



SAMLETTER 181



The next Assembly 181 meeting is Thursday, **May 3, 2018**, with a workshop lead by **George Hann** on **Prop Magic**.

Following the workshop, we will open the stage to 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



The next **KIDabra** meeting is **Thursday, May 24, 2018**, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.

At this meeting there will be a workshop on "**Warm ups and how to get your show started**" by **Dennis Thomas**. Dennis is a full-time, professional magician and balloon sculptor. For the past 25+ years, he has specialized in entertaining children with his fun-filled magic shows and balloon twisting.

From the President

A couple walks into a diner for a bite to eat. They are seated and given menus. After a while they are approached by a waiter:



Waiter: Hi, I'm Kyle and I'll be your server tonight, what can I get you?

Man: I'll have the open-faced roast beef sandwich and she'll have the Cobb salad.

Waiter: Would you like to change your mind?

Man: What?

Waiter: Would you like to change your mind?

Man: I don't think so.

Waiter: Go ahead, change your mind!

Man: OK, I'll have the steak special.

Waiter: Ok, now change your mind again. See, now you'll be thinking of a meal even you didn't think you'll be thinking of.

Man: To tell you the truth, I just thought of the roast beef. I really wanted the roast beef!

Waiter: OK, you can have the roast beef, was that fair?

Man: Fair? What does that mean?

Waiter: Look at the menu, there are ten pages and each page has fifty items on it. That's 500 items to choose from and you chose the roast beef, is that fair?

Man: I'm not getting this, do you want me **not** to have the roast beef?

Waiter: I just want to make sure you think it's a fair choice. So, was that fair?

Woman: Honey, let's go, this is getting weird.

Waiter: Look, in my apron that has been in front of you the whole time I have a prediction.

Woman: I think we should go.

Man: Look, pal, I don't know what you are up to but let's forget this, we'll go next door.

Waiter: But that's a McDonalds, what are you going to get there?

Man: I don't know, a burger?

Waiter: Did you say a burger? Look, here in my apron I have a foam burger, I predicted what you were going to get the whole time. Wait, come back, I have a killer card trick I want to show you. Come back, think of a number between 1 and 10.

Of course, the above scenario is just a silly take on what magicians do on a regular basis when they perform magic. Somewhere along the way, unnecessary questioning and over qualifying of the "fairness" of the procedures became the way magic is performed now. One night I heard a magician ask "is that fair" ten times in a two-minute trick. That equates to one "is that fair" every twelve seconds. Jeff McBride refers to it as verbal lint. It's unnecessary mumbling, questioning and over qualifying that magicians have gotten into the habit of doing. The reason this has become the norm is that magicians have gotten away from scripting their performances. If you want to be taken as a serious magician and actually entertain your audience, scripting each piece is the way you should go. There will be little room for, "is that fair, do you want to change your mind and what I want you to do isetc. etc...." There are a few good books that can be referenced to help

you along and they are *Inspirations* by Larry Hass, *Teaching Magic* by Eugene Burger and Larry Hass and *Scripting Magic* by Peter McCabe. Pick these up and get enlightened. I guarantee your magic will improve ten fold..." is that fair?"



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STUCK INSIDE A GREYHOUND



Two is better than one. This is certainly true when speaking of the two meetings Assembly 181 had in the month of February. We started the first of the month with a workshop by Assembly member Timothy Paul.

Tim has been performing magic since he was 13 years old. He is now creating his own sleight of hand techniques which have been published in Magic Magazine and Vanishing Inc.

He based his workshop on his lecture notes, *Stuck Inside a Greyhound*. Tim started with his published download "Tidal Change". I can only repeat the words that others have said when they saw this color change, "the Tidal Change absolutely takes the Erdnase Color Change to a whole new level of beauty and finesse".

The effect did not stop there as Tim has since added an "Instant Replay". He also demonstrated a soon to be released get out of jail effect called "Get Out", then finishing with the explanations of effects from his notes called "Full Circle", "Against All Odds", and "Inception Card at Any Number".

After each workshop, we open the stage to performances from our members. The acts started with Randy Butters' "Signed Ambitious Card" and then Silly Reba showing a stack of bills and an "Extreme Burn".

