

# Magic Messenger

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

Nov./Dec. 2015

## President's Corner

Tis the Season for Magic!

In my promo video, I describe what I attempt to do with magic: "I try to present magic not as a puzzle to be solved or figured out, but rather as a moment, an experience, that defies explanation and suspends disbelief". Given that working definition, it certainly applies to the entire Christmas season! Yes, it's easy to get caught up in the commercialism that incessantly swirls around us and begs for our hard earned dollars. We struggle to come up with gift ideas for people who, if they wanted something, could no doubt go out and get it themselves. And if we guess wrong, there's always the return counter post-Christmas that seems to stretch as far as the eye can see. It's also the season for the "seefood diet" (note the spelling, please). I'll tend to "eat" anything (and sometimes everything) that I "see". All those hard-earned pounds we jettisoned this past eleven months, comes back with a vengeance, setting us up for another New Year's resolution to lose weight. It's also the season for high stress. I'll be honest: Christmas is not one of my favorite holidays or seasons. The expectations are set so high that no one and no thing can possibly live up to the hype. Nerves are frazzled and tensions can be so thick you could cut them with a knife. I tend to measure the success or failure of the season by the measure of family drama that occurs. I certainly don't mean to be a "Scrooge". But it seems to me that Christmas can and should be magical. The first one certainly was. It defies explanation and causes us to suspend disbelief. The shepherds and wise men at that first Christmas manger were certainly amazed at what they were witnessing. Mary, the mother of the Christ child, was truly surprised at the announcement of the angel of the coming gift. Later on she

“treasured these things in her heart” (Luke 2.51). I trust you will find the magic in this holiday season. Whether it be the miracle of Chanukah, or the miracle of Christmas, there is plenty historically that defies explanation. And if you will, for just a moment, suspend disbelief, maybe, just maybe, you’ll find the greatest gift of all...

In Other Magical News...

2016 is going to be jam packed with magic! From lectures, to our annual banquet, to Michigan Magic Day, it promises to be one unforgettable year! I’m excited, and look forward to continued growth in our club membership, club participation, club outreach, and club dynamics! I hope you’ll make it a point to attend our meetings every month and be part of the magic!

Club News...

The slate of officers for 2016 is ready for your perusal! Only one office is contested (treasurer).

In January, we will vote on Treasurer as both our current officer, Dan Jones and former president

Bill Brang are up for election. Continuing on (since they are unopposed) will be myself as president, Mark O'Brien as vice president (currently our historian), Jim Folkl as secretary (continuing on), and Bob Waite as sergeant-at-arms (also continuing on).

As you no doubt now already know, Denny’s closed in November, leaving us to scramble for a

new meeting location. The Senate Coney Island on Plymouth Rd in Livonia graciously allowed us to use their spacious meeting room, and we will be meeting there again this month! Come starting at 6pm if like to eat, and we’ll begin the meeting promptly at 7pm. **BRING A MAGICAL GIFT TO EXCHANGE** when you come. New or gently used, maximum \$10 value, and we’ll be playing an exchange game. If you come with a gift, you’ll leave with a gift. Let’s have some fun! Have a great holiday season, and I hope to see you all on December 8<sup>th</sup> !

**John Russell, President**

## Secretary's Report

November's theme was "Holiday Magic" ... any holiday. Before performances began, 4 guests were introduced: **Jack and Shirley Markley, Hugh Irwin and Jay Johnson**. The Markelys, hailing from Indiana, attend our meetings when in town and actively participate in our events. Due to their long association with the club and their selfless contributions to the art of magic, they were awarded a certificate of honorary membership in the Ann Arbor Magic Club. Hugh Irwin is a previous member who has rejoined the AAMC. Welcome back Hugh! The evening's entertainment began with the **Markley's** demonstrating some of their magical wares. Along with the great routines, they shared their handlings, tips and sources of material to make the props ourselves. **Jay Johnson**, one of our guests and a semi retired pro, demonstrated a very comical 4 card monte routine. **Rich Triemer** presented a great childrens' effect in which two ropes, (red and white) jump between two correspondingly colored paper bags. Ultimately they changed to candy cane colored ropes. In the spirit of halloween, **Jim Folkl** presented a spooky card trick where "Larry" the spider found a freely selected card and finished with the classic "jumping snake from camera" gag ... a laff riot! **Nick Pudar** offered a perplexing mental effect with a "marked" deck. Each card had an identifying number on its back. After Nick made 3 predictions, spectators were asked to assign a random number to 3 card values. His predictions matched perfectly with those combinations assigned by the audience! **Bill Brang**, in Halloween motif, donned a wizard's hat and wand, and proceeded to change the color of a ghost residing in a haunted house. Bill closed with an ESP effect matching a 6 colored card sequence to those selected by a spectator. **Jim Placido** demonstrated an unusual effect called the "Mother of All Diamonds", transforming lumps of (Christmas) coal to diamonds. **Randy Smith** was the closing act, presenting a Veteran's Day themed routine. Randy performed the classic "Mis Made Flag" which was a perfect way to end the evening's festivities. December's gathering will spotlight "The Magic Trick Exchange Game".



