

# Press-to!

## Assembly 206 News

**Calendar Reminders!**

Saturday July 17 - **Mentalism Clinic**

Monday July 19 - **SAM 206 Monthly Meeting**

Sept. 2 - **Austin Street Magic Festival**

Sept. 3 to 6 - **T.A.O.M. Convention, Austin**

**NEXT MEETING:**  
 July 19th @ 7:00 pm at the Omni Southpark

## PAPER MAGIC

Hosted by Jim Baldauf

### From The President: Carl Seagren

Howdy Folks,  
 As I write this month's president message there are only 50 days until the start of TAOM 2010. I was wondering what motivates folks to attend magic conventions anyway? Is it to see old friends and meet new ones? Is it to check out the latest and greatest new tricks and props on the market? Is it to catch a lecture or a performance by that certain magician you have always wanted to hear/see? Is it to enter one of the contests for the first time (or tenth time)? Is it to pick-up some new sleight at one of those late-night gatherings around a hotel table?

All of these (and many more) are great reasons to attend a magic convention. Best of all, this year the convention is in our own backyard. It has been more than ten years since the last time Austin had the privilege to play host to TAOM. It would be a shame if we had to wait ten plus more years to do it again. So why not help make this a convention to be talked about

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for years and a reason others will be asking, "When will Austin do it again?"

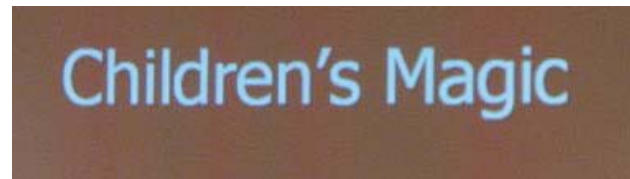
We, the convention committee, cannot do it by ourselves; we NEED your help. If it is only for a day or a few hours, there are many "small" tasks but no small helpers. Most of all the "big" details have been completed, so why not join us for a convention that will be like no other before. Ask any SAM Assembly 206 board member how to get involved and we'll be glad to have you join us in "Making the Magic Happen in Austin."

Enjoy the Magic, Carl Seagren

## Assembly 206 June Meeting

photos by: Danna Luther

Children's Magic, the theme of our June meeting, was hosted by **Bertil Fredstrom**. The meeting featured **Ray Brown** discussing Market and Sales, **Drew Johnson** presenting Originality and Creativity, and Bertil covering Pricing and Value. Of course, Cy Albertson was there to give away lots of free magic from Texas Magic Supply.



From left to right: Bertil Fredstrom, Drew Johnson, Ray Brown, Cy Albertson



## More Children's Magic!

By: Robert Castillo

From Robert Castillo, IBM Ring 60  
Lecturer Coordinator:

David Ginn presents  
Kidbiz Live— *the Workshop!*

We are having a great lecture by David Ginn on Sunday, Aug. 1st, IHOP @ Bee Caves & MOPAC - 2:30 p.m.

Registration: \$35 advance or \$45 at the door. Only one person registers per family. Spouse and children are free. Each registrant receives a FREE Crash Course on Kidshows book, five FREE tricks and gimmicks, and a FREE David Ginn Magic Kit plus 3 1/2 hours of magical show & tell. Please let me know if you will attend, you should be able to pay online soon thru Paypal at [ibmring60.org](http://ibmring60.org).

THREE HOURS of comedy, magic, and fun...shared by the man who has lived it all in 300+ shows yearly for 37 years...and who has written over 80 books, tapes, videos and DVDs teaching YOU how to ENTERTAIN CHILDREN. Not only will David perform children's magic routines, warm-ups, and musical magic—but he will explain how they work, why they work, and how YOU can get more FUN and LAUGHS into your show by adding 33 Things Children Enjoy!

## Monthly Clinic: Mentalism with Chris Walden by: Roger Gorss

By the nature of the intent of the Clinics with hands on instruction and the size of our room, there are given limits to the number of attendees. Don't be disappointed. SIGN-UP NOW by e-mail to [roger.gorss@us.army.mil](mailto:roger.gorss@us.army.mil), or, if you don't have access to e-mail, call Roger at (254) 289-4305. It's free to RING 60 members and only a modest fee of \$5 for non-members. ALL SEATS RESERVED, please.



