

Press-to!

Assembly 206 News

Calendar Reminders:

Saturday, July 18th - Chris Walden Clinic.

Monday, July 20th - 206 Monthly Meeting

September 4-7 - T.A.O.M. in Houston

NEXT MEETING:

July 20th @ 7:00 pm at the Omni Southpark

Dealer's Night

J.D. Stewart - Moderator

From The President: Hull Youngblood

Nothing Like It Anywhere

If you went to the Stage Magic Contest on June 15 at the Austin City Limits studio, then you know what I mean when I say “**Nothing like it anywhere!**” If you did not get to go, you have probably heard about it by now, and realize how the phrase “**Nothing like it anywhere!**” is really appropriate when describing the contest. The Austin City Limits studio was an exciting venue, with great volunteers doing thousands of hours of work, supported by an exceptional technical crew, all of which resulted in an evening that was a hit. That show flew by expectations faster than an Ian Varella one-liner. And it was a SHOW – no question about it. It was not just your run-of-the-mill stage magic contest.

One goal of the SAM 206 Contests is to try to produce an event where contestants get a chance to perform before a *real* audience, in a *real* show. The audience is made “real” by including the public/laymen, whose opinions are voiced when they cast a vote for the People’s Choice winner.

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The show is also made “real” because it is planned, rehearsed, and produced like an evening of entertainment – not just 8 magicians playing to a small crowd that happens to include 5 judges. The SAM 206 Contests are intended to approximate the experience of a live commercial magic production for contest competitors– within the limitations imposed by a contest, of course. Not all contests are run that way.

The ACL soundstage really has a “star” quality to it. You can’t help but get caught up in the

From the President (cont.)

excitement of standing on that stage and performing for a live audience. The history of that place is pretty heady stuff. But that stage and theater were built for musicians – not magicians. While we were the beneficiaries of the best sound system EVER used for a magic production (thanks to Sharon Cullen of KLRU) the stage is built so that you have people on both sides. If you perform at the front of the stage, you have people actually sitting BEHIND you. So there are some effects you just can't (or shouldn't) perform on that stage. That is about as "real" as it gets.

I remember showing up (just barely on time) for a performance at a black tie party at the dinner club on the top of a downtown office building. I had 10 minutes to set up – which was plenty of time. As I walked in the room, I had to change my whole show in less than the remaining 10 minutes, because there was a wall of mirrors behind me. So, not every stage is perfect for magic, so you need to adjust your performance to the venue when those things happen. The magic contestants did just that, and provided a great evening.

Others may have different opinions about how to produce a contest, and those other methods are neither right or wrong – they are different. But when you consider the last two contests that SAM 206 has produced, I think we know what we are doing. The Onion Creek "Progressive Audience" close-up/parlor contest provided an almost perfect venue for the 12 close-up/parlor magic contestants. It also provided one of the best venues possible for the audience.

(Next time we will take out regular chairs on the back two rows at each venue and replace them with bar stools.)

The Austin City Limits studio provided an equally superb place for the right sort of effects, and everyone in the audience had a great seat. It was a great show, and another great contest. So, others may choose to produce contests differently. I think everyone in SAM 206 should be proud of the fact that as far as our contests are concerned, there is ... "Nothing like it anywhere."



Hull doing his very best "Jake"



Chris Walden as "Ellwood" making sure that "EVERYBODY" gets the TAOM message.

Assembly 206 June Meeting Report (continued):

smoke rings – a crowd favorite; Richard Blake, a classical styled magician in tails, presented his billiard ball and card manipulation, and a dismemberment of part of his arm; and Magical Mystical Michael was the final contestant with his one-of-a-kind needle swallowing routine, including stomach manipulation and live music accompaniment that can only be truly appreciated in person.



L to R: Patrick O'Shea – announcer; Michael Tallon (2nd Place); Marcus Eddie (1st Place); Brandon Parker (People's Choice Winner)

As the ballots were being counted, nationally known ventriloquist *Ian Varella* brought to life “Gramps” the curmudgeon. Ian is a veteran performer, having appeared on national television shows and toured with most of the big names in country music, and his experience was obvious that night. Then John Maverick presented some of his now classic magic such as “Rabbi from a Hat” and the world's best Needle Thru Balloon. Once again John was “...doing his part to keep Austin weird.” There were surprise guests as well that made the whole evening a unique Austin experience.



