

Press-to!

Assembly 206 News

Calendar Reminders!

Friday April 16 - Collector's Meeting

Saturday, April 17 - Austin Magic Auction

Sunday, April 18 - Assembly 206 Meeting

NEXT MEETING:
 Sunday, April 18th at the Sheraton Hotel

TAOM Convention Trial Run

Doug Gorman and San Antonio Friends - Close Up!

From The President: Carl Seagren

This month I chose to present quotes I have found over the years to be humorous, inspiring and just worth reading more than once. I hope you will find one which will encourage you to be better in all you do. (Why not also share your favorite quote?)

A Baker's Dozen of Quotes to think about---

- 1 "If you can dream it, you can do it."
Walt Disney

- 2 "To be a great magician, one must be able to present an illusion in such a way that people are not only puzzled, but deeply moved." S.H. Sharp

- 3 "My hope still is to leave the world a bit better than when I got here."
Jim Henson

- 4 "A real magician tries to invent something new that other magicians are gonna scratch their heads over."
Alfred Borden in the Prestige

In This Issue

Features:

From the President	p. 1,2
Upcoming Events	p. 2,8
March Meeting Report	p. 3
Member Spotlight	p. 4
Among Our Members	p. 5
Saturday Clinics	p. 6
TAOM Convention	p. 7
Magic Auction	p. 8
Feature Article	p. 9,10,11

- 5 "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."
Isaac Newton

- 6 "For those who believe, no explanation is necessary, for those who do not, none will suffice" Joseph Dunninger

- 7 "Me? I'm dishonest, and a dishonest man you can always trust to be dishonest. Honestly. It's the honest ones you want to watch out for, because you can never predict when they're

From the President (Continued from p.1)

going to do something incredibly... stupid." Jack Sparrow in Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl

- 8 "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."
C.S. Lewis
- 9 "Try to make your work progressive by adapting each new effect to your own particular style." Mark Wilson
- 10 "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Albert Einstein
- 11 The very best method of performing a given trick is the easiest method, and it is the method which should be used. "Jean Hugard and Fred Braue" in Expert Card Technique



- 12 "I can do all things through Christ Jesus who gives me strength" Philippians 4:13 (first Bible verse I memorized after becoming a Christian)
- 13 "You gotta be there, TAOM 2010" Hull Youngblood

Are you registered? Have you volunteered to help? Why not do it today?

Please visit the TAOM Website:
<http://taom2010.com/>

Magically Yours, Carl Seagren

Upcoming Events:

Friday (April 16, 2010) 7 – 9 p.m.: Magic Collectors meeting at the office of Hull Youngblood, K&L GATES, 111 Congress Ave., Suite 900. You MUST register in advance with Ron Cartlidge, in order to attend. Hull, one of several speakers, will be sharing about one of his all time favorite magicians, Karl Fulves. Do not miss this great opportunity and fantastic way to start the Magic Auction weekend.

Saturday (April 17, 2010): The World Famous Austin Magic Auction at First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity Street. Details available at <http://www.austinmagicauction.com/>. This is one auction you do not want to miss, with 1400 items available, including more than 200 to be auctioned live by the talented trio of Kent Cummins, David Hira and Scott Wells. You will see more magic performed than at any lecture you could possible attend and only for a small fee of \$10. Check out the website for detailed lists of books, videos & DVDs, collector items and much more, all along with pictures to help whet your appetite. See you all there.

(continued on page 8)

Assembly 206 March Meeting Report:

Photos by Danna Luther

As a preview of Austin's first annual Street Magic Festival scheduled for Thursday evening, Sept. 2, the theme of Assembly 206's March Meeting was Street Magic. The first half of the meeting took place in the Omni lobby with all varieties of street magic provided by our very own members, followed by a wonderful second-half lecture by John Maverick.

A new line of balloon accessories are modeled by Merlin Frenkel (right)



Jim Dunn and friend (left)

Sue and Jim Caldwell are greeted by Felonious the Fool and Bonzo Crunch Fool at Large (below)



Master Cardsman Richard Turner amazes the crowd (above)



A young fan gets a behind-the-scenes vantage of Drew Johnson (right)



A young fan dons his newly minted Bevo balloon hat (left)

Member Spotlight:**Will Mannis**

Like most of us, I started magic at a young age. My grandmother took me to a magic shop. My first effect was multiplying rabbits and a few card tricks, then I lost interest.

