

Press-to!

Assembly 206 News

Calendar Reminders!

Monday **January 18** - SAM 206 Monthly Meeting

NEXT MEETING:

January 18th @ 7:00 pm at the Omni Southpark

Mark and Nani Wilson!

(Yes, **THE** Mark Wilson - you must be there!)

From The President:

Carl Seagren

Wow, what a challenge. My first message as your newly elected president, what should I write about? I do want to express my sincere gratitude for everyone's confidence and faith in electing me. (It looked like it was going to be a tough race.)

My hope is that I will serve the magicians of Austin in the best ways I can: First, by being a worker, being at every SAM Assembly 206 function, providing a helping hand or trick as best I can. Helping in whatever way I can so members will be saying "that was one of the best ____ (fill in the blank) put on by the Assembly 206."

Second, I want to be an encourager to others, helping fellow magicians become better at their art - technically and entertainingly, whether a professional, semi-pro, or amateur.

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Lastly, I want to be a recruiter of volunteers, because to have the very best magic club in Austin or Texas or the USA takes many helping hands. All of the work cannot be done by just the few elected people. It will take every member contributing in various ways, especially since SAM Assembly 206 is hosting TAOM 2010 this September here in Austin.

From the President (cont.)

Each month I will share a way members can become more active in the assembly. Right now, the assembly needs a new webmaster. Steve Farmer, Chris Walden and Ray Brown have all been a great help starting our website and maintaining it. But the time has come for someone new to step up and say, "I can do that." It does not take a lot of time, just someone willing to help us have the very best website. Make 2010 the year you become the best at what you do magically in SAM Assembly 206.



Carl Seagren

Mark & Nani Wilson are Coming to Austin!!!

WHO: The REAL Mark Wilson, with Nani, all the way from California.

WHEN: Monday, January 18, 2010 (third Monday, regular meeting time) starting at 7:00 pm.

WHERE: Omni Southpark (our regular meeting place) lecture room.

WHO CAN ATTEND: ONLY dues-paid members in SAM (national and local), but don't worry...Heather will be there to accept your dues! Also, due to the expected high turn-out for this special program by local members, please refrain from inviting guests.

WHY: Mark Wilson is a legend in Magic. His "Magic Land of Allakazam" television series proved that magic could work on television, and paved the way for Doug Henning, David Copperfield, and others.

He brought magic to amusement parks, fairs, and festivals throughout America, and has taken his magic around the world. "The Mark Wilson Course in Magic" is the single most popular magic book in history.

DON'T MISS this opportunity to meet, greet, and be entertained by this legend in the wonderful world of magic! Bring your cameras and your copy of "Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic" to get it autographed.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Magically Yours,
Carl Seagren
President, SAM Assembly 206

Member Spotlight: Mark Thompsom

I was raised in Salado and Belton, Texas. I became an avid golfer and played collegiate golf at Temple Junior College.

After earning my Associate's degree, I enrolled in the PGA of America as an apprentice and was an assistant professional at Great Hills Country Club in Austin for 2 years and at Mill Creek Country Club in Salado for another 3 years.

In between Great Hills Country Club and Mill Creek Country Club I worked as a professional caddy and I caddied some on the LPGA Tour including the U.S. Women's Open. After I decided to end my golf professional and caddy careers, I enrolled at the University of Texas in Austin and finished my Bachelor's degree with a major in Kinesiology and a minor in Business.

It was during this time that I met my future wife Melanie. We dated and were engaged during the time that I finished my degree, and a week after I graduated from UT we were married. During my last year, I did a lot of research and decided to apply for a Financial Advisor position with Edward Jones which culminated in me accepting employment with Edward Jones the day Melanie and I were married.

It was during my first few months with Edward Jones that I met Dr. Stanley Seaton. I was out meeting folks in the Onion Creek Country Club community, when I stopped by Dr. Seaton's house.

He was busy moving furniture around when I stopped by, and he told me he was setting up for a magician meeting for later that evening. I told him I had always been interested in magic, and he invited me to attend the Assembly 206 meeting at the Omni Hotel the next month.

It was at that meeting that I decided to join the Society of American Magicians with Assembly 206. I have from a young age always been fascinated with magic, especially card magic, and I have developed a great interest in the history of magic. Although I do not believe I will ever aspire to perform magic in competition, I love being able to perform in front of family and friends.

During my time in Assembly 206, Melanie and I have had two children, Luke and Lacey. I ran an Edward Jones office in Austin for over 5 years, and almost 2 years ago, I took over an office in Taylor, Texas.

This gave me the opportunity to be close to Austin, but still raise my family in a small town similar to how I grew up.

Since being in Taylor, we had our youngest child, Lacey. As many of you know, having a family with two young children, let's just say there is never a dull moment in our household. After not missing very many meetings in my first five years, this past year it has been very difficult to make the majority of meetings because at the end of the day, Melanie is simply very exhausted and needs my help.

