

Magic Messenger

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

September 2015

President's Corner

Many of us began our interest in magic at a very young age. I knew one magician, and it wasn't until I was a teenager that our paths crossed, and I met him a couple times and that was it. The only magic shop I was ever in was at the Houdini Magical Hall of Fame in Niagara Falls in the summer of 1963. I bought the "Invisible Deck" (which I still have today).

So when I saw the cover article in M-U-M this month on the history of "The Society of Young Magicians", I was intrigued. And even more so when I read the pledge. This contains promises and agreements that magicians of all ages should take to heart.

> *"I promise to do my best to improve the Art of Magic and to follow the rules..."*

How are you improving the Art of Magic? We help raise the level of magic everywhere by working hard to perfect our own level of performance. When we don't practice or rehearse, when we work sloppily, we dishonor our art, and cheapen it's position in the performance arts. Maybe that's one reason why many people don't take magicians seriously?

When was the last time you saw an advertisement claiming "buy this accordion and play immediately... no practice necessary!"? Or "become a master like DaVinci when you purchase our complete oil painting set... no skill required!" Just because someone buys a magic kit, it doesn't mean they're a magician, even as having a garage doesn't mean you're a car.

We also improve the Art of Magic by keeping on course of continually learning about our craft. When was the last time you read a book (or even a magazine article, listened to a podcast, or read a blog) about magic? Not how to do an effect, but the why we do what we do the way we do it.

> *"I agree not to tell any of the secrets of magic to anyone who is not a magician and to try to discourage others from telling these secrets."*

Just take a look at YouTube. Obviously more than a few people didn't get the

memo on this one.

I'm not telling tales out of school here, but if you want to know how something is done, you can pretty much find it online. I mean, this was one of the first things we all learned about magic, right? "Don't tell anyone how you do this trick!"

> *"I will be honest and fair as a magician and try to cooperate with others who are interested in magic."*

This one may strike an outsider as odd: we lie and deceive people as part of our profession! Hey, but at least we tell them we're going to lie and deceive them (as one of the old greats used to say).

I have discovered the concept of cooperation first hand within our club, and it blows me away every time. I'm not talking about hurtful criticism, but rather helpful encouragement. Which brings me to the next point:

> *"I agree to help other magicians in any way that I can. I will encourage them to perfect our art. I will not make fun of or ridicule the efforts of any magician."*

I have found the magic fraternity to be more than helpful in answering questions, giving advice, providing insights, and just generally encouraging. Are you an "encourager" or a "discourager"?

> *"I will strive to use my magic in a positive way for my personal enjoyment and for the amazement and enjoyment of my family, friends, and others."*

I have so much fun learning magic. I have so much fun doing magic. I believe it was Magic, Inc. who's slogan used to be "Magic is Fun". If you're not having fun, trust me, neither is your audience.

Michigan Magic Day Update

Things are moving along for our upcoming ginormous weekend, April 8th & 9th. I just added Stuart MacDonald to our line up with his very unique act titled, "The Unintentional Magician" (Google it to catch a preview). Not only will he perform the act for us and at the evening show, he will lecture on how he came to put the whole thing together. Stuart lives in Adrian.

October is Magic Month

I hope you stay as busy as you want to be doing magic in October. Remember "Light the Night" in Ann Arbor on October 24th.at 5pm See Scott Kindschy for details. We need some walk around performers!!!

Homecoming Lecture

Don't forget the Michael Mode lecture on Wednesday, October 14th. This is FREE, and designed to re-introduce wayward members to our club. Who do you know that needs to be part (again) of the Ann Arbor Magic Club? Invite them to join us! Everyone leaves with a napkin rose!

Have a great month everyone!

John Russell

Secretary's Report

Cha Ching“Show us the money”! That's exactly what members did at our Sept. meeting. Coins, bills and an occasional mouth coil magically appeared and disappeared. **Dr. Joaquin Ayala** opened with a very nice routine involving the release of 3 oriental coins from a ribbon. After examining the props, **Pam Smith** threaded the coins onto the ribbon and Joaquin proceeded to melt them, one at a time, from their constraint. Next up, **Art Goyette** presented a very visual effect of the penetration of one borrowed bill by another. **Randy Smith** demonstrated a trio of effects in rapid succession: a stretched dollar bill gag, followed by the production of a dollar bill mouth coil and concluding with a torn bill restoration into a mixed up dollar. **Scott Mitchell** mixed up a bundle of bills face to back and with a flourish, realigned them all face up! **Bill Brang** performed a smooth 6 bill repeat using \$50 bills with an entertaining story line of a magician shopping for illusions. He concluded with changing the bills into a giant \$100 silk. **Ken Magee** did a quick transformation of a borrowed \$1 bill to a \$20. **Jim Folkl** presented the commercial effect, “Digital Dissolve” the visual transformation of a half dollar to an English penny, along with the Dai Vernon classic “Spellbound”, ending with production of a giant coin and pulling from it a giant ear! Vice President **Scott Kindschy** mentally found a Canadian coin amongst 4 US and the 1 Canadian denomination secreted in 5 envelopes respectively. **Bob Goodwin** concluded the evening's entertainment with a discussion of a method to force numbers employing random selections of coins by a spectator. He the technique with Jay Sanky's effect “99”. We all departed, as usual, satiated with the great food and satisfied by the great magical exhibitions.



