

From Out' The Wizards Sleeve...

By Barron Stringfellow

Part IV. : Bless My Phantom Tube & Other Rites of Passage (Not to be confused with the Charlier Passage)

Some thoughts on Ritual: these are the Ceremonies that S.A.M. performs for New Member Initiation, for Service, for Broken Wands. These rituals are vanishing amongst the Assemblies, but they are Traditional and should be observed!

There are proscribed rituals for all sorts of accomplishments within an Assembly. From being accepted as a member (remember, your name was published, and the membership body had the right to disprove your application, but allowed you in – so it is an accomplishment, of sorts) to making an Anniversary Milestone, to Winning a Contest or the final ritual; The Broken Wand Ceremony. There are even Rituals for Opening and Closing a Meeting!

These rituals are Mysterious, as they should be (Magic Society, get it? **Magic** ~U ~ M), but they also draw us together as a group. The rituals give us a commonality beyond our magic – They join us in membership. They Unite (M ~ **Unity** ~ M) us as an Assembly.

My first S.A.M. Pin was given in such a ceremony...I still have my pin; it is displayed on the lapel of my Button Vest. It meant something, because I was reminded that I had been Accepted...not just paid my dues, but actually ran a chance of not being allowed to be a member. Our membership spans the globe, so it is an accomplishment to become part of the huge Society (M ~ U ~ **Might**).

We used to provide the Outgoing President of an Assembly with a Past Presidents pin; There are many items available from the SAM Store online. As an Assembly, we need to look at some of these items that serve to identify us. In the next column, I will address how we might be able to afford these little perks...and more! Ask to see my Mile High Magicians Society (Denver Assembly) Pin the next time I wear my button vest! And the Ceremony that went with my "Installment" was hilarious! Wouldn't it be cool if Every Assembly had a Local Pin designed just for them? They could give (or sell?) them to visiting members from other Assemblies...

Our rituals are Non-Denominational. We usually invoke the Great Magician, and acknowledge the powers of the universe...even a Jew Boy like me won't be offended with that terminology! The rituals are available from National. Most are in Adobe PDF online. Let's get them. Let's Invoke Them. Let's see if we can't bring back to life the Birthday Parties (Not a National Ritual, but great fun and a wonderful perk of membership locally!) for members. Hey, 1 year is exciting, 25 is a Milestone! The welcome for new members, which includes a reading of the Oath, and acceptance into the assembly. Presentation of Certificate and Lapel Pin... through Ritual and Tradition, we can grow as an assembly!

I miss the Ritual of Magic Assembly Gatherings. They've become so darned Political and Ego Motivated that we are forgetting where we came from! A bunch of guys got together. Just Them and Their Magic, In a Back Room. They vowed fellowship, They vowed to help each other, they vowed to keep magic alive...

Magic ~ Unity ~ Might

Until Next Time, Remember...Magic Happens!

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