

# Magic Messenger

The Official Newsletter of the  
Ann Arbor Magic Club



I.B.M. 210

OCTOBER 2018

S.A.M. 88

## ***A Candle in the Dark*** – Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala, President

Happy Autumn everyone! Finally! We are starting to see relief from the mugginess and the heat – a welcome change. It is a very magical time of year, and not just because October is National Magic Month, but because it is a time when things begin to change and transform. Leaves change color and later, they will fall off the trees as Old Man Winter approaches.

Change and transformation is an excellent theme for us magicians to think about as well. I was recently reading a book by **Dr. Robert E. Neale** called *Breaking Our Magic Wands*, which talks about a ceremony that is normally performed when a magician passes away. His or her brethren recount their life in the magical arts and recall their contributions to clubs, to students, to the art of magic. At the end, the wand – a symbol of the power of a magician, is broken in half.

Bob Neale explores ways to break our wands not as a symbol of an end to the magic, rather as a way of *renewal*, much in the way a phoenix bursts into flames and burns to ash, only to be reborn from the ashes. It can be a way to give ourselves a fresh start. The book also posits that the wands can be metaphorical as opposed to physical objects, in which case “breaking” them can take on a different meaning and the ways in which we break our wands will be different for every reader, a unique experience.

Of course, as with all Bob Neale books, there are ample effects that are taught to help illustrate the various ways in which we might perform this sort of ritual, but the effects are a minor point. It challenges you to think

about the ways that you can perform your magic in order to give your audiences this same sort of experience. Of course, there are many different ways you can illustrate it, with effects like Torn & Restored Newspaper, Cut & Restored Rope, Gypsy Thread, Burnt & Restored Match, Color Changing Hank and much more.

Check out the book to explore this theme some more but think about the ways in which you can renew, evolve and transform yourselves and the magic you perform, then think of ways to give your audience that same experience.

Happy Haunting, everybody and have a great October!

Magically,

*Dr. J.*



Left Top to Bottom: **Don Oesterwind & Jim Molnar**



Right Top to Bottom: **Rob Krozal & John Osborne**

Bottom Middle: **Dave & Jacki Saunders**





Randy Smith



Michael Doyle



Jim Ruth



Pam Smith & Ming Louie



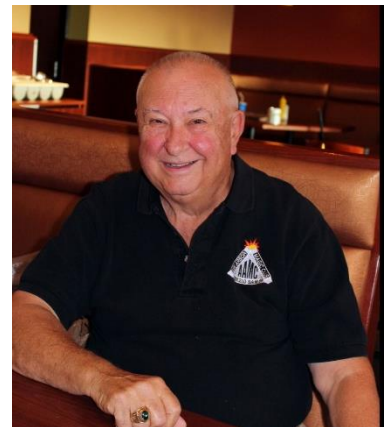
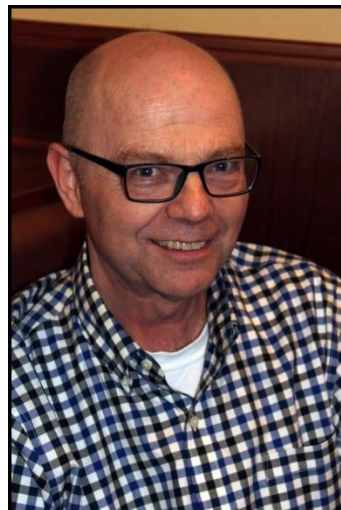
Jerry Heilman



Ming Louie



Barb Louie



Pictured to the right, from L to R:  
**Kevin Peshick** and **George Honer**

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## TRIVIA QUESTION

The magician seen here was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 1914 in Courbevoie, Seine, France. He studied with Nate Leipzig and is credited with creating and/or perfecting several now-classic magic effects, both in the close-up genre and for parlor and stage work. One of those effects bears his name. He appeared on the 1955 TV show called "*It's Magic*" and performed two of those effects. He passed away in 1977. Who is he???

