

Magic Messenger

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

Feb. 2016

➤ President's Corner

I *love* magic books! DVDs and videos are nice; they let you see an effect in action. Ebooks are nice, because I can “carry” them with me on my laptop, tablet, or phone. But give me a regular ole’ printed book so I can highlight it, browse at my leisure, reread if necessary, make comments in the margin, and find new things when I’m just leafing through trying to get to the page I’m looking for!

- I *love* magic colleagues! The magic fraternity is a great one, and it’s been my pleasure to develop many friends within it. I’ve been in touch with magi around the globe, and have even been able to meet many face to face! The encouragement and ideas I get from other magicians is priceless!
- I *love* new magic! There is so much creativity out there these days! And it is so easy to obtain new effects to add to my collection. Maybe *too* easy, right? I try to carefully research and get input before purchasing these days, but getting something new that will add to the wonder and excitement of my magic (oh yeah, and the audience’s too!) is a terrific feeling!
- I *love* old magic with a new twist! They’re called “classics” because they’ve stood the test of time. But presentation and patter isn’t always *timeless*. I like to take a routine and freshen it, update it, put a new spin on it, put *my* spin on it. I may do a lot of classics, but not many do it the same way that I do. Give me some new old stuff!

- I *love* performing magic! Ok, I'll admit it: I'm a ham. I like attention. I like to amaze people. And the rush of performing magic... whether it's a theater full, a classroom full, or one person... feels great, doesn't it?
- I *love* magic history! I've been reading about some of the old greats over the last several months. Reading "Art & Artifice" by Jim Steinmeyer right now. Previously read his "Hiding the Elephant" and "The Last Greatest Magician"... wonderful reads (never realized that Thurston performed early in his career near where I live now!). We have quite a legacy my friends. Let's always make sure in our presentations and demeanor we do them justice!
- I *love* magic performances! I really enjoy watching other good magicians perform. Yes, I have to qualify that, because I've been disappointed more often than not when I go to see a show. Seeing one that doesn't cut it makes me think two things: (1) *If they can make a living doing magic, so can I!* And (2) *I need to make sure I'm always doing the best that I can!*

I ♥ Magic!

Club News

This month's meeting features a free lecture by Nathan Kranzo. It's been awhile since he's joined us, and he will be coming off a several day appearance at Magic Castle in LA! We're once again at the Senate Coney Island on Plymouth Rd and Stark in Livonia. Meeting begins at 7pm, come earlier if you wish to eat.

BTW, members voted last month that it's ok to continue on at the Senate while we continue to look for a permanent venue. If you know of a place that is *free* and easily accessible off I-94, US-23, or I-275, let me know. I will be glad to check it out!

Members also voted last month to continue Dan Jones as Treasurer (congratulations Dan!) and joins new Vice President Mark O'Brien

(congratulations Mark!). Mark will have just returned from MagiFest in Columbus, so I'm sure he'll have plenty to share with us!

Have you renewed *your* membership for 2016? If not, you're past due! Avoid a late charge and get online and renew today! Continue with things like 10% discounts at ABC Magic and Wunderground, discounted rate for lectures, access to our book and video library (we even have a few effects available to borrow!), and even more benefits!

Banquet tickets are available online (www.AAMagic.org) for just \$30. You get a fantastic meal at Weber's Inn, a fantastic show from Canadian Magician Brad Toulouse, and a fantastic afternoon with your magic friends and colleagues. Date is Sunday March 6th. Don't delay, get your tickets today!

Michigan Magic Day is fast approaching (April 8th & 9th). I'll have volunteer sign up sheets at the February meeting. Volunteer and get in free!

Keep the magic alive everyone... hope to see you soon!

Magically yours,

John Russell

Secretary's Report

Our first meeting of the new year was a tremendous success, featuring an in depth workshop on balloon sculpting and balloon magic. We are fortunate to have a number of accomplished balloon entertainers as members, who graciously volunteered to lead the evening's activities. With the club providing balloons and pumps for everyone, **Dan Jones** kicked things off with an introduction to the technical aspects of balloon sculpting, including their types / specifications, handling, inflating techniques and associated equipment. e.g, pumps. Following the introduction, he proceeded to demonstrate some of his favorite one balloon figures. **Bob Waite** stepped it up a bit and worked with multiple balloon characters that were within the reach of the groups sculpting abilities. His 3 balloon rendition of superhero spiderman was a real eye

catcher. **Ray Wojciechowski**, a working pro, featured three very comical and commercial one balloon creations: The Jumping Turtle, Happy Joe and The Apple Watch. **Jim Molnar** shared some “comedic bits of business” with his balloon animals. His routining has universal appeal, adaptable to any program. **Rich Triemer** incorporated balloon animals into a children’s version of the magic trick “Ladies Night Out”. It was a great routine and a classic example of how an effect can be adapted to any audience with some “out of the box” thinking. Rich also introduced us to a very unique device, a goat castration tool. Turns out it can be employed to easily load balloons with quite a range of items ... from silks to cell phones! Interspersed with the formal presentations, the audience shared their own handlings and adaptations of balloon related effects. To top things off, we held an impromptu flea market when **Ken Magee** brought in a collection of magic for sale. As always, a fun time was had by all! Our February meeting features a lecture by **Nathan Kranzo**, followed March 6th, by the Ann Arbor Magic Club Installation of Officers Banquet with entertainment provided by Canadian magician **Brad Tolouse**. RING 210 / Assembly 88 is sponsoring Michigan Magic Days 8-9 April with international super star **Levent** headlining the weekend festivities.



