



SAMLETTER 181



Join us on **Thursday, April 4, 2019**, our regular meeting will include a workshop by **Magic Mike Dziubas**.

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. Workshops start at 7:30 PM.

From the President

"It takes a lot of people to make a winning team.
Everybody's contribution is important."

Gary David Goldberg



Once again we owe a debt of gratitude to several of our members for helping make SAM 181 the club that it is. This past weekend five members took time out of their busy lives to help support not only our club but other organizations as well. I would like to thank Reba Strong, Randy Butters, George Hann, Mike Dziubas and Robert Francis for performing in the Abracadabra Family Magic Show in Adath Israel Temple. As we have done in the past, our club has helped raise money for the synagogue as well as the Arlene Sharlin Memorial Scholarship Fund. This selfless act of contributing has been why we as a club has grown so much. These five performers embody the underlying essence of the success of SAM 181.

The growth of SAM 181 has gotten the attention of many of the clubs around us. Whether they are magic clubs or other performance type clubs, their membership has diminished greatly or the club has totally shut down. I truly feel it is the self-sustaining acts of contribution and sharing that has allowed us to enjoy the success we've had. We have had a tenfold increase over the last few years and this trend is continuing.

Now, I know that not everyone has the inclination to go out and perform, and we don't expect everyone can. However, there are many ways you can contribute. Perhaps you can bring a snack. We do have some lovely ladies who bring cake, brownies and other treats but feel free to bring something. Maybe help set up and put away chairs. Do a workshop or bring stuff to sell. There are many ways to help the club which does not require performing. Each week, I hear of someone wanting to "check us out" because of our growing reputation. If you see a stranger or someone new, introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. Believe me, it goes a long way.

As always, if you have an idea that can benefit the club, I'm all ears. I may not be able to implement every suggestion but I'm certainly willing to listen. Every idea from the loaner library to the backdrop has been made by one of the members. Don't be shy, we would love to hear what you have to say.

Thanks again to all of you members which have made SAM 181 what it is today.



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/>





Close-Up and Personal Video Interview with Rich Hurley



Rich Hurley is an accomplished sleight of hand magician and a successful sales executive for Freeman Audio Visual Solutions, the nations' leading supplier of audiovisual solutions to the meetings and trade show industry. Rich's natural sales ability and his genuine interest in people comes through in all his performances. The result is entertaining and

hilarious fun.

Rich is a member of the Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences (Hollywood Magic Castle) was a student of Dean Dill, one of the most well known and highly regarded names in the inner circle of magic.

This is the second interview by Mitch Geier, in the S.A.M. Assembly 181 series of Close-Up and Personal Interviews with members of the magic community.

Sit back and enjoy this 55-minute interview with Rich Hurley without commercial interruption at <https://vimeo.com/312796659>

All of our videos will be posted on the S.A.M. Assembly 181 Vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/magicsam181>

FAMILY MAGIC SHOW



RANDY BUTTERS, GEORGE THE WIZARD, ROB FRANCIS, MAGIC MIKE, AND SILLY REBA

You should have been there. Again at the end of March, the magicians of SAM 181 put on a fantastic family magic show for the benefit of the Adath Israel Congregation and the Arlene Sharlin Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund awards college scholarships to Trenton High School students who are interested in pursuing careers in teaching and, after graduating, are willing to give back to the community.

Parents look for entertaining things to do on Sunday afternoons and this show did not disappoint. It was fun to watch each magician bring children up to the stage and involve them in the performances. The show opened with George the Wizard, in full wizard attire and grey beard, on to a stage lined with blue drums. Four children helped the Wizard select items, and eliminate drums until only one drum remained, and inside were the items the Wizard predicted.

Silly Reba took the stage with several fast pact effects starting with a silk to cane, then a silly version of a "What's Next" board and her comical presentation of the "Do Nothing Machine". When you do nothing long enough it is hard to know when you have done enough of nothing to stop.



Randy Butters likes to read. Coming on stage with a newspaper, Randy tore it to pieces and then did a magical restore. After bringing three volunteers on stage, Randy did a classical Chinese Ring Routine. Randy finish his set with a one-on-one cut and restored rope, which always ends with a souvenir.

Rob Francis, once known as the Dork of Deception continued with a classic, doing his favorite, the egg bag. "Goo goo g'joob"¹, Rob is the real egg man.

Finishing the show was Magic Mike with a high energy performance. Once the music starts, the magic does not stop. Dancing with the music, Magic Mike produces silks, flowers, beads, and more flowers and the audience loved it. Mike finished with a sucker effect using color changing bunny rabbits and the show was over.



