

MagicMessenger

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

DEC. 2016

President's Corner

Seasons Greetings everyone!

I have quite a few Facebook “friends”. This has given me access to some of the great minds in magic these days. Their accessibility and assistance has been invaluable in my development as a magician.

Thanksgiving weekend, one full-time magician I follow, **David Hira**, posted an interesting way to try out new effects and routines. He’s involved in his local Rotary and Lions’ Clubs and when he wants to present the new stuff to a “real audience”, he calls them up and asks for 6-10 minutes to demonstrate what he’s working on. He told me they really love it, because it makes them feel “special” and on the inside, and he really loves it because it takes practice out of the family room and puts it in the real world.

My interest was how often he adds new material to his act. For instance, **Mac King** rarely adds anything new to his popular Las Vegas show. **Terry Underwood** of Pigeon Forge uses the month of January each year to work new material into his show. Another Facebook “friend”, **Tom Pesce** from New York State, changes things up quarterly. (For those interested, I swap similar effects like cut & restored rope and torn & restored newspaper, in and out if I’m doing a return visit to basically the same group of people. Otherwise, I usually customize a show with a dozen or so routines, choosing from 25-30 I can pull from).

I sent David Hira a message asking him my question. He replied quickly with his phone number, telling me to call him! Now this is a guy who does 95% corporate work, and makes big, BIG money doing so!

I took him up on his offer, and we spent a good 20 minutes chatting. What I found interesting was not how often he mixes in new material, but rather his philosophy on how he positions himself in the magic marketplace.

I'm paraphrasing now, but what makes you unique in the marketplace? If we don't differentiate ourselves somehow, we're just a "can of soup" (his example) to the end consumer. One can is like another can, and the customer, looking for entertainment, sees no difference, and will go for the lowest cost (which I'm sure we can all relate to).

But if we're different, if we're unique, if we offer something that our competition doesn't, we will find ourselves not only in a good position to land a booking, but also in a good position to get more for our services!

So my question to you is: *What makes you unique?*

Club News:

The December meeting on Wednesday the 14th (at Senate Coney Island), will feature "Holiday Magic". Maybe you have a Santa routine. Or can produce a Chanukah candelabra. Or have a story that goes with the seven principles of Kwanzaa, or a Gospel presentation on the true meaning of Christmas. Whatever you have, bring it along and let's have a holiday celebration!

ALSO, bring a *wrapped*, magical gift (value about \$10), and we'll play the exchange game like we did last year.

Last, what would you like to see happen in our club in 2017? Let's talk about it...

In the mean time, Merry Christmas, and I hope to see you all at our next meeting!

John Russell. President

Secretary's Report

Thanks to **John Russell** for providing the write up for this month's meeting:

November's theme was "Simply Magic", and members were invited to share things they have been working on. **President John Russell** kicked it off bringing an update to some do-it-yourself magic apparatus including a "dang table" from **Barry Mitchell's** ideas, a suitcase table with items from Harbor Freight Tools and Guitar Center, then showed his new 20th Century Silks made from bandanas from the dollar store and silks from a recent conference. Total cost for the effect: well under \$10 (and less than \$50 for the suitcase table).

Rich Tremier went next, demonstrating a new style thumbtip from Rocco, that allows one to produce a small silk without having to actually remove the tip! Bill Brang followed Rich with his DIY effect that is a customizable stage effect based on the hot rod system. He showed pics from 1974 of himself performing "What's Next?", and had the same item with him! He closed out his demo with a political version of Hippy Hop Rabbits... timely, since this took place the day after the presidential election.

Marvin Mathena performed the card trick Mental Dice from one of **Karl Fulves'** books, then explained how all in attendance could perform it as well.

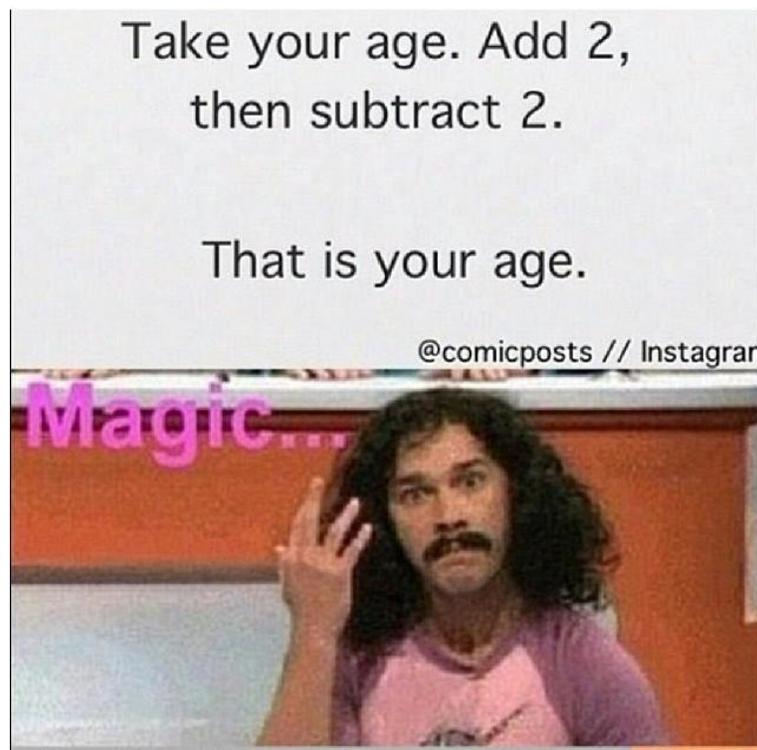
Thanks Marvin!

