



SAMLETTER 181



SAM Assembly 181's next meeting and workshop is on **Thursday, November 7, 2019**. The workshop, **Fundamentally Coins** will be presented by Assembly Vice President Dave Zboray. A FREE Coin Magic Trick will be given to each attending member.

SAM Regional Vice President Sara Crasson, who is both a magician and a lawyer, will be visiting and discussing her recent book "Own Your Magic: A Magician's Guide to Protecting Your Intellectual Property".

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 through 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



“Magic clubs are the best place to learn magic and Assembly 181 is the best value in magic in the area.”

Peter Cuddihy

It's that time of year where the holidays seem to bunch up all at once. We ended the summer with Labor Day, followed with Veterans Day, soon it will be Thanksgiving and ultimately the religious holidays. There is hardly enough time to breath let alone think about what they all mean. Let's take Thanksgiving for a moment. In addition to the fact that there is the family get together and excessive eating, perhaps we should take a moment to take stock all of which we do have and consider how lucky we all are. Aside from living in the greatest country on this planet, and having people who care for us and we care for them, let us consider how fortunate we are to be involved in one of the greatest avocations/vocations there are.

Being involved in what we term "magic" we have the opportunity to avail ourselves of one of the most fascinating and diverse interests one can have. The great thing about our interest is that we can carry it with us, perform at a moment's notice and share our love of what we do. You couldn't say that about many other hobbies. The fact that we can entertain, inspire and create wonder for people of all ages is something that we should be thankful for because not many others can say that.

If being entertaining for others benefit isn't enough, what about the fact that we can get together in a place like SAM 181 and share what we know, learn from others and be in a place which fosters friendship and camaraderie at virtually no cost. Yes, I know, nothing is perfect but for the once a month meeting we have, you have to admit you get a lot out of it. So let us be thankful for the opportunity we have to get together, and that we have the ability to expand our horizons to whatever limit we choose.

Thanks to all those who make SAM 181 what it is and let's work towards making it the best club in the Society Of American Magicians.



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/>

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

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Join the world's oldest magic organization
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<https://www.magicsam.com>

Who Are You?

Sounds from The Who¹ blasted out from our speaker system asking “Who Are You?” as an appropriate start to a workshop, by Peter Cuddihy, that would attempt to help us answer that question. Magical performers have long searched for identities that will help them connect to the audience and make them more memorable.



Peter is a lawyer and a Past President of Assembly 4 in Philadelphia. He first got interested in magic the same way that most of us did, from a magic set. Peter grew up in Staten Island, one of the five boroughs of New York City, and remembers when his best friend from the second grade gave him a Marshall Brodien² Magic Set. Soon afterward, while shopping for a current superhero comic book he saw a magic magazine and purchased it instead. When Peter got older he would visit Tannen’s Magic Shop and join magic clubs. Peter realized that “magic clubs are the best place to learn magic” and he added during his workshop that, “Assembly 181 is the best value in magic in the area.”

Some magicians use costuming to create an identity, others use a descriptive name. Peter likes to tell stories, while he creates the different roles of his life, as a son, a husband, a father, or a dog owner, all relatable pronouns. For example, Peter presented, what magicians call an egg bag, but he said it was a family heirloom, made by his grandmother for holding his marble collection. The routine and the magician suddenly became more memorable.

Wanting to present effects that could be modified for close-up or stage, Peter continued with Wand Thru Handkerchief from Tarbell making it his own with a Buzz Lightyear presentation. Other effects presented were Patrick Page’s “Beyond

¹ **The Who** are an English rock band formed in London in 1964. They are considered one of the most influential rock bands of the 20th century, selling over 100 million records worldwide.

² **Marshall Brodien** (1934 - 2019) was a professional magician who played Wizzo the Wizard, a wizard clown character which appeared on WGN-TV's *Bozo's Circus* and *The Bozo Show* from 1968-1994. Brodien was the spokesperson and creator of a trick magic card deck known as TV Magic Cards.