Lou and Jo Ann Hornung enjoying the contest with the rest of the audience.

Thanks to the 2009 Contest Committee and Texas Magic Supply.

Winners of the contest:

FIRST place - Marcus Eddie
SECOND place – Michael Tallon
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD
- Brandon Parker



Cy Albertson and Brandon Parker discuss the fine points of Brandon's winning presentation.

Assembly 206 June Meeting Rep**by: Hull Youngblood****Assembly 206 Contest at Austin City Limits Studio:**

After 6 months of planning, by a committee of more than 20 members of Austin's Assembly 206, June 15 arrived and at 6:30 the doors opened to a near capacity crowd at KLRU's Austin City Limits studio. Yes, that studio, where **Austin City Limits** has been filmed for more than 35 years. With that legendary backdrop of the Austin skyline fully lit, and the True Tone Band playing (led by SAM 206 member Mark Wilson), the feeling in the ACL studio was electric. At 7 pm Patrick O'Shea, official contest announcer, introduced the key sponsors of the contest - Texas Magic Supply, and Assembly 206. He then introduced the commentators, SAM 206 member Chris Walden, TAOM President Scott Hollingsworth, and legendary magician Bill Palmer. Their periodic comments gave the audience more background and context to the competition, to assist in their voting for the People's Choice award.



left to right - Mary Cay Gold (Judging), Judy Donaldson (Judge) and Scott Hollingsworth (Commentator)

Bobby Cordell, the MC for the evening, provided magic during some of the set changes.

Bobby introduced each of the competitors: Geoffrey Sadowski offered a blend of classic magic and comedy, concluding with the floating table; Tim Dietz presented his classical silk and dove magic routine and got a strong audience response; Brandon Parker was a well received comedy magician who combined a comedy magic Rubik's cube with the multiplying bottles; Marcus Eddie combined his love of magic and music with a manipulation act of cards (resembling piano keys) and CDs as well as an escape routine, all to his own original music;



Stage Contestants left to right: Sensei Strange, Brandon Parker, Tim Dietz, Bobby Cordell, Geoffrey Sadowski, Michale Tallon, Richard Blake, and Marcus Eddie.

Michael Tallon performed his award winning card trick routine, which is a dire understatement considering that all the dialog is provided by a series of machine-gun timed clips of music and movie sound tracks; Sensei Strange once again mixed his love of humor, the orient and magic, ending with the world's largest

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

JIM CALDWELL is in Cornerstone Hospital as a result of a bone infection. He is expected to remain there until at least early August. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery for Jim.

RAY BROWN has launched a brand new web site. He has completely redesigned this site and you can visit it at www.RayBrownMagic.com. Check it out and let him know what you think.

BERTIL FREDSTROM & RAMON GALINDO just returned from a road trip to Nashville to visit the I.B.M. convention. We understand that **J. D. STEWART** also made the trip, but in a different car. By the way, Ramon and **RON CARTLIDGE** leave for Beijing, China and F.I.S.M. next week. Ron recently performed on a party boat on Lake Travis for the group called I.G.N.C.

MIKE MEADOW'S band, Porter Davis, has a date at the oldest country and western dance hall in Texas this week. He plays Saturday afternoon, July 11 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Gruene Hall in Gruene, Texas. That is about 45 miles south of Austin and near New Braunfels. The admission is free. If you miss this one, I imagine that Mike will be back as his band has a couple of dates already set for the dance hall.

C. J. JOHNSON was nice enough to invite the Austin magic community to his

recent show at McNeil High School. **HULL YOUNGBLOOD, JIM BALDAUF, RAMON GALINDO, CARLOS SANTILLIAN**, and Ron Cartlidge were spotted in the crowd. I'm sure I missed one or two others that attended the show.

BRIAN BRUSHWOOD has a new book out called the Professional Guide to Fire Eating. Sounds like a hot seller to me!



Brian Brushworth meets fan Megan Collins at the recent Stage Magic Contest @ ACL.

Our own **SUE CALDWELL** has done it again. You have heard of "Don't mess with Texas", well, you don't want to mess with Sue. Sue recently took the gold medal in 3rd degree black belt (ultra division) and this was not just any old meet. She won at the National Taekwondo Competition which was held in Austin on July 4. As you probably know, Sue is our Secretary. She should probably be our SGT. At Arms too!

