

MagicMessenger

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

JULY 2016



President's Corner.

We have lost a faithful member of our club. Bob Waite, Sergeant-At-Arms for many years, passed away on June 25th. I've asked his close friend, and a past President of AAMC, to write a memorial for him:

Bob "Patches" Waite, a long time friend in magic and clowning, passed away on June 25th, 2016 at the age of 85 after battling lung cancer for months. He will be dearly missed by those in the many organizations in which he participated, including the Ann Arbor Magic Club, the Clowns Around Redford, the Mid-West Clown Association and the Civil Air Patrol in which he was recently promoted to the rank of Major.

I know that there were other organizations that he was a part of as well. Bob was an active adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America in the Redford area and a member of the Yankee Air Force which operates out of Willow Run Airport, restoring and preserving vintage aircraft. He was a supporter of the Parade Company in Detroit, helping maintain and prepare the floats for the Thanksgiving Day Parade. He would also appear as Patches the Clown at the Hob Nobble Gobble, a fund raising party before the parade.

Bob truly loved the circus and was inspired to create his Hobo clown character by Emmet Kelly himself. There may have been a little influence from Red Skelton thrown in the mix too. He attended the Red Skelton Clown Camp, held in Indiana, in the not so distant past. Bob would share stories of performing at the circus with clown alleys in the Detroit area and Lansing. When the Kelly Miller Circus would appear in Redford, he made arrangements with the Ring Master for he and I to appear in clown character to meet and greet the circus going patrons. And at the age of 80, he climbed atop an elephant on two different occasions for a ride and a photo opportunity.

Bob will be dearly missed by his friends, family and all those in the clubs and organizations in which he belonged and served. Farewell, Good Friend.

Dan Jones

Please keep Velma and family in your prayers.

Club News

- Our next meeting, July 13th, has a simple theme: **MAGIC!** What are you working on? Have you purchased anything new lately? Incorporating something into your act that you'd like some feedback on? Bring it, and we'll do a little "show and tell". In addition, lots of little sidebar conversations and post-meeting meetings have great discussions on magic theory and thoughts on magic in general. What would *you* like the group to discuss? What burning questions do you have? Think about it: we literally have a couple centuries worth of magic experience in our club... let's share that wealth of information!
- In addition, we'll be voting on the proposed changes to our bylaws. Most simply bring us in line with current practices. But we need you to come and cast your ballot! Those changes are as follows:

Article I/Section 2 - Organization

"**Each club officer** must belong to both of the National Organizations..."

Change to read "**The president and secretary shall** belong to both of the National Organizations..."

Article I/Section 3 - Organization

"The headquarters of this organization shall be Ann Arbor, Michigan or a location that is **not further than ten miles from an Ann Arbor border**"

Change to read: "...mutually agreed on by a majority of the membership..."

Article VII/Section 1 - Officers

"...The President shall not hold that office for more than two consecutive terms."

To be deleted

Article X/Section 4 - Method of Election

"**Elected officers assume their responsibilities at the first regular meeting in March following the Annual Banquet Meeting, but no later than the regularly scheduled April meeting for that year.**"

Change to read, "Elected officers shall assume their responsibilities at the close of the meeting in which they are elected".

Article XIII/Section 1 - Amendments to the By-Laws

"...at least **two months** prior... **two business meetings**..."

Change to read "...**one month** prior... **one business meeting**..."

- And last, don't forget to reserve your table for our "World Famous Magic Flea Market" coming September 25th. Tables for members are just \$10. You can reserve online at our web site or at any meeting.

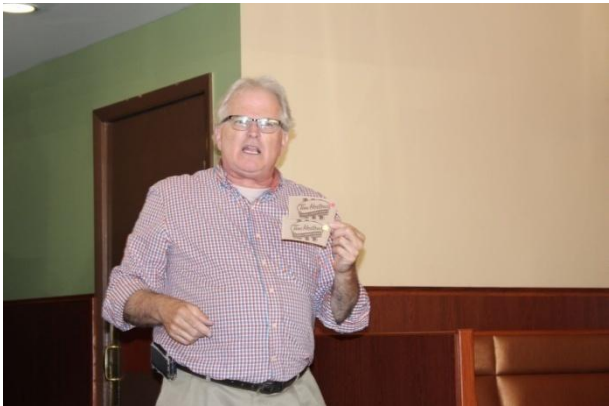
Thanks, and let's have a magical July!