It is heartwarming to see magicians donate their time and entertainment skills for worthy causes. Thank you all.

¹ *I am the Walrus* by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, 1967

Psycho Path - Magic for the Mentalist



Truth by Paul Richards is a multi-phase Truth / Lie routine using different colored poker chips and a paper bag. The spectator is shown a black paper bag. They are given five different colored poker chips and is asked to think of one and throw it in the bag. Then they are asked to toss in another one and the mentalist will divine which was the original thought of chip. Of course, the thought of chip is divined

and the performance continues with multiple phases using more chips.

I saw Paul Richards perform this and there is allows a lot of room for the performer to inject his personality. It is very entertaining and it is a fooler for even those who know how some of these things work. What you receive in the package are two black paper bags, 5 special colored poker chips, another item which helps it along, written instructions and a link to video instructions.

The quality, like all of Paul Richards offerings, is of the highest quality and well thought out. What is nice about *Truth* is that it is compact and fits in a shirt or jacket pocket. If you wanted to carry something that packs flat and plays big this is it. You can get a lot of mileage out of this one and it is always different because each spectator has a free choice as to what poker chips they would want to throw in.

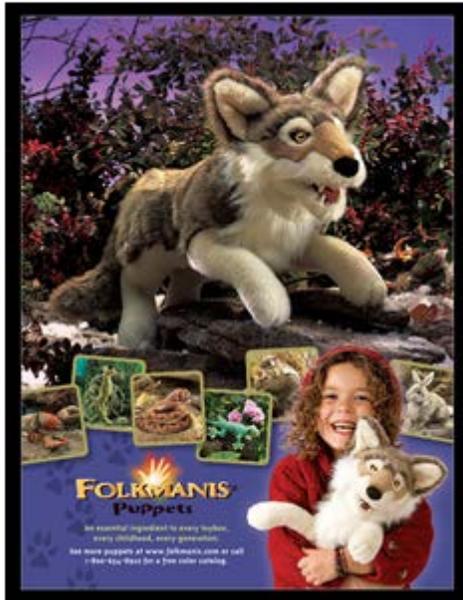
If one is familiar with different mentalism routines, it would not be a stretch to be able to use the props for other routines and get more bang for your buck. A little imagination will go a long way and you may be able to parlay multiple routines using the props from this one purchase.

Unfortunately, after Paul Richards moved on from Elmwood Magic, he only sells his products at magic conventions. I would highly recommend it if there is a convention near you and he is going to be there, go and check out what he has.

If you want to watch the trailer for *Truth*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga8vSDrzmOY>

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



It is not unusual for people who are interested in magic, to be fascinated with other forms of entertainment. Known as the allied arts, Juggling, Clowning, Balloon Twisting, Storytelling, Ventriloquism and Puppetry all have a place in the hearts of many magicians. In fact, there are very few magicians that have not wished to try or have tried their hand at one or more of these other venues. One has to wonder why that is since they all seem so far apart from one another? I suppose it all has to do with the creation of wonder.

One of the most wondrous things is to create life. It is this creation of life in an inanimate object that draws children and adults alike to puppets. Through the use of a puppet, a puppeteer can make people laugh, cry, dream, wonder and travel to far away lands. Through the interaction of the puppeteer and his puppet(s), life lessons can be taught. Object lessons as they are known can be passed on through the actions of the puppet and his relationship with his owner. One of the most difficult parts of puppetry is knowing what message you want to convey and how you wish to convey it. Herein lies one of the challenges of puppetry which is what will your puppet look like and what character it will play?

There are several sources for puppets online and in stores. The prices like their quality will range greatly. Options range from the inexpensive finger puppets you can find in bargain stores to handmade puppets made out of the latest fabrics and materials. If you wanted to "break into" puppetry and can't decide in which direction you would like to go, maybe you can run down to your local Barnes and Noble and check out the children's area there. If the store is decent in size more than likely you will find a display of Folkmanis Puppets. A Folkmanis Puppet is a great option for someone who wishes to discover puppetry but does not want to make a major investment. These puppets have the look and feel of quality. Over the years Folkmanis has won dozens of awards for their designs.

Folkmanis produces over 200 different puppets to choose from. They are virtually all animals both realistic and fantastical. Although seemingly limited, an animal puppet will eliminate the "need" for you to feel that you have to speak two parts. The animal can just nod or whisper to you and being it is an animal, nobody will wonder why it can't speak. All you would need to do now is script a routine that would just require the puppet to react. Check out the Folkmanis display at your local B & N or click on the link below.