(I'm off to China so we may not have much news next month. I'm back August 3rd.)

Membership in the Assembly:**by Ron Cartlidge**

If you noticed in the latest issue of M.U.M., the new members and reinstatements page is back in our magazine. This is good news since membership is the backbone of every assembly. Assembly 206 posted one new member in the issue, Michael Sidney Gardner. Michael has been a long time member of the Austin magic community and I met him when I first joined Ring 60 in the early 1990's. We welcome back this old-timer as he has a lot to offer our assembly.

The battle for the coveted Harry Houdini award is over and the winner will be announced in Buffalo at the S.A.M. convention. It will come as no surprise when the name of parent Assembly #1, New York City is announced as the winner.



Ron and Sharon Cartlidge visit with Kent Cummins at the recent Stage magic Contest.

After a big down year last year when they lost the #1 spot (I think the first time ever), the assembly made great strides. Austin should easily retain the number three spot among the largest assemblies in the world.

I will ask for the results and publish the list in the next issue. - RC

Member Spotlight:**by Ron Cartlidge****Ramon Galindo**

Ramon has been a member of the Austin magic community for sixty years and he has been an active member every one of those years. How did he get there?

Ramon is a World War II vet. He served in the European theater and was once stationed at Hilter's headquarters after the war. It took Ramon awhile when we were visiting Munich, Germany on a trip, but he found the place again.

He pointed out the holes in the wall and said, "there is where we took the swastikas down". He has many stories to tell about the war, some of which can't be told in this article.

After the war, Ramon learned the trade of being a tailor and became one of the best in Austin with such customers at Lyndon B. Johnson, John Connally, and Stevie Ray Vaughn.

Continued on p.11

Notes about the 2009 Contest:

By: Hull Youngblood, Contest Chairman

The 2009 Magic contest did not just happen overnight. The planning began in January, the venue was solidified in March, big announcements were made in April, the contestants were selected in May, and the whole thing came together on June 15. Listed below are the members of the 2009 Contest Committee, the contestants and special performers. Through the whole six-month planning, writing, drafting, re-writing, scripting, contracting, publicizing, printing, prompting, and rehearsing, everyone on this list played a role (sometimes several)

in making the 2009 Magic Contest such a success. **Thanks to all of you!**



Robert Castillo and Heather Poggi-Mannis trying to out guess the judges

Chairman	Hull Youngblood
Chairman Emeritus	Stanley Seaton, MD
Vice – Chairmen	Carl Seagren & JD Stewart
Director	Jason Heinig
Stage Crew Chief	Carl Seagren
Master of Ceremonies	Bobby Cordell
Lighting Director	James Caldwell
Sound Director	David Frenkel
Facility Director	Tammy Cantu
Theatre Director	Michael Collins
Performer Director	JD Stewart
Video Guru	Fernando Ulloa
Judging Director	Mary Cay Gold & Mike Gold
Announcer	Patrick O’Shea
Commentators	Chris Walden, Scott Hollingsworth, & Bill Palmer
Security	RRRRanger Bob Carroll
Tickets & Reservations	Heather Poggi-Mannis and Will Mannis

Prize Contributors	Hull Youngblood, Doc Seaton, Kent Cummins, Magic Camp & Texas Magic Supply
Advertising Director	Kent Cummins
Contestants	(See Page 3)
Finance/budget	Heather Poggi-Mannis
Documentarian	Sue Caldwell
Photographer	Mike Collins
Stage Crew	Beverly Seagren & Samantha Seagren
Program & Ballots	Diane Klinetob & Texas Magic Supply
Ushers	Michael Collins, Bertil Fredstrom, Greg Johnston, Robert Castillo
Special Performers	Ian Varella, John Maverick, Mark Wilson and the True Tone Band, Jake and Ellwood Dues

Assembly 206 July Meeting:**By Hull Youngblood****KLRU representatives expected at July Meeting**

I really can't say enough about the support we got from KLRU in producing the 2009 Magic Contest. You may have heard about the KLRU staff in announcements. But the Contest Committee got a chance to work closely, REALLY closely, in planning for, and producing, this years' magic competition.

