



SAMLETTER 181



With this issue, the SAMLETTER 181 starts its fourth year. The next **Assembly 181** meeting is **Thursday, September 6, 2018**, with a workshop by **Koshek** on "Math & Mentalism".

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 **Association of Children's Entertainers** is a group of individuals who specialize in entertaining children. We are Magicians, Clowns, Balloon Twisters, Puppeteers, Ventriloquists, Story Tellers & Face Painters who all share the interest and love of making children happy with their talents.

The **Association of Children's Entertainers** is meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month, **September 27**, at the United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM

You can contact them at ChildrensEntertainersACE@gmail.com.

From the President

"The right stuff..."

The qualities needed to do or be something, especially something that most people would find difficult.



The right stuff is a good way to describe SAM 181. I don't think it presumptuous to recognize the growth SAM 181 has had in the last few years. Every year, we as officers, try to bring to our fellow members an experience which would be hard to find elsewhere. In addition, each year we strive to bring to you more and more of what you would want in a club. For a small fee of \$20 each and every member can avail of themselves the following:

- The opportunity to perform, watch and learn magic in a judgment-free zone
- Eight workshops are given by one of our own members
- Two lectures from a working professional outside of our club
- Coffee, soda, water, and snacks provided at every meeting at no charge
- A loaner library of over eighty DVDs
- A free buffet dinner with professional entertainment
- Free past issues of various magic magazines to take home
- Dealer tables set up at every meeting
- Making friends and sharing the passion we all have for magic

Every year we try to bring to our members more magic, more fun and more value. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, come on down and see what it is all about. If you have been attending, don't keep SAM 181 a secret. Invite a guest to come and experience what it is like to be part of something very special. As this new magic season starts, let us all reaffirm our commitment to making SAM 181 the best magic club experience for us all to enjoy.

Mistakes, Misfires, and Backup Plans



Our last meeting, before the Dinner and Show gala, featured a workshop by Magic Mike Dziubas on “Mistakes, Misfires, and Backup Plans”. Mike Dziubas aka Magic Mike started as a prodigy of fellow Assembly 181 member, Dennis James, and has been performing magic on his own for over 14 years. With all those years of experience, Mike has put together several tricks of his own to keep the

show running smoothly. If you believe in Murphy’s Law, things happen and there is no margin for errors on stage.

After each workshop, we open the stage to those who would like to perform. Since our meetings are always well attended, there were a plethora of volunteer performers.

Let’s Play Ball! The first performer was our resident Children’s Entertainer, Dennis Thomas showing a never-ending baseball routine by Barry Mitchell called Bases Loaded. Next up, Rocco with D’Angelo’s Touch. Imagine pointing your finger at your spectator, and immediately they will raise their hand to confirm they felt a touch. This mentalist effects fools magicians.

After the Incredible Shrinking Watch, Mitch Geier then gave us a sneak peak of a Nikko gimmick, with is something Mitch has been working on for silk productions. Randy did a ringing performance of, a trick that fooled Penn & Teller, David Parr’s Copycat and it was a big hit.

Our old friend Ralpho, who had not been here in a while, did a great ACAAN routine. George Hann loves card tricks and so he performed Aldo Colombini's Jumbo Power Aces. Packs flat and plays big.

