

# MagicMessenger

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

OCT. 2016

## President's Corner

October. Magic Month. I'm not sure how October got it's title. Maybe it's the magic of ghosts, goblins, monsters, and skeletons dancing and prancing about. Maybe it's a reminder that Harry Houdini died right here in Detroit on Halloween, 1926. Or maybe it's just a "hallmark holiday" (although I don't recall ever seeing a card wishing someone "Happy Magic Month"). Either way, it's a time when thoughts turn to the magical arts. So, enjoy the "spirit" of the month, and be magical!

"Be Magical". I've been thinking about that lately. I was able to get a copy of an audiobook titled, "I Lie For A Living" by Steve Spill. He's my age, but grew up in magic, and was around during the early days of the Magic Castle in Los Angeles. He knew very well Senator Crandall, The Professor, Slydini, the Larsens, Bob Sheets, and pretty much anyone who was anyone in the California magic scene back in those days (1970s).

I just finished a section where he talks about one of his mentors making an observation about a "magical moment" in the act he had just performed. Spill suggests several times *he* thought were "magical", but no, it wasn't what he thought. The time, said his mentor, was when he thought the trick had gone wrong (it was a card reveal), but had actually been correct, and he seemed astonished himself. "That", said his mentor, "was a pure magical moment".

Steve Spill decided to make sure he worked on being astonished himself when he performed his feats of magic. Wasn't that also Doug Henning's approach? He seemed genuinely astonished at the magic that was happening at his very fingertips.

My takeaway from this? (1). What genuine “magical moments” (if any) take place in *my* act? (2). Do *I* appear to be astonished myself at what I am doing?

Think about it. Take a look at what we do, how we do it, and the effect it has on our audiences.

### Homecoming Month

It's time for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Homecoming” at our meeting on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Let's invite anyone we know that perhaps used to be part of the club, someone who has been to some meetings, someone who's interested in magic but doesn't come to the club, or just a magical colleague that would enjoy a great evening just hanging out with fellow magi.

Last year's Homecoming Court (Linda Triemer and Bill Brang) will end their “reign of magic” and a new King and Queen of Magic will be named (that reminds me... time for another trip to Burger King)... with everyone present (except those two) having a chance at leaving as royalty!

In addition, Anthony Grupido, a young guy from Oakland County who performed at Michigan Magic Day (he did the straight jacket escape), will be presenting a lecture, “The Art of Street Magic”. Anthony, one of the hardest working magicians in southeastern Michigan, is in his early twenties, but has crossed the country “busking” and working the streets with his magic. He continues to do that every year in Traverse City at the Cherry Festival, and other festivals and outdoor events more locally. If it's ever crossed your mind about drawing a “tip” (name for the crowd that watches a street performer) and performing spontaneous magic in front of a group on the street, you'll get valuable tips and information. If it's *never* crossed your mind to do that, then just come and watch a young working pro do his act, and let's glean some tips for doing close up magic... creating more “magical moments”.

## Flea Market

Our flea market (this was #17, btw) was a great success! This was probably the biggest turnout we've had in quite awhile. There were some amazing deals to be had, and we were able to invite several people to this month's meeting. I hope some of them come out (including a boy and a girl who came with their mom). Next year's Flea Market is already set: Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Party

One more thing. My wife Ronda and I would like to invite the club (and guest) to our house in Grosse Ile on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> for a little Christmas Party. It will be in the afternoon, and a chance to enjoy the spirit of the holidays before it gets too crazy. I'll keep you reminded.

Stay Magical, everyone!

**John Russell**

## Secretary's Report

Our Sept. meeting was quite enjoyable, particularly for me, with it being my first time back after the move to Romeo. **Linda Treimer** was welcomed as the club's newest member, visitors **David & Jackie Saunders** along with **Jacob Osterwind** were recognized and a thank you note from **Velma Waite, Bob's widow**, was read to the group.

With the theme of the evening "Book Night", 6 members shared some of their favorites along with an effect or two from some of the tomes.

**Bill Brang** discussed a range of magical resources that he found particularly valuable: the IBM Linking Ring, Percy Abbott's biography, "A Lifetime In Magic" and the huge Abbott's Magic Catalog for their wealth of technical knowledge. Bill highlighted The American Museum of Magic in Marshall Michigan for its vast collection of ephemera and historically significant props, concluding with the production of a silk streamer from an old (thankfully not valuable) magic book. **Rich Treimer** performed a very clean book test, employing 3 novels. One was randomly

selected along with a page number. Rich successfully predicted the first and last word on the page! **Marvin Mathena** introduced a little known gem “”Deck In Hand Magic Of The Magyar”, authored by Dr. Laszlo Rothbart and published in 1940. Marvin discussed the particular routine #Any Card At Any Number” noting its place in the development of that classic routine. **Randy Smith** presented an effect from a Fellowship of Christian Magicians publication. The trick is called “Crossing the Kings” A card is selected, shuffled into the deck as it is spread on a table top. Randy reached into the pile and produced a card castle shaped as a cross. As he turns the cross around, the selected card is revealed on the cross! **Linda Triemer** brought us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with an ebook, “Life Of The Party”. Linda performs magic in hospitals and is always looking for props appropriate to that environment. This evening she demonstrated a nice bit of legerdemain by tying two hospital straws together then magically separating them. **John Russell** closed the program by discussing some of the rent works of the legendary Jim Steinmeier. Last Greatest Magician In The World, Hiding the Elephant and The Glorious Deception.