**Another Full House!**



**Jack and Shirley Markley**



**Dan Jones**



**Jack Markley**

I have a unique tv .... It's the "marriage model". Only has two controls ... my wife and my mother-in-law!

Like to work a big room ... makes me a smaller target.

Working tonite on a percentage basis ... 50% of my regular fee

Waiter ! Would you please bring me a small check ?



**Jay Johnson**



**Rich Triemer**



**Jim Folkl**



**Nick Pudar**

### **“Paraprosdokians” by Dan Jones**

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.  
We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public  
To steal ideas from a person is plagiarism... from many is research.  
You're never too old to learn something stupid.  
I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.



**Jim Placido**



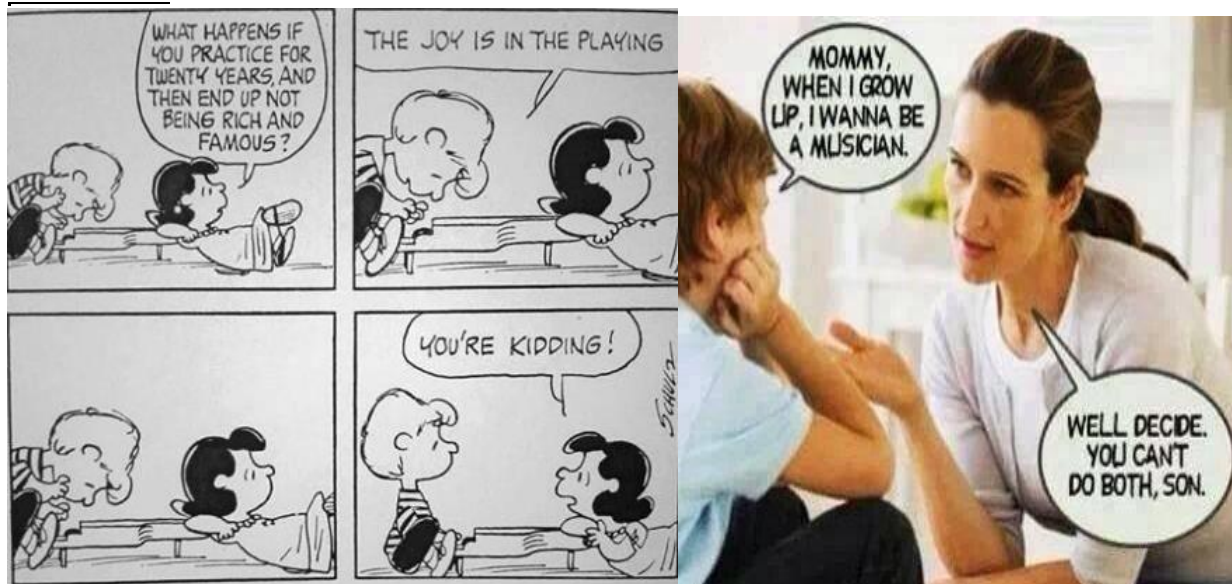
**Bill Brang**



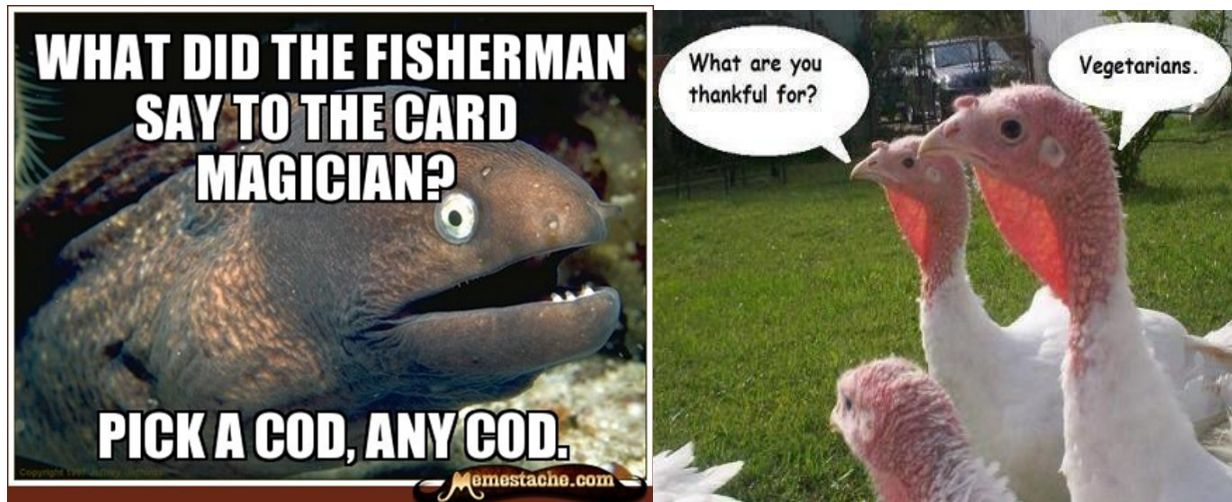
**Randy Smith**

Pasteurize – “Too far to see”  
Inventor of Knock Knock Jokes get No-Bell Prize  
Door held open for a clown – It was a nice Jester

# Funny Business



Just Like Magic !



## Vintage Heckler Stoppers

Last time I saw a mouth like yours, there was a fishhook in it

I wish I'd have known you when you were alive

Lace up your shoes, your – your tongue is hanging out

He must have a 6<sup>th</sup> sense, there's no sign of the other 5



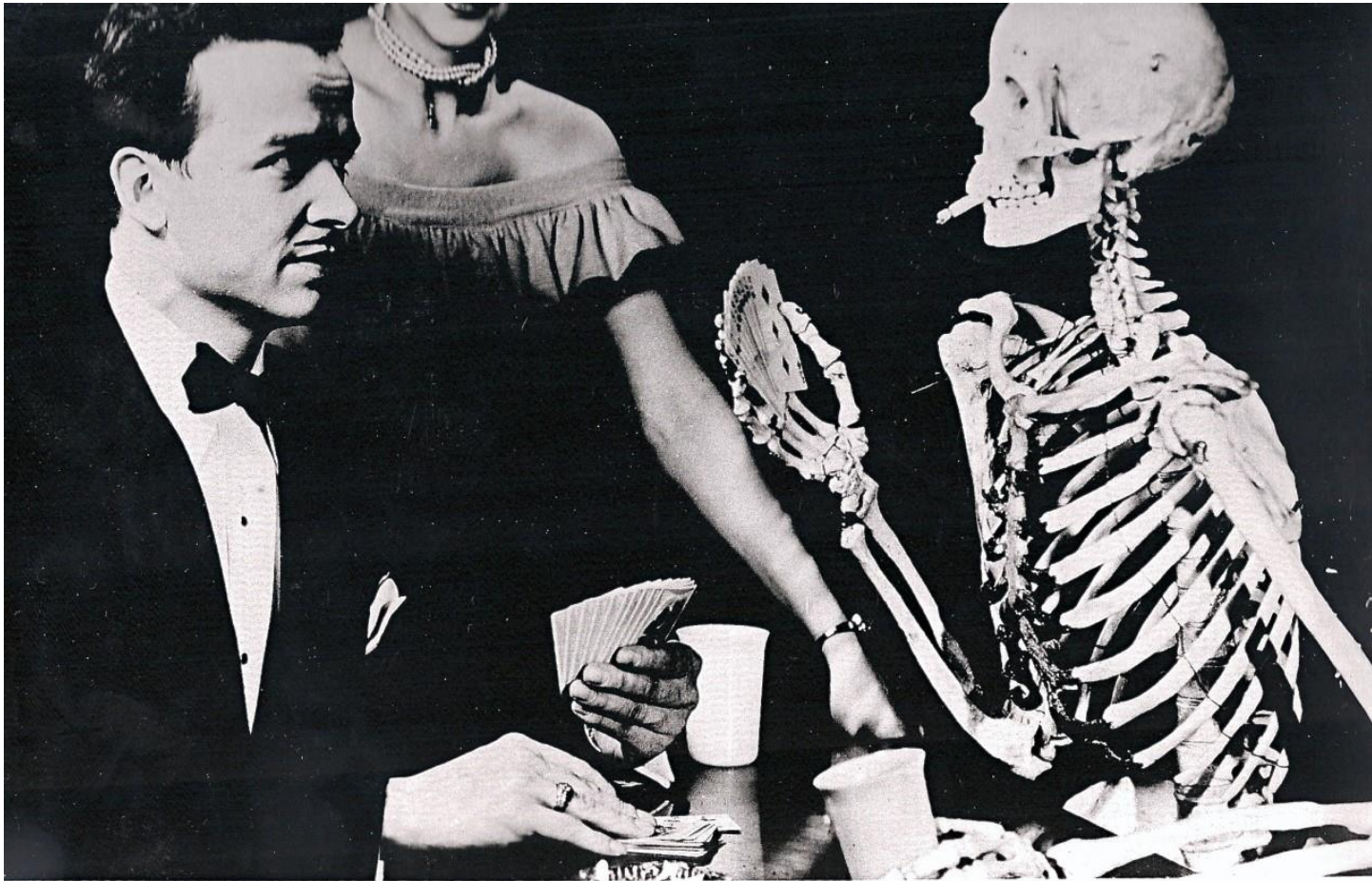
I'm not saying business is bad, but last night it was so quiet in here you could hear the minimum drop.