Randy Smith closed out the evening with a pocket card trick he calls, “you will choose the red card”. And guess what? We did!



“We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through congress” **Will Rogers**

“The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending. And to have the two as close together as possible” ... **George Burns**



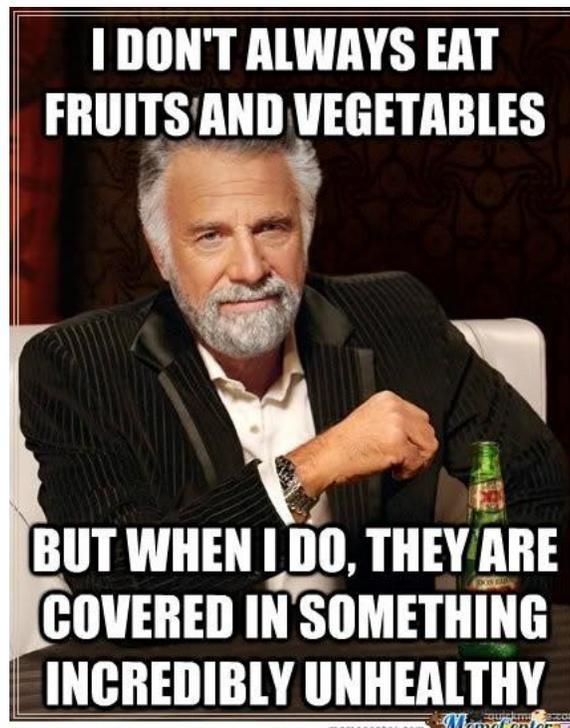
“Don’t worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you”... **Winston Churchill**

“By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he’s too old to go anywhere” ... **Billy Crystal**



My cardiologist’s diet: “If it tastes good, spit it out” ...**Anonymous**

“Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people once a year” ...**Victor Borge**





Can you name this classic effect and its famous inventor?
Answers at the end of the Messenger

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

*"May your troubles be less, may your blessings be more
And
May nothing but happiness come through your door"*

Jim Folkl

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

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for Dec. 2016! Wow-where did the year go? It flew by and there were plenty of magical happenings this year. In April we were gifted with the appearance of **Levent** at Michigan Magic Day, for my family our daughter was born four days later, we saw two inductions of long-time magicians into the Michigan Magic Day Hall of Fame (**Ron Aldrich and Paul Nielsen**), we saw one of our own honored with the Order of Merlin (**Marvin Mathena**) and so much more! There were lots of things in our circle of the world we have to be thankful for.

I want to thank all of you that have sent me letters and comments on my articles this year-I am very pleased to know how many of you read them and get so much out of them, and I am also glad that I can share my knowledge of these wonderful tomes with you! With that said, the book that I am focusing on for this month, was, in the eyes of many, a gift of sorts to the magic community. It is one of the often-referenced books and

it is not really all that old compared to many of the books that I normally focus on. The book is called *John Carney's Carneopia* by **Stephen Minch**. It was published by L&L Publishing in 1991 and has since been out of print. If you find a used copy anywhere (which is not often) they are usually north of \$100/USD (sometimes for less) but worth, in my humble opinion, every last penny. In case you do not want to shell out that much cash, L&L Publishing does sell a PDF version of the book for \$20/USD.

The book covers a very wide range of material from cards to bank notes, matches to coins and even some mentalism. There is absolutely something in her for everyone, even beyond the effects in the book. **John Carney** is known for being a student of **Dai Vernon** and the philosophies that he has developed and put into this book are evidence of the time spent with the Professor. In reading his book, you are getting a masterful lesson in how to construct effects and routines in the most streamlined/economical manner possible. There are a number of effects in here that can easily be put into a set as they flow nicely together, often with the preceding effect setting up the next one, almost (if not completely) eliminating any get-ready from one effect to the next. If that is not economical, what is? Some of the effects/moves that John really become known for are in this book. One of the standout items is a sleight called the Versa Switch, a very practical method for switching two packets of cards as you pick one up off the table. The Streamlined Cylinder and Coins is exactly that, a direct and logical approach to the classic effect of John Ramsay (which happens to be the all-time favorite coin effect of mine). The Logical Bill Trick (a favorite of John Carney) is a self-contained method of producing coins from a banknote, all of which are examinable at the end. Bullet Train is the John Carney method for the Cards up the Sleeve for platform, popularized by **Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin** and is rather stunning. Quarter Spin is a very baffling Coin in Bottle and it even fools people who know about folding coins-it does not even seem like a possible method for this version! Polite Penetration is the Carney treatment of **Scotty York's Nickel Saver**, which is the York treatment of the old Cap and Pence. The Thirteenth Victim is now a classic Carney bit and is based on the Chinese

Marbles from the **Edwin Sachs** book, *Sleight of Hand*; however this is done with bullets! This is a very entertaining version where three bullets start in one hand and end up in your other hand, which has two paper eyes, a mouth and even a squeaky falsetto voice that sounds suspiciously like your own. The bullets are “spat out” by the mouth one by one onto a plate. Suddenly there is a loud BANG! An empty bullet jacket is found on the saucer and you reveal that you caught the bullet in your own mouth! Well that is all for the month of December and indeed for the year 2016. Please do yourself a favor and gift yourself with a copy of Carneycopia- you will be glad you did and you will get many hours of enjoyable reading out of this modern classic. Until next year, I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season filled with much love, magic and celebration (Happy Christmahannukuanzika!), and I bid everyone a prosperous new year in 2017! See you all on the other side!

Very Magically Yours,
Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala de Cedoz, PhD.
Club Librarian

“RING FLITE / AL KORAN”

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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 48150-500.

*Meetings start at 7pm.