My interest was renewed when I met my first mentor and friend, Mike Susko, in Dallas. He came to a couple of parties we had at our house and did some effects. He and his wife, Nora, took us to our first TAOM in Corpus Christi in the early 1990's.

After that my wife, Heather, decided I needed a hobby - something other than picking on her and watching TV. So, she signed me up for one of Kent Cummins' UT Informal Classes that started immediately after TAOM. I have been hooked ever since.



Will Mannis provides street magic and entertainment at last month's Assembly meeting



Will Mannis

Mike had taught me "Crazy Man Handcuffs" at that TAOM. When I got back to Austin I practiced it all the time. My wife feels it is one of my best effects. At the time, I had lots of vacation time racked up from my job so I spent it going to conventions around the country with Mike. What a blast! Places where I had the opportunity to perform include the Magic Castle in Hollywood, California; Grenoble, France; Milano, Italy and several locations in mainland China.

I have been a member of both IBM Ring 60 and SAM 206 for sometime. In fact, I have been president of both Ring 60 and Assembly 206 after coming up through the ranks.

When I had a stroke in the mid-1990's, I used magic as part of my therapy. I am very grateful for all the support I received during my recovery. I enjoy giving back and learning new effects. Thank you to all the members of IBM and SAM.

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

ARSENE DUPIN recently won the petanque championship of the Heart of Texas Petanque Club held here in Austin on Sunday, March 28. He was the defending champion in the event and has at least two titles to his credit.

JOHN MAVERICK and **MARK WILSON** were selected to participate in a new festival in the Austin area called the Sherwood Forest Faire. The two magicians are featured performers at the event which ended on Easter weekend. Mark was known as Merlin the Wise during the event.

ROBERT MERRILL has recently married. Congratulations to Robert.

RICHARD GARRIOTT recently was featured in one of the films at the SXSW film festival in Austin. I was able to see the film on Thursday at the Paramount Theater at the second of two showings. It was well done and well received by the audience. The featured documentary is called, Richard Garriott: Man on a Mission. The film tells the story of Richard's early career as an inventor of computer games and then tells about Richard's recent flight to the space lab.

RON CARTLIDGE has been invited to lecture at this summer's annual Society of American Magicians convention in Atlanta, Georgia. He will speak on his favorite subject, Houdini.

If you haven't noticed, **DOC SEATON** has lost over forty pounds working out at his favorite health club. Doc is usually at the gym by 5:30 a.m. **DAN PAGE & KENT CUMMINS** also work out at the club and usually join Doc during morning workouts.

Speaking of **DAN PAGE**, here is a story that I ran across. Dan was performing strolling magic at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on March 10th. He and his wife, **LEE**, who is also an assembly member joined forty other volunteers and staff for a luncheon. At one table that Dan went to, a man stated "I don't believe in magic" and Dan said, "well then, I've got the perfect trick for you". He then called it more of an experiment than a magic trick. After Dan floated three red toothpicks into an upside down Coke bottle filled with water, the man laughed and said, "I'm a true believer now"! Dan thanks Kent Cummins for the effect which he received at our assembly clinic on Liquid Magic.

DAVID FRENKEL gave a terrific lecture at the recent Ring workshop at Texas Magic Supply. All reports that I received were glowing.

At a recent trip to Las Vegas, **BOB CARROLL** was invited to join a group of magicians for dinner by Eugene Burger. After sitting at the table for a few minutes, Bob looked across the table and asked the magician across from him, "I think I should know you, what is your name"? The magician replied, "Teller". It was Teller of Penn & Teller fame.

Saturday Magic Clinics

by Roger Gorss

March's clinic was a roaring success. David Frenkel's "Three Frog Monte" had the entire room in stitches. His Tommy Chong inspired character is creative and original. I've encouraged him to perform the 8 minute routine for all of us soon. Don't miss it! Also Larry Johnson performed his "Doing Nothing" routine which was one of Larry's best performances ever and that's really saying something, if you know how much Larry performs.

There were some new faces at the March clinic and that's great, but I know there are many of you with a real desire to improve your magic. I've been thinking, what can I do to get you out to join the clinics. Well, I've got the clinic for you, scheduled for the second Saturday in April. I am very pleased to inform you that Brad Henderson will be leading another one of his acclaimed Master Classes Saturday morning, April 10, 2010.

