

# Magic Messenger

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

March 2016

## ➤ President's Corner

Spring is one of my favorite seasons. A brilliant color of green you don't see other times of the year. New life poking through the winter left-behinds. The promise of vitality.

And so it is with the Ann Arbor Magic Club. The next two months are full of vibrant, magical activities!

Our **banquet on March 6<sup>th</sup>** at Weber's Inn promises to be a great celebration of magic! Brad Toulouse of Windsor is a world-class, full-time magician who works a wide variety of venues. He will be bringing our entertainment, after a terrific meal of salmon and chicken along with all the trimmings, and recognition of some outstanding contributions to our club. It's a great deal at \$30 per person. If you haven't bought your ticket yet, you really need to let me know by Wed March 2nd that you're coming. Email me [john@johnrussellmagic.com](mailto:john@johnrussellmagic.com) or call me at 734.282.8235.

A short 3 days later, **Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup>**, we have

our regular club meeting again at the Senate Coney Island on Plymouth Rd and Stark in Livonia. This month's theme is "*Mysterious Magic*". Let me explain. We tend to do a lot of comedy magic. But what about effects that have an air of mystery? A levitation perhaps? Destruction and restoration? Just a little different. Of course, as always, if you have magic to share, there will be an opportunity to do so, no matter what the theme. Meeting starts at 7pm. Come as early as 6 if you want to eat.

Then on **April 8th & 9th**, we've assembled a world-class lineup for Michigan Magic Day, held on the beautiful campus of Washtenaw Community College. We've distributed about 750 postcards to magic outlets (clubs and shops) all across the state. We've got 7 vendors lined up already. We've got a raffle with prizes from a full registration to FAB Magic's magic conference to a full set of Tarbell, and lots more in between.

If you haven't checked out the website by Karl Rabe, stop reading and take a look: [www.MichiganMagicDay.com](http://www.MichiganMagicDay.com). Seriously. Go look. I'll wait...

Hang out with some of the finest acts in Michigan magic including Gene Anderson, Stuart Macdonald, Anthony

Grupido, John Dudley, our own Gordon Schott, and imported from Atlanta Georgia, Levent (with an appearance from Michigan juggler, Rufus the Dufus!). Registrations have started and tickets are already selling for the Saturday night public show. You definitely don't want to miss that weekend!

Joe Fusco recently hosted a show at the Trenton Theatre, same place I held mine last August. That's twice in the last year, every 6 months, that the Ann Arbor Magic Club has been represented with magic in the downriver area. Maybe we're onto something! Should we try and stage something every 6 months or so there? It could be a nice fundraiser, as well as an opportunity for club members to perform as well. Think it over and let's talk about it at our meeting!

Spring into action, and let the magic flow! Hope to see you ALL soon!

Magically yours,  
**John Russell**

## **Secretary's Report**

February's meeting featured a lecture by professional entertainer and Michigan native, **Nathan Kranzo**.

We had a full house, including 4 guests: **Jay Johnson, Bob**

**Reed, Steve Casey and Chuck Kimbrough.** Nathan's presentation spanned an eclectic range of effects with cards, coins, books/magazines and personal items such as drivers' licenses. His comedic talents were evident as the powerfully commercial material was demonstrated. Nathan's performance was fresh, energetic and very informative. Along with the "technical" discussion of his effects he graciously took the time to share the philosophy behind his material and audience management, answering our questions in great detail. Nathan is an engaging and highly skilled magician with a uniquely innovative eye toward the conjuring arts. His lecture was well received and is highly recommend. March brings our annual club banquet, followed closely by AAMC sponsored "Michigan Magic Day" in April, featuring superstar entertainer, **Levent**.



**Nathan Kranzo and John Russell**

On Feb. 19th, producer **Joe Fusco** MC'd a full evening magic show, "Magic for a Miracle", to help find a cure for

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. With **Gary Segadi** serving as Stage Manager, six of Southeast Michigan's finest magicians and illusionists were featured:



AAMC “represented” with notables **Randy & Pam Smith, George and Barbara Mathis, Dan Jones, Bob Waite, Bob Goodwin, Sean Naes, Marvin Mathena, John and Ronda Russell, Art Goyette, Dawn and Brian Stapleton, Ken Magee and Jim Molnar... oh and Moi!** It was a wonderful family show, professionally presented to an enthusiastic audience.