John Russell

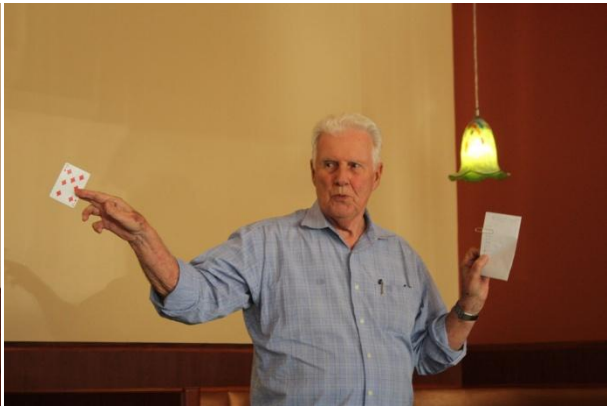
Secretary's Report

June's theme of "Teach a Trick" was (as always) wildly successful, with 8 members contributing performances and explanations of their effects and bits of business. **John Russell** started things off by displaying a very practical table that could be constructed from a lawn bag holder, collapsible ottoman and a serving tray. It is very functional prop at a reasonable cost (\$25.). John also presented the well known Petrie Lewis boomerang optical illusion using Tim Horton coffee sleeves. A great twist on a classic mystery. **Jim Ruth** shared a clever bit of mentalism employing a paperclip and an envelope. It was a very strong and well received trick, something easily carried and performed extemporaneously. **Ken Magee** followed on a similar mental note reprising a variation of Banachek's Ring of Truth. **Jim Folkl** demo'ed a variation of dice stacking using 4 half die and a juice can. **Karl Rabe** introduced us to a great internet teaching resource called "Scam School". From it, Karl presented a cool mental effect call Mind Control wherein a freely selected card is revealed over the phone by the mysterious Dr. Singleton! He concluded with the card effect "Will the Cards Match" using original patter. **Marvin Mathena** exhibited a card miracle from the book "101 amazing Card

Tricks “. A shuffled deck was cut in fourths by a spectator and 4 kings were discovered on each pile followed by the four aces! **Dan Jones** demonstrated the use of the French Drop in a very comical routine using a golf ball that vanishes and reappears from his nose. **Bob Goodwin**, the club’s “mental maestro” showed us his latest creation “Cats and Dogs”. John Russell closed the formal portion of the evening by demonstrating a fun parlor stunt where he can twist his interlocked hands 180 degrees while the audience cannot. Of course, the magic did not stop at the end of the meeting as many of the magic continued to conjure into the night for



John Russell



Jim Ruth



Ken Magee



Jim Folkl

Mathis' (George) Musings

- I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom, until they're flashing behind you.

- Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool, so I gave him a glass of water.

- I changed my password to "incorrect" so whenever I forget it the computer will remind me with, "Your password is incorrect."



Karl Rabe



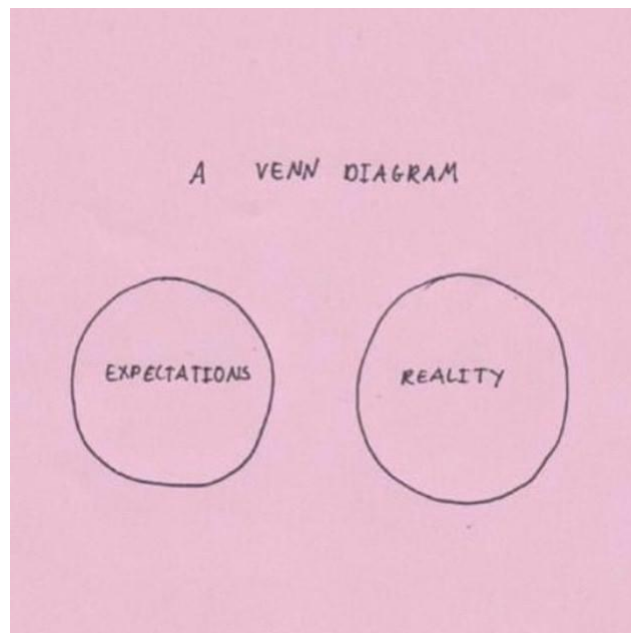
Marvin Mathena



Dan Jones



Bob Goodwin



“ My favorite exercise is cross between a lunge and a crunchI call it Lunch”

?

Magicians also have their share of bad luck. Can you name 4 famous magicians who have lost their entire shows at sea ?

Answer at the end of the Messenger

Around the Town:

For 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.

Ex Libris by **Joaquin Ayala, PhD.**

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for June of 2016! **This article is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend, Bob Waite (1931-2016).** This month I thought we would take a trip of another sort, a trip back in time, all the way to 1868. This month we will focus on **Les Secrets de la Prestidigitation et de la Magie** by Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin, written of course in French and published by Michel Lévy Frères. In 1878 Professor Hoffmann translated it into English as **The Secrets of Conjuring and Magic** and it was published by George Routledge & Sons out of England, which still exists today as the Routledge publishing house.

