



SAMLETTER 181

At the next Assembly 181 meeting, **Thursday, May 4, 2017**, there will be an exciting member lead workshop on Busking and Street Performing by Robert Francis, the Dork of Deception. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM



Robert Francis, the self-proclaimed “Dork of Deception” has been performing magic for 26 years and street performing for the last nine, from his unofficial residency on the Asbury Park boardwalk. Magic is no longer a hobby for Rob, it is a full-time gig, and he will be sharing his big ideas in his workshop. See the Dork’s full story at <http://www.app.com/gallery/entertainment/events/summer-guide/beaches/2016/06/16/dork-of-deception/85998300/>

Watch the Dork of Deception perform in Asbury Park for New Jersey 101.5 FM: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vq5G7w28gzo>

Following their performance, we will open the stage for others to perform in our “No Judgment Zone”, so bring something to share.

Society of American Magicians Assembly 181 of Hightstown meets the first Thursday of every month, September thru June at the **First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520**. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.



From the Prez - an editorial from Stephan Sloan

Things grow, it's a fact of life. Plants and animals grow, families grow and even non-living things like savings in a bank can grow. All these things grow because of different reasons. Nourishment from the sun and various chemicals help plants thrive as well as the food we eat nourishes animal life such as ourselves and our pets. The things that help growth in various ways are positive and healthy things. Our club has grown from an average attendance of 5 people a month to now over 30 a month. How did this happen, what nourishment can a club like ours sustain itself on? Although a club is not actually a living thing, it has positive attributes that helped this group grow. Selfless contribution is how groups like ours continue to thrive. Participation, group effort, sharing, and friendships are the nutrients which feeds groups such as ours.



This month, members of our club will be donating their time not only to entertain others but help pay the way for us to continue providing the program we envision for our members. This is not that first time these members have contributed their time. Each time they do, I feel it should be mentioned, not only to recognize the members that have volunteered but to emphasize to others "this is what we all should be doing". On Sunday, April 9th, members of SAM 181 will be performing at Adath Israel Synagogue in Lawrenceville, NJ. The performers are Bruce Langrock (AKA Jay the Magician), Reba Strong (AKA Silly Reba), Randy Butters (AKA The Amazing Randy), George Hann (AKA The Wizard) and Robert Francis (AKA The Dork of Deception).

Thank you guys (and gal) for your support. We all know that it is never convenient to volunteer but it is the acts of kindness such as this that helps SAM 181 become bigger and better. I feel I can speak for us all and offer you all a group thank you.

The Magic of S.A.M. 181

The first Thursday of the month comes quickly for members of Assembly 181. Attendance has been robust and growing because we follow a simple formula. Our meetings are all about magic. We believe that members come to see magic, to learn magic, and to perform magic.

Our meetings always start with either a lecture or workshop. This year, our Assembly has already had two full-length lectures, free to Assembly members, by Eric Jones and Joshua Jay. Both are members of the FU (Fooled Us) club having fooled Penn & Teller on TV. And there is more to come.

Workshops, which are usually conducted by members, teach handlings and routines. Last month, our workshop covered using a purse frame with sponge balls, making a deck gimmicked for Triumph, Mental Epic and coin in a bottle. Every magician can find something useful from that list.

The Mental Epic and coin in a bottle routine were particularly interesting because they used items from the dollar store, a mecca for creative magicians, as gimmicks for the effects. Using three small bottles instead of slates for Mental Epic and a pair of tweeters for removing a coin from a bottle were both demonstrated.

After the workshop, we then open our “no judgment zone” performance space to member performances. Members are free to perform a short piece or teach a trick from their repertoire. After all interested members have performed, we vote for the best performance of the night. The Coffee Cup Award is what we call it. Members vote using their own criteria, either most skilled,

most creative, most courageous, whatever they choose. The Coffee Cup is not worth much, but it is fun to win.

Members also get chances to perform for the public. Assembly 181 members have been regularly performing in annual events for the benefit of the county's Food Bank and fundraising for a local scholarship.