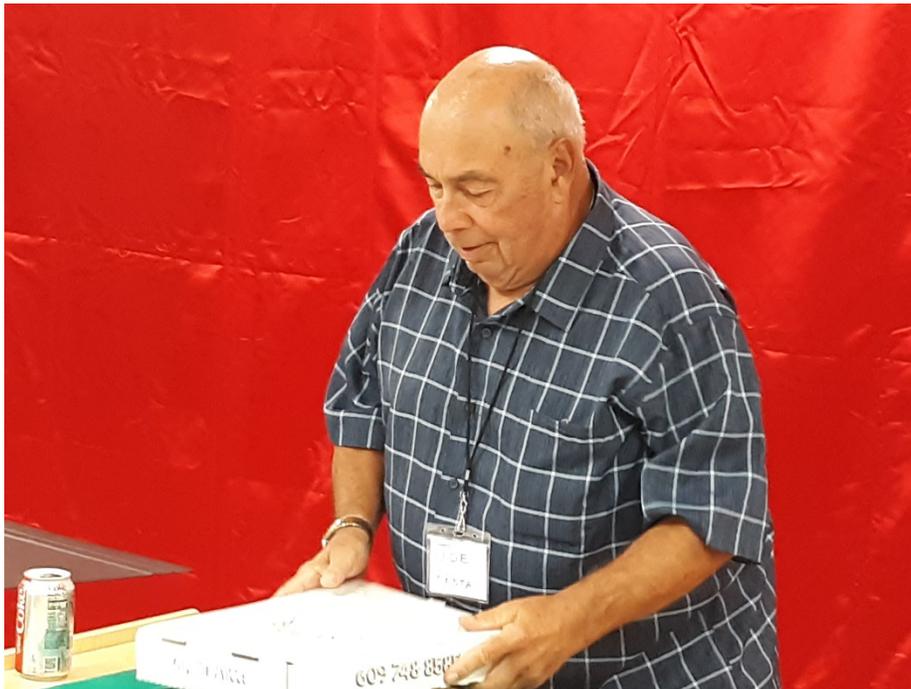
Coincidence", Jimmy Ray's "The Blushing Card", and Al Cohen's, of Al's Magic Shop in D.C., "Five Dimes to Two Quarters".

After a workshop, we always turn the stage over to members who would like to perform in our "No Judgment Zone". Joe Festa started things off with his "Chosen Cards in a Box". Conrad Cologne performed a comedy rope routine with Magic Mike as a spectator. George Hann performed with a deck of cards.

The energetic Mike Gutman performed a local version of an opening card trick used by Chicago magicians called the "Freehold Opener". Randy Butters dramatically pulled a piece of dental floss through his neck. Robert Francis did a tune-up on cards before

his November appearance at the Magic Castle.

And so after watching this workshop I ask, "who are you? I really want to know".



Bob Little's
SUPER **NEXT**
SUNDAY^T

November 10, 2019

Chocolate
Champagne
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Cake

*A One-day
Magic, Chocolate
& Champagne
Convention*

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10 am
to
10 pm

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



Paddle tricks are cool, so much magic with such little effort. The first time I saw a hot-rod I could not fathom what was happening. Boy, was I embarrassed when I saw how simple it was. Although I think paddle tricks are neat the trouble is that many do not make sense, and the items look out of the ordinary. In addition, to the odd

look, the premise is equally as odd. Children these days probably need something more relevant.

Well, magician Rob Thompson came up with a clever, why didn't I think of that solution. Pizza Paddle is the answer to a couple of dilemmas. The first is that it solves the problem of introducing a strange object. Pizza Paddle looks like a miniature version of the traditional pizza peels used to take a pizza out of the ovens in a pizzeria. Everybody recognizes what it is including young children.

The second dilemma is the premise. This one is simple, there is no pizza and then a pizza appears, then it disappears. Even the youngest can follow along. The routine is limited by your own ingenuity and creativity. The pizza pie can also be manipulated like a traditional coin if you have the skills.

As we all know, the traditional kid's magic could involve many cumbersome props. If you keep Pizza Paddle in your pocket along with some sponge balls you should never have to say "I don't have anything with me".

To watch a trailer for Pizza Paddle click below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dll2kJ9iAjc>

A promotional banner for MJM Magic. On the left, the text "MJM MAGIC" is written in large, stylized, white letters with a blue outline. To the right of this, the text "Magic For Magicians, Jokesters, and Mentalists!" is written in a smaller font, with "Since 2004" below it. In the center, there are logos for PayPal, VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. Below these logos, the text "WORLDWIDE SHIPPING - LOW PRICE GUARANTEE" is written. On the right side of the banner, there is a cartoon illustration of a man with a red headband and a red shirt with "MJM" on it, pointing upwards.

http://www.mjmmagic.com/store/index.html?referrer=CNWR_67701383693799

Psycho Path - Magic for the Mentalist



I'm fascinated with all forms of magic which is not necessarily a good thing. Being enamored with everything precludes me from focusing and becoming better at one thing. However, looking at and trying different forms of magic at least gives me some insight into the good as well as the bad of each form. Who can not deny the visual nature of regular magic? Cards change colors, values, and suits, coins

appear and disappear and smoke emanates on stage and an animal shows up. So amazing it can take your breath away. However, the audience knows that it was an illusion and not real. Conversely, mentalism does not have the visual appeal of magic but done correctly it can convince people that it can be real. It may be bland visually but psychologically it leaves people wondering, can there be others senses other than our known five senses?