Owen, a man with a mentalist's mind, using a spectator's phone performed a routine called "Music of the Mind". Imagine hearing a random song that you selected being played back from your phone. These phone apps are becoming more popular every day and you can see why. Scott Benedon flawlessly performed a routine from Tony Corinda's classic text "13 Steps Thirteen Steps to Mentalism" with ESP cards.

The last routine was a real blast from the past. George Hann performed Henry Christ's Dead Man's Hand, which was originally published in the June 1937 issue of Jinx magazine. The storyline dates back to the legendary poker hand held by "Wild Bill" Hickok when he was shot in the back.

The second event, held a week after our regular meeting, was a full lecture, free to all members, by Kent Axell. Kent has directed and performed in his own one-man show 'Determined' and New York's highest rated close-up magic show 'A Taste of Magic'. He consulted on the National Geographic program, 'Brain Games'.

All this magic, in one month at one Assembly. There is no better place to be twice



Psycho Path - Magic for the Mentalist

Eyephone - by Alan Boyd, Chris Kenworthy, and Mark Mason



When it comes to mentalism there are dozens of ways to obtain a peek of the needed information. Between the plethora of wallets, pads, electronic devices, center tears and pens that emit vapors, the

Eyephone by Alan Boyd, Chris Kenworthy and Mark Mason has to be the cleverest. There is definitely a place for all of the above-mentioned methods and they all work but in today's world, there has to be nothing less obtrusive and ordinary as the cell phone. The necessary peek with *Eyephone* is incredibly innocent. Keeping that in mind the *Eyephone* is non-electronic.

I don't think I am revealing any secret since in the ad copy it states that after eight months of research and development an innocent replica of a standard (non-specific) cell phone has been designed. What you are purchasing is the most clever and simplest James Bond style peek device that has been made for mentalists. There is no need for the internet, Bluetooth or assistants. What you get is a real "phone looking" prop that has the new credit card/business card holders attached to the back. You ask a spectator to draw something, write a secret number or a person's name on the back of one of your business cards. The card is then placed face down into the holder and the phone is turned face up. You glance at the phone as if to check something and you now see everything you need to know to perform your mental miracle.

For those who know me, I shun electronics but a device that appears to be an ordinary item which almost everyone carries with them is definitely on my wish list. So what are the pros and cons? Well, obviously the upside is that there is no false justifying of why you need to go into a pad or wallet twice, there is no misreading of impressionable material and there is no strange ritual of having someone write something and then immediately tear up what was just written. The peek is completely justified and innocent. Who doesn't check their phone every 20 seconds? The justification is perfect. Also, there is no reset. Take out another card, stick it into the slot and you're ready to go again. What is the downside to this? One negative is that the prop is hundred dollars! Is it worth it? To some it is. For people like me who have issues with weird actions and no real reason to justify the opening of a wallet or pad a couple of times, it may be worth it. Also, it's a pretty big prop to carry around for one routine. If I were to carry a prop, I would like to do multiple effects with it, which is why apps and such are so popular. Either way, it's a cool device. Whether it fits you, you'll have to determine that.

To watch a trailer on *EyePhone* click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVbwe8HVPQA>

Tricks are for Kids - Magic for the children's performer

Magical Paints - Tenyo



It's not easy to find a card trick that appeals to children. It's also not easy for some performers to tell silly stories which makes almost no sense either. If you are looking for a kids' card trick which requires no explanation, visual to all and appeals to most age

groups except for the oldest, then check out *Magical Paints* by Tenyo. *Magical Paints* takes the spectators on a short journey as you create a painting magically with your cards. The magician shows an image of a painter's easel on which sits a blank canvas. He turns that card face down and shows three cards with images of tubes of artists' colors on them. There is a full blue tube, a full green tube and a full red tube. The magician then "transfers" color from each tube onto the face-down canvas. Each tube is then shown to be "squeezed" of the color that they contained except for the red which was "squished" out by accident. Amazingly, the canvas is turned over and what was shown before to be a blank canvas now displays a landscape scene.