*And this from  
Chris Walden:*

I am very pleased to inform you that Chris Walden will be conducting the Clinic on Saturday morning, July 17, 2010. Chris Walden is not a world-famous mentalist. He has not been on TV and he has not written books or put out DVDs on the topic. However, Chris has been slowly and methodically changing his nature and become known to people outside of magic-land as a genuine explorer of the paranormal. He reads cards and palms for strangers. He talks about ghosts and psychic phenomena. He creates the conditions where people can have a paranormal experience. Chris has spent the past ten years or so on a journey to understand what being a mentalist is. At this workshop we will look at tools and techniques, thinking and theater, to help other seekers to achieve that amazing connection with wonder that happens when people feel something that is real. The particulars are as follows: Mentalism Clinic With Chris Walden, Saturday, July 17, 10 am to 1pm, Texas Magic Supply, Cedar Park.

Your  
friend in magic Roger Gorss

*Just a reminder... if you plan to attend this clinic, please take the on-line survey <<http://ibmring60.org/limesurvey/index.php?sid=16314>>. This will help me direct the workshop accordingly. The responses have already been very helpful. If you have difficulty with the survey on-line and would like to fill out answers in an email or something, let me know and I can forward you an email copy.*

*This will not be a "class" where I "teach" you how to be a mentalist. We will work together to explore the foundations of mentalism and to help you understand how to make it work for you, or determine that it's really not your thing.*

*Cheers! Chris Walden*

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

**BOB CARROLL** is off to Alaska. He is not looking for gold, but on a fishing expedition. I would imagine that Bob is also enjoying the cooler weather up north.

**DOC SEATON** is working on the theater that is being built in the living area of his home. Doc says that the theater is coming along and should be done in about two weeks. This could be the site of some new programs & lectures.

**RON CARTLIDGE** has returned from Atlanta where he lectured to about eighty people in the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton Atlanta. According to Ron, Kenneth Silverman, the noted author of the Career of Erich Weiss, was in attendance and had many good comments about the lecture.

Ron, with his daughter's help, has produced a 35 slide power point presentation on "Houdini's Final Tour To Texas, Do the Dead Speak to the Living".

Talked with **CHRIS WALDEN** the other day and Chris is in charge of a mentalism lecture at Texas Magic Supply this Saturday. Chris has been working hard on his regular job and his work is with people in India. His internet show, The Shadow Hour, is still going great and Chris says that this is the only thing that he just has to do.

**KENT CUMMINS** will miss the July meeting because he is attending an OFCMA conference in San Antonio. (You'll have to ask Kent what that means!)

**JAMES CALDWELL** has started a new job with Congo Couriers. If you need organs transported, James is your man.

**CY ALBERTSON** was offered a job touring with Cirque du Soleil for six weeks in one of their touring shows.

**Demo Night @ TMS!****by: Cy Albertson**

Texas Magic Supply wants to invite you to a special night of magic!

Your host, Cy Albertson, will be showing off the latest line of magic from Alakazam Magic. Alakazam is one of the leaders in producing magic. Watch as Cy performs many of their creations for your entertainment. You will also be able to purchase these great items.

Join us for this Demo Night on Thursday August 12th at 7pm. Join other magicians for fun and friendship as we



eat, drink, and watch the magic of England's biggest producer of magic. Your cost is free! If you are interested, please RSVP to Cy Albertson at [cy@albertsonmusic.com](mailto:cy@albertsonmusic.com). We would like to get an idea of how many people will be showing up.

**Membership****by: Ron Cartlidge****PHILADELPHIA ASSEMBLY CHALLENGES AUSTIN IN 2010-11**

That's right, you read that byline correctly. Two of the top three assemblies in the world will be going at it again. I received a challenge from the group at this summer's national convention in Atlanta and it included Mike Miller, the out-going

President of the Society of American Magicians who is a member of the Philadelphia assembly. He claims that he will have much more time to work on membership this year! I have never known Austin to back away from a challenge.