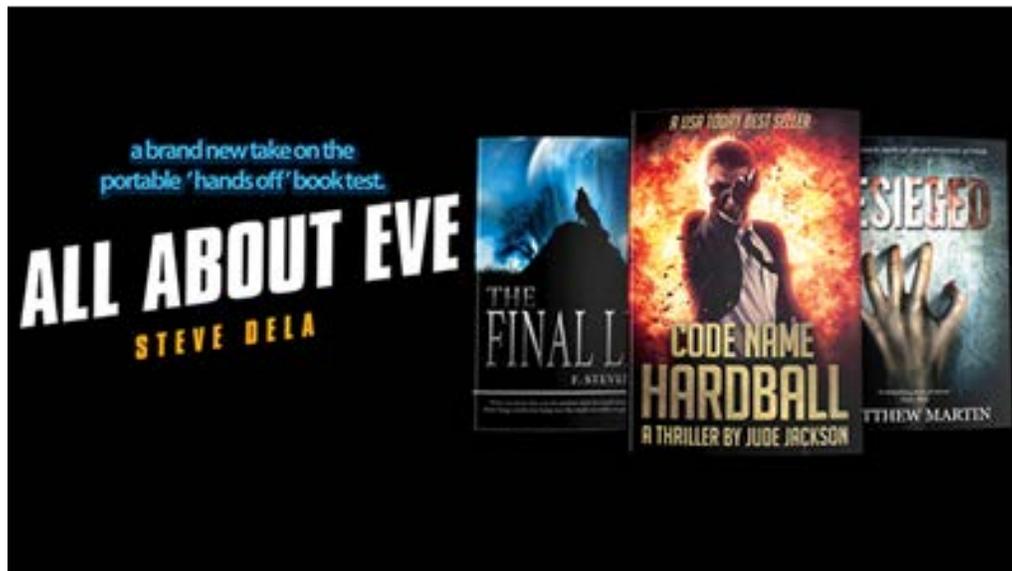
What is fun about magic, is that magic, like a living organism, is always evolving. Years ago, magicians performed with hats and pocket squares, now the hottest effects in magic use cell phones and Rubik Cubes. Robert Francis, who performs street magic as the Dork of Deception, did a baffling matching Rubik Cube effect with a paper bag. How did he solve that cube so fast?

Next in the order, Reba, a star performer from SAM Assembly 4 showing Scott Correll's Computer Trick. Joe Festa did "Final Card". Our workshop presenter, Magic Mike, came back up on stage to perform "Not Your Card". The closer for the night, Conrad Colon, the current President of IBM Ring 200 performed his Jumping Knot routine. Game over.



Psycho Path - Magic for the Mentalist

All About Eve by Steve Dela



Believe it or not, book tests have been around since the mid-1500's. Since then, there has been a myriad of book tests in every shape, type, and size. They have been disguised as regular hardcover books, paperbacks, dictionaries, magazines, crossword books, Sudoku books, street maps, cookbooks and even comic books. I'm sure I missed one or two as well in that listing. In addition, everyone who wants a book test has a different idea as to what they would like. It's hard to find the exact one(s) that fits your needs.

For many, the simple revelation of a thought or word is all that they are looking for. Better yet, if it was totally hands off that would be even more impressive. It would look something like this...You hand a spectator a book, ask them to turn to any page they want, find an interesting long word and then the mentalist reveals the word they thought of. Impressive, even if it is the only thing you do with it.

If that is your idea of what a book test is then *All About Eve* by Steve Dela is what you want. *All about Eve* is a well produced and attractive product which will do what you want and do it well. Designed to give the mentalist three solid hits before a possible miss, the book test looks and feels like a quality item. The prop is available with three different cover designs so you can purchase the one that suits your reading style or buy the three different cover styles to offer the spectator a "choice" of books.

The concept used in this book test has been used once before in another book test which had a limited print run. Chances are then that most people including magicians will not be familiar with the method. So what are the negatives? First and foremost, the price. It sells for \$148 and I never seen it discounted anywhere. I'm not sure if it is worth that much when you can get a similar effect (not method) as a magazine test for a third of that price and it includes two magazines. I was fortunate to get mine used for half the price, otherwise, I may never have bought it. The second minor complaint is that the paper stock is of a type which US printed paperbacks do not use. The paper which we use here is typically beige in color and a pulpy type of paper. The paper stock in this book test is heavier and bright white, which not only makes the book look a little suspicious but much heavier to carry. I would not want to put this in a jacket pocket because of its weight. However, if you are looking for simple, easy to do and quality then this book test may be the one you want.

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

HueGo by Paul Richards



What do you get when you cross color-changing knives, copper silver, and crazy crayons? You get HueGo by Paul Richards. HueGo is a portable color changing crayon routine which will drive the kids crazy. The best part is you won't have them confiscated when you try and bring the trick on an airplane. Paul Richards created a clever multi-phase routine with two (apparently) crayons. The crayons change places and disappear several times.

Paul Richards of Elmwood Magic fame is not new to creating magic. As originator and owner of Elmwood Magic, he has designed and produced dozens of effects from cards tricks to mentalism. After having sold Elmwood Magic and rights to all of his tricks under the Elmwood Magic name to Penguin Magic, Paul has his own line of well thought out and well-made effects. Unfortunately, the only way to purchase his creations is at a live event of which he is selling at. He does not sell online.