Magical Paints is a cute presentation which requires no talking. It's perfect for an audience in which there is a language barrier or where communication can be difficult. Of course, if you can write some clever dialogue that would be best but even some background music would help. There is a handling issue which is not shown in the trailer. The performer is seated which facilitates a move, which is lapping. There is a card that has to be ditched to make this work. For the longest time, I never used this because I'm never seated. I like the trick but it wouldn't work for

the venue I'm usually at which is just casual. I did, however, work out a handling which would allow me to show the cards and to carefully place "the double" on the table. I'm sure there are more clever performers than me though that can figure out a handling where the double is more secure.

I believe *Magical Paints* is only currently available from Seo Magic. Seo Magic specializes in magic from Japan and has quite a bit of unusual, rarely seen magic for those who are looking for different. Whether you are interested in *Magical Paints* or not, check out Seo Magic to see what they have to offer.

To see a trailer for *Magical Paints* click here:

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

Modern Day Proverbs

No one is listening until you make a mistake.

Success always occurs in private and failure in full view.

The hardness of butter is directly proportional to the softness of the bread.

The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7th of your life.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.

Do you believe in magic? - Magic for the general magician



We all heard the expression "you don't get a second chance to make a first impression". This is true for almost every aspect of life. I'll never forget the time when I first got into magic and I had stopped in at a

small magic shop. I didn't know much about magic then and by comparison to others it can be said I don't know much about magic now, but I have a pair of eyes. As I was perusing the display cabinets of colorful props, a well known local magician walked in just before a paid performance looking for some mouth coils. The in-house salesman showered him with praises as he walked through the door. Not knowing who he was or how talented he was, all I saw was an unkempt and portly man in wrinkled clothes covered with animal hairs. His shirt had coffee stains on it and his shirt tails weren't tucked in. With much fanfare, he was asked by the magic purveyor to show me his sponge ball routine. Enthusiastically, the magician pulled from his jacket pocket the dirtiest and slimiest sponge balls I had ever seen. The last thing I wanted at that point was to see his sponge ball routine.

So why do I bring this up? That was seven years ago and I still remember it as if it happened yesterday. The impression left on me by the presence of this individual will last forever. The appearance of our clothes, the way we wear them and our props speak volumes to others meeting us for the first time. While I don't do paid gigs, I do like to keep my props clean and orderly. I hate using playing cards that appear to be gray and dirty as well as any other prop that looks worn. Since I do perform a lot of

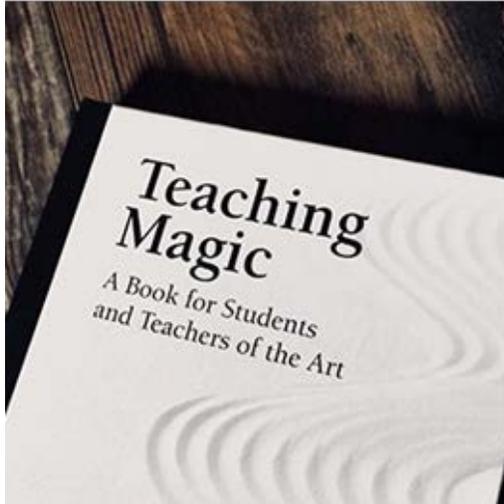
packet tricks, I am constantly replacing my cards on a regular basis once they start to look "old". In addition to the condition of the cards, I like keeping them in a nice carrying case. Instead of those one dollar vinyl packet trick wallets, there are better quality packet trick wallets out there. Interestingly enough, I found it isn't the most expensive holders that are actually the best. In my quest to find the perfect packet trick wallet, I found that the expensive leather wallets actually are worse for the cards than the cheap vinyl ones. It seems that the dye leeches out of the leather and stains the edges of the cards until for me, they are unusable. So what is the solution? The cheap vinyl wallets look like they are, cheap and the leather ones are expensive and soil the cards. Look into the TCC imitation leather (PUR) packet trick wallet. It has the appearance of the expensive and classy wallets but does not stain the cards. I think you will like them and it makes you look like you should look, professional. TCC manufactures numerous products in the PUR leather and real leather as well. I just got their packet trick wallet and for less than five dollars.