**Answer at the end of the newsletter.**



**Notes from the Quill** by Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala, Secretary

Well, the change of season is finally here and in the middle of it all, we had a busy month in September. Sadly, your faithful Secretary was unable to attend the Rope Magic meeting last month, but a big thank you and kudos to Treasurer **Rob Krozal**, who ran the meeting and acted as not only the treasurer but also the President, Vice President and Secretary for the meeting. Whew! Great job, sir! One of our old members, **George Honer** stopped in to visit and perform a rope effect or two. Also performing were **Michael Doyle, Ming Louie, Jim Ruth** and **Randy Smith**.

Last month we also had our "World Famous" Flea Market and we had a pretty good turnout this time around, even though it had been moved to a Saturday. The location we used turned out to be very good for our needs and barring any unforeseen circumstances in the future, it will be our new home. We sold 15 of our 20 available tables and the vendors all had an excellent selection of products to choose from, everything from old, classic apparatus to newer books and DVDs. Our selection of pizza and soda sold quite well. I want to personally thank all the vendors and the attendees for purchasing tables or joining us and helping make it a success!

Finally, I want to send a **GREAT BIG, HUGE, GIGANTIC THANK YOU** to **KARL RABE** for his kind, generous donation to the club, and of course, to **DON OESTERWIND** for letting us use his building to hold this event, and to those who helped staff the door and the kitchen: **Patty Rabe, Rob Krozal,**

**Jerry Heilman** and **Pam Smith**. Thank you, as always, to **Randy Smith**, our wonderful photographer! I also want to thank the staff of Safe Step for their prep work in having the space ready for us to use – I trust Mr. Oesterwind can extend our gratitude to them on our behalf.

In October, be sure to join us for our monthly meeting where we will be having our Parlour/Stage Magic night! Also, coming up on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of October, members have the opportunity to perform for an event called 'Pumpkins, Lanterns & Leaves' at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor. We are looking for 4-5 performers to donate their time each evening, for about 1.5 hours. Please see me to sign up and for further information!

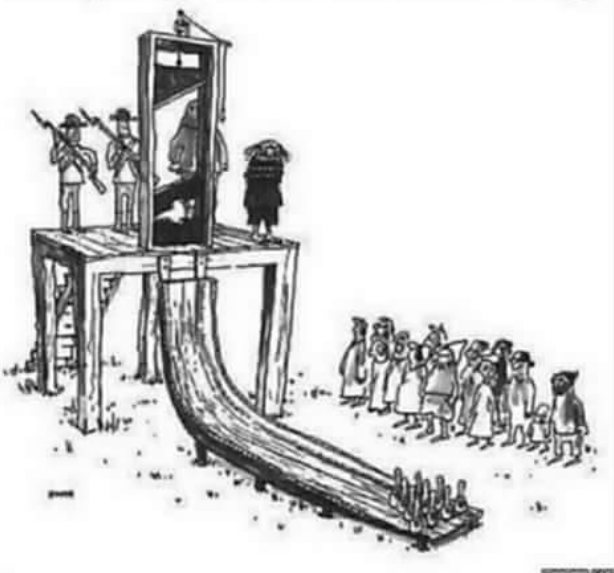
See you all very soon, happy haunting and remember – Comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable!

Yours in the Secret Art,

*Dr. J.*

I accidentally sat on my glasses so now my hindsight truly is 20/20, but my depth perception stinks.

No matter what your job is, always try and make it interesting



I was walking home last night and decided to take a short cut through the cemetery...3 girls walked up to me and explained that they were scared to walk past the cemetery at night, so I agreed to let them walk along with me. I told them, "I understand...I used to get freaked out too when I was alive."

Never seen anyone run so fast!

Ghosts are very spiritual.  
Their main religion is  
Buddism.

Do you think glass coffins will be a success? Remains to be seen...



A few photos from our 2018 Flea Market. For our e-mail subscribers, you can view the whole album by clicking this link: [Flea Market Photo Album](#)

Right: Karl Rabe bringing Don some fresh spring water...