The props for HueGo are very well made. The crayons will never break and are made entirely of colored resins that will never deteriorate. He mentions they will probably outlast the purchaser and I don't doubt that statement one bit. They look like a well known and commercially manufactured crayon but will never break, melt or go bad. In addition, there is a special something is inserted into each crayon to assist in the performance.

What you get are the needed props to perform the effect, printed instructions as well as a link to a video instruction. I am not

personally happy about getting links instead of a DVD but I also don't like the fact that the provided link does not allow you to download the video to your computer. If you wish to refresh yourself on the trick, you must log into his site every time. Regardless of this minor inconvenience the directions are well done. As a side note, if you wish to perform the routine as it was designed, there are some clothing requirements i.e. pockets in the right places. However, the routine is flexible enough that one can sequence it all to their liking.

If you want to carry a fun little effect that will entertain both children and adults alike, I highly recommend HueGo by Paul Richards.

Modern Day Proverbs

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

The things that come to those that wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

Everyone lies, but it doesn't matter since nobody listens

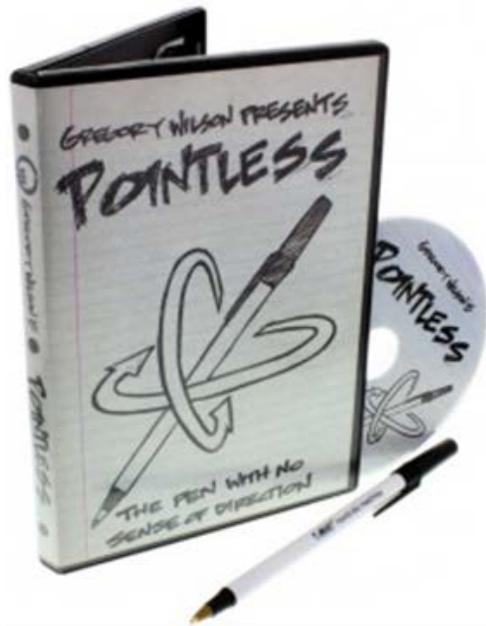
I wish the buck stopped here, as I could use a few.

I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial cost and blamed it on the cost of living.

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

Pointless by Gregory Wilson



This is an oldie but a goodie and I am surprised I have not written about this before. What I am referring to is *Pointless* by Gregory Wilson. I have had this trick since its inception and it is one of those tricks that you do, put it aside and then pick it up once again and wonder why in the world did you stop showing it. It is incredible how entertaining and baffling the trick is.

Pointless by Gregory Wilson falls into the category of what I call scam tricks of which Gregory Wilson is the master. The type of magic he creates matches his hustler persona which is probably not too far off from his real personality. *Pointless* is an ordinary looking Bic stick pen¹ you would find in just about any place that would have pens for sale, from gas stations to Staples. It is a keenly constructed gimmicked pen which will allow you to change the apparent direction the pen is pointing to. Along with the pen comes a DVD with live performances and handling. The quality of the DVD is average. The outside shots of live performances, of which there are many, are well photographed. The issue is with the training portion of the DVD. The training portion was shot inside his apartment under incandescent lighting. The visibility was poor and it is basically one long take. In addition, it is only filmed as the viewpoint of the spectator. There were no over the shoulder shots so you would have to reverse everything to understand the moves

¹ In September 2006 the Bic Cristal was declared the best selling pen in the world after the 100 billionth was sold.

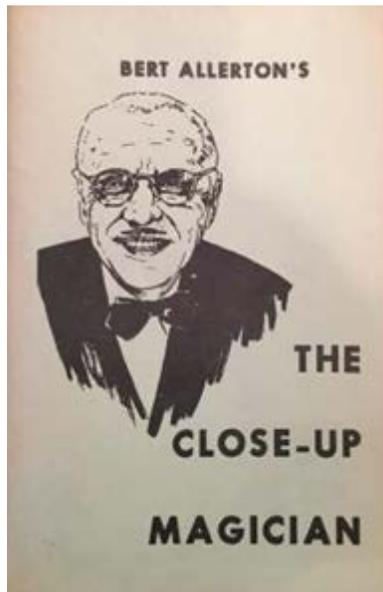
from the performers' perspective. Putting that aside, once you figured out the handling, you shouldn't have to reference it again.

