



# SAMLETTER 181



SAM Assembly 181's next meeting is on **Thursday, October 3, 2019**. A workshop on "**Do the Magic That's You: Finding Your Identity.**" by **Peter Cuddihy** will follow the meeting.

This workshop will discuss the importance of creating an identity for yourself as a performer that will resonate with your audiences and will incorporate effects created by such Magic legends as Patrick Page, Mark Wilson and others.

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



Greetings compeers! I hope you all had a great summer and now it is time to start our magic meetings for the 2019 - 2020 season. Last year we ended with a buffet dinner and a great show performed by Mike Miller. We had about 38 members plus some guests at that venue which was about two-thirds of our membership of 53. Hopefully this year we will exceed that record membership number.

During the Summer I received some emails about what was good about our club and what was not so good. We all know what is good about the club but some feel we needed to make the workshops more practical to the attendees of our club. Naturally, we appreciate the volunteers and what they have to offer but some topics were specific to only a couple of members while most did not benefit. This year we are going to make a concerted effort to direct the offerings to reach a broader range of attendees.

Another suggestion is about the timing of the meetings. We initially set out to maintain an orderly meeting but it seems we let things slide and some workshops went on too long. So again, this year we will limit the workshop to 35 - 45 minutes max. This will give others the opportunity to perform if they choose.

Finally, I would like to address the issue of supporting the club. We make a tremendous effort to make this club a worthwhile experience. Please bear in mind that our presenters are regular members and not paid professionals. We all would appreciate it if you come and attend no matter who is presenting. It is easy to stand on the sidelines and judge but presenting takes a lot of effort and is very different than showing a magic trick. Let's support those that are supporting us. Thanks, see you in September.

Stephan Sloan

## Conrad the Entertainer



Our regular meeting always includes an educational workshop and a time for members to perform. Conrad Cologne led the workshop at our last meeting. Conrad is a Family Entertainer. He prefers to perform for families, that is, audiences that are filled with both children and adults.

Like most magicians, Conrad's interest in magic started at a young age, inspired by his Godfather and helped along by magic sets that he received as gifts. Conrad's desire to learn took him to the best schools in magic, and he attended McBride Magic & Mystery School in Las Vegas on a full-tuition scholarship awarded to him through the Society of American Magicians' Magic Endowment Fund.

As a Family Entertainer, Conrad teaches the importance of giving magic as a gift. Naturally, he taught how to make a napkin rose as a giveaway on his workshop. His effects are the kind that can be performed for any age audience. Cut and Restored Rope and the comical napkin over the head routines were both presented.

After our workshops, the stage is turned over to members who would like to perform. Mike Gutman took the stage, as he always does, full of energy and he never disappoints. Mike is a real estate lawyer. He breaks the ice at each of his closings by performing a little magic. I think that's cool.



Reba did a nice children's effect call "Cereal Brainwave". It is modeled after the mentalist version but is easier to follow because it uses cereal box pictures instead of playing cards. Reba recently received The Gustafsons Award for her dedication to the art of magic on behalf of Assembly 4.

Next was Jeff with a jumbo deck of cards performing a poker routine. The jumbo cards could be clearly seen from any part of the room and it makes the card choices so much easier to follow.

Houdini has been quoted as saying, "I consider no man to be a magician unless he can perform the cups and balls." Finishing the night was Rob Francis with cups and balls. Rob is a magician who has spent years working the New Jersey boardwalks using that prop. Houdini was right.



## RIP Max Krause, 47



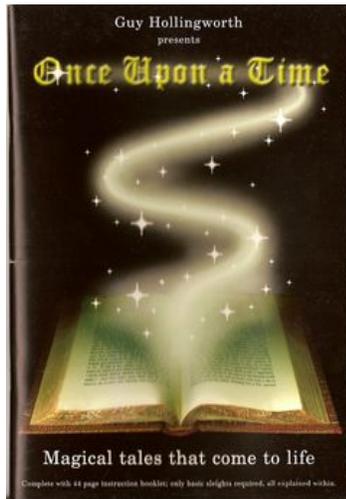
Unfortunately, Magician Max Krause was involved in a tragic accident on Wednesday, August 21 while riding his bike. He was struck from behind by an Oklahoma City Police Officer. He suffered catastrophic injuries to his head, neck, and spine.

Sometime during the night of August 22, Max suffered a stroke and was expected to suffer another. He passed away from his injuries almost 48 hours later, at 9:34 pm on August 23rd. Max was an organ donor and his kidneys were donated to save other lives. Max was always a giving person, and this was his final gift.

His family plans to have Max cremated and hold 2 services, one in OKC and one back home, in Minneapolis. Funds raised will support his extensive medical expenses, cremation, and memorial services. Any excess funds will be donated to the Integris Children's Hospital where Max performed just 2 weeks ago, in his honor.

