



# SAMLETTER 181



Join us on **Thursday, June 6, 2019<sup>1</sup>**, when our regular meeting will include a workshop by Jeff Carson. This workshop has no name but we promise there will be lots of magic.



All attending members will receive a **FREE DVD** that teaches 15 effects.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Remember our Veterans, as June 6, 2019 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

## From the President



*There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.*

Colin Powell

This past weekend I was at Wheaton Village. Wheaton Village is an art center located in Southern New Jersey which focuses on the glass arts such as glassblowing, flameworking, stained glass and even pottery. On the premises, there is a museum which not only has the history of glass in the United States but also modern glass artists featuring their work there as well. The main draw though is their glassblowing studio where you have the opportunity to watch glassblowing live and up close. This weekend they had a well-known glassblower come and give a demonstration.

The team consisted of five members including the main gaffer (glass artist). To watch glass being drawn from the furnace, shaped, blown and manipulated is like watching a ballet. Every member of the team has to know what they need to do and when to do it. Any hesitation can mean the ruination of the piece they are working on. The studio was hot and crowded with all its players in position to do what they needed to do. The goal was to make an 18" vase with one inch thick walls with colors transitioned from violet on the bottom to red on top. A spiral accent of bright yellow would circle the vase from the lip to the base.

At the three hour mark, they were nearing the end. All they had to do was to apply the spiral line, called a wrap, on the vase and they would have a piece which would easily sell for \$3500 in an art store. The vase was placed in position on the rollers and the artist touched the honey thick molten glass from the rod to the vase and as it spun he slowly maneuvered the rod downward to create the spiral effect. Then it happened, the vase which was not held down tightly enough by one of the assistants fell off the rollers. As the head assistant attempted to keep the 25-pound vase from hitting the ground, he lifted it up and hit the rod full of the yellow accent color. The job was ruined. A hushed silence fell upon the crowd since we all were there with

them for those three hours. All eyes were scanning the team members to see what the reaction would be.

The glass artist stood there calmly and held out his hands and said: "It's over guys, we'll try another one tomorrow." So what does this have to do with magic you may ask? Nothing except for the fact that everyone will suffer failure now and then. We make forget a line, a move or entire trick in the heat of performance but like this glass artist we should say "we'll try again tomorrow". Failure is inevitable when we are performing but like other pros, in their field, we go back to the furnace and try again.



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

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

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# SAVE THE DATE!

**Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 7 pm**  
**Annual S.A.M. 181 End of Year Dinner**



At the<sup>2</sup>

## **Prestige Diner**

**610 NJ-33, East Windsor, NJ 08520**

**The dinner, FREE to all SAM 181 members (\$15 for guests), will include an entrée, soup or salad, beverage, and dessert.**

**RSVP at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z5YGFMR>**

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<sup>2</sup> The word “prestige” originally meant a trick, from the Latin “praestigium”, meaning “illusion”.



## George Hann on Mentalism

In 1966, 8-year old George Hann was watching television and saw the card expert John Scarne performing card tricks on the Mike Douglass Show. He was hooked. It so happened, that a local variety store had a copy of "Scarne on Card Tricks" displayed in their window and George's Grandmother bought it for him. John Scarne became his hero and George became a fan of magic.

Living in Brooklyn, George was able to feed his passion with Saturday trips to Tannen's Magic Shop. Sounds like many of us. Fast forward, George graduates high school and joins the Air Force, his Grandmother moves to New Mexico, but his interest in magic never wanes.

Last month, George Hann led a workshop on mentalism at our Assembly. George has become a teacher and using known methods, he has learned to



create his own version of effects. A common thread of the effects that George taught in his workshop was the use of a secret "glimpse". George is also a big fan of Richard Osterlind and his Breakthrough Card System and his opening effect is a version of Osterlind's "Card Calling". Using hand-drawn symbol cards and a notepad George continued with a Sankey effect called "Shape of Things to Come".

Moving on to Osterlind's "Ultimate Matrix" replacing the risk of locking up a spectator's ring, George has a homemade prize box. George finished his workshop with his version of "Trilogy". George had seen "Trilogy" performed on a cruise ship and reverse engineered a method he could perform.

After each workshop, we open the stage to those who would like to perform. First up, Reba Strong with a card trick and an imaginary die. Randy Butters, change the pace with his amazing 8-ring Linking Ring routine. George Hann came back on stage to perform an additional mentalism effect, one that separates liars from truth-tellers with freely selected black and white marbles.