**Easy Mentalism****by: J.P. Jacquard**

*In preparation for Chris Walden's July 17th clinic on mentalism, let's take a look at one of J.P. Jacquard's effects:*

**Effect 5 : Book Test**

*You produce three paperback books and invite a spectator to choose one of them. Another spectator cuts a deck of cards anywhere they like and adds together the values of the first two cards on the bottom pile. Whatever number they get, you ask the first spectator to turn to that page in the book and concentrate on the first line of the page. You concentrate and then announce a couple of words. Then you pick up a notepad and scribble something onto it. You ask the spectator to read the sentence aloud and it matches what you have written.*

Book Tests are a staple part of mind reading and there are hundreds of methods. This is one of the simplest and uses another stacked deck, called a 14/15 stack. To create the stack, remove the Ace of Hearts and Ace of Spades and arrange the remaining cards as follows, with the 7D at the bottom, all cards face down:

**Easy Mentalism**

7C 8C 6D 9S 5C 10H 4D JS 3C QS 2D KS  
 AC KH 2H QC 3D JH 4S 10C 5D 9C 6S 8S  
 7S 8D 6H 9H 5H 10D 4C JD 3S QH 2S KD  
 AD KC 2C QD 3H JC 4H 10S 5S 9D 6C 8H  
 7H 7D

Wherever the cards are cut, the first two cards on the bottom stack will always total 14 or 15. You've probably figured out that you use the magician's choice explained earlier to force your spectator to choose the book you need.

## Member Spotlight:

**Mike Gold**

I never thought when I started out in magic that I would become a collector and builder, let alone the owner of the Scott Magic Company. For me it all started growing up in Los Angeles and seeing Harry Blackstone Sr. perform late in his life. The show was called It's Magic and was put on by the Larson brothers, Bill Jr. & Milt, long before the days of Magic Castle. I got a great picture of him autographed that I treasured. Then I started hanging out at a magic shop a few blocks from my grandmother's house. I used every trick a 10 year old could think of to get one of my parents to drive me to grandma's. It was in the front door and within five minutes a quick trip out the back door and on my way to 6560 Hollywood Boulevard-the home of Joe Berg's Magic Shop.

As a ten year old I was quiet and listened a lot and was always welcomed by Joe and his son Ronnie and the older gentlemen who hung out there prior to the days of the Magic Castle. It was many years until I found out that one of the gentlemen was Senator Clarke Crandell and another was Jay Ose. There were many others but those two always stood out in my mind. Joe taught me my favorite card trick and my rubber band trick. I really wanted to buy a set of multiplying billiard balls and Joe wouldn't sell them to me because he said my hands were too small and I didn't have the dexterity. However one day when Joe was not at the shop, Ronnie Berg did sell them to me.



When Joe found out he made Ronnie give me back my money the next time I was there. That's the kind of guy Joe Berg was.

I joined the army in 1966 and went off to see the world. On one of my many trips to Fort Hood, I was told about magic in Austin and joined Ring 60 and met many magicians. Later on my very first trip to Korea, I mentioned to my roommates about being interested in magic and was told "Oh, there's this guy at the officer's club that does magic. It took me several days to find him because he wasn't at the officer's club; he ran the General's private mess. And that's how I met Capt. Kent Cummins and his entire family, to include their new baby daughter Carolyn. Small world. While living in Hawaii I did restaurant magic for a number of years and joined Ring 185. There I became friends with Jimmy Yoshida. I also attended my first IBM magic convention in Honolulu in 1983. I had the good fortune to attend the president's party. There I met Harry Blackstone Jr. and Gay and

**Member Spotlight: (Continued)****Mike Gold**

ended up having dinner with them one night. That's another story; ask me sometime.