### ***Ex Libris*** by Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for October 2018! I have said it before and I will say it again: Boy, oh boy am I glad autumn is here! This is my absolute favorite season of the year with all of the things changing and transforming, preparing for the coming of Old Man Winter (does this line give you a little sense of déjà vu?). Speaking of changes, I thought I would

do something that I have never done before with this article, namely, bringing on a guest contributor!

The idea here is that I know the book we will be discussing this month is great, and for various reasons, but I wanted you all to see that there are others out there that also know this to be true.

The book we will be focusing on this month is *Ted Lesley's Paramiracles* by **Ted Lesley & Stephen Minch** and here to tell you a little bit about it in his own words is our first(!) guest contributor, **Mr. Kevin Peshick!**

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*Paramiracles* is a 293-page hardcover book, written by **Ted Lesley** and **Stephen Minch** and published in 1992 by **Hermetic Press**.

Ted Lesley (1937 - 2008) was a German Mentalist who entered the performance world in 1974. Prior to the release of *Paramiracles*, he had published around 80 articles in the German magic magazine *Magsiche Welt* (Magical World.) Much of this material was included in his book *Mental Up* which was then translated into the English language as *Paramiracles* in 1992, taking the magic world by storm. True to the prefix "para", the material in this book can create a near miracle for the dedicated performer.

In the first chapter, he introduces a series of different breather cards that are probably well known to the average card magician. After that there are ten effects using these three different types of breather crimps. These effects are not theoretical but have been honed to perfection by Lesley's years of performance.

Throughout the rest of the book there are many utilities that belong in the mentalists' bag. These include switching pads, the center tear, hidden cribs, the **Koran/Bagshawe** forcing deck, a variant of **Ed Mishell's Holdout** device, a playing card pocket index and a switching envelope.

The effects cover such topics as psychometry, the magic square, Book Tests, an effect using Trivial Pursuit cards, a Headline Prediction, Living & Dead tests, his presentation of **Eddie Joseph's Premonition** (an effect I performed in high school), a card teleportation effect, a pocket watch time prediction effect combined with a paper tearing stunt, and a Hydrostatic Glass. The last chapter is dedicated to a

famous PK effect of Lesley's called *Mindbender* in which he bends the stem of a wine glass!

Many of these effects will take dedication to pull together all the required props. These are not props you buy from the magic store, but items you will seek out to create the routines. However, as I mentioned earlier, with the effects having been honed to perfection by actual performances, the hunt will be well worth your effort.

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Thank you very much, Kevin, for this contribution! As he mentioned, the effects in this book vary greatly, and some take considerable time to make (some requiring you to make one-time use items), but they are all worth the effort in the end. The effects given in this book have stood the test of time and are, to the lay audiences, as near to miracles as they will ever witness. The material is also very adaptable to themes, but most are also very suitable for mentalism shows and shows with a bizarre/storytelling theme.

That is all for this month folks! Join us again next month as we delve into another great book, but this time it will be a newer book... *J.M.A.*

### Trivia Answer

None other than *Edward Emerson Ford McQuaid*, a.k.a. **Roy Benson!** Benson became famous for effects like the **Benson Bowl**, a version of cups and balls usually done with a bowl and three balls, usually sponge balls. He was equally famous for his **Chinese Sticks** routine as well as his **Long Salt Pour**.





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**Website: <http://www.aamagic.org/>**

**Check out our Facebook Page: “Ann Arbor Magic Club”**  
**Have a question / suggestion / comment / contribution?**  
**We would love to hear from you! Get in touch with us!**  
**Bring a guest to a meeting! Perform! Join a Committee!**

**The Ann Arbor Magic Club meets the 2nd  
Wednesday of each month at Senate Coney Island  
Restaurant - 34359 Plymouth Rd, Livonia, MI  
48150-1500. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. Come at 6  
p.m. if you want to eat.**