Jimmy Brown showed us how to blow up a balloon, backwards. The Dork of Deception, Robert Francis perform an original card effect. Finishing the night, Jeff performed a card monte with jumbo cards while interweaving the card plot with a story of his youth. It was a good night.





## Joe Festa on Ropes

Joe Festa is a carpenter and cabinet maker and was once asked by Jimmy Ray, to repair some stage illusion and props. Such work fascinated Joe as he enjoyed collecting blueprints and the challenge of making the props better. Since then, Joe, and his wife have performed both as a magic team and a pair of clowns. Now, Joe is a member of IBM's Order of Merlin and doing a lot of teaching.

Assisted by Bobbi, his wife of 52 years, Joe Festa opened his workshop on ropes with a long distance comedy cut and resorted effect called "Banana Phone". The "Banana Phone" is a creative play on the old tin can and string transmitting device but with magical interludes. Joe then followed with silks thru rope, which is another across the stage rope routine.

Everyone loves the red, white and blue and Joe's workshop continued with Daryl's patriotic "Rainbow Ropes". Donning a Santa hat, Joe went into a "Professor's Nightmare" routine cutting and restoring the ropes right before our very eyes.

After the workshop, the stage became a no judgment zone where all members can safely perform. First up, Jimmy Brown, a master magician who has performed for King Hassan and the royal family of Morocco, with his "Genii in a Bottle" routine. Card man George Hann was inspired to learn magic after seeing John Scarne on the Mike Douglas Show years ago, and so choose to perform Scarne's "Do as I Do" as an homage. Robert Francis followed with a prediction right from the Marvel Universe.

Mike Gutman lit up the room with an enthusiasm that could not be contained as he performed "Metamorphosis" with cards. Continuing with cards, Silly Reba performed a three card prediction with three-quarters of a card, and they matched.



Fred Pennacchio performed a multiple card prediction using a method by the great card manipulator, Derek Dingle. Wayne Zakaras went back into the archives using a forcing method from a 1930s book and an abacus. What gems can be found in old books? Jimmy Brown returned to the stage to finish the night by doing a comedy "Bank Note" swindle that teaches you that you can't win because some games are just rigged.

## Psycho Path - Magic for the Mentalist



As in all forms of magic, there are different approaches. It is the diversity of ideas which I find most appealing about magic. Mentalism is no different. There is mentalism which relies very heavily on props and then there is the kind, which I find more attractive, which is almost devoid of props. This branch of prop-less mentalism has grown dramatically over the last few years with new techniques and insights on how people think and respond. Names such as Kenton Knepper, Peter Turner, Marc Elsdon, and Fraser Parker are just a few of the more well-known creators in this field. Because prop-less mentalism is one of my interests, I am always searching for well thought out and believable premises to use.