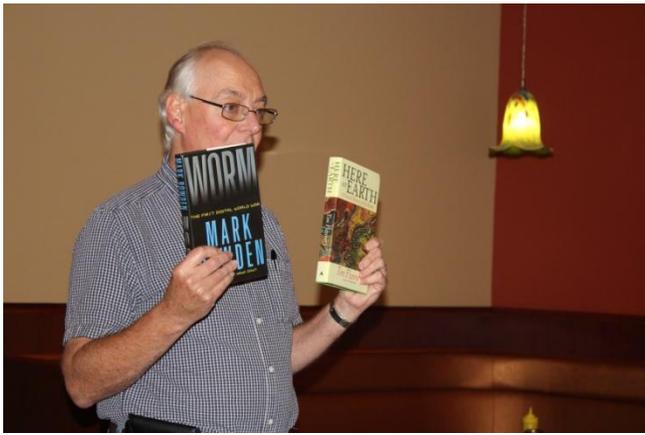


*John Russell & Linda Triemer*



*Bill Brang*

A fellow told me he was going to hang-glider school. He said, 'I've been going for three months.' I said, 'How many successful jumps do you need to make before you graduate?' He said, 'All of them.'"



*Rich Tremier*



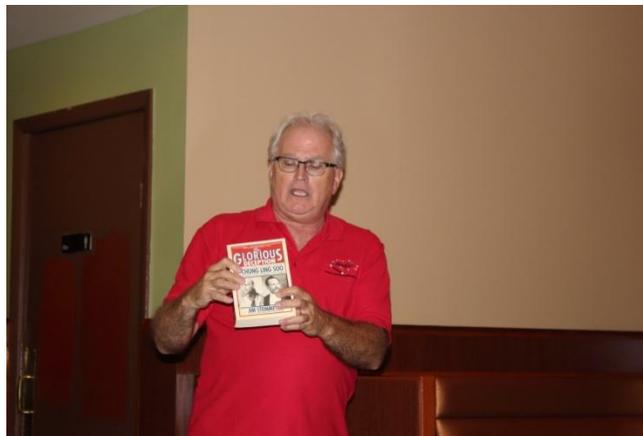
*Marvin Mathena*



*Randy Smith*



*Linda Treimer*



*John Russell*



*Jacob Osterwind*

Laughter is an instant vacation

Radio . . . that wonderful invention by which I can reach millions of people . . . who fortunately can't reach me.



*The AAMC Possee!*

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.



## *Mathis' Musings*

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

If you don't have a sense of humor you probably don't have any sense at all.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. - for example, it could be the right number.

Be careful about reading the fine print - there's no way you're going to like it.

Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.

### A look back at the 2016 AAMC World Famous Flea Market



Nurse: "Doctor, the man you just gave a clean bill of health to dropped dead right as he was leaving the office". Doctor: "Turn him around, make it look like he was walking in."



My doctor grabbed me by the wallet and said, "Cough!"



*This French magician (1847-1903) was not only a successful stage magician but also a prolific magic inventor. Nearly all of the tricks in his show were his own design, including the **Vanishing Birdcage** and the **Multiplying Billiard Balls**. A contemporary of Robert-Houdin, He is probably most remembered for his **Chair**, or **Vanishing Lady Illusion**, still used today by a number of top performing illusionists. Who is it ?*

**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.**

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for September, 2016! Last month we explored the classic text by J. N. Hofzinsler and at the end, I promised we would explore another classic tome this month. Which one? **Our Magic** by Nevil Maskelyne and David Devant. It was written in 1911 with a very different intent than most other magic books; that is, it was aimed at educating the general public about the secrets and mysteries of magicians, to pull back the proverbial curtain. Of course, it did contain actual secrets of magic effects, but the authors intended to let the public in on them.

This particular book did not become a great hit with the general public but eventually it became very sought-after by magicians for the wealth of very useful topics that it contained and covered. It is by no means a 'light/easy read' and it is best read in small sections so that one can fully digest what is being discussed. The philosophies in the book are centered on parlor and stage magic, but everything contained in the book can be applied to all other aspects of magic as well. In fact, there was a man named H. Adrian Smith, an historian and collector who, during his lifetime, amassed the largest private library of books on conjuring and magic. He published a list of ten books that he considered essential basics for a working magician and this title was on that list.

Among many other subjects, things covered in this book included Consistency, Justification, Climax, Presentation, Patter, Rehearsal, Stage Manner and Personality, Mental Attitude, The Importance of Artistic Principles, Misdirection, a collection of principles that apply to magic performance including Mechanical, Optical, Acoustic, Electrical, Chemical and Molecular Principles. Among one of the reasons in my opinion that one should own a copy of this book, which is also available in a free eBook format from [library.com](http://library.com), is that there is an entire 20 page

biographical index of card effects, which includes sleights. Anyone doing research on card sleights and card moves would find this book invaluable for that list alone.

The information in this book is very valuable but as I said, it is not a light read. I believe this is what prompted Nevil Maskelyne to write and publish a shortened version of the book called *Maskelyne on the Performance of Magic*. This is still available today and is every bit as good as *Our Magic*, but it is a much easier read and it covers the most important areas of the larger book. Some of our readers will remember that our featured guest for Michigan Magic Day 2016, Levent, published his list of the “Fundamental Rules of Stage Magic”. His list very much complements the list that Maskelyne himself wrote, *the 24 Rules of Magic*, which can be read in the book or also on the website of Martin Lewis ([www.magikraft.com](http://www.magikraft.com)). Darwin Ortiz also published a list called *Darwin’s Laws* in his book **Designing Miracles**. That list also reflects the philosophies put forth by Maskelyne.

If you are even remotely interested in magic performance theory, this book is certainly a must-have for your library. It will take a while to absorb the information from the pages, but the most important thing is to take that information and apply it to your own performances. Until next month folks, enjoy the beautiful weather, read a good magic book – check our club website for all the past articles for some great suggestions – and get out there and share the magic!

-JMA

**\*\*\*\*\* *Buatier DeKolta* \*\*\*\*\***

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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.**