The pen is very well constructed. This is not a prop you can make yourself. The parts are precision fit which what makes the illusion so convincing. Once the dirty part is removed, it can not only be inspected by the spectators but actually scrutinized as well. It is quite funny watching the spectators push, pull and twist the pen to figure out its secret. By the way, the pen writes as well. I love the line he uses in one of the performances "It's not a trick pen, it's a Bic pen". Be wary though, the pen looks so ordinary you may lose it if you aren't aware of where you place it. I'm sure we all have those tricks that tend to be put down almost forgotten. *Pointless* is my "new old trick" that I rescued from the abyss of ignored and forgotten magic and I'm having a blast with it. Check it out, it is well worth it.

RABBITS AGAINST MAGIC



The Magic Library - A Book Review



We always hear the reference of "standing on the shoulders of giants"². In other words, what we do is only built upon and a continuation of what others before us have created or done. A statement which is probably true in most cases. One of the iconic magicians many of us admire and some idolize, is the late great Eugene Burger. In his writings, Eugene Burger expressed how he was influenced by another great but lesser known magician whose name was Bert Allerton. Bert

Allerton who started a career in magic very late in life hasn't much of a legacy in print. Aside from some material contributed to a few magic magazines and a few effects collected by Karl Fulves, Allerton only has one small pamphlet printed in which his magic lives on.

Out of print for many years *The Close Up Magician* is a collection of tricks Bert Allerton performed at Ambassador East Hotel Pump Room in Chicago as well as the House of Murphy in Hollywood and the Hotel Pierre in New York City. This small pamphlet has twenty-nine magical effects which made Bert Allerton famous. They range from card and coin tricks to tricks which use props such as cigarette cases, handkerchiefs, and tableware. As you read through this small collection of ideas, you can't help but see parallels in the magic performed by Eugene Burger. Perhaps the matchbox Eugene used was a substitution for aspirin box Allerton used. Allerton's impromptu multi-phase handkerchief routine can

² This concept has been traced to the 12th century, attributed to Bernard of Chartres. Its most familiar expression in English is by Isaac Newton in 1675: "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants."

easily be recreated with a napkin from most restaurants. Of course, the famous glass through table was one of Allerton's favorite routines which he refined through hundreds of performances.

Every day we see new books, DVDs, and downloads released to the magic community. I, like everyone else, salivate at these shiny, new and glitzy releases, tempting me to part with my hard earned money. Every now and then though, we should take a walk down memory lane and see where all these new ideas came from. If you can find them, pick up an old, perhaps dusty copy of some magician you may have never heard of and study the ways of those who came before. By the way, his real name was Albert Allen Gustafson....sound familiar.



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The Junk Drawer Challenge



I was going through some old magic pamphlets and for some reason one of them caught my eye. I sat down to read it and I was inspired to come up with a new feature for the newsletter. It is called The Junk Drawer Challenge. The premise is that we all have magic shoved into a drawer that we don't use. Perhaps we don't use it because it looks cheap, we got it for free or most likely there seems to be no good presentation for it.

The Junk Drawer Challenge will feature a forgotten (at least I think so) piece of magic which doesn't get shown too much and the challenge will be to come up with a viable and entertaining presentation with it.

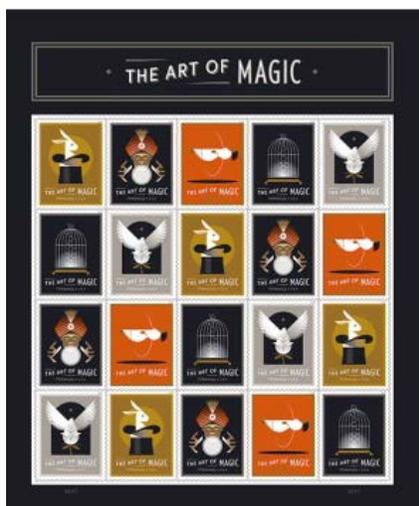
This month's forgotten piece of magic is the Steel Ball and Tube. The Steel Ball and Tube was marketed since the early 1920's under various names and had it's heyday several decades ago. Like many tricks, as mass production developed, they became cheap to make and was found in many beginner magic sets. Once that happens, more experienced performers shy away from showing them for fear that someone will say "I know how that works". In the eight years I've involved in magic I had never seen the ball and tube performed.