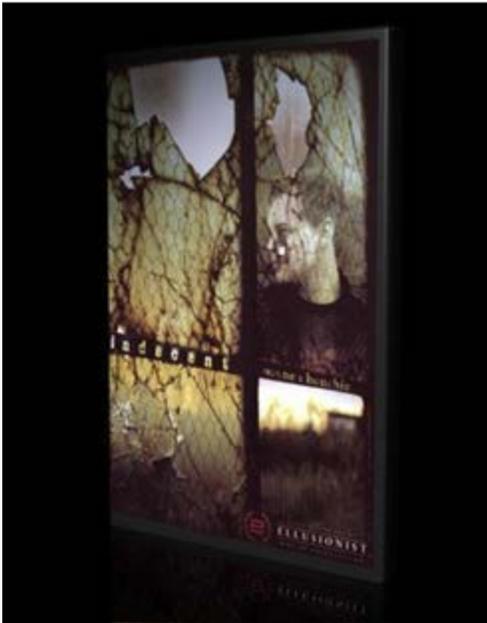
The challenge is how do you make a mentalism effect not so procedural and boring as most tend to be? The answer may be in *Hook* by Eric Ross. *Hook* is basically a bank night effect without the arrogance of the mentalist being the "winner". A typical bank night effect is in which there are five envelopes or bags and only one holds a valuable "prize" Four audience members are chosen to participate and no matter who picks what envelope, the mentalist always outwits them and keeps the prize. Not only is it predictable but slightly arrogant.

Hook is quite different. A quadruple fish hook is placed in the performer's mouth. Along with the hook the performer places five lengths of string. Four of the lengths are not tied to the hook but one is. Each spectator is asked to come up, choose one string and pull on it as hard as they can. Ultimately, the last string which was not chosen is the tied string. Relieved and triumphant the performer pulls out the last string and shows it truly is tied to the hook. Even knowing that this is a trick, it is hard to watch the video without getting chills.

Originally this effect was a limited release at a much higher price. Thankfully, it was recently re-released at a much more "affordable" price. Although still not a cheap effect, I feel the reactions you will get is well worth the investment. *Hook* and all that is needed to perform comes in a small metal case designed to look like a survival kit. I can see *Hook* as the last trick performed after doing some mind-reading and prediction effects with a small group of people. It is so strong visually and viscerally that it will probably be remembered for a lifetime. To watch a trailer on *Hook* click below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r_2USn_Se0

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



It is interesting to note that in magic like music, there were the creators who were popular at one time and then you know longer hear about them. It is as if they had all their creativity in one burst and released it over a short period of time. One of my favorites was Wayne Houchin. Wayne Houchin released several effects and then faded into the background. I personally liked Wayne's style which was a relaxed, storytelling magic performance. His down-home personality shown through his performances and he was an instantly likable guy. Wayne created an odd mix of releases, some card stuff mixed in with some geek magic. I would recommend looking into some of his work if you never had seen it.

The one effect I would talk about here is a trick called *Indecent*. It is an odd name for a trick that is not indecent at all. The performer takes out a deck of cards and shows it to be an ordinary deck. The spectators can shuffle it themselves for as long as they would like. A card is chosen, signed and lost in the deck. The performer decides to reveal the card in an unusual manner. He places a zip-lock bag on the floor or table, whichever is handy, and dribbles the cards face up over the zip-lock bag. He waits a moment for the magic to happen. The magic moment occurs and the performer pulls the baggie from under the pile of cards and inside the sealed zip-lock is the spectators signed card. The baggie is opened and the card is handed to the spectator.

During my Wayne Houchin phase, I had performed this one numerous times and it does elicit a great reaction. The handling is basic and although you have to be aware of extreme angles it is very easy to perform. In fact it is so easy I recently thought to myself, why did I ever stop showing it? When you purchase *Indecent*, you will just receive a DVD (or download) the deck and baggie are ordinary and requires no gimmicking at all. The illusion is totally within the handling of the props.

Along with *Indecent*, Wayne is known for effects such as *Thread*, *Single Needle*, *Control 2.0*, *Stigmata*, *Counterfeit Hollingsworth*, *Sinful* and *French Kiss*. If you like *Indecent* and want to study more of Wayne's effects, you may have to search a bit since all are not available on every magic vendor's site. You may also have to scour sites like Theory 11 and Ellusionist.

To watch a trailer about *Indecent* click the link below:

<https://www.ellusionist.com/indecent-by-wayne-houchin.html>

Coin Magic – No Sense by Kyle Littleton



"I have always loved coin tricks. They are fun to do. You can do them just about anywhere. But they all seem to lack some form of presentation" says Kyle Littleton.

No Sense starts like many other coin tricks, with three half dollars. One by one, the half dollars change into ordinary objects, first, into a copper English penny. The second into a colorful Chinese coin (with a hole in the middle). The last into a button.

