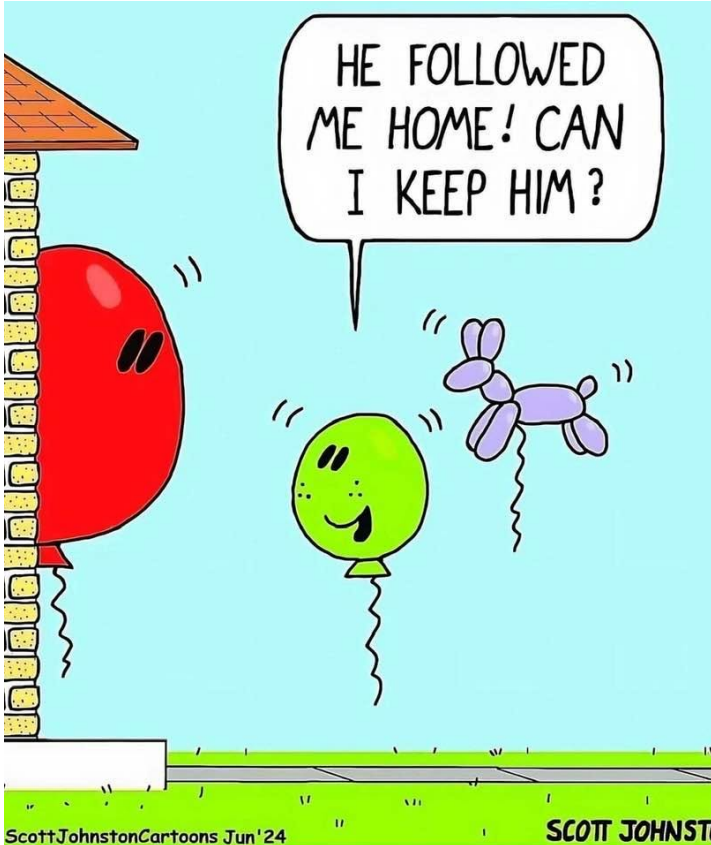
In true vanishing style, the whole meeting proved that good routining, a little humor, and a lot of clever magic never go out of date — even if the bird cage somehow did.



Funny Business

By Karl Rabe and various contributors

Thank you Dan Jones and Frank & John Machniak for your contributions.





"In the hat! In the hat!"