[Max's Gofundme Page](#)

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



There are not many card tricks out there for kids and the ones that are seem silly by today's standards. Typically they would be in the form of a packet trick. However, there is a deck of cards that is entertaining to kids as well as adults. If you are willing to invest a little time and effort into a small, pocket-sized trick you will get a lot of mileage out of this one.

*Once Upon a Time* by Guy Hollingworth is a storytelling deck that can be used to magically tell three well-known children's stories. Within this cleverly designed deck, you can magically relate *Goldilocks and The Three Bears*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and *Cinderella*. The deck has been designed in such a way that the printed pages of the book magically turn into pictures, as well as having images appear and disappear and objects change from one thing to another. So clever is the design that what appears to be a book that has only one story contains three. What is nice about that is, if you tell one story more than likely you will be asked to tell another and yet another, and you can.

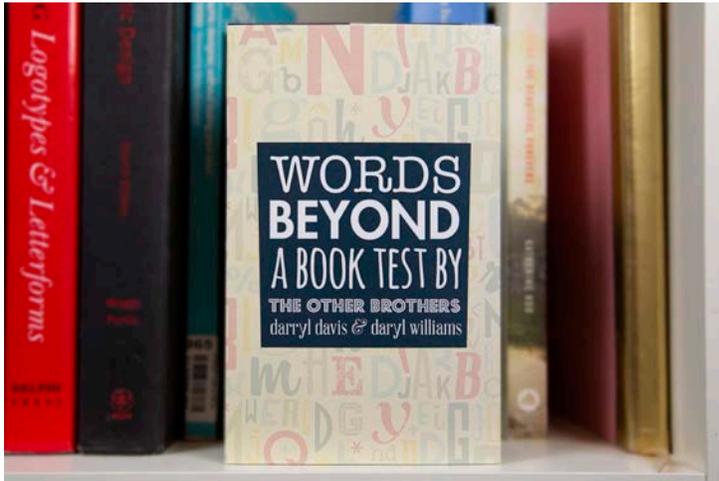
Some basic card handling skills are needed, this is not an automatic, flip a switch card deck. Knowing a double lift and finger breaks are needed slights as well as a false cut. *Once Upon a Time* marries card magic with storytelling which allows you to exercise multiple skills at one time. Along with the deck, you will get a fully illustrated booklet showing all the moves, slights and handlings of the deck. There is no DVD or video instruction.

With one deck of cards, you can entertain for fifteen minutes or more while appealing to all age levels except for the very youngest. *Once Upon a Time* is not a cheap trick. For a deck of cards, it is quite pricey, to be honest. However, as a kid's magician how much would you have to invest in typical props to get 15 -20 minutes in a show? Probably a heck of a lot more. *Once Upon a Time* is highly recommended as an item to have with you if you know you're going someplace where there may be children to entertain.

To watch a trailer on *Once Upon A Time* click here:

<https://www.vanishinginmagic.com/magic/beginners-magic/Once-Upon-A-Time/>

## Psycho Path - Magic for the Mentalist



You cannot be a mentalist unless you dabbled with the idea of using a book test. The effect in itself is amazing. You hand a book or magazine to a spectator, ask them to decide on a word, focus on it and the thought of word is then revealed by the mind reader. On the surface, it is absolutely incredible. Of course, we all

know that there is an Achilles heel to every book test. There is that one or more pieces of information that are needed to hone in on what word the spectator is thinking of. The methods range from blatantly asking what the first letter is to some complex mathematical algorithms to figure out the necessary clues.

I recently came across what I think is the book test that is nearest to perfection. It is called *Words Beyond* by the Other Brothers. As far as book tests go it is relatively inexpensive. The list price is \$35 but it can be found for much less. What I like about the book test is that it fits in a back pants pocket so it is extremely portable. It also looks like a book you would buy anywhere. The book can be handed out and the spectator can turn to any page. The spectator can pick any long word and you can divine six out of the eight letters without knowing anything. Finally, knowing the last two letters is as simple as looking where they are looking. You instantly know all the letters of the word they are thinking of without asking, adding or prodding.

So why you ask is it not THE perfect book test? The issue is that you can reveal the letters but still not know the word. There are two banks of force words that use the same letters but are spelled differently. For example "hare" and "hear". The same letters but different order. There is no way provided in the instructions for actually revealing the thought-of word, only the thought of letters. There was one suggestion of playing "Hang Man" and as they place the letters on the paper you can see how the spelling is going. That does not work for me. So, with a little initiative and some time, I

figured out a method to deduce the thought of word without asking and playing Hang Man. At last, I found my ultimate book test. Totally hands-free, no pumping and no mathematics. If you are looking for an inexpensive and killer book test and you don't mind putting in a little effort in figuring out how to bring this to the next level, I highly recommend *Words Beyond* by the Other Brothers.