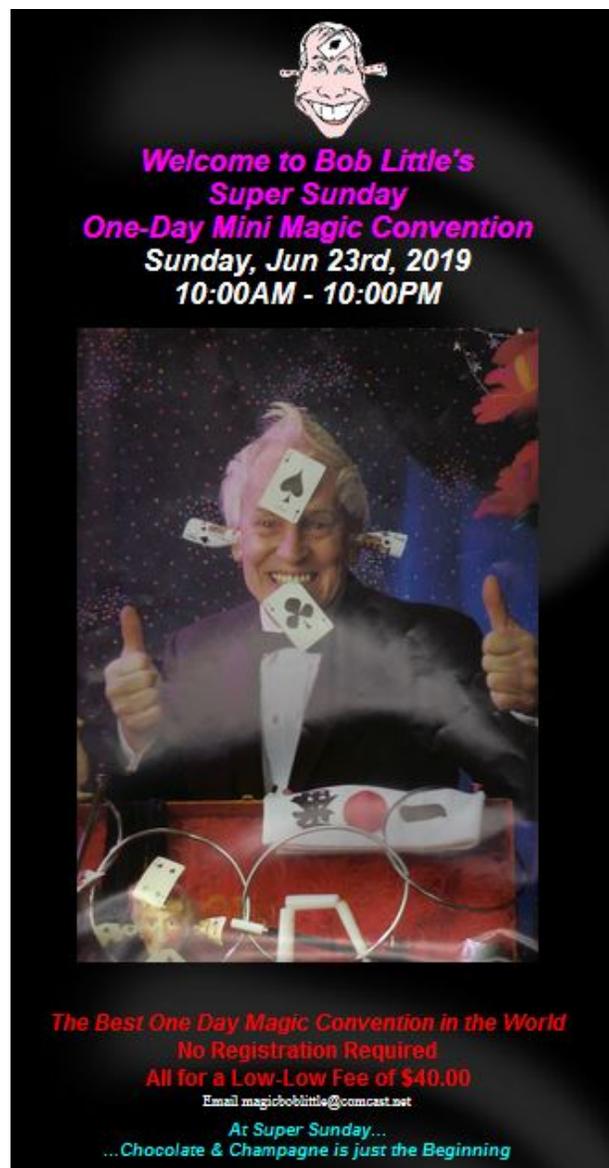
I recently discovered a DVD set which is a prop-less mentalist's gold mine. Zero Elements by Juan Esteban Varela is a 2 DVD set produced by Vernet of South America. To be honest, I can see why there has not been much talk about this set. The DVD set is described as "magic with no elements". First of all, it is really mentalism and not magic and secondly, it should have said props and not elements. Basically, it is prop-less mentalism. In addition, the DVD set is in Spanish and overdubbed with English. Watching the trailer reminded me of watching an old Godzilla movie. The whole presentation just wasn't appealing. If I didn't get this DVD set at a super discount, I probably would have never considered it. However, now that I watched it I have to say I'm duly impressed. There are about a dozen completely prop-less mentalism routines, of which most of them are very usable and entertaining. The presentations range from divining a thought of card from three different individuals to revealing a precious stone only imagined by the spectator.

So what is not to like? As I said before, the DVD is dubbed over. I sincerely believe if this was put out by an English speaking performer it would have been more appealing. It is difficult to follow along with the English translation running over the Spanish. However, the biggest obstacle is the memory work. I personally enjoy toiling over algorithms and remembering hundreds of word associations and lists, but most people don't. If you were to perform any of these routines, count on weeks of memory work for each

one. On top of memorizing the routines, the card routines (although all verbal) require the knowledge of the Mnemonica stack as well. Lastly, although the most minor issue, there is a routine (which was one of my favorites) that requires you to memorize multiple lists based on some Spanish words, because the English equivalents will not work. If you can look past these obstacles you may find value in Zero Elements.

To watch the trailer on Zero Elements click here:

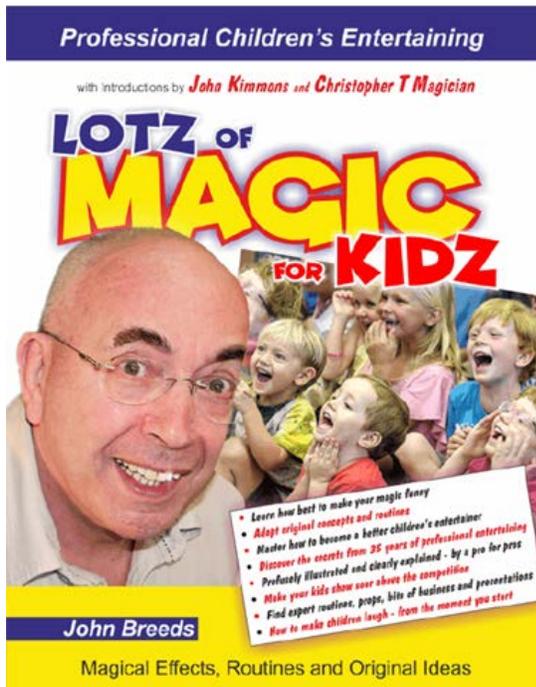
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHuluyH2reg>



**Welcome to Bob Little's  
Super Sunday  
One-Day Mini Magic Convention  
Sunday, Jun 23rd, 2019  
10:00AM - 10:00PM**

**The Best One Day Magic Convention in the World  
No Registration Required  
All for a Low-Low Fee of \$40.00  
Email [magicboblittle@comcast.net](mailto:magicboblittle@comcast.net)  
At Super Sunday...  
...Chocolate & Champagne is just the Beginning**

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



John Breeds is a well-known children's entertainer ....if you lived in the UK that is. For 35 years John has been developing, building, marketing and performing to much acclaim. His attention to detail can be seen in the not only in the construction of his routines but in his props as well.