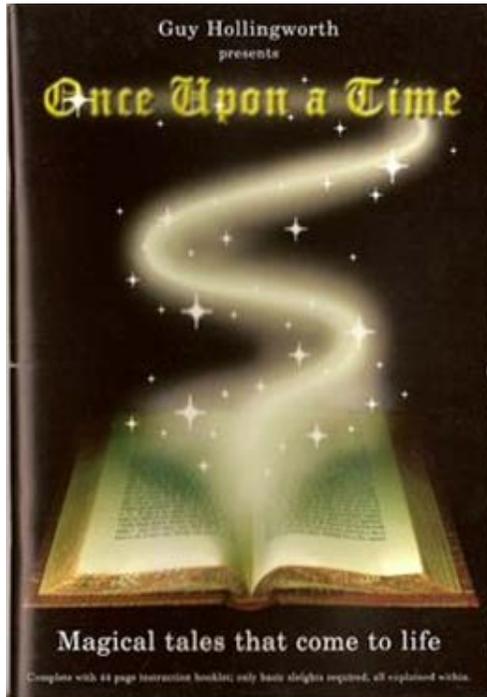
Our final meeting is an evening of magic with, a free to all members, all your can eat buffet. I have heard members justify their annual membership on this event alone.

Stop by for yourself and see the Magic of 181.



Les, Bruce, Dennis, and Mitch at IBM 165.

Tricks Are For Kids - Magic for the kid magician



There are not a lot of card tricks out there for kids and the ones that seem silly by today's standards. Typically they would be in a form of a packet trick. However, there is a deck of cards that is entertaining to kids as well as adults. ONCE UPON A TIME by Guy Hollingworth from the UK, is a storytelling deck that can be used to tell three well-known children's stories. Within this cleverly designed deck, you can magically relate Goldilocks and The Three Bears, Jack And The Beanstalk and Cinderella. The deck has been designed in such a way that the printed pages of the book magically turn into pictures, as well as having images appear and disappear and

objects change from one thing to another. So clever is the design that what appears to be a book that has only one story contains three. What is nice about that is if you tell one story more than likely you will be asked to tell another and yet another, and you can. SPOILER ALERT: some basic card handling skills are needed, this is not an automatic, flip a switch card deck. Knowing a double lift and finger breaks are a needed slight as well as a false cut. "Once Upon a Time" marries card magic with storytelling which allows you to exercise multiple skills at one time. With one deck of cards, you can entertain for fifteen minutes or more while appealing to all age levels sans the very youngest. "Once Upon A Time" is not a cheap trick, for a deck of cards, it is quite pricey to be fair. However, as a kid's magician how much would you have to invest in typical props to get 15 - 20 minutes in a show? Probably a heck of a lot more. "Once Upon A Time" is highly recommended as an item to have with you if you know you're going someplace where there may be children to entertain.

To watch "Once Upon A Time" click here:

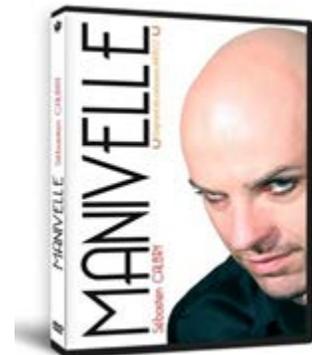
<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/magic/beginners-magic/Once-Upon-A-Time/>

Do You Believe In Magic?

MANIVELLE is by Sebastian Calbry

I'm not personally fond of the "Magician in Trouble plot" because I don't know if my acting skills are honed well enough to pull it off. However, there is one effect you can carry around with you that won't take up a lot of pocket space. is easy to do, and lends itself perfectly to that plot. Although designed as a serious effect, I see it more as more as a comedy/light hearted effect. MANIVELLE is by Sebastian Calbry, a French magician who creates a lot of effects with gimmicked deck boxes and cards. Manivelle is basically a self-rising card trick. A card is chosen and placed back in the deck and cut. The deck is then placed in the box and the magician then takes a crank, places onto the back of the card box deck and turns the crank. Lo and behold, the card rises.