This book has a lot of material in its 412 pages and it begins with a description of his home in Blois, France and its contents. Robert-Houdin was a watchmaker by trade so it was quite the mechanical marvel and still stands today as a museum. It included mealtime alarms for both yourself and your horses, which included a way to feed them the proper amount of corn, a method of detecting visitors from a distance and who they were (their character), synchronized clocks around the home, a thief-catcher (trap) and an Aerial Railway.

The conjuring section of the book begins with a bit of history behind the cups and balls, its progenitors and conjuring “dignitaries” of the day who first visited Paris. It goes on to describe the various genres of magic including Natural Magic (think Magick, with a “k”), mentalism, pseudo-mesmerism, psychic work (mediums, etc.) and parlour magic.

He not only tells you what you should and should not do during your performances, but also, why. Many beginner books do not even cover this, and he also describes something that is central to all sleight of hand performers: your *hands*. He includes a diagram of its various parts and their respective roles in sleight of hand, which is followed quite appropriately with a section on magic with coins. He covers various ways to hide (palm) coins, vanish them and produce them, including using sleeves and cravats, how to switch coins, using a wand, a table, pockets, etc. It is a very thorough section on coin work, much of which is still in use today. One of the standout effects with coins included here is *The Shower of Money*, which is similar to the modern effect, *Free and Unlimited Coinage of Silver* in which coins are produced from various objects, and of course the ever classic *Magical Filtration of Five Francs* which Dai Vernon made very popular and which also appeared in the Bobo book on coins under the title of *Copper/Silver Extraction*.

The next section deals with card magic and various methods of false shuffles are explained, as well as a version of the Classic Pass, forcing, palming, peeking a selection and a section on special sleights including

one that is akin to the Glide, instruction on marked cards and even oversize cards (a card that is slightly wider or slightly longer than the deck it is in). These days among the youth of magic, flourishes and cardistry are a big hit. Many people are surprised to find out that this book also has a section on flourishes with cards – nothing as advanced as some of the finger-flinging, knuckle-busting stuff seen today, but it was an admirable skill back in 1868. These included things like springing the cards, a one-handed Pass, a one-handed change of a card (later dubbed the *Master Move* by Harry Lorrayne), card throwing (à la Ricky Jay) and even a technique for a deck switch! Also given are a number of his signature effects with cards, one being *The Ladies' Looking Glass* (a multiple selection effect) and his *Protean Pack* in which the deck changes three times to match three different selections. Another effect described was an early version of Card to Wallet, which is still very popular today and with good reason!

The next section focuses on magic with other items, mainly small ones such as corks, sugar cubes, balls, etc. He describes the procedure for palming these objects and various ways to vanish them in the hands or on a table as you pick them up, set them down, roll them (balls especially), throwing it into the air, etc. A description is given for a magic table which is used as an aid in vanishing the objects as well. There is a section on crystal ball manipulation as well as the classic Chinese Linking Rings, but most of the material on the rings focuses on “passes” with the rings: counting and short sequences with varying numbers of rings. Robert-Houdin describes an effect which is, to my mind, the predecessor of the modern Bowling Ball Production: Producing a Canon Ball from a Hat. He discusses how to properly load the ball and to produce it with maximum effect. There is even an effect where you change a pack of cards into a bird!

The next section delves into the methodology of the Cups & Balls, the materials necessary to perform the effect, the principles at play (“misdirection”, etc.), including the various means and ways of producing

and vanishing the balls, how to handle them, how to handle the cups and even a vocabulary section. Included here is a reference to the performance of the effect in the “old style”, instruction for which is provided in the form of the routine used by the Italian magician Bartolomeo Bosco and is only contemporary, the French magician, Conus (famous for the Conus Aces effect).

The final section deals with various sundry effects, including the *Birth of Flowers* (a.k.a. *The Magical Vegetation*), the production of bowls full of gold fish and the Marvellous Equilibrium.

This book is now a classic tome filled with material that has stood the test of time; many modern effects can be recognized in the pages of this book. Robert-Houdin also created a number of effects for which he became famous, including his *Blooming Orange Tree* and the *Light and Heavy Chest*, which bears its own fascinating history.

That is all for this month folks. Enjoy the start to summer and make the most of it – get out there and share the magic with others and have fun!

-JMA

John Calvert, Von Arx, Thurston and AAMC’s own Dr. Joaquin Ayala all lost shows in maritime disasters!

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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 . Meetings start at 7pm.