Think of your favorite trick. How much better have you gotten at performing it since yesterday? Last week? Last year? So many magicians get lost in the quest for the "new;" they want the latest and greatest, yet never find time to perfect any of them. So, they end up with a bag of half learned tricks filling a shelf or closet.

You will perform it for the group, and then Brad will coach you on the material.

This will be a safe, non-judgmental environment which will allow you to explore your material in a direction you find interesting, and improve your performance skills which will transfer to every trick you present.



This clinic is open to performers of all skill levels. Due to size and time limitations, you must register in advance if you wish to perform. The more experience you have with the routine the better.

Don't be disappointed. SIGN-UP NOW by return e-mail (roger.gorss@us.army.mil) or call (254) 289-4305. It's free to RING 60 members and only a modest fee of \$5 for non-members. ALL SEATS RESERVED, please.

Your friend in magic
Roger Gorss

Convention Update

by: Hull Youngblood

TAOM Board Meeting – Sunday April 18. Sheraton Austin Hotel – 11th & IH35

The Board of Directors of the T.A.O.M. will hold their mid-year meeting at the Sheraton

Austin Hotel (11th & IH 35) – the 2010 convention hotel, on Sunday April 18 (day after the Auction). All SAM 206 members are invited. As the host club of the convention we NEED A GOOD SHOWING at the board meeting. After a short tour of the hotel, we will provide an overview of the schedule, facilities and talent. **Plan to be at the Board meeting. Here is the full schedule for Sunday, April 18.**

1 PM – Tour of Convention Hotel

1:30 PM – TAOM Board Meeting

6:00 PM - Close-up Show.

Close Up Show Sunday April 18 – 6 PM

Sheraton Austin Hotel – 11th & IH35

On April 18 (the Sunday after the Auction), we will produce a close-up show using two of the convention close-up rooms. This gives us an opportunity to try out the design, construction, lighting and sound requirements of this CRITICAL PART of the convention. We will have a total of 100 seats – 50 seats in each room. We need to fill each of these rooms. This will be the April 2010 SAM 206 monthly meeting.

The magic for the Close Up Show will be provided by our friends from Ring 18 in San Antonio. Multi-award winning Doug Gorman is arranging the show, and



he has promised to bring “the good stuff.”

Don't miss this great show by our friends from San Antonio.

You Gotta Be There for this too.

TICKETS – There is no charge for this show. BUT we do need to know if you are going to be there.

So, write Heather Poggi-Mannis (hpmannis@hotmail.com) and let her know you will be there.

We need to reserve a seat for you! Lots of our friends from the Sheraton Hotel have asked to be there. So the spaces are filling up FAST. Write Heather today and tell her to save a seat for you. BUT DON'T WAIT.
- Hull

Member News: (Continued from p.2)

Sunday (April 18, 2010) 6 – 8 pm: SAM Assembly 206 April monthly meeting at the Sheraton Hotel, 701 East 11th Street (NOTICE DIFFERENT DATE, TIME AND LOCATION!!!) This month's meeting is a trial run of the close-up rooms for the TAOM 2010 convention. Magicians from San Antonio will be amazing us with their skills and dexterity in each of two rooms, which each seat approximately 50 people

in a tiered fashion. This is a great way to finish a magical weekend and look forward to an awesome magic convention, TAOM 2010. By the way, we are still looking for people who would like to help with stage aspects of the convention. Sunday's program will be a great opportunity to see how you can be a part of the convention too. Contact either Carl Seagren or JD Stewart if interested.

Magic Auction News:

Please check us out at
www.austinmagicauction.com

This is an auction that you will not want to miss. We need your help as we are expecting a very large crowd for our 29th annual auction. Kent Cummins ran the auction for twenty years and Ron Carlidge has chaired it for the past nine.

We currently have almost 1,500 items that will be in this year's auction and the live stage auction will feature 250 high quality collectable items. The auction is April 17 and doors open at 8 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in downtown Austin. There are many events going on that weekend so check out our web site.