When you see a show like this, doesn't it make you wonder why your being charged an amusement tax ?

I won't criticize the band, but last night a waiter dropped a tray of dishes and 6 couples got up to dance.

Notice the way the drummer is banging that bass drum? He's got a picture of his mother-in-lawpasted on it.





**"THE - ASYLUM - OF - HORRORS"  
WITH - THE - FRANKENSTEIN - MONSTER  
ON - THE - STAGE - IN - PERSON**

Some would consider this man to be the king of the Spook Show Circuit. He was born in Detroit Michigan in 1914 and started his career in show business as a teenager, doing magic. Invited to a Midnight Ghost Show, the mentalist, Mel-Roy didn't show, so he stood in, bewildered the audience and was hooked. He created "Dr. Silkini's Spiritualistic Séance and Ghost Show in 1938: what would become the long-standing, "Asylum of Horrors."

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ANSWER AT THE END OF THE MESSENGER

Around the Town

**5 Dec. Dan Jones, Jim Molnar and Jim Folkl** are performing in Bay City at a “Toys For Tots” benefit.

For a 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 November, 2015! This month we start getting into the holiday seasons here in the U.S. It is a time for thanksgiving, a time for celebrating and a time for family. For many of us, it also means getting a unique gift for that special someone, or giving someone something that they will remember or cherish forever. Whether tangible or intangible, sometimes we never know just how impactful a gift can be.

All of this and more is the subject of our book for this month, ‘**Gift Magic**’. There is no singular author because it is a team effort by various members of the Jeff McBride Mystery School staff, the primaries of which are of course, Jeff McBride, Eugene Burger, Dr. Lawrence Hass, Dr. Robert Neale and George Parker. The premise of the book was to discuss the power of magic effects which leave participants with a gift, something by which to remember not necessarily the performer, but the ‘moment of magic’. Each of the effects leaves the participant with a small object, and all of them are about the giving of magic as a gift. It also discusses the philosophy of gift giving, outside of just the performance of magic and there are interviews with each performer in regards to that topic. Further, 100% of the proceeds go to the **Rich Bloch Encore Foundation**, an organization focusing on helping magicians in times of terrible need.

To illustrate the idea behind the book, here is a brief description of one of the effects from the book. It is called ‘*A Simple Gift*’ by Dr. Larry Hass. The theme of the effect is the making and procuring of wishes. I will provide the given script as the description of the effect itself.

“You know, there is magic all around us, in grand things and in simple ones...like the everyday wishes we make. Tell me: did you make a wish on your birthday this year? And did you really, truly wish it would come true? Well...touch my hand right here. I just made a wish. And it really came true! *[The performer opens their hand to reveal a little glass star.]* This wish is for you. Keep it, and sometime today make a magical wish of your own.”

The effect touches on the premise of wishing upon a star. Little glass stars can be found in craft stores and if you cannot find those, you can use small glass hearts and even pennies will do. Anything that is associated with luck, in general, will work. The object can be produced in any way you like, but the simpler the better. It can begin inside a thumb tip or you can begin with it in finger palm or thumb palm. The effect is usually done one-on-one or for a small, intimate group. The whole goal of this effect (and the others in this book) is to give them an experience to remember and a token to help carry on that moment of magic.

The purpose of the book is to help you understand the true definition and purpose of gifting, what it means to give and receive them. It also helps you to look at your own magical pieces to see where you might apply these ideas. Is there something you already perform that leaves people with a unique and memorable gift (that is not a business card)? How would you use that effect to give people the best experience possible? Until next month, keep the magic alive, have a warm, safe, magical and happy holiday season!

**Support our local brick & mortar magic shops!**

**ABC Magic Shop**

**69 N Walnut St, /Mount Clemens, MI 48043**

**(586) 790-3700**

**<http://abcmagicshop.com/>**

**Wunderground Magic, Inc.**

**Phone: (248) 280-5925**

**Email: [paul@wundergroundmagicshop.com](mailto:paul@wundergroundmagicshop.com)**

**Mail: 16 S. Main St., Clawson, MI 48017**

**Web: <http://www.wundergroundmagicshop.com/>**

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**? JACK BAKER AKA DR. SILKINI ?**

**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!**