Member Spotlight: Mark Thompson (Continued from p.3)

I plan to always remain a member of our great Assembly, and I have many fond memories already, which include the Rose ceremony that Ron Cartlidge orchestrated at our first magic competition where he presented Melanie and me a rose and included our first child, Luke, as the youngest member of Assembly 206. As Luke and Lacey grow older, I plan on bringing both of them to meetings and exposing them to the wonders of magic. I wish everyone in our Assembly a healthy and Happy New Year in 2010!



*Mark Thompson
Financial Advisor
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News from Texas Magic Supply:**by Cy Alberson**

Among Our Members:**by: Ron Cartlidge**

RAY BROWN has announced that 2009 was his best year ever for the number of magic shows that he produced. He is looking forward to an even better 2010.

OPIE HOUSTON is working on a new member orientation form. This form is to be filled out by the new member and should expedite his/her entry into the assembly life.

DOC SEATON is taking the family on the Carnival Conquest, one of the best ships in the Carnival line. By talking the family, we mean about 40 members. They will travel to Jamaica, Grand Caymen, and Cozumel, Mexico and I might mention that two magicians are in the entertainment group on that ship. If you have not seen Doc lately, he is down from 203 pounds to a trim 158-160. He works out at a new fitness club, usually at 5:30 a.m., six days a week. It has been reported that **DAN PAGE** has joined the same club, but no report yet on the muscle that Dan has built.

RON & SHARON CARTLIDGE attended the BCS National Championship game in Pasadena at the Rose Bowl on January 7. That was the big clash between Texas and Alabama, both unbeaten in 2009. In addition they went to the Magic Castle while on the trip. Bruce Kalver, an old friend, was performing at the Castle on the 11th, the day the Cartlidge's returned home, but all was not lost. Bruce and Ron hooked up between the 8th and the 10th when both were in the L.A. area.

Ron also received a Christmas card from Tammy Calvert (wife of John) who wrote that John is on the mend from a recent stroke and almost ready to start performing again.

PATRICK O'SHEA recently won the golf championship at the Onion Creek Country Club. For those of you that don't know, Patrick has many trophies from various golf tournaments in his game room. Patrick was on the golf team at The Ohio State University and according to Patrick, was the only member of the team who did not turn pro. Patrick instead became an MD.

It was nice to see the names of many new members in the M.U.M.'s latest issue.

SHARON CARTLIDGE, RANFERI DENOVA, RICHARD WILLIAMS, and **MISTY WILLIAMS** were all listed on the new members & reinstatements page of the magazine. It is nice to see this section back in the M.U.M. The January issue also features my friend, Ice McDonald, in a very nice picture on the cover.

KENT CUMMINS has been working behind the scenes for the Austin Magic Auction with the advertising part of that venue.

Look for the February and March issue, as there will be advertisements in M.U.M., Genii, Linking Ring, and Magic magazines. This is four times the amount of coverage from last year with an increase of only about 25% of our advertising budget.

Among Our Members: (continued)

HULL YOUNGBLOOD & BERTIL FREDSTROM have already got the jump on everyone else. What am I taking about? The Austin Magic Auction. They already have their items in. We understand that **J. D. STEWART** and Chuck Lehr also have a pile of magic ready to go. Remember, this year the board has decided to limit the number of items to 1,500. That's 1,250 on the silent auction and 250 on the live auction. In January you can start viewing the items for the auction on our web site: www.austinmagic.com

ARSENE DUPIN recently returned from the Texas Reaissonce Festival in Plantersille, Texas with a couple of his friends. They all performed at the annual Assembly 206 magic banquet. **GREG JOHNSTON** had his wallet taken by the comical Arsene to use in one of his magical effects. It was an excellent show along with our own **MICHAEL TALLON** who wowed the audience with a number of mental effects.

Watch out for super mentalist **BOB CARROLL** who received 13 Steps to Mentalism by Tony Corinda for Christmas. It is on six DVD's so be looking for some Ranger Bob mind reading shortly. Ranger Bob also placed with his dessert at the annual Christmas banquet. We should have known that Bob was a good cook. And, speaking of Christmas presents, **MARY CAY GOLD** received a satellite radio. We were told that was because she was a very good girl this past year.

We also need for **FERNANDO ULLOA** to bring his sister around more often. She won the desert contest at this year's banquet with a combination chocolate cake & flan dessert. That beat out **SUE CALDWELL'S** Pineapple Upside-Down Cake which has been the crowd favorite for the past several years. So, you know it had to be good!

Austin was well represented at the Ring 18 Christmas Party. **HULL YOUNGBLOOD** and **CHRIS WALDEN** attended the Christmas Party hosted by San Antonio's Ring 18 at the legendary Barn Door restaurant in San Antonio on December 17. **BERTIL FREDSTROM** presented his comedy magic as the headliner for the evening. Rumors are that Bertil put on a great show.

HULL YOUNGBLOOD performed at First Baptist Church (site of the SAM 206 Austin Magic Auction) at a Christmas party hosted by the church for the Turin House, a half-way house for young men leaving the juvenile justice system and integrating back into society.