All the KLRU staff that worked on the contest have been invited to attend our July 20 meeting at the Omni Hotel. While not all of them will be able to attend, some of them will be there. Be sure to thank them for all that they did to help us make the contest such a great evening. They are true 'live performance' professionals, and they put all their expertise into producing our contest. And it showed. We owe them... seriously.

Bill Stotesberry, Executive Director of KLRU – he gave us the green light to talk to J.J. Weber about having the contest on the ACL soundstage at KLRU.

J. J. Weber, I still don't know his formal title, but he is in charge of "making stuff happen" in the studio (actually he is Broadcast Operations Manager) J.J. made all of us feel welcomed, and did what he was supposed to do.. he made it happen. He knows studio operations and it shows.

Sharon Cullen – Empress of all things audio. As most of you know, SAM 206 member David Frenkel was the SAM 206 sound director. He sat in the booth with Sharon, and he is still singing her praises. Even with a bad wireless microphone cord (one I rented by the way – it was NOT a KLRU device) Sharon made every sound and music cue work perfectly. For the first time in long time, the sound in a magic show was FABULOUS. Sharon did that.

Sharon had more demands upon her and her staff than almost anyone else. Despite that, she solved problems, and made the show look and sound professional.

Susan Walthall -2nd Empress of all things audio. .Did you notice the person dressed in black hovering around the right side of the stage? Well that was Susan Walthall making audio magic most of the night. I don't know how she continued to just "appear" and fix things, but time and time again, Susan and Sharon (see above) dealt with problems and got them solved, faster than a flashpot.

Michael Emrey – Chief Lighting Engineer. Michael was the quiet guy sitting in the back corner of the studio just casually and calmly turning our miracle after miracle on the light board.

Kevin Cochran – Asst. Lighting Engineer. Kevin was working with Michael to make the lights work. I am not really sure how they made so many design changes to the lighting so quickly, but Kevin was in the middle of all of it, getting it right... every time.

Lauren Burton. Production/Operations Coordinator. I think Lauren's title is exactly right. I don't how she coordinated so many people with so many different ideas, complaints, suggestions and demands, but she made sense of it all for the operation of the Studio.

These are just the people I met that night of the contest. There are others at KLRU who worked on the Contest, and I apologize for omitting them. They all contributed to make the SAM 206 2009 Magic Contest one of our best, and we owe them our thanks, admiration, and awe. Please welcome our friends from KLRU to the SAM 206 meeting on Monday July 20. **And support KLRU during their next pledge drive.**

Feature Article**by: Kent Cummins****What's Up with the S.A.M. Magic Center?**

There's been a lot of gossip running around about the S.A.M. Magic Center. Since I'm still a member of the S.A.M. Magic Center Foundation Board, and have been involved from the start, Hull has asked me to bring members up to date on "the rest of the story." I'll start with the history, to make sure everyone is on the same page.

HISTORY:

The Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.) has been talking about needing a permanent home for more than a century. The official mailing address is the home address of whomever happens to be National Administrator; M-U-M editorial offices are wherever the current editor lives; and each of the various departments is also run out of someone's home. So we are something of a Wiki organization (not to be confused with "Wicca," which is something else entirely!).

When Jay Gorham became National President of the S.A.M. in 2003-04, one of his goals was to start the process for creating a centralized S.A.M. Magic Center. Under his leadership, the S.A.M. Magic Center Foundation was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity, separate from the S.A.M. itself, much as the S.A.M. Hall of Fame and Magic Museum in Hollywood and the S.A.M. Magic Endowment Fund are separate legal entities.



*Kent
Cummins*

At the 2005 S.A.M. National Convention, our own Ron Cartlidge attended a meeting in which the search for a site for the proposed S.A.M. Magic Center was being conducted among a handful of major cities. Ron came back to S.A.M. Assembly 206, and at our board meeting, asked, "Why can't Austin, Texas, be considered?"

We were EXCITED about the possibility, put together an incredible marketing barrage touting Austin as the ideal location, and invited the committee to visit us. They did, and were duly impressed. After brainstorming sessions, closed-door meetings, and lots of negotiation, Austin became the assumptive home for the center. Assembly 206 members created a business plan, designed a trade show exhibit, created a quad-fold brochure, found a fundraiser with a national reputation, and hosted the S.A.M. National Council at a meeting here in Austin at the Omni Hotel. We also raised close to \$50,000 for the project.