Levent

Thanks to **Randy Smith, Bob Goodwin and George Mathis** for “Comical Contributions” to this month’s Messenger



**Ray, Bob, Jim, Rich and Dan
AAMC Master Balloon Instructors**

Randy: I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes 1,508 days in a row...



Too much fun – for everyone !

Bob: I don't have gray hair. I have "wisdom highlights". I'm just very wise. “



This only take 500 hours of practice

George: At my age "getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.



Ken Magee admiring **Ray's** "Apple" watch !

Randy: I decided to change calling the bathroom "the John" and renamed it "the Jim". I feel so much better saying "I went to the Jim this morning".



Balloon anyone ?

Bob: Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.



A skilled clown, magician and Finance and Communications Officer for the Livonia Thunderbolt Squadron, this gentleman was recently promoted to MAJOR in the Civil Air Patrol an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. One of the things they are rained for is search and rescue of downed aircraft and missing persons.

WHOSEIT ?

Answer at the end of the Messenger

George: . If a parsley farmer is sued, can his wages be garnished ?

Thanks to **Randy Smith, Bob Goodwin and George Mathis** for “Comical Contributions” to this month’s Messenger



Jim, Mark, John, Dan and Bob
AAMC Board 2016aka “The Usual Suspects”

P.S. ANY COMPLAINTS, SEE JOHN !

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 first *Ex Libris* article for 2016! Whew – what a holiday season that was. Wait, where did it all go so fast?! Well wherever it went to in a hurry, I hope it was a good one for everybody and that this year is better than ever for you!

Ask any magician that has ever seen someone else do an effect and then asked others where they can find/learn it. I can guarantee you that just about every one of them will tell you that at some point or another, they have all heard the almost cliché response, “It is in Tarbell”. This certainly seems like an overused response, but it is largely true about many, many effects in magic.

This leads me, of course, to the book on which we put the spotlight for this year, *The Tarbell Course in Magic* by Dr. Harlan Tarbell. It was not originally dreamt up by Tarbell, but rather by two publishers named T. Grant Cooke and Walter A. Jordan. They had envisioned a comprehensive correspondence course for magic in the mid-1920s. The pair originally hired Tarbell and another Chicago-area magician named Walter Baker to write the course, but Baker later gave up on the project to focus on his performance of magic. Not long before he died, Harry Houdini was asked to author, but he declined, recommending Dr. Tarbell. Tarbell ended up with a \$50,000/USD backing from the publishers to write the course, which he finished in 1928. It was comprised of 60 lessons with over 3,000 illustrations. It was originally released in segments as a mail-order course and was later collected and published as a set of eight volumes.

This was really one of the first courses of its kind because Tarbell focused on all aspects of magic, including fundamental drills, skills practice, body position and movement, language and of course, sleight-of-hand techniques which were to be incorporate into effects in the future lessons. After selling 10,000 copies of the complete course, the course was discontinued from the market in 1931 after sales fell. The publishers

blamed the Great Depression. Later in 1941, Louis Tannen purchased the rights to the course, and working with Tarbell and Ralph W. Read, they converted the course into book form. The original lessons in the course are not identical to the later books (volumes 1-8); Tarbell himself only wrote 1-5. There are some parts of the original lessons which were dropped from the book form, and Lesson 8 was released as a 'Post-Graduate Course', written by Steve Burton and Richard Kaufman. Volumes 1-5 of the books were released between 1941 and 1948, Volume 6 in 1954, Volume 7 in 1972 and Volume 8 in 1993, 33 years after the death of Dr. Harlan Tarbell.

There are a number of supplemental companion books, including the *Tarbell Scrapbook* which included the missing lessons from the original course and many articles about/from Dr. Tarbell, *The Tarbell Companion Book* by Tarbell (edited/published by Steve Burton in 1994), the *Tarbell Study Guide* by Steve Burton (1995), *Spiritual Applications for Tarbell 1* (1976) and *Tarbell 2* (1984), both by Jule L. Miller and the *Complete Index of the Tarbell Course in Magic* by Tarbell (1926), which was later included in Volume 7 of the book format. – J.M.A.

? BOB WAITE ?

Support our local brick & mortar magic shops!

ABC Magic Shop

69 N Walnut St, /Mount Clemens, MI 48043

(586) 790-3700

<http://abcmagicshop.com/>

Wunderground Magic, Inc.

Phone: (248) 280-5925

Email: paul@wundergroundmagicshop.com

Mail: 16 S. Main St., Clawson, MI 48017

Web: <http://www.wundergroundmagicshop.com/>

AAMC POCs

President: John Russell / john@johnrussellmagic.com
VP: Mark O'Brien / contact@pm4crmagic.me
Secretary: Jim Folkl / folkinimagic@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Dan Jones / dmjones0701@yahoo.com
Sgt At Arms: Bob Waite / patchestclown@sbcglobal.net
Librarian: Dr. Joaquin Ayala / chefayala99@gmail.com
Historian: Mark O'Brien / contact@pm4crmagic.me
Webmaster: Karl Rabe / krabe@.net.
Website: <http://www.aamagic.org/>

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!