



SAMLETTER 181



"This guy is good!"¹

This **Thursday, December 6, 2018**, a lecture by **Mike Hummer** at the SAM Assembly 181. The lecture will be FREE to all paid members² of SAM 181, \$10 for guests. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Lecture starts at 7:30 PM

Mike Hummer's humorous magic combines state-of-the-art magic with outrageous comedy. His performance style adds up to just one thing ...ENTERTAINMENT! For 17 years, Mike performed full time at Al's Magic Shop, Washington's oldest magic establishment.

Within the magic fraternity, Mike is well respected. In the International Brotherhood of Magicians, he was appointed a territorial representative for the D.C. area for two consecutive years. Mike is in constant demand for private parties all over the D.C. area. He has performed at the White House Easter Egg Roll and at many embassies, including the embassy of Japan and Italy, just to name a few.

His demand in the business community is just as great. Satisfied clients include Bloomingdales, Continental Airlines, USPS, Booz Allen, and Joe Theisman's restaurant as well as many others."

S.A.M. 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. Lecture starts at 7:30 PM

¹ During a 1985 visit to the shop, then Vice President George H.W. Bush saw Mike perform and commented "This guy is good!".

² SAM 181 dues are still only \$20 a year and have many benefits. Joining now would allow you to attend both the Mike Hummer (in December) and Duane Laflin (in January) lectures for free.

From the President

Every month we, the Vice-president and I, would like to send out a newsletter worthy of your time to read. It is not easy thinking of fresh and new topics to convey to you. Every now and then though, I find something special to write about which I hope touches you as much as it touches me. If you are like me, I have reached a saturation point of owning and buying magic. I have more books than I can read, more DVDs than I can watch and more tricks that I can perform. But yet, I still look gluttonously at all the new effects and methods being released. It's a disease.



Yes, it's a disease that I would hate to be cured of. However, let's face it, magic is not cheap. Sure, if you just buy a brick of regular cards and use them until they are gray and worn you will get by cheaply, other than that magic costs money. Wouldn't it be nice if you decide to buy some magic you could save money and help out a nice family? Well, I have a suggestion. I recently have been buying my magic through a small, family-owned online magic site called magic4less. Magic4less is based in Utah and is owned by Robert Bowden, a local magician.

The Bowden family is your typical middle American family. They have their struggles but yet plod on. Their strength is based on the way they support each other and how they care for each other. The son Bobby Jr, is a veteran and served our country. He is also a dad and a devoted son. Junior splits his time from working, being a father and helping his dad fill orders they receive online.

So what's in it for you, you ask? If you go to their site and submit your email address, almost weekly you will receive a notice to when they are having a sale. Each email announcement will tell you how to save on your magic order. I have not ever ordered without being able to use a substantial discount code. In addition to being able to save quite a bit, I haven't ordered anything that was not excluded from using the coupon. Surprisingly the coupon was good even with already discounted products.

So, if you get that urge to get a package in the mail that has some neat magic stuff in it, try signing up to magic4less and save some money and help out a family that surely would appreciate your business.

GAFF OR GIMMICK



Is it a "Gaff" or a "Gimmick", is a question that magicians ponder? While the dictionary treats the two words as synonyms, Coin Expert David Roth says a "Gimmick" is something never seen by the audience (tarantula for example or invisible thread) while a "Gaff" is seen but not understood (double-facer or a copper/silver coin). Regardless of the definitions, trick coins have been put in play by magicians

for many centuries. A double-faced coin that transforms a "counter to a goat" is described in Reginald Scot's *Discovery of Witchcraft*, which was published in 1584.

Our workshop in November was on Coin Gimmicks and how to use them. After a sampling and explanation of these gaffs, the stage was turned over to the performers who brought something to show.

Routines that are performed are not required to be, although they often are, compatible with the theme of the workshop. Since our meeting was the day



after Halloween, George Hann opened with "The Web" on an unsuspecting volunteer. I hate spiders, so I am glad that I didn't volunteer for that one.

Rocco played a selected popular song on a pair of disconnected earbuds. Joel Soloman was on the coin theme as he performed the Dime and Penny as a prediction. Joe Festa taught a bit of American History with his presentation of Aces and Eights. Often called the dead man's hand, a pair of black aces and a pair of black eights were supposedly the cards Wild Bill Hickok held when he was shot in the back of the head by Jack McCall at Nuttal & Mann's Saloon in Deadwood.

Continuing with cards, The Wizard of Windsor, Steve Wincott performed a 6 card repeat, followed by Reba's rising card, three selected cards rising from a wine glass.



Using the Stars of Magic as his reference, Mitch Geier performed Dai Vernon's "Kangaroo Coins" passing coins, one at a time, through a table into a glass. Continuing with coins, Jeff his did his coins through a miniature table, which is tongue in cheek comedy with real magic. Jeff continued with "Winged Silver", a coins across routine written up in Bobo, but Jeff finishes with the last coin appearing under glass.