During his presentation, Kyle patters that this makes no sense. And it doesn't. *No Sense* transforms three pieces of legal tender into three coin-shaped objects that have no monetary value. The funny patter, the silly patter and the magical changes made for a very entertaining set.

In the *No Sense* package, you get everything you need. Three common gimmicks, a Chinese coin, and a properly sized button. If you do coin magic, you probably own all three of the required gimmicks, I did. At \$59.95, this complete package is very reasonably priced. It is almost amazing to see what you get for sixty dollars. If you are new to coin magic, you will pick up three generic gimmicks that you can use in other effects.

Kyle says the coin moves are easy. Yes, but they are not trivial and it will take some practice to master them and be ready for performance. Kyle's performance videos and explanations are very good, clear and easy to follow.

My only complaint is more about modernity than this product. All the videos are sent to you online. I like DVDs. I feel like I own something when I have a DVD in my hands. I know it costs more to produce and ship a DVD, but if any producer should stop paying their monthly fee for hosting services, puff it's gone, and all you have is a broken link.

In summary, if you already like coin magic, or want to start somewhere, buy this. It is highly recommended, and well worth the price.

To watch a trailer about *No Sense* click this link

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/12326>



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

“...Most importantly, as a member of the Society of American Magicians, you will prestige and pride in being part of the world’s oldest magic organization.”



Here are a few of the benefits of membership in the S.A.M.

M-U-M Magazine – Our house organ, which is filled with current magic news, in-depth interviews, ads from top notch dealers around the world and lots of new magic effects to learn and study. **Want a free sample?** www.magicsam.com/page/MUMSampler

S.A.M. National Convention - Every year, members gather in a major city to attend our highly acclaimed convention where magicians from around the world showcase their talent. The four-day event is filled with lectures, dealers, performances and special presentations which make the S.A.M. conventions a “must attend” event. Members get a discounted rate on the convention registration. **Learn about the convention** www.samconvention.com/



S.A.M. Media Library – The S.A.M. has a vast library that features magicians through the years performing, lecturing, and having fun. The video and audio clips are available to S.A.M. members, and we’ve made it easier for you to view them, as the entire library is being added to a special area in the Members Home section of our website.

General Liability Insurance - S.A.M. members get a special rate to protect themselves during their performances. With competitive rates, our performers are covered



Bragging Rights - A membership card and member pin are included in your welcome packet, which also contains a “getting started” booklet to jump-start your participation in the organization.

Local Assembly Meetings – National members are entitled to join local Assemblies, like Assembly 181, where they can share ideas, make new friends and become a part of the local magic community. With close to 300 Assemblies around the world, you are sure to find one near you



Scholarship and Funds - The Society of American Magicians, through the Magic Endowment Fund, has various scholarships and funds to help promote the art of magic. The Houdini Fund helps those in need financially with medical issues.

Social Networks – Members keep in touch on a day-to-day basis through our various social networks. SAMtalk is an e-mail newsgroup that allows members to ask questions, share ideas and get magic-related information. Of course the S.A.M. has social presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Google Plus.



Preserving the Art – Your membership helps support the S.A.M. Hall of Fame and Magic Museum Inc. and the Magic Center Foundation Inc. Both work towards preserving and promoting the art of magic and the history of The Society of American Magicians.

MAGIC CALENDAR

	THUR NOV 7	S.A.M. Assembly 181 meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00. http://magicsam181.com
	SUN NOV 10	Bob Little's Super Sunday "The Best One Day Magic Convention in the World" No Registration Required. Sunday, November 10, 2019, 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM All for a Low-Low Fee of \$40.00 http://www.boblittlessupersunday.com/
	MON NOV 11	S.A.M. Assembly 161 meets on the second Monday of each month. November 11, 2019, at the Stoney Brook Grille, 1285 Easton Turnpike in Branchburg, NJ 08876. https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAM161CALENDAR/about/
	MON NOV 11	I.B.M. Ring 6 , The Delaware Valley Conjurers Club regularly meets every 2nd Monday, with a meeting on Monday, November 11, 2019, at the Hancock United Methodist Church, 542 Wesley Road, Springfield, PA.
	THU NOV 14	Delaware Knights of Magic meeting is on Thursday, November 14, 2019, a Cokesbury Village, 726 Loveville Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707 at 7:30 PM https://www.dkom.org/
	TUE NOV 19	I.B.M. Ring 200 meets on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 7:00 PM (Doors open at 6:30 PM) at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Edison, New Jersey
	THUR NOV 21	S.A.M. Assembly 4 meeting and Mini-Convention is on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at the Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, doors open at 6:30 PM.
	THUR TUE 26	Due to Thanksgiving being on the 4th Thursday of the month, The Association of Children's Entertainers' November meeting will be held on the 4th Tuesday, November 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 DEC 5	S.A.M. Assembly 181 meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00. http://magicsam181.com

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