Feature Article (continued)**by: Kent Cummins**

On March 18, 2008, at a prestigious Bee Caves Road address, we had a media ribbon cutting event for the official S.A.M. Magic Center Foundation office in Austin.

TRANSITION:

The whirlwind sequence of events only briefly described above left us breathless! But as we began to catch our breath, we also began to realize that there were a few things wrong. First of all, virtually all of the energy...as well as most of the money...had come from Assembly 206. Wasn't this supposed to be a NATIONAL center? And there was some dissension among various members of the S.A.M. National Council, which made working with them less satisfying. After all, the magic community in Austin tends to be inclusive, welcoming everyone and working together to create wonderful projects.

We decided to back off and see if there was anyone ready to provide national leadership for this project.

PRESTO-CHANGO!

Nothing much happened for a while...and then an incredible opportunity popped up as if by magic! Only it wasn't in Austin, Texas. It was in Louisville, Kentucky. If you are interested, go to www.SAMMagicCenter.com and check out the proposed location. It has everything that the Magic Center needs, ready to use, and at a bargain price.

Furthermore, the location captured the interest of Lance Burton and Mac King, both from that area, providing high-profile support.

When it came time for a vote, even though I was disappointed in the move, I had to vote in favor of the Louisville location. It was just too good to pass up.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE:

So now what? If you donated, is your money wasted? Probably not...you and I will have our names forever enshrined in what looks like an amazing center for magic. But what do we do with all of the positive energy generated throughout Texas? I'm glad you asked!

Those of us who were instrumental in getting the S.A.M. Magic Center project moving, are now putting that same energy into a new project: The Texas Magic Center! (After all, everything is bigger and better in Texas, right?)

What if there were 10 historic acres in Austin that could become a permanent home for the Texas Association of Magicians (TAOM), with a magnificent research library, including books, magazines, film and tape, and memorabilia; incredible magic museum with original Houdini artifacts, stage illusions and vintage magic props, and the world's largest collection of Cups & Balls;

Feature Article (continued)

by: Kent Cummins

and offices and meeting space for both TAOM and the local magic clubs...as well as performance space for public magic shows and a permanent home for the Magic Camp?

It isn't just a dream...it's a business plan! Stay tuned for the latest developments.

Member Spotlight: (continued from p.6)

He became a shrewd businessman and invested in real estate. He purchased his home on Riverside Drive and still lives there today.

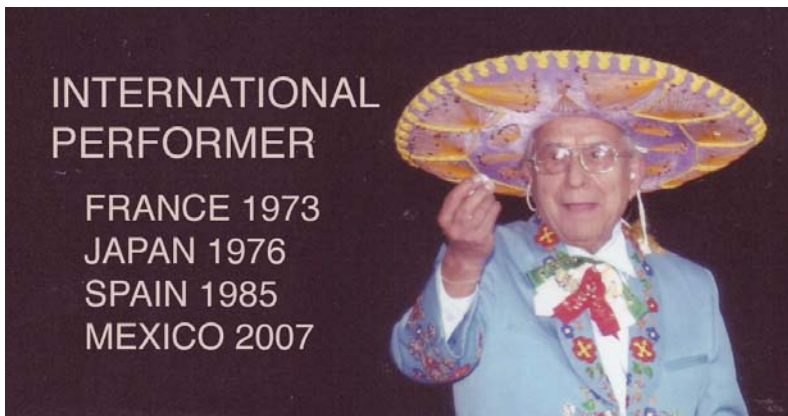
Ramon became active with the Ring in the 1950's and served as President of that organization for three years. He is the only life member of Assembly 206 and received that award in 2005.



T.A.O.M. will honor Ramon's sixty years in magic at this

year's convention in Houston on Labor Day weekend. He has performed in Spain, France, and Mexico and had a wonderful bird act that won three first place trophies in the early days.

T.A.O.M. finally retired the trophy in his hands and asked him not to compete so someone else could win.



He won his last competition in 2007 when he won first place in the stage competition in Mexico City.

Congratulations to Ramon Galindo for all the honors and for the friendship he has bestowed to our assembly.