After 21 years in the Army, it was time to retire and I could think of nowhere better than central Texas. I went into Law Enforcement and always made time to go into Austin to Ring 60 meetings and events and to visit with The Great Scott at his shop. Fred and I spent many hours talking about the history of magic, the ins and outs of the magic shop business and building magic props. After Fred's passing, I was very honored to buy the Scott Magic Company from Judy Donaldson.

Starting in the late 80's during my many trips to Ring 60 meetings, I had the pleasure of meeting a very special person who did the newsletter, ran meetings, worked at the auction, etc. I didn't know at that time but I did by the end of the TAOM convention in 1999 that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with Mary Cay in my life. For those of you who don't know who Mary Cay is, please read last month's SAM 206 newsletter.

When I moved to Austin, the past caught up with me when I found my picture of Harry Blackstone Sr. tucked safely in Dunninger's Encyclopedia of Magic where it had stayed for over 30 years. I had thought it was long gone. This was the beginning of a great collection of magician's photos that line our hall. I also started finding and buying magic made



by Joe Berg and Theo Bamburg. I am again the proud owner of the P&L multiplying billiard balls and many other P&L items.

I have served as President of Ring 60 twice, as TAOM representative for SAM 206 and am currently the TAOM representative for Ring 60. Mary Cay and I now live outside Bastrop where we raise horses and pursue a few other interests besides magic, my latest being a 1985 Corvette.

I really enjoy building and restoring magic. If you have an idea or something you want to have built or restored, give me a call.

**Feature Article****by: Kent Cummins**

## Dave Finnigan Spreading the Joy of Juggling Around the World!

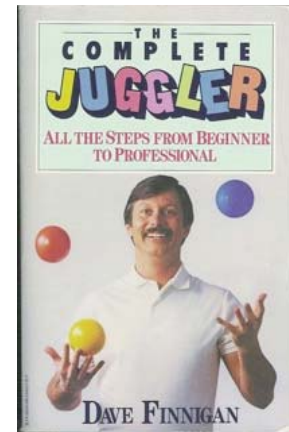
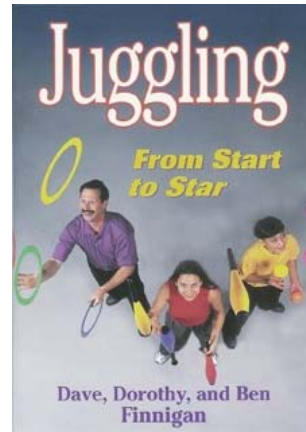
**Dave Finnigan** is one of three people who, in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, changed the face of the variety arts around the world. The other two are Tom Myers (balloon twisting) and Mark Wilson (magic). I'll write about them in the next two issues.

Dave Finnigan, known as "Professor Confidence," is an author, producer, teacher, performer, and a really nice guy with a really cool family. I visited them at their home in Celebration, Florida, last month.

Dave started JuggleBug, the Juggling Institute, and the Juggling For Success program. He has written several books and produced numerous audio and video programs on juggling. In my opinion, his *The Complete Juggler*, originally published in 1987, is simply THE best book on juggling ever written (and I have collected every juggling book that I could find for nearly half a century...including two books which I wrote myself!).

In order to appreciate what Dave Finnigan has accomplished, you need to understand the state of the art of juggling before he discovered it.

The International Jugglers Association (IJA) was founded in 1947. A roster from 1963 lists 225 total members. Their mimeographed newsletter consisted largely of old vaudeville or circus



jugglers reminiscing and bemoaning the demise of live variety entertainment caused by television, and they were worried that a few books published on the art of juggling would expose how simple the basic patterns really were.

That's right: back in the nineteen fifties, jugglers were more worried about protecting their secrets than magicians were! There were no juggling books in public libraries back then...just a few small pamphlets distributed through magic stores and mail order.

The best book that I could find back then was the *Manual of Juggling* by Max Holden (illustrations by Nelson Hahne), published in 1947 and sold through magic dealers. (This book was my personal guide to learning the art of juggling, and my original copy is now barely held together with rusty staples and Scotch tape.)