John Russell



Randy Smith



Art Goyette



Pam Smith - Dr. Joaquin Ayala



Scott Mitchell

Bill Brang



Ken Magee



Scott Kindschy

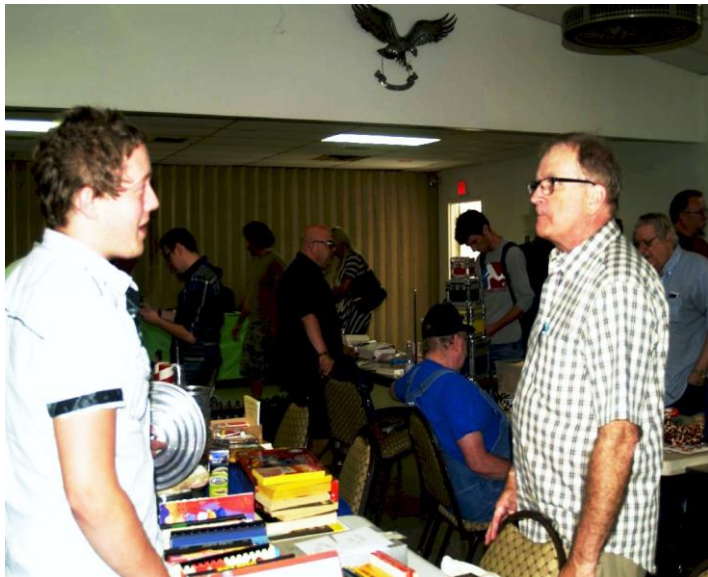


Jim Folkl



Bob Goodwin

The AAMC “World Famous” Flea Market and Auction was a fabulous success, with sold out vendor space and a packed house of enthusiastic buyers! Notably, all three local magic shops were represented: Ann Arbor Magic , ABC and the Wunderground A few pictures tell the story (The great photos courtesy of Randy Smith). Ken Magee did an outstanding job as our auctioneer. Thanks Ken !



Magic everywhere ! Can you find Michael Mode ?



Hope to see everyone next year !



He is considered by some to have been the greatest stage card manipulator in magic history. By the age of 15 he had acquired manipulative abilities with cards, thimbles and coins. Starting in 1920 he began specializing more in card magic, but continued to work in all large theatres in North America and Canada. Later he changed his act to work in night clubs. He worked in Hollywood on different films as an advisor and also acted in some films.

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Answer at the end of the Messenger

Lexophile" is a word used to describe those that have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless." A competition to see who can come up with the best lexophiles is held every year in an undisclosed location. This year's winning submission is posted at the very end....

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate
A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A

The batteries were given out free of charge

A dentist and a manicurist married - They fought tooth and nail

A will is a dead giveaway

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress

When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall

Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was
resisting a rest

Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all
right now

A bicycle can't stand alone - it's just two tired.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered

He had a photographic memory which was never developed

When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye

Acupuncture is a jab well done - That's the point of it.

And the cream of the twisted crop:

Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

ALWAYS LAUGH WHEN YOU CAN; IT'S CHEAP MEDICINE!



Ex Libris by Joaquin Ayala, PhD.

Hello folks and welcome to the *Ex Libris* article for September, 2015! It is that time of year again when kids return to school and the time when cider mills, apple orchards and haunted houses start opening to the public. The air starts to chill, the leaves change color - a time of transformation!

This month I thought I would focus on a book that will lend itself well to Halloween-themed shows and that book is 'The Book of Forgotten Secrets' by Stephen Minch. If that name looks familiar to you, it should. Stephen Minch is the author, editor and publisher Hermetic Press. In 1979 he wrote a book called '*Lovecraftian Ceremonies*' which was inspired by the worlds and characters of H.P. Lovecraft. It was a book full of bizarre magic, along with the stories and tales in the style of H.P. Lovecraft.

After having been long out of print, that book was reprinted in 2009 and expanded to include other material that was not in the 1979 book. This book was published under the title 'The Book of Forgotten Secrets' and was limited to 500 numbered and 26 lettered presentation copies, each signed by the author. They are hardcover books with a nice look and feel to them. It is just under 5 x 7 in size, has a built-in ribbon bookmark and the illustrations that are inside suit the tone of the book very well.

Like many bizarre magic effects out there, some of them are a "stock" magic effect redecorated and presented in a different way. What I mean by that is something as simple as the old Foo Can or the Drumhead Production Tube, both of which many magicians are familiar with, especially those that do kid shows. Here, the props are given a much darker look in order to suit the effects in which they are used.

The book also talks about how to set the stage for each piece, as well as for the entire show - something that

is very important in bizarre magic if it is to succeed. The basis of a good bizarre magic effect is the ability to tell a good story, and that is addressed at length in this book. In fact, each effect comes with the story that Stephen uses for it himself; the stories and the characters in them are all very much akin to the style of H.P. Lovecraft, and some of them are delightfully darker than others.

An interesting thing about the material in the book is that it is broken up into sections which are theme-based, and which happen to correspond to the phases in the evolving career of the author. The methods may be disappointingly simple to some, but the effects themselves are quite novel. There is quite a bit of history on the bizarre magick movement but it comes in the form of the history of bizarre journals throughout the years. Unlike most magic books, there are no photographs but a few illustrations, which in my opinion add to the flavor of the book but are not necessary to understand the very thorough descriptions given throughout the book.

Enjoy the season folks, happy haunting and remember, keep the magic alive!

Yours in the Secret Art,

Joaquin M. Ayala

Around the Town

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

Jim Folkl

Support our local brick & mortar magic shops!

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? Paul Le Paul ?

**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!