

Magic Messenger

The Official Newsletter of the Ann Arbor Magic Club / S.A.M 88 / I.B.M. 210

Jan. 2016

President's Corner

Magical Greetings Everyone, and Happy New Year!

I don't know about you, but every year I make a conscious effort to make the new year "new" by changing up some things, making plans for the coming year, and making some resolutions. And of course, I apply all these things to my magic!

I've already rearranged my magic closet (the walk in where I store all my stuff), planned a few magical trips, and even booked a few gigs for 2016! Now the hard part: resolutions. These are concrete, specific goals I aim to attain/achieve in the coming year. Take a look...

My Magical 2016 : : : I resolve to...

- + Spend the first 3 months perusing ALL my magic books and noting items that catch my attention
- + Spend the last 9 months revisiting that list and seeing what I can develop, incorporate, and use
- + Routine 6 sets of 3 close up tricks so I can "do magic" at the drop of a hat (no pun intended). I do "parlor", "stand-up", or "nightclub" magic currently.
- + Double the number of shows I did in 2015 (I'm still a part-timer until I retire)
- + Catalog ALL my tricks: what do I actually have?
- + Buy NO new tricks just because it looks cool, or I'm curious. If it won't work in my act, I'm not going to buy it (OK, I'm going to Magic Live! Again in August, so that may go out the window, but if I can make it till then...)
- + Rewatch all my magic videos and see what I can develop, incorporate, and use

+ Develop and hone the skill of creating "mystery"; ie, where people feel magic is really taking place.

Feel free to use any or all of these for yourself. Remember: if you're not moving forward, you're falling behind!

CLUB NEWS

I've had to pass on gigs because they wanted someone who could make balloon animals as well as magish! They just don't seem to get it that a snake or a dog is still a balloon animal! Well, you may or may not know that we have many members in our midst that excel at "bending air", and they're going to share their techniques with us in January at our meeting on Wednesday the 12th! The club will furnish the balloons, you just come along and create your own little menagerie... I'm pumped (pun fully intended)! We'll be meeting again at the Senate Coney Island on Plymouth Rd and Stark in Livonia. (*And we really are trying to find a new permanent location!*)

Also in January, we'll be electing a Treasurer for the coming year as we vote between Dan Jones (current treasurer) and Bill Brang (former president). Make sure you're here! (absentee votes can be made by e-mailing me with your selection to john@johnrussellmagic.com)

2016 brings with it lots of other opportunities:

- + Dues are due by Jan 31. Pay at any meeting or online at www.aamagic.org (\$25 single; \$30 individual and spouse or significant other; \$40 family)
- + Nathan Kranzo presents a FREE lecture at our February meeting (Feb 10th)
- + Our annual banquet takes place at Weber's Inn on Sunday March 6th, with Brad Toulouse of Windsor providing the entertainment. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased online at www.aamagic.org or at any meeting
- + Michigan Magic Day takes place Fri/Sat April 8th and 9th with a star-studded cast of performers! Friday night is just \$10 and includes great

entertainment and a chance to rub shoulders with other magicians from around the state. Saturday is \$50 and includes lectures, performances, and more including the evening show (\$10 for just that show). Add another \$10 and you'll get lunch on Saturday! All held at the beautiful Washtenaw Community College! Register online at www.aamagic.org or at any meeting.

Let's keep the momentum going as we bring in the new year, 2016! I can't wait to see what all is in store for the Ann Arbor Magic Club... *bringing magic to Southeastern Michigan and beyond!*

Magically yours,

John Russell, President

Secretary's Report

December brought a first for us, the "White Elephant game". Members brought a wrapped (magic) gift to be randomly selected / exchanged / swapped / "stolen" by other participants. As the game progressed, it became more difficult for magi to make the decision select or swap. Apparently there were no mentalists present to decipher what was behind the xmas wrapped gifts! We all had a great time opening our treasures and seeing what miracles others had chosen. Guest **Tim Miller** demonstrated and sold a very visual effect of a ring penetration thru a "floating" string. It's hard to describe the pocket illusion in words, other than "quick, self working and appealing to all ages" ... and sold for 5.00 ! Needless to say they were snapped up by the members. Along with Tim's performance, we had an extemporaneous show with compeers exhibiting various bits of wizardry and legerdemain at the tables and stand up for an (as always) appreciative audience. It was a great way to usher in the festive holiday season. Thanks to all the Christmas elves for another entertaining evening: **Scott Kindschy, Bob Waite, Dan Jones, Joaquin Ayala, Jim Folkl, John Russell, Bob Goodwin, Jim Molnar, Tim Miller, John Custer, Jim Ruth, Ken Magee, Art Goyette, Bill Brang, Scott Mitchell, Jay Johnson, Ray Wojciechowski and Pam and Randy Smith.** Check out the pics Ho Ho Ho !