I see a lot more mileage can be gotten out of it if you incorporate a little theatrics and the audience. In my mind, I see the magician theatrically calling for the card to rise. It does not, so he tries again. Once more the card does not rise. A third attempt is made, but no luck. This would be considered an emergency to a magician, so a crank is produced and handed to the spectator who picked the card and they place the crank on the box and turn. Amazingly, they produce the chosen card. The card pack are cleverly



constructed. Obviously, this setup is a one trick pony and if you don't mind carrying a deck for one trick this is fun. The one thing I did add which doesn't come with the deck is an Emergency Procedures label which I printed and placed on the deck over the advert on the back. I would have the spectator read it aloud and give them the little crank which would be placed on the back of the deck as they rotate it and the card rises.

To watch Manivelle click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzLizsZzhYA>

Psycho-path - Tricks for the mentalist

Steam 2.0 by Ali Noura



You never get a second chance to make a first impression. How true is that in life, especially when you are a mentalist using an impression device. There have been so many devices on the market, it is mind numbing, and each one has its benefits and drawbacks. One may use a special pen or marker, another uses an unreliable material, or the procedure seems unmotivated. No matter which one you choose, though, there are obstacles which have to be overcome. In almost every device the primary obstacle is how do you naturally look at the

impression without raising suspicion? Without going into the moves needed to obtain the peek, for the most part, it is done on the off beat because one needs reopen the device to obtain the information. For the faint of heart like myself, the peek is the Achilles heel of the trick. Along comes STEAM 2.0 by Ali Noura and produced by Paul Harris. For me, Steam 2.0 is the ultimate impression system. The workings behind this is not new but the way it is packaged made it a much more viable product. With Steam 2.0, a small envelope is produced in which there is a blank card. The spectator is asked to write something on the card and place it face down on the table. You cover the card with the envelope "to make sure" that nothing is visible. Feigning looking for something to write on, you pick up the white envelope you just placed over the card for convenience sake. The information you need is now in your hand, naturally without any bizarre moves. The system is absolutely amazing. There are other benefits as well. If you are pocket phobic like myself and hate walking around like a magic bandito armed to the teeth with magic tricks, the envelopes fit nicely in any credit card sized slot in your wallet. All you need to carry additional to that is the marker required to write with. Steam 2.0 works like a charm, in fact, it made quite an impression on me (pun intended).

To Watch Steam 2.0 click here:

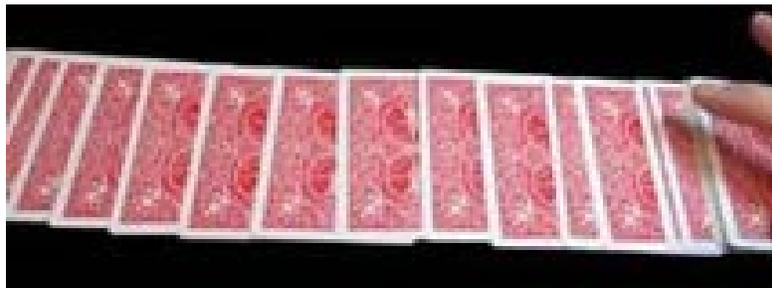
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36kXsVuPsUU>

Back in the late 1970's, I visited a magic shop located on Broad Street in Trenton, "Barrett's World of Magic". There Frank Barrett showed me my first card trick using a gaffed card, the Red/Blue Double backer (RBDB), and I have been using it ever since.



TURNING BLUE

- Place your RBDB at the bottom of a red deck
- Let the spectator have a free selection of a card
- The card can be signed to enhance the effect
- Cut the deck, and allow the selection to be returned to the deck, completing the cut, positions the RBDB on top of the selected card.
- When the deck is ribbon spread, a single blue card will stand out in the spread
- Cut the blue card (RBDB) to the top of the deck
- Double Lift (DL) the RBDB + selection showing that their selection turned blue
- Ribbon spread the deck showing only red cards
- Turn over the selected card, which is now red again.



Ten great effects, using the Red/Blue Double backer (RBDB) including "Turning Blue" can be found on Dan Harlan's "A Little R&B" DVD.