The final routine was by Robert Francis, the Dork of Deception performing his street tested on the fingertips three-fly, concluding a great night of magic.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



Psycho Path - Magic for the Mentalist

Dean's Beads by Dean Dill



Would you like to perform a mentalism routine for kids but don't know what to do, try and find a set of *Dean's Beads* on the secondary market. It is a cute, lightweight trick and plays well for anyone who is above seven years old. *Dean's Beads* is the late Dean Dill's version of *Gypsy Beads*. If you don't know what

Gypsy Beads is, it is basically a plastic bead necklace which when held properly will allow the spectator to pull in a continuous string a thought up number of beads. For example, if you asked a spectator to think of a number between 1 and 25 and they held onto the length of beads at one end and pulled, whatever number they thought of, a strand of beads that length would separate from the main strand.

What makes Dean Dill's version nice to work with is that instead of pearl-like looking beads, it is made up of children's colored "Pop" beads popular many years ago. Even though "Pop" beads aren't as popular as they were, they do not look out of place. In fact, one would imagine they would be sold in any craft store. In addition to their common look, it is easy for the magician to separate the beads at the necessary point because within the colored beads is a built-in code which makes the counting easy. While this is not a stage piece it can be carried in the pocket and performed before or after a show as a "getting to know the audience" activity. For example, a magician working a blue and gold may go from table to table performing small magic routines as the crowd starts to settle in. *Dean's Beads* are as baffling to magicians who aren't in the know as it is to lay people. Definitely worth the effort to carry them around.

If you can't find the set, you can make a set yourself by buying Pop Beads online and assembling a strand yourself. With a little thought, you can figure out the method.

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

AquaCups by Danny Orleans



German magic inventor, Werry, first released his *AquaCups* in the 1960s. Now you can get an updated version by Danny Orleans. *AquaCups* is a nice little routine in which you can make the magic personal. When I first saw Danny Orleans perform this he told a story about when he was a kid and spent time at his grandparents' house. He showed three empty cups and as the story unfolds he tells the tale of

having to use one cup for water, one for juice and one for milk, showing them all empty. As the story winds down he ultimately produces a stream of water from one of the cups. It was a great effect. Perhaps it resonated with me because I had a similar experience while staying at my grandparents' house.

The cups he performed with were small blue plastic shot glass size cups and they sold out in three minutes. I managed to get one of the few sets he had left. Danny Orleans ultimately had them manufactured in aluminum and increased the size to a small child's cup. The aluminum cups came in anodized silver or gold. At \$80 they weren't cheap but I was fortunate enough to get a set of these as well. Once again they sold out and became unavailable.

AquaCups are available once again but is marketed under the name of *AmazeCups*. *AmazeCups* is a hybrid of the previous two versions. They are reduced back in size to a small cup in plastic but unlike the initial release of solid Robin's egg blue, they have the gold anodized look of the aluminum cup. Having both the blue plastic version and the aluminum version, I can attest to the fact that the aluminum version has the heft and feel of an old fashion metal cup which was popular back in the sixties. When I hold them in my hand I can practically envision having one of these when I was a kid, and I'm pretty sure I did. However today, that aluminum set would probably have to sell for \$125 or more which is probably the reason they are now manufactured in plastic. The gold look improves the appearance by far and at a distance, I'm pretty sure the cup would not look cheap. The small size enables the performer to use them

for walk-around if he wishes. The *AquaCup / AmazeCup* is a great routine and I highly recommend that you look into it.

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

Change Cap by Creative Magic



There are many opportunities to perform magic, and often it's when you are least prepared. A magician should be prepared to perform "at a drop of a hat". In prior articles, I've mentioned having magic in your wallet and pockets for the eventual "show me a trick" request. However, there is another way to "be prepared" to perform and that is with a prop that you can wear on your person and with fashion accessories. In addition to wallets included in this category of props are hats, ties and tie pins, pocket squares, watches, necklaces, bracelets, key fobs, and rings.

With that said, perhaps a hat-trick would be different. It may take a little bit of searching but there is a great prop that looks natural but yet allows you to create miracles. The *Change Cap* by Creative Magic is a normal looking baseball cap but acts as a change bag. There is no limit to the way this cap can be utilized. The hat looks like an ordinary baseball cap and is clearly above suspicion.

Imagine throwing in two unlinked safety pins in the hat, shake the hat up and the pins come out linked. Perhaps tear a card into quarters and produce a restored card. Or, take four quarters and turn it into a dollar bill. There are hundreds of possibilities and as the saying goes "only limited by your imagination".

As far as the quality goes, the cap appears to be well constructed and the mechanism is manually operated. The change occurs under the guise of shaking or folding the cap. I purchased two caps and they both showed up black in color but I had seen a couple for sale that were other colors. By itself, the cap is kind of plain but there is no reason why you can't iron on a patch to make it more personal. There is a DVD associated with the cap and if you find

the cap for sale see if it comes with the DVD. There are 52 different ideas for using the cap and I'm pretty sure several would appeal to you.

The *Change Cap* is a great utility prop that you can wear and use when you see fit. If you feel like doing magic, it is right there on your head. If you don't feel like performing it hasn't taken up any pocket space. The worse thing that can happen is that it will keep your head protected from the sun and cold.

