



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

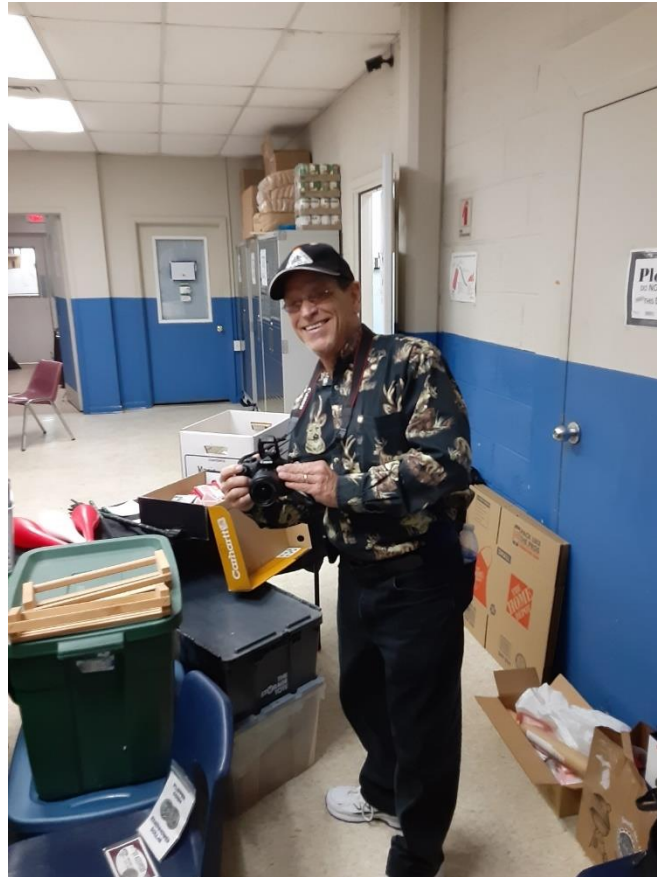
Happy New Year, everyone! I want to kick off the new year by welcoming you to 2020 and to say that I hope everyone is well and that you all had a good holiday season.

For those of you that still do not know, our faithful Secretary, official club photographer and friend to all, Randy A. Smith, passed away on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We are extending our deepest sympathies to his beloved wife, our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mrs. Pam Smith.

Randy was a great guy and a lot of fun to talk to. You could not take him too seriously because he would pull the rug out from under you if you did! Randy enjoyed many activities including but not limited to magic, gospel magic, photography, astronomy and cooking. Both he and Pam belong to other groups such as the Fellowship of Christian Magicians and an amateur astronomy club in Dearborn.

He could be spotted outside the club helping to photograph and perform for fundraisers at various animal shelters, and any time we needed a photographer for *anything*, Randy was there. He has served on the Board of Officers for this, the Ann Arbor Magic Club, in the past in various capacities.

Randy will be sorely missed by all and we are ever thankful for his dedication to the club, its members and for his service on the Board. Rest in Peace, Randy. Sleep sweetly. Please reach out to Pam Smith at [pam1s2006@gmail.com](mailto:pam1s2006@gmail.com) to offer your condolences and support.



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This month we will not be having elections as it is a continuation of the 2-year term for the elected Officers. Instead, we will be having a lecture by none other than **GEORGE TAIT!** Details were sent out in an email with promotional information as well as the details on the lecture. A summation of that email can be found below.

**WHAT: A lecture with GEORGE TAIT (a.k.a. Patrick Redford).**  
**WHEN: Wednesday January 8th, 2020 @ 7 p.m. (Come at 6 p.m. to eat) \*This lecture is taking the place of the usual monthly meeting.**  
**WHERE: Senate Coney Island - 34359 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150**

**COST: \$5/members and \$10/non-members (Ring Reciprocity will be honored when you show your I.B.M. Membership card with active membership!)**

Patrick will feature some of his favorite real-world working mentalism, card effects and coin work. Whether you're a professional or casual practitioner, you'll walk away from this lecture with material you'll use.

Coin workers will be delighted with Patrick's wonderful coin material. He will teach and demonstrate his highly acclaimed multi-phase matrix routine called "*Error 404.*"

Learn how to take away the ability to perform a simple task from a participant only to give it back moments later! Become a human lie detector and discover which one of four people are holding a \$100.00 bill and which hand it is in without any gimmicks, every time!

Card workers will rejoice in learning Patrick's impossible-looking card control that has fooled some of the most knowledgeable minds in magic as well as some select pieces using the "*Redford stack.*" There's so much more packed into this evening's lecture, you won't want to miss it! Learn more about Patrick at [www.PatrickRedford.com](http://www.PatrickRedford.com)!