AFFILIATES & CONTACTS



http://www.mjmmagic.com/store/index.html?referrer=CNWR_67701383693799



Read Jeff Stone's reviews at:

<http://magicreviewed.com/>



LOST ART MAGIC

Visit Eric Jones at

<https://lostartmagic.com>



Visit Joshua Jay at: <http://www.joshuajay.com/>



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MAGIC CALENDAR

	THU APR 6	S.A.M. Assembly 181 meeting will be on Thursday, April 6, 2017, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Workshop and No Judgment Zone performances, usual time; 7:00 doors open. http://magicsam181.com
	SAT APR 8	Philadelphia 2017 LIVE MAGIC EXPO: Saturday, April 8, 2017, 10 AM - 4 PM. See and buy magic you won't find anywhere else. Pre-register and get \$10 off the door price PLUS a \$10 voucher to spend on any product in the room. http://www.penguinmagic.com/p/7837
	SAT APR 8	Jeff Dunham returns to Trenton with his " Perfectly Unbalanced " Tour at Sun National Bank Center, Route 129 on the corner of Hamilton Ave and South Broad St, Trenton, NJ on April 8, 2017, at 5:00 PM http://www.sunnationalbankcenter.com/event-detail.php?id=873
	SUN APR 9	Family Magic Show presented by members of SAM 181 for the benefit of the Arlene Sharlin Memorial Scholarship Fund will be presented at the Adath Israel Synagogue, 1958 Lawrenceville Road (Route 206), Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 on Sunday, April 9, 2017, at 1 PM
	TH-FRI APR 13- 14	THE ILLUSIONISTS – LIVE FROM BROADWAY comes to Red Bank! Thursday, April 13 and Friday, April 14, 2017, 8:00 PM at The Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Tickets: \$89, \$69, \$59, \$49, \$35, Call the box office at 732-842-9000 http://www.countbasietheatre.org/
	THU APR 20	S.A.M. Assembly 4 will be meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at the Bustleton Memorial Post 810 American Legion, 9151 Old Newtown Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115, usual time; 7:00 PM http://www.sam4.org/
	MON APR 24	Derek Hughes will be at the McCarter Theatre Center, Berlind Theatre, 91 University Place, Princeton NJ 08540 on Monday, April 24, 2017, at 7:30 PM. Tickets and General Inquiries: 609-258-2787 http://www.mccarter.org/ticketoffice/
	THU MAY 4	S.A.M. Assembly 181 meeting will be on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Workshop and No Judgment Zone performances, usual time; 7:00 doors open. http://magicsam181.com
	SUN JUNE 11	Bob Little's Super Sunday "The Best One Day Magic Convention in the World" No Registration Required. Sunday, June 11, 2017, 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM All for a Low-Low Fee of \$40.00 http://www.boblittlessupersunday.com/

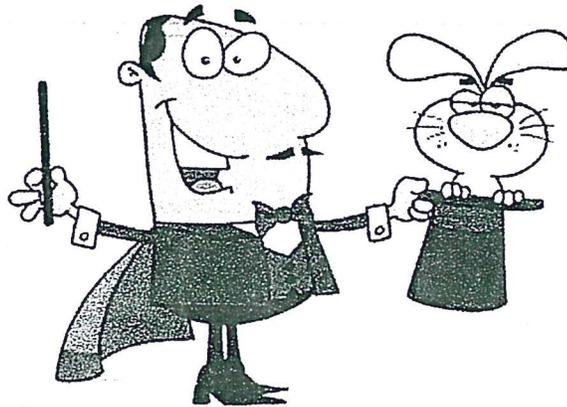
For the up to date online Magic Calendar, go to http://magicsam181.com/?page_id=95

Benefit
MAGIC SHOW

Featuring Professional Magicians

from

The Society of American Magicians Assembly # 181



Sunday, April 9th @ 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Adath Israel Congregation

1958 Lawrenceville Rd. (Rte. 206)

(near Rider University)

**There will be performances in the lobby before and after
the show and a drawing for a magic set for all those
children who attend**

\$12/adult \$8 for 1 or more children of the same family

Tickets will be sold at the door