“ Then I became a magician and in no time my friends disappeared”
“ Know what the penalty for bigamy is ? ... two mothers-in-law”
“Hay fever is either positive or negative ...sometimes the eyes have it,
sometimes the nose”



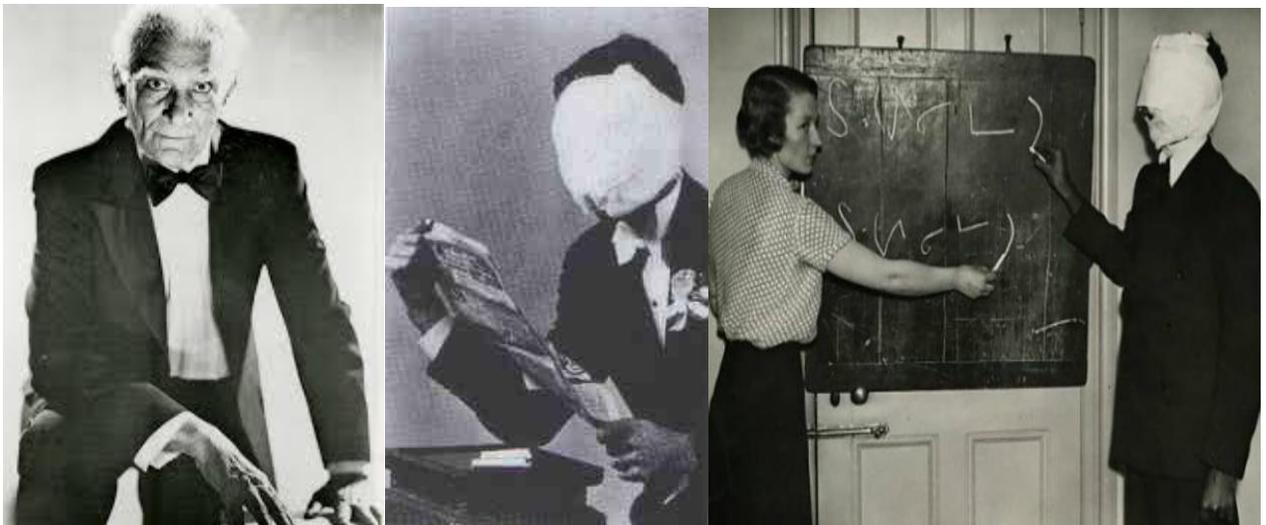
“The doctor said I need salt air ... so every morning I fan myself with a herring”



CENSOR: A person who specializes in cutting remarks
NURSERY: A Bawlroom ...
SHOT GUN WEDDING: Two wrongs making a rite
STATESMAN: A dead politician ...
ALIMONY: A pay-when-you-go plan



WHOSE IT ?



In one of his most famous performances this mentalist would cover his eyes with soft dough balls, blindfold himself, swath his entire head in strips of cloth, and yet still be able to see. While blindfolded he would read the dates on coins which were held in a spectator's

hand, read the fine print of a magazine, thread a needle, duplicate words he had never seen written, shoot a bullseye with a pellet gun, and many other tricks.

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ANSWER AT THE END OF THE MESSENGER



Around the Town:

For a complete listing of magic events in Michigan, visit **John Luka's** site <http://www.johnlukamagic.com/mi/events.html>

Jim Folkl

Ex Libris by Joaquin Ayala, PhD.

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for December 2015! As we move through the holiday season and approach the end of the year, many people begin to think about the coming year. No doubt many of you have made resolutions over the years and maybe perhaps have broken a few too – we all have. But what about your ‘magic resolution’? What are you aiming to begin, to change or finish as far as magic is concerned? Learning a new effect or routine? Buying less magic and

reading more books? Perhaps your resolution is to practice more, or even better, get out there (wherever that is) more often and perform for people, to share your magic and give the gift of mystery and wonder.

This month, I am going to talk just a little about a book that has nothing whatever to do with magic; instead, it is a book that once you read it, you will be able to apply its lessons to all other areas of your life. The book is called ‘Mastery: The Keys to Success and Long-Term Fulfillment’ by George Leonard.

Author George Leonard draws on his experience as Zen philosophy and his work as a Master Aikido practitioner and instructor to give you different tools that will help you accomplish the things that you want. The majority of the message in the book is that you have to love to practice, no matter what it is that you are practicing. It could be basketball, it could be learning to fly a plane or even the things that we magicians do: practicing legerdemain/sleight of hand/magic. Further, he discusses the concept of the plateau – you all know the feeling: you practice and practice and practice over and over, but you still do not seem to further your skill or seem to get any better at what you are doing. This is the aptly-named ‘plateau’. The author encourages us to learn to love the plateau, because whether we know it or feel it or not, it is good for us and it *does* help move us closer to advancing our skill or practice to the point where we do get better, with visible (or emotional) results.

He also talks about three different personality types that are ‘obstacles’ on the path to mastery and he gives you lots of great insights on how to avoid the many pitfalls along the path of your own journey. He gives you tools to overcome even the most stubborn obstacles and how you recognize when you are plateauing and when you are actually progressing. He also talks about resolutions, why they fail and what to do about it. All of the lessons in this book are meant for application in your everyday life, but they can readily be applied to magic and magicians. We all have to learn new things, new effects/routines, we all have to practice and we all have started with something and given up on it. This book can show you why that most likely happened.

There is an old saying about practice and perfection, by my view is that practice does *not* make perfect, practice makes *practical*. Until next year, I hope you all have a fun, safe, magical and Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Get out there this season and share your mysteries, spread the joy, the love and the magic and I will see you all next year!

Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala

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Check out our Facebook Page “Ann Arbor Magic Club”

Have a question / suggestion / comment / contribution?

Contact us!

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