



From Out' The Wizards Sleeve...

By Barron Stringfellow

Part III. : Sim Sala Growth! Abra Ca Success!!

Pardon me, Have you any applications? Or 3 or 5?? I do. I keep at least 3 S.A.M. applications with me at all times! Sometimes 5, if I've had time to replenish my supplies! Applications are available at magicsam.com, and you can save them and print them out at your leisure. Same with S.Y.M. applications. Print the whole thing, ethics and all! We all stock flash paper, playing cards, silks, sponge balls...whatever. We need to apply as much gusto to attracting new members as we do to promoting our own magic! Give some thought to an application the next time someone comes up to you and expresses an honest desire to learn magic!

The society has produced (as a team effort) a great manual for membership growth. It is available to members, and officers of the world's most prestigious magic organization (That would be us, the S.A.M.!)...my guess would be plenty of us don't know of its' existence, nor where to procure a copy! If you need one (and would honestly use it) I will be happy to supply you one under the same conditions as I would supply you with the Constitution and Bylaws (See Part I. or II. of this series!). We need to create new membership, and this manual has some great suggestions for doing so. It talks about our members moving up from the Society of Young Magicians, also. We need to groom them into the Adult group, and welcome them with open wands.

Smoothing out the Assembly, Familiarizing ourselves with the constitution, By-Laws, Membership Manual, Board Meetings...all these will, in practice, attract new membership. When there is unrest in an Assembly (and I am assured that unrest is the case in a good many assemblies) we cannot hope to attract new members...who wants to listen to a bunch of moaning and whining? Most people want to belong because of one of the 3 words in our motto: Magic ~ Unity ~ Might.

I suppose that the words are self-explanatory, but just for the fun of it (Ah, c'mon...humor me!) look 'em up in the dictionary! They are very powerful words...and we have agreed to meet by them, and to carry on our Assembly with them. It's a beautiful thang!

We also Grow from Within...Paper Members who don't attend meetings need a phone call to see if we can: Provide Transportation, Smooth Ruffled Feathers, Change whatever it is that caused them to drift away. Maybe we need to set up Achievement Awards for Newsletter Submissions (A Pin or T-Shirt would be nice, I wear a Medium Tee), or for Anniversaries (S.A.M. Longevity Pins, Bars, Whatever!). Maybe We need to Involve Members Again, send invitations out via the U.S. Postal Service that say something to the effect of "We haven't seen you at the Meetings lately, and We Miss You!". Maybe we need to Bribe members (I am not above Coercion and Black Mail when it comes to making our Assembly Healthy!!) by offering to Pay Dues for the 2 Best Attendance Records...Or for the People who win the most contests. Don't shoot the messenger! These are just suggestions, and the beautiful thing is...They don't Have To Cost the Assembly a DIME! Read Number 5 in this series when it comes out in October..."Misers Dream Come True!".

There are a total of VII. Parts to this set of articles. The first 3 (And most brutal) are finished. We must be a Cohesive Assembly. We must each be Educated in the ways of Membership. We must become A Co-operative of Magi. We must be Active, Caring and Supportive! The series will continue with some thoughts on Rituals: the Ceremonies that S.A.M. performs for New Member Initiation, for Service, for Broken Wands, and for Opening and Closing a meeting. These rituals are vanishing amongst the Assemblies, but they are Traditional And, quite frankly, bring a little mystique to our organization...the rituals should be observed! I will also expound on our 501(c)3 status, and how we can use it to further the cause of community service and youth programs, as I always say, if you got free money...ya might as well flaunt it! I will also cover some methods by which the Professionals and Semi-Pros might want to consider expanding their horizons...until then;

Thank-you for all your kind words and encouragement! I am glad some of you are enjoying the column.

By the way, as long as we're talking Fellowship and Growth and Warm Fuzzy Stuff -- Athena and I are having a 'Magi-Que' Sunday September 4th and Monday the 5th. We will

start setting up around noon on the 4th, and y'all are welcome to come and camp out that night. Labor Day is the 5th, and we are throwing a Magic Swap Meet, White Elephant or Dealer Table Sale, BBQ, Outdoor Stage, Wander Around Festival Atmosphere, An Everybody Get together and Talk Magic kind of thing all day. It's a Pot Luck, so you need to call Athena to let her know what side dish you'll be bringing and we are providing Corn and Ribs and Chicken for the Barbie. Everyone is being asked to bring their own beverages (As well as the side dish!). Call us for more information...or to R.S.V.P., you and your family are invited! Dealers are welcome, bring your wares...but a 10% donation must be made to S.Y.M. or Magicade out of your spoils!!

Magic ~ Unity ~ Might

Until Next Time, Remember...Magic Happens!

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