Apparently, John Breeds is a fairly generous guy as well. He has just published his second book call Lotz Of Magic For Kidz. His first book How To Create Kid's Magic And Triple Your Income has been sold out for a long time now. Not only has John Breeds published his routines but he also has provided plans for building the props

required. As you quickly scan through the book, the printing, drawings and even the texture of the paper speaks of nothing but quality. No less than 36 tricks and their props are featured in this new volume.

If you like to construct you own props then this book is for you. I give you fare warning though, you would have to really study the drawings of the props to get an idea of how to construct some of them. Although beautifully drawn, they are not step by step construction plans. Prior woodworking experience would definitely be needed, not just to build the props but to understand the diagrams. As I said it isn't step by step. All that taken into account, I highly recommend this book.



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

As a magician, many of us would like to carry something with us that we can perform with. Perhaps, you're bored with cards and would like to use something a little more solid, like coins. There are so



many types of routines though. You can do a routine with a single coin, multiple coins, gimmicked coins, and coin boxes. Not sure what to do? Look at **The Opongo Box by Juan Luis Rubiales**. Rubiales was a graduate of the Spanish Magic School along with other well known contemporaries such as Woody Aragon, Dani Ortiz, Miguel Angel Gea and Mago Mique.

The Opongo Box combines all the features of an Okito box, Boston box, and Slot box into one. The box itself is made out of brass and is of the highest quality. Also included with the box are four matching US half dollars and other gimmicks. You can't ask more from a single prop. The included DVD is well photographed and methodical and features at least seven routines using the box.

The advantage of the Opongo box is, of course, options. When you perform with one coin, although impressive, where does it go from there? The Opongo Box allows you to seam together a series of effects which would naturally flow. In addition, if you're skilled enough and the conditions permit, you can do a matrix with the four coins, use a glass for another effect, coins through table and of course in the end if you so desire, you can do that single coin effect as well. If you are looking for a coin effect that won't break the bank and commands a lot of "bang for the buck", I would seriously look at the Opongo Box by Rubiales.

To watch the trailer click here: <https://vimeo.com/132353951>

# MAGIC CALENDAR

	THUR JUN 6	<b>S.A.M. Assembly 181</b> meeting and on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00, Workshop and FREE DVD. <a href="http://magicsam181.com">http://magicsam181.com</a>
	MON JUN 10	<b>S.A.M. Assembly 161</b> meets on the second Monday of each month. June 10, 2019, at the Stoney Brook Grille, 1285 Easton Turnpike in Branchburg, NJ 08876. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAM161CALENDAR/about/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAM161CALENDAR/about/</a>
	MON JUN 10	<b>I.B.M. Ring 6</b> , The Delaware Valley Conjurers Club regularly meets every 2nd Monday, with a meeting on Monday, June 10, 2019, at the Hancock United Methodist Church, 542 Wesley Road, Springfield, PA.
	THU JUN 13	<b>Delaware Knights of Magic</b> meeting is on Thursday, June 13, 2019, a Cokesbury Village, 726 Loveville Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707 at 7:30 PM
	TUE JUN 18	<b>I.B.M. Ring 200</b> meets on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, 7:00 PM (Doors open at 6:30 PM) at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Edison, New Jersey
	THUR JUN 20	<b>S.A.M. Assembly 4</b> will be meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at the Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, doors open at 6:30 PM.
	SUN JUN 23	Bob Little's Super Sunday "The Best One Day Magic Convention in the World" No Registration Required. Sunday, June 23, 2019, 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM All for a Low-Low Fee of \$40.00 <a href="http://www.boblittlessupersunday.com/">http://www.boblittlessupersunday.com/</a>
	WED JUN 26	<b>Annual S.A.M. 181 End of Year Dinner</b> is Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 7pm at the Prestige Diner, 610 NJ-33, East Windsor, NJ 08520 The dinner, FREE to all SAM 181 members (\$15 for guests)
	THUR JUN 27	<b>The Association of Children's Entertainers</b> is meeting on Thursday, June 27, 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 JUN 6	<b>S.A.M. Assembly 181</b> meeting and on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00, Workshop at 7:30 PM. <a href="http://magicsam181.com">http://magicsam181.com</a>

Visit the Magic Calendar on our SAM 181 website at [http://magicsam181.com/?page\\_id=95](http://magicsam181.com/?page_id=95)