TAOM plans are really coming together. Expect to see the public announcements about the line up very soon. The four "Generals" for the convention, appointed by TAOM President Hull Youngblood are: **Carl Seagren** - Facilities Chair; **J.D. Stewart** - Programs Chair; **Heather Poggi-Mannis** - Finance Chair; **Michael Collins** - Media Chair.

January Meeting: Mark and Nani Wilson by Kent Cummins

Mark Wilson IS magic!

The REAL Mark Wilson and his wife, Nani, are coming to Austin for the January SAM 206 meeting on the third Monday, January 18, 2010.

I first met Mark Wilson when Louis Berkie of the Fun 'n Magic Shop in San Antonio took me to my first magic convention, the 1957 IBM Convention in Houston, Texas, at the Rice Hotel. Mark wasn't famous yet, but he was "The Dr Pepper Magician" in Dallas, and since I had tried to convince Dr Pepper to sponsor MY magic show (I was 14 years old), I was envious. I still have the Dr Pepper promo card that Mark gave me.

But there were greater things in store for Mark Wilson, even than being the Dr Pepper Magician! He used his sales, business, and marketing skills to convince a skeptical network television world that magic actually could work on television. "The Magic Land of Allakazam" proved him right! I got to see lots of those early episodes while I was in high school and college. I remember thinking that he had one of the few female clowns ("Bev" Bergeron had to be a girl, right?..... OOOOPS!) Of course I was spellbound by "the lovely Nani Darnell," his wife and beautiful assistant. I loved his illusions. But what I learned most was how to use magic to promote products. Mark did commercials for Kellogg's, using popular magic tricks, and I never forgot his "Magic with a Message."



Mark and Nani

In 1965, when I graduated from LSU and married Margot, I didn't think I could earn a living as a magician. I was probably right; I couldn't. But Mark Wilson could! He paved the way for television magic specials with his Magic Circus and other shows, and I remember Margot and I seeing Mark Wilson-produced magic shows at Bush Gardens and other theme parks while I was still on active duty.

I was in Vietnam in 1968, so I missed San Antonio's "Hemisfair," but Margot went (and saw Mark Wilson's magic theatre).

I went to Korea to run the Commanding General's club for the Army. Mark Wilson went to China and performed magic at the Great Wall.

When magic was in one of its inevitable down cycles, Mark Wilson took out

January Meeting: Mark and Nani Wilson (Continued from p.9)

full-page ads in the magic magazines, telling all of us that magic was NOT dead, and that a new upturn was coming. He was right. It wasn't long before magic was all over television, magazines, Las Vegas, and children's birthday parties everywhere. Much of the magic that we saw was created by "you-know-who."

I have thousands of magic books and magazines in my personal library, but if I could only keep one book, it would be The Mark Wilson Complete Course in Magic. I recommend it to beginners, give copies to my private lesson students, and refer to it when I have a corporate gig or need new ideas. It's by far the best-selling book at the Magic Camp Store. It's the most famous magic book in the world!

Maybe I admire the fact that Mark Wilson used business skills to succeed in the world of magic. Maybe I am in awe of his achievements over his lifetime in magic. Maybe I owe the success that I have had as a magician to Berkie at the Fun 'n Magic Shop...and the inspiration provided by fellow Texas and all around nice guy: MARK WILSON!

Photos from www.markwilsonmagic.com



Feature Article**by: Kent Cummins****"PRESTO-CHANGO" at The Kent Cummins Magic Camp!**

Kent Cummins, founder of The Kent Cummins Magic Camp in 1993, is stepping down as Executive Director of the 501(c)(3) Texas nonprofit corporation, effective January 1, 2010. Aaron Parker-Fasel, formerly the camp's Project Manager, is the new Executive Director. Kent will remain active with the organization as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Kent explained the rationale behind the change: "After 17 years, it's time to let your children find their own way. At Magic Camp, we talk to parents about roots and wings. I have done my best to give the camp roots as a nonprofit organization; now is the time to give it wings."

Aaron, the new Executive Director, had this to say: "Magic Camp has been one of the most important Central Texas institutions in the lives of literally thousands of youth who have grown up learning skills of self esteem and social development during Magic Camp's seventeen summers. My background as a teacher, a magician, and a team leader have been the perfect training for this new job of taking Magic Camp's reins. I couldn't be more excited and honored to work with its extraordinary team members, all of whom came through the ranks of Magic Camp, share a core value system in which I strongly believe, and who love working with and helping children as much as I do."



*Aaron
Parker-Fasel*

Another change is expansion of the founding Board of Directors from 3 to 5 members. Kent Cummins is Board Chairman; Gus Davis is Secretary; Dr Stan Seaton is Treasurer. The two new members are Raquelle Godbey, representing the Parent Support Group, and Dr Joe Vitale, Internet marketing guru and enthusiastic member of SAM Assembly 206.

To learn more about The Kent Cummins Magic Camp, go to www.MagicCamp.com.

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Sometimes, it takes a Magician! sm