Close-Up and Personal Video Interview with Magician/Actor Steve Valentine



S.A.M. Assembly 181 is beginning a series of Close-Up and Personal Interviews with members of the magic community that will be posted on a free streaming service.

Sit back and enjoy this hour-long interview with Steve Valentine without commercial interruption at

<https://vimeo.com/294858105>

Future interviews and videos will be posted on the S.A.M. Assembly 181 Vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/magicsam181>



SAM 181 President

Stephan Sloan

stephansloan10@gmail.com

SAM 181 Vice President

David Zboray

dzboray@aol.com

SAM 181 Treasurer

Dennis Thomas

DennisG514@aol.com

SAM 181 Secretary

Mitch Geier

mg@cecg.com

Contact SAM 181

info@magicsam181.com

Visit us on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/magicsam181> or our website <http://www.magicsam181.com/>

SAM 181 Media Review - Magic On The Go



I use to call this the SAM 181 Book Review until I realized that as magicians we have more ways to get information than just books. In addition to books, there are DVDs, videotapes, audio files, downloads, MP3 files, and streaming video. So, it seems too narrow of a vision to just mention books.

That being said, this month I would like to bring to light a site that we have briefly mentioned before. It may be worthwhile for you to check out *Magic On The Go* by Steve Valentine. I am not one for subscription-based information but an opportunity arose to take a look at the site without much risk and I have to say that I am duly impressed. Steve Valentine has put in a tremendous effort into making this a site worthy of your time and money.

There are a few things that impressed me about the site. First, it looks like it is well put together. The videos I watched are photographed well, the explanations are thorough and clear and a lot of thought went into the production value. In comparison to other sites I had seen, *Magic On The Go* is more visually interesting and edited in a sensible manner. However, what makes this site most appealing to me is Steve Valentine's effervescent personality and his obvious love of magic. Steve Valentine seems to love classic magic and his excitement leaps of the screen and is infectious. When he talks about old magical apparatus and old-time magicians he is well read and has personally tried out each and every routine to see what is good and what is bad about it. He then gives you his version, the changes he made and why. Just by watching only a couple of his videos my mindset has changed on much of what magic was and should be. There are all types of magic available for viewing and if I were to pick a couple of genres it may be light on, it would be mentalism and kid's magic. There is a small section on book tests but on initial surveying of what is offered perhaps if one of these two areas are your interest this site may not be for you. However, if you are interested in any other type of magic, you may want to take a look.

Steve Valentine seems to be a genuinely nice fellow with no attitude which makes watching him fun and entertaining. I highly recommend you check out

Magic On The Go. He has a couple of payment options and no surprise the full year subscription is the best way to go. It comes to \$10 a month, which for education of this caliber, even I would say it's worth it.

<https://www.stevevalentine.com/magiconthego.html>

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT – DUANE LAFLIN LECTURE

Wednesday, January 23, 2019



ACE and SAM 181 is sponsoring a lecture by **Duane Laflin** on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at **First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520**. Doors open at 7:00 PM.

Duane is an internationally awarded performer who specializes in family-friendly entertainment.

Sponsored by both A.C.E. and S.A.M. 181, the lecture will be FREE to all paid members of S.A.M. 181. There will be a fee for all non-members.



MAGIC CALENDAR

	THUR DEC 6	S.A.M. Assembly 181 lecture by Mike Hummer is on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. The lecture will be FREE to all paid members of SAM 181, \$10 for guests. Doors open at 7:00, Workshop at 7:30 PM. http://magicsam181.com
	SAT DEC 8	S.A.M. Assembly 161 Annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 8, 2018. https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAM161CALENDAR/about/
	MON DEC 10	I.B.M Ring 6 , The Delaware Valley Conjurers Club regularly meets every 2nd Monday, with a meeting on Monday, December 10, 2018, at the Hancock United Methodist Church, 542 Wesley Road, Springfield, PA.
	FRI DEC 14	Delaware Knights of Magic Holiday Dinner and Magic Show is on Friday, December 14, 2018, a Cokesbury Village, 726 Loveville Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707. Adults \$15, Children (3-12) \$7, Under 2 free, Doors open at 6:00 PM with strolling magic, 7:00 PM buffet dinner.
	TUES DEC 18	I.B.M. Ring 200 meets on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, 7:00 PM at the Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave, Edison, NJ 08817.
	WED DEC 19	The last meeting of I.B.M. Ring 123 is on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at the King of Kings Lutheran Church, 250 Harmony Road, Middletown, NJ 07748 starting at 7 PM
	THUR DEC 20	S.A.M. Assembly 4 will be meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2018, at the Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, doors open at 6:30 PM.
	THUR DEC 27	The Association of Children's Entertainers is meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2018, at the United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM. The topic will be Winter and Holiday routines.
	THUR JAN 3	Lecture at S.A.M. Assembly 181 on Thursday, January 3, 2019, workshop and meeting 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
	WED JAN 23	ACE and SAM 181 sponsored lecture by Duane Laflin on Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. The lecture will be FREE to all paid members of SAM 181. Doors open at 7:00.

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