RABBITS AGAINST MAGIC



The Magic Library - A Book Review

Teaching Magic - Eugene Burger & Larry Hass

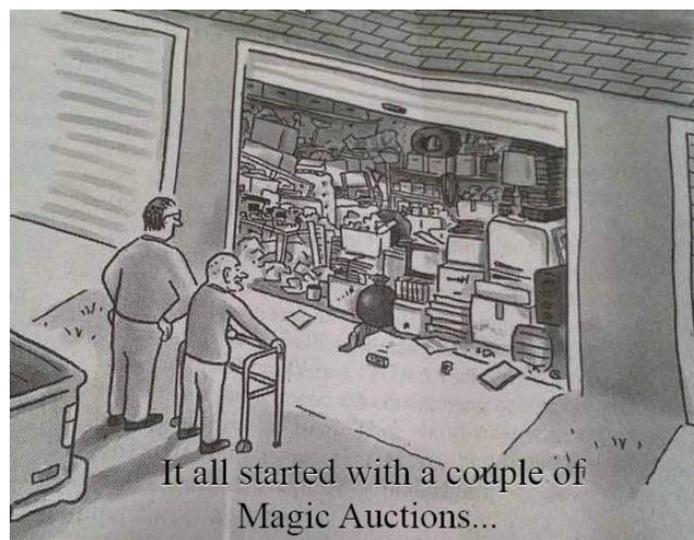


Aside from direct contact with a teacher, for most of us when it comes to magic education, there are three major camps. There are those that prefer DVDs, those that prefer books and those that like a little of both. I'm from the latter camp. I like the ease of watching a DVD but I like the value that books bring. Dollar for dollar, books are a better deal.

However there are some aspects of magic that really don't play well visually, they have to be read, mulled over and digested. Magic theory is such an animal. It would be quite a dull DVD if you were to watch someone discuss the value of scripting and developing your act.

Teaching Magic by the late Eugene Burger and the still living Larry Hass is a collection of essays designed to make you think about your magic and why you perform it. Some of these essays had never seen print before and some had seen print before and were taken from obscure sources. The book is comprised as such: It starts off with a forward by Mac King, followed by thirteen essays on performing magic, seven performance pieces, a Q & A with Joshua Jay and ending with an afterword by Derren Brown. There is an extensive bibliography as well. The performance pieces have links to a site in which you can watch the performance of and the explanation of each trick. I was able to read the book in a solid day.

The tricks provided are made public for the first time and they were some Eugene Burger's favorite pieces. The video is not elaborate but is clear and concise. The tricks are a medley of coin and card tricks. One of my favorites is a revamped version of John Steinmeyer's "Nine Card Problem", which was reduced to seven cards and can be done over the phone. It can be performed totally in the spectator's hands and is incredibly clever. Even though it has the feeling of "a math thing" as my son called it, it is still baffling none the less. The spectator shuffles and deals out six cards until he has one left, which is their card. The stack is assembled. The spectator is asked four questions and they can lie or tell the truth. What color was their card? What suit was their card? What value was their card? And finally, were their answers true, false or both? For each answer, they will place down some cards. For example, if they answered RED, they will place a card down for each letter spelling out R-E-D and then place the balance of the stack on top. The rest of the questions are treated the same way. In the end, no matter how the spectator answered, their initially thought of card will be the top card of the stack. It is simple and impressive, to say the least. If you are looking for a good read, pick up *Teaching Magic*.



SAM Assembly 181 Rules of Engagement

In the last six years, SAM 181 has enjoyed tremendous growth. Its roster has grown tenfold from the time I first joined. This growth can be attributed to the fact that the format which has been implemented allows for the opportunity to learn, share, talk and most importantly perform magic. To keep the program fresh and provide as much opportunity to its members, there is always a need to make adjustments to accommodate the growing membership. Every minute of the meeting should be used preciousy and not be wasted. By keeping everything on task would give all those who want to get up to perform the opportunity to do so without having to wait unnecessarily. To make sure there is ample time, we need to make some changes to the current format. To get through our evening without staying too late, the following guidelines will be implemented.