If you don't know what The Steel Ball and Tube is, it is basically a solid steel ball bearing which sits on top of a chromed brass tube. The ball is larger than the tube thus preventing it from going through. Under the control of the magician, the steel ball starts to get smaller and slowly sinks into the tube. After it sinks, the

ball rises and sinks again. And as some of the original instructions say "repeat as much as tolerable"

There has been a couple of attempts to revitalize this classic. As far as I know, there are only two printed booklets in regards to using the ball and tube. One is called Magic with a Steel Ball and Tube by Magic Ian and the other is Ball and Tube by Docc Hilford. Other than these two booklets there were a few scattered tricks in a couple of magazines.

The purpose of this challenge is manifold. First, it will give us the incentive to use magic most of us already have. As we look for this forgotten piece we will probably discover more we don't use. Secondly and more importantly, it will spur the creativeness we all have inside of us and force us to work at developing a performance piece that is unique to us. Perhaps you might even be brave enough to present it to the club the following month. So go look for that small brass tube and ball and work up a presentation.



Issued 8/7/2018, The U.S. Postal Service celebrates magic, an art form that has entertained America for centuries. This sheet of 20 stamp features digital illustrations of five classic illusion: a rabbit in a top hat (production), a fortune teller using a crystal ball (prediction), a women floating in air (levitation), an empty birdcage (vanishing), and a bird emerging from a flower (transformation).



THE MAGICIANS' ALLIANCE OF EASTERN STATES

PRESENTS

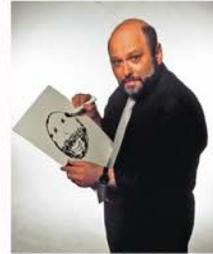
TWO EVENING GALA MAGIC PERFORMANCES OF DAZZLING ENTERTAINMENT



Meir Yedid

Friday, September 7th

*Mind Games Rebooted
Meir Yedid and Marc Salem*



Marc Salem

Saturday, September 8th



Michel Huot,
Yannick Lacroix &
Marc Trudel

*Gene Anderson
Nicolas Dutel
The Montreal Trio
Jonathan Neal and Liane*



Nicolas Dutel



Jonathan Neal and Liane



Gene Anderson

*All shows begin at 7:30
p.m. in Grand Ballroom C*

*Cherry Hill Crowne Plaza
2349 West Marlton Pike
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002*

**Open to the Public!
BE THERE AND
Enjoy the Shows!**

*General Admission Seating,
Cash Only
Adults \$20.00
Children 12 & under &
Seniors 65 & over, \$10.00*

MAGIC CALENDAR

	THU SEPT 6	S.A.M. Assembly 181 meeting is Thursday, September 6 2018, with a workshop lead by Koshek on “Math & Mentalism” 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
	THU SEPT 6,7,8	Magicians' Alliance of Eastern States comes to Cherry Hill, NJ on September 6, 7, & 8, for its 2018 Convention. Location: Crowne Plaza Cherry Hill, 2349 West Marlton Pike (NJ-70), Cherry Hill, NJ 08002, Group Reservations: 888-233-9527. http://maesconvention.com/
	MON SEPT 10	I.B.M. Ring 6 , The Delaware Valley Conjurers Club regularly meets every 2nd Monday, with a meeting on Monday, September 10, 2018, at the Hancock United Methodist Church, 542 Wesley Road, Springfield, PA.
	MON SEPT 10	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. https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAM161CALENDAR/about/
	TUES SEPT 18	I.B.M. Ring 200 meets on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 7:00 PM at the Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave, Edison, NJ 08817.
	THU SEPT 20	S.A.M. Assembly 4 will be meeting on Thursday, September 20, 2018, at the Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, doors open at 6:30 PM.
	WED SEPT 26	I.B.M. Ring 123 will be meeting on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, at the King of Kings Lutheran Church, 250 Harmony Road, Middleton, NJ 07748 starting at 7 PM
	THU SEPT 27	The Association of Children's Entertainers is meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month, September 27, at the United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM

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