To watch a trailer on Words Beyond click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kubPhi0L7gY>

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



Paul Gordon, one of the UK's foremost card magicians recently released his own version of a Monte effect called *The Corner Of Piccadilly*. I believe his initial release of this trick was through Card Shark of Germany and now Paul Gordon has it available with an updated look. Although the handling is the same, the cards have taken on a new appearance. The cards are available in trump size as well as tarot size. Different stocks are available

depending on how much you would like to spend and there is even a classy looking wallet available.

This particular routine starts out with three spades and one queen. No matter how the spectator tries they cannot find the queen. After multiple attempts, a card is tabled which should be the queen but it's not. In the end, there is one spade and three queens. This particular version can be done sitting down or standing and can use a table or a spectators hand to hold the cards. You would need to have a deep shirt or jacket pocket to perform this effect but all the moves to the pocket are justified. When you buy the trick it will come with a password for the online instructions. The instructions are not downloadable so you would have to log onto Vimeo each time you

would want to watch it. The moves involved are fairly basic for most card magicians but no moves are explained. Knowledge of the Elmsley count and double and triple push-offs are needed.

I have the original version by Card Shark which is in trump size and I have the new version which is in tarot size. Although the new stock is nicer to handle, I personally do not like the tarot size. I feel they are too big, especially for the Elmsley count. Since I purchased the version in tarot size, Paul Gordon released a deluxe version in tarot size and a super-deluxe version in trump size. I find his products are a bit pricey, the super deluxe trump size cards will set you back \$36 shipped which is \$7.20 per card (you get 5 cards). The video is nothing fancy, it is a straight-on shot of him explaining the trick. He does have a habit of going off on tangents which I find distracting but the video gets the job done. All in all, it is a good routine, and although I think it is expensive for what you get:

To watch a trailer on *The Corner Of Piccadilly* click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WNG4FmfenU>



## The Junk Drawer Challenge



It is often said, it is not the trick but the performance. Although many would argue the point, none the less it is very impressive when someone can take a simple item and entertain a room of people with it. Nothing can be simpler than a wooden red snapper. What is considered a child's toy is a killer in the hands of a seasoned professional.

Mark Strivings markets a routine called *Oh Snap!* The routine uses a small wooden red snapper and is reputed to captivate audiences from 1 to 100. Typically thrown into the junk drawer of most magicians' the red snapper defies use because of lack of having a routine. There are very few Snapper routines in print and many magicians initially enticed with it can't find a practical use for it.

### Here is what Mark Strivings has to say about *Oh Snap!*

*"This is my routine and handling of something that many have but very few actually do. And even then, the vast majority of those who do use it don't have an actual routine as such. It's one of those props that seems to defy not only routining but having a routine that actually builds. and none of them have the spectator being successful in making the Snapper do its thing. This routine is the lone exception. Plus, there is an actual finish to this routine that no one will see coming. The entire routine is loaded with laughs and bits of business.*

*The Red Snapper takes no room in your case and is always ready to go. You can do this 1-on-1, or I have*

*worked this for crowds of up to 100 people with no problem. There is no reset of any kind. There are no bad angles. There is no sleight of hand. The premise is very novel and easy to understand. Plus, this routine is way funny. The laughs are automatic. This belongs in your repertoire!*



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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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# MAGIC CALENDAR

	MON SEPT 9	<b>S.A.M. Assembly 161</b> meets on the second Monday of each month. September 9, 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 SEPT 9	<b>I.B.M. Ring 6</b> , The Delaware Valley Conjurers Club regularly meets every 2nd Monday, with a meeting on Monday, September 9, 2019, at the Hancock United Methodist Church, 542 Wesley Road, Springfield, PA.
	THU SEPT 12	<b>Delaware Knights of Magic</b> meeting is on Thursday, September 12, 2019, a Cokesbury Village, 726 Loveville Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707 at 7:30 PM
	TUE SEPT 17	<b>I.B.M. Ring 200</b> meets on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 7:00 PM (Doors open at 6:30 PM) at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Edison, New Jersey
	THUR SEPT 19	<b>S.A.M. Assembly 4 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting</b> is on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at the Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, doors open at 6:30 PM.
	THUR SEPT 26	<b>The Association of Children's Entertainers</b> is meeting on Thursday, September 26, 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 OCT 3	<b>S.A.M. Assembly 181</b> meeting on Thursday, September 5, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00. A workshop on "Do the Magic That's You: Finding Your Identity." by Peter Cuddihy will follow the meeting. <a href="http://magicsam181.com">http://magicsam181.com</a>
	OCT 5 & OCT 6	Saturday October 5 @ 7:00 PM & Sunday October 6 @ 5:00 PM - TWO NIGHTS - \$ 25 TICKETS - <b>THE AMAZING KRESKIN</b> at Randy Now's Man Cave, 134 Farnsworth Ave, Bordentown, NJ 08505 609-424-3766 <a href="http://www.mancaveni.com/">http://www.mancaveni.com/</a>

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