Opening:

- The meeting will begin on time which is 7:30 PM
- All selling, private performances, and idle chatter should cease two minutes before the meeting starts

Announcements:

- Announcements will be held to 90 seconds or less
- Announcements will be made ONLY when all information is available
- Announcements on events that are already on the Magic Calendar provided online and in the newsletter as well as the printed newsletter provided ARE NOT necessary
- Announcements that are pertinent to the club are welcome. If there is an event in Ohio for example, it probably would not be of interest to anyone in the club

Performances:

- If you are going to perform, please do not "try out" a new trick out of the box on the group. The performance should already be somewhat prepared. Just "winging it" not only wastes time but disengages the audience.

- Mistakes are understandable, it happens to all of us. However since there is usually a wait to perform by others, allow the next person to go and try again after everyone else is done. It's only fair
- Keep the performance to five minutes or less
- Multiple tricks in a row are not permissible. If you have more than one performance, allow everyone else to go and then go back up
- If you would like to do more than one trick, perhaps go last to give all others the opportunity to go

Participation:

- Performing is hard enough, please do not interrupt the act with off-handed comments, one-liners or anything else distracting to draw attention away from the performer
- To be fair to the performer and allow them the best experience possible, the volunteers should be able to do the requested tasks:

If you can't add numbers....don't volunteer for a mathematical trick

If you can't spell....don't volunteer for a trick that requires you to spell something out

If you can't cut cards....don't volunteer for a trick that requires manual dexterity

If you can't remember or follow instructions....don't volunteer

I appreciate your participation on this. We all have been part of and responsible for the growth of a club that is totally unique in the area. I'm proud of all of your contributions and want it to be the best experience you can possibly have in a magic club. We are always looking to raise the bar every year. We welcome all suggestions and would like even more participation as time goes on.

Thank you,

Stephan Sloan

MAGIC CALENDAR

	THU MAY 3	S.A.M. Assembly 181 is Thursday, May 3, 2018 , with a workshop lead by George Hann on Prop Magic at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00. Workshop at 7:30 PM. http://magicsam181.com
	MON MAY 7	I.B.M. Ring 165 on Monday, May 7, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church, 704 Garden Street, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035.
	MON MAY 14	I.B.M Ring 6 , The Delaware Valley Conjurers Club regularly meets every 2nd Monday, with a meeting on Monday, May 14, 2018, at the Hancock United Methodist Church, 542 Wesley Road, Springfield, PA.
	MON MAY 14	S.A.M. Assembly 161 meets on the second Monday of each month at the Stoney Brook Grille, 1285 Easton Turnpike in Branchburg, NJ 08876. May 14th lecture is by Nicola Pierri. https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAM161CALENDAR/about/
	TUE MAY 15	I.B.M. Ring 200 meets on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 7:00 PM at the Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave, Edison, NJ 08817. The Ring will be hosting a lecture by Keith Fields . The lecture is FREE to IBM Ring 200 members and only \$10 for guests.
	THU MAY 17	S.A.M. Assembly 4 will be meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2018, at the Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, doors open at 6:30 PM.
	SUN MAY 20	THE AMAZING KRESKIN returns to the Broadway Theatre of Pitman, 43 S. Broadway Pitman, NJ 08071 on Sunday, May 20, 2018, at 2:00 PM. Tickets are only \$25, call 856-384-8381. http://www.thebroadwaytheatre.org/?go=sho_dtl&sho=1203
	WED MAY 23	I.B.M. Ring 123 will be meeting on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at the King of Kings Lutheran Church, 250 Harmony Road, Middletown, NJ 07748 starting at 7 PM
	THU MAY 24	The next KIDabra chapter meeting is Thursday, May 24, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM. At this meeting, there will be a workshop on “Warm-ups and how to get your show started” by Dennis Thomas . Dennis is a full-time, professional magician and balloon sculptor. For the past 25+ years, he has specialized in entertaining children with his fun-filled shows and balloon twisting.

Visit the Magic Calendar on our SAM 181 website at http://magicsam181.com/?page_id=95