## Feature Article (Continued)

by: Kent Cummins

I also found a small, 20-page pamphlet printed by Johnson Smith in 1948 and sold through their then ubiquitous mail order catalog. I think I paid 35 cents, plus shipping & handling. Some of the illustrations were taken directly from the Max Holden book, without attribution.

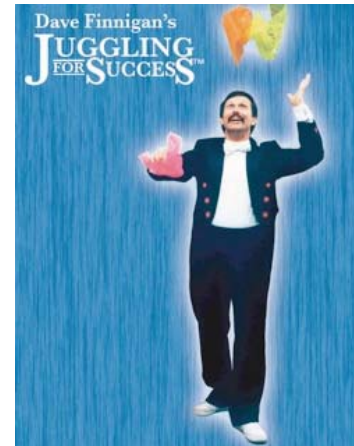
*The Art of Juggling*, a kit put out in 1949 by Harry Moll, had super bounce balls and a book of simple instructions. Oh, no...now *anybody* could learn to juggle! The world of juggling had apparently seen its eventual demise.

Then along comes Dave Finnigan, determined to change all that. In the introduction to his first book, *The Joy of Juggling*, Dave writes:

### ***“Demystifying Juggling”***

***“JuggleBug is dedicated to introducing as many people as possible to the joy of juggling. Almost anyone can juggle. It is not an art form reserved for circus people, but is a physically and mentally relaxing form of recreation which can help you discover and to nurture your innate coordination.”***

Dave taught himself to juggle in 1976, the same year that I left Army active duty and moved back to Austin, Texas. Neither of us remembers exactly how we found each other, but I traveled with Dave in the late seventies as he taught juggling to physical education teachers around Central Texas, and we became friends.



Before Dave Finnigan, people who could juggle would sometimes teach their friends through “show and tell,” and it often took a long time...if the student learned at all. (In my case, I learned while I was in junior high school from Kenneth Meaux, a magician pen pal, who drew little pictures along with the explanations in his letter!)

What Dave did was apply the basic principles of motor skill development, breaking the act of juggling into a simple, step-by-step process. He created a 16 mm film showing the process, and wrote the book, *The Joy of Juggling* (1979). Dave also used his connections in Asia to design and make available a complete product line of inexpensive, easy-to-use props.

In *Bungling Juggling*, my book of “comedy ideas for jugglers” published in 1964 by the ELBEE Company in San Antonio, I passed on the idea of putting a super bounce ball inside a pocket handkerchief, thus giving it

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

enough weight to be juggled...and bounced on the floor! I can remember telling people that you had to put weight into handkerchiefs in order to juggle them.

Boy, was I wrong!

When Mark Sutherland, a Physical Education teacher from Carmichael, California, showed Dave Finnigan the use of scarf play with kids, the breakthrough really took off! Dave turned that play into scarf juggling! The secret was to grab them instead of letting them fall into your hand like other objects. That gave the beginner far more time to grasp the pattern, and led to literally millions of people learning that yes, they could juggle!

“Professor Confidence” always had a few sets of scarves in his pockets (he still does!), and I saw him stop and teach people at restaurants, in shopping malls, at night clubs, in hotel lobbies, on the street...even in the aisle of an airplane!

Later, Dave took his show on the road, living with his wife and three children in a large motor home that traveled around the country giving the Juggling For Success programs at schools, recreation centers, and summer camps. One year, they even came to The Magic Camp in Austin!

Professor Confidence has been to over 2,000 elementary schools in 41 states and 12 countries, and has taught over 1,000,000 kids and parents and



*Kent Cummin's juggling workshop*

teachers to juggle. His books have been translated into five languages and together have sold more than a million copies.

The International Jugglers Association ([www.juggle.org](http://www.juggle.org)) is now a huge international organization with a slick magazine, a large annual convention, and festivals at most major college campuses. I wonder how many of the members realize that—to a large extent---it's because one guy decided to spread the joy of juggling around the world!



*Dave Finnigan in action*

Thanks in large part to Dave Finnigan, **Juggle** magazine now goes out to more than 1700 current IJA members