## Q&A (At the end of the Messenger)

Q #1 - Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?



### **Card Magic at the Senior Center**

Q #2 - Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?



Q #4 - Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?

## **Around the Town:**

13th March (Sunday) - Magic Flea Market - ABC MAGIC SHOP, 69 Walnut, Mount Clemens, MI 48043 - (586) 790-3700 - 11:00AM to 3:00PM - Flea Market followed by the David Stone Lecture at 4:30PM. - Lecture cost \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. This is David Stone's ONLY Michigan appearance.

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, Ph.D.**

Hello and welcome to the *Ex Libris* article for February 2016!

In keeping with the "theme" that I had last month of starting at the beginning, seeing as it was the beginning of the year last month, this month I will be focusing on two books that are usually referenced together as being fundamental building blocks for card workers. Those two books are ***Expert Card Technique*** and ***The Royal***

***Road to Card Magic*** by Jean Hugard and Frederick Braue.

Jean Hugard was born and raised in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia and became interested in magic after seeing a magic show as a boy, and he later fully immersed himself in the art after reading the *Secrets of Conjuring and Magic* by Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin. Frederick Braue was born in Alameda, California and was a professional journalist by trade, not a magician. He contributed to various magic publications over the years and eventually served as a column writer and editor for Hugard's Magic Monthly publication. His last name is pronounced as "BROW-ee".

In 1940 Hugard and Braue joined forces and compiled a book with material from various magicians and contributors, the majority of which was Charlie Miller. It was entitled ***Expert Card Technique***. The book was published by Carl Jones and is split into six parts: (1) *Sleights*, (2) *Flourishes*, (3) *Technique*, (4) *Tricks*, (5) *Miscellaneous* and (6) *Misdirection and Presentation*. It is suspected that Miller was a ghostwriter for almost half of the book and it is said that he contributed the vast majority of the original material. Miller also supposedly divulged material from Dai Vernon to Braue which was not supposed to see publication, but it was included anyway. Vernon was reportedly unhappy about the inclusion and much of the material in the book was not specifically credited to anyone, however most of it is contributed to Dai Vernon and Charlie Miller. The third

edition of the book (published in 1950 by George Starke) saw the inclusion of a section by Dai Vernon called 'A Lesson in Card Handling' and in that edition, he was given special crediting for his contributions, current and past. It also included 'The Side Steal and Some of its Finer Points' by Dr. Jacob Daley. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> editions were published in 1940, 1944 and 1950, respectively. In 1951, Faber & Faber issued a reprint of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition; in 1974 the Dover paperback was released and finally in 1977, Coles released it as the 'Complete Guide to Card Tricks and Techniques'.

1948 saw the publication of another book by Hugard and Braue – ***The Royal Road to Card Magic***. It was intended as a precursor to the earlier *Expert Card Technique*. The material contained in this book provided one with the basic techniques in card handling leading up to the more advanced material in the aforementioned *Expert* book. The 1st edition was published by Harper & Brothers in 1948, followed by the World Publishing Company of Cleveland, Ohio in 1951 and Dover finally picked it up in 1999, releasing a paperback edition which was based on the 1951 edition from the W.P.C.

Hugard and Braue co-authored six other books together whilst living on the opposite sides of the United States – Braue in California and Hugard in New York. The co-authors wrote their books via correspondence.

Have a great month folks and enjoy the lovely Spring that we are having this Winter!

**A #1 - Mt. Everest; it just wasn't discovered yet.  
A #2 - Johnny, of course.  
A #3 - You can't take pictures with a wooden leg. You need a camera to take pictures.  
A #4 - Answer: Neither, the yolk of the egg is yellow**

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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!**

**The Ann Arbor Magic Club meets the second Wednesday of the month, at the Senate Coney Island Restaurant, 34359 Plymouth Rd, Livonia, MI 48150-1500 . Meeting start at 7pm.**