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One final reminder for this article, courtesy of our Treasurer Rob Krozal, and then I will get off my soap box:

Dues are due this month! The cost is \$25/single, \$30/couples and \$35/families. We accept cash, checks and PayPal\*. If you choose to use PayPal, **PLEASE(!)** send the payment via the ***Friends and Family*** option to [AAMC\\_BOARD@AAMAGIC.ORG](mailto:AAMC_BOARD@AAMAGIC.ORG) – thank you all for your continued support, we appreciate it very much!

I hope to see you all soon – stay well and Happy New Year to all of you!

Yours in the Secret Art,

Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala de Cédoz  
President

**Special shoutout to Pradyu Jamadagni for the awesome artwork at the top of the newsletter!**

## **Secretary's Report**

Our Christmas meeting was small but merry! I apologize but I do not have any photos to go along with the performers at the time of publication, but we did have some Christmas Magic!

**Ming & Barbara Louie** performed their take on *Cube-a-Libre* with three or four phases and a great finish with lots of audience participation! **Michael Doyle** performed his interpretation of an *Oil & Water* handling by Nathan Kranzo. **Marvin Mathena** performed a progressive story with silks. He had forgotten to reset his prop and got turned around, which we all thought was him just pulling our leg, but it all turned out great at the end! **Dr. J.** demonstrated his work on the *Santa Blendo* with a unique setup and way to carry it around, which also makes for an easy reset. Afterward everyone enjoyed some of his award-winning brownies for a Christmas treat!

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***Ex Libris*** by Joaquin Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello folks and welcome to the first Ex Libris article for 2020! Happy New Year to you all! My faithful readers will know that each year in January, I consider it a chance to go back to basics, back to the beginning or an elementary level, if you will. As such I always write about a book that is considered a must-read for beginning magicians, but which can also be of use to advanced practitioners.

This month we will focus on *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic* by **Mark Wilson**, originally published in 1975 as a large-format, comb-bound book, then again in 1988 as a 472-page hardcover book with a dustjacket. It was published by Ottenheimer Publishers, Inc., for Courage Books. It has since been republished in various sized softcover formats.

This is a book that has it all – cards, coins, parlor, close-up, mentalism, illusions, stunts, flourishes and more! There were quite a few famous contributors to this book, including but not limited to the likes of **David Roth, Alan Wakeling, Ulysses F. Grant, Don Wayne** and others. The effects are all described, followed by the secret and the preparation, the presentation and finally, any additional comments and suggestions.

The first major section deals with cards and card magic including definitions of card-related terms (i.e. spot card, court card, etc.), various common shuffles, methods for false shuffles, many effects with normal cards and even some using jumbo cards! There are a great number of flourishes taught such as the *Charlier Cut* (a.k.a. *One-Handed Cut*), the *Arm Spread* and

*Catch*, the *Boomerang Card*, *One-Handed Fans*, *Springing the Cards* and more. Also included in this section is his work on the *Out to Lunch Principle* using his popular Genii Cards, which are business cards with the requisite Genii coming out of the lamp with the speech bubble printed on the back. If you ever bought the video edition of this book, these cards were included.

The second section deals with Money Magic. It details most of the major sleights used with coin magic, followed by some excellent coin effects including a *Copper/Silver* effect using a handkerchief, *Coin Thru Trousers*, *Coins Through Table*, *Coin in Ball of Wool* and more. This is followed by magic with banknotes, including a Torn & Restored bill, a banknote production and the ever-popular *Bill in Lemon!*

The sections that follow are dedicated to Rope Magic, Silk & Handkerchief Magic, Impromptu Magic, Mental Magic, Make-at-Home Magic, a Sponge Ball effect, Billiard Balls, a Cups & Balls routine complete with final loads and finally, Illusions. Whew – it really is a lot of magic!

The Make At Home section stands out because he teaches you how to make your own versions of classic apparatus, which you can construct with the materials given in the book, or with the right tools and skills, you can make out of things like wood or metal. You will learn to make paper cones to produce and vanish items like silks and confetti, *Afghan Bands*, *the Square Circle*, *Black Art tables*, *Foo Can*, *Lota Bowl*, *Dove Pans* and more.

The Illusion section is like the Make at Home in that he suggests ways to make about ten different classic illusions on a budget, but again if you have the skill and the right tools you could easily make nicer versions of them. The essays all give very good advice and make excellent points that you will want to pay attention to.

I learned a lot of my card flourishes and some of my very first bits of close-up magic from this book. Earlier I mentioned that this book is aimed at beginner-intermediate magicians, but there are some things in here that even advanced magicians can use. I chose this book particularly because sometimes we need that sort of reset that beginner-level books and props can offer – things we missed or overlooked when we were beginners.

Next month I will be taking a nice trip in the Way-Back Machine to visit and older tome – please come along with me!

Yours in the Secret Art,

*Dr. J.*



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**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.**