*Last Year's
Auction Emcees
(from the left)
Scott Wells
David Hira
and Kent
"Block Head"
Cummins*

Feature Article**by: Kent Cummins****TRIX ARE FOR KIDS!
Some Thoughts on Children's Magic**

Okay, the complete expression is actually, "Silly rabbit, Trix are for kids!" It's from a ubiquitous commercial for General Mills' Trix cereal, starring a cartoon rabbit who debuted in 1954. If you're too young (or clueless) to remember, you can see a blurry version of one of the commercials at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEGke8kzeZM>.

I decided to borrow the expression as a title (and theme) for this month's feature article about children's magic.

If you're serious about "children's magic," you probably already have Silly Billy's book, *Seriously Silly* by David Kaye. If you don't, go out NOW and get a copy! If your favorite magic shop is out of it, Cy will no doubt be happy to order it for you.

The promo for the book says, "*Featuring six never-before published routines, 27 secrets of funnier routines, 7 essays, plus 21 tips to keep parents from talking during your show, and more!*" It's the 7 essays, not the tricks, which make this book so important for anyone who is serious about performing for (or teaching) children. To cite just one example, he explains that children of a certain age are very literal, and that they don't yet understand that things that they see may not be real.



(That's when I stopped performing the guillotine at school shows that included the pre-schoolers.)

But this feature is not meant to be a book review, or an ad for the book. It's about my own experiences with "magic for children."

It all started when I was myself a child, just starting elementary school in Del Rio, Texas, in the late 1940's. I had received my first magic trick, the "Coin Slider," from my Grampa, and then the first Mysto Magic set from my Dad. I was a magician! My first audiences, other than my family, were other kids. (There ought to be a book on "Playground Magic.")

Performing for your peers is tough as a child, because children can be brutally honest...even cruel to each other. As kids, we are all trying to figure out who we are, how to compete, how to get attention.

But the nice thing about the problem of being young is that we eventually

Feature Article (Cont.)

outgrow it! I haven't been a kid for more than half a century (although I may sometimes act like one). So let's get to the heart of the matter: adult magicians performing for kids. "Children's Magic."

At worst, children's magic is akin to Barney the purple dinosaur. It talks down to kids, treats them with hardly a shred of respect, and drives any adults out of the room. I have seen too much of this kind of children's magic. To be honest, at various times during the past sixty years, I have probably *performed* too much of this kind of children's magic.

At its best, children's magic is a wonderful form of entertainment that amazes, entertains, and inspires everyone in the audience. Hopefully, we've all done some of that kind of magic, too.

Another nice thing about growing older is that you tend to become more comfortable with yourself. I would like to think that my ego needs have softened during the last twenty years. I still enjoy seeing my picture in the newspaper, but not as much as I enjoy seeing a picture of one of the kids from The Magic Camp.

In the world of magic, there is a perception that "kids' performers" are a step lower on the ladder of magical respect than, say, "corporate performers." And while it may be true that corporate gigs pay more

(about ten times more, in my experience) than shows for children, I think that the "kids' performers" who take their jobs seriously, and really inspire and delight children, do more for magic -- and more for society -- than the top entertainers for adults.



Kent "Mysto" Cummins
in 1953 (age 10)

When I am performing at my best for adults, I give them an hour or so of respite from their daily problems, and transport them to a world of fantasy and fun. But when I am performing at my best for children, I have the opportunity to make a positive difference in their lives. I LOVE "children's magic!"

When I am performing strolling magic for adults, several people will inevitably say, "Oh, I wish my kids were here...they LOVE magic!" That used to bother me. I took it as a put-down, that (to slightly paraphrase the silly rabbit) "magic tricks are just for kids."

"Hey! I'm fooling YOU, and you're a grown-up!"

But I have come to look at it in a different way. (In NLP: Neuro-Linguistic

Feature Article (Cont.)

Programming, we would say I have "reframed" the situation.) Most of us were charmed by magic when we were kids. Many of us (especially, but not exclusively, little boys) dreamed of becoming magicians. A very few of us actually followed the dream and became magicians. So for the "layman," the "Muggle," the person who did not actually become a magician, the sight of a magic trick, well-performed, is an anchor (NLP again) to a lost childhood memory.

But sensible adults aren't going to say, "Oh...you make me feel like a kid again!" They're going to say, "Oh, I wish my kids could see this!" It's a wonderful compliment to you, the magician. Say, "Thank you!"

Sometimes, we do "children's magic" just for grown-ups.

Kent Cummins