<https://www.folkmanis.com/146/home.htm>

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



I came across an odd item in one of those flash sales which has become popular amongst online magic dealers. It is called *Vision Purse* and it's distributed by Seo Magic. *Vision Purse* is a utility device that allows the magician to perform miraculous appearances and disappearances of coins without a lot of effort. *Vision Purse* appears to be an ordinary coin

purse with a vinyl see-thru window. The magician pours out three coins and shows the purse empty. One by one, each coin appears back into the purse without any effort at all.

I purchased the purse for a couple of reasons. I was already in the market for a small, lightweight purse to carry coin tricks in. If the purse can add an extra phase to a routine even better. Secondly, I was curious as to what I would receive because it sold for \$15 on the flash sale and its original list price was \$85. Well, now that I have it, I can tell you.

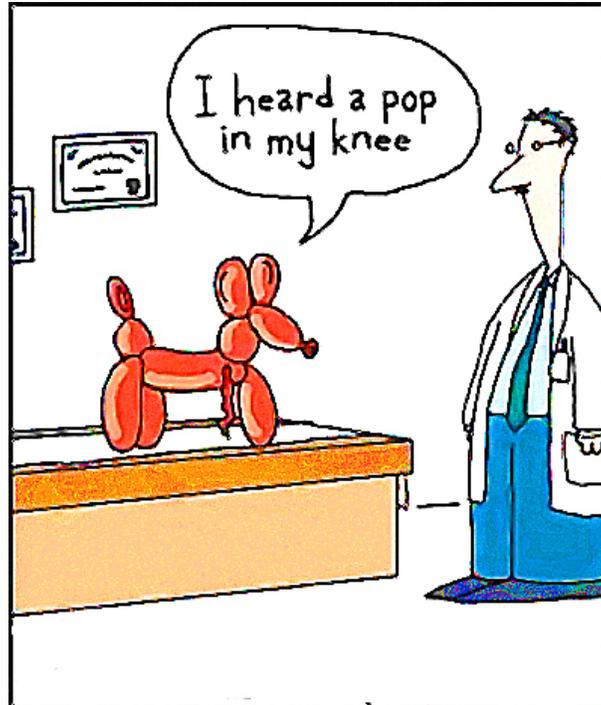
What you get is a 3½" wide by 3" high black leather pouch with a clear vinyl window and a snap top. The purse seems to be constructed fairly well but

like many other items like this, time will tell as to its durability. The methodology behind the secret is simple and I question why it has such a high original price tag. The purse will allow you to perform routines that you probably cannot do without a device like this. If you are familiar with modern equivalents such as *Quiver* you will have an idea as to what you can do.

Like many products, there are pros and cons. The biggest negative that comes to mind is the price tag if you don't find it on sale. They are asking quite a bit for this item. There is much more magic that can be purchased for that price. Also, there is a handling issue. The purse does have a way in which it has to be handled for it to work as it should. You would have to "work it in" so it performs without a hitch. Finally, the video link does not work. Don't count on any instructional videos to help you along, you're on your own. If you can get this item on the next flash sale for \$15 - \$20, I would highly recommend it.

To watch a trailer on *Vision Purse* click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1Y-aV9Kkro>



MAGIC CALENDAR

	THUR APR 4	S.A.M. Assembly 181 meeting and on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00, Workshop by Magic Mike Dziubas at 7:30 PM. http://magicsam181.com
	MON APR 8	S.A.M. Assembly 161 meets on the second Monday of each month. April 8, 2019, at the Stoney Brook Grille, 1285 Easton Turnpike in Branchburg, NJ 08876. https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAM161CALENDAR/about/
	MON APR 8	I.B.M Ring 6 , The Delaware Valley Conjurers Club regularly meets every 2nd Monday, with a meeting on Monday, April 8, 2019, at the Hancock United Methodist Church, 542 Wesley Road, Springfield, PA.
	THU APR 11	Delaware Knights of Magic meeting is on Thursday, April 11, 2019, a Cokesbury Village, 726 Loveville Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707 at 7:30 PM
	TUE APR 16	I.B.M. Ring 200 meets on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 7:00 PM (Doors open at 6:30 PM) at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Edison, New Jersey.
	THUR APR 18	S.A.M. Assembly 4 will be meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2019, at the Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, doors open at 6:30 PM.
	THUR APR 25	The Association of Children's Entertainers is meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2019, at the United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.
	THUR MAY 2	S.A.M. Assembly 181 meeting and on Thursday, May 2, 2019, 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

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