

# Press-to!

## Assembly 206 News

**Calendar Reminders!**  
 Monday, August 16 - Assembly Meeting  
 Thursday, Sept. 2 - Austin Street Magic Festival  
 Sept. 3 to 6 - T.A.O.M. Convention, Austin

**NEXT MEETING:**  
 August 16th @ 7:00 pm at the Omni Southpark

## Doc Eason Lecture

**Last meeting before Austin Street Magic Festival!**

### From The President: Carl Seagren

Wow, we are approaching 3 weeks and counting until SAM Assembly 206 plays host to the 2010 TAOM convention. So much has gone into preparation that it would take too many pages to explain. All I can say is this will be a great adventure for everyone involved.

I hope to see as many members as possible throughout the convention and want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all who have given of their time, talents and resources to make this a truly special event.

From the pre-convention Thursday night Austin Street Magic Festival to the President's Sunday night party and concluding with a special Jeff McBride masters class on Monday (sponsored by Ring 60) there will be MAGIC in the air. Austin will become (for a brief period) the Magic Capital of USA.

Enjoy the Magic, Carl Seagren

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*Les Gobelets will perform at the upcoming Austin Street Magic Festival.*

**TAOM Convention Update:****by: Hull Youngblood****TAOM In 3 weeks! The culmination of 2 years of planning!**

Dozens of volunteers. 20+ performers. 11 Lectures. 10 Shows. 7 Theaters. 4 Days of Magic. 2 Contests. 2 Parties. They will all combine to be TAOM 2010. We are all about to be part of producing what will become the **"Were You There?"** event that people talk about for a long time.

We are doing things differently from most TAOM events and most magic conventions.

We are not planning 6 acts, for 10 minutes each, on a stage every night at 8 pm that we have all seen time after time.

We are not putting close up performers in bland hotel meeting rooms with fluorescent lights and a 6 foot banquet table.

We are providing a sophisticated theater for parlor magic, classic close up rooms, the AUSTIN CITY LIMITS soundstage, all with professional seating, lights and sound, for world class performers. These gifted performers will present their full shows as they created them. And you will get to see their magic - their performance - their improvisation, just they way they intended. TAOM 2010 will be a place where people will experience sophisticated magic the way it was meant to be enjoyed. **You MUST be part of this miraculous event.**



**AUSTIN2010  
TAOM**



**AUSTIN'S INAUGURAL  
Street Magic Festival!**  
Thursday Night  
**September 2, 2010**  
Starts 6:00 pm  
**Red River at 6th Street**  
(next to Esther's Follies)  
<http://austinstreetmagic.com/>  
(512) 537-9439

**World-Renowned  
Professional Performers!**

Special kids' activities from  
The Kent Cummins Magic Camp  
Hula Hoop contest with prizes  
◦ **FREE ADMISSION** ◦

Food • Drinks  
Community Booths  
Magicians • Musicians  
Jugglers • Clowns  
Ventriloquists Puppeters  
Balloon Twisters

**TIL 2 A.M. AUSTIN'S  
INAUGURAL STREET MAGIC FESTIVAL  
AT NIGHT**

*"Austin is the Live Music AND MAGIC Capital of the World!"*

**REGISTER NOW. Online Registration closes on August 13.** Go to [www.TAOM2010.com](http://www.TAOM2010.com) NOW. Do not wait. Do not miss the best magic shows, lectures, demos and all-day and night legerdemain that you will see for a VERY LONG TIME. AS YOU HAVE HEARD FOR two years: YOU GOTTA BE THERE!

**D. Hull Youngblood**

*Shawn Greer will perform  
at the upcoming  
Austin Stree Magic Festival*

**Assembly 206 Membership Report:****by: Ron Cartlidge****ASSEMBLY 206 WINS FOURTH HARRY HOUDINI AWARD  
FOR MEMBERSHIP GROWTH IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS!!!**

Things looked pretty bleak in the spring for our assembly even having a growth year.

However, we pulled it off with another growth year (5%) and another Harry Houdini award. We won two the two years that I was president in 2004 & 2005 and then Doc Seaton followed with another in 2006. Since then we have been in a draught. However, this year we did it again! And, get this, Austin is now NUMBER 2 in the world. We have once again passed Philadelphia and trail perennial champion (size wise) New York City by about twenty members.

However, Philadelphia has thrown a challenge our way claiming they will pass us in the coming year and regain the #2 spot. That would be fine with us if we were sitting in the #1 position at the end of the year. As far as I know, no one has ever passed the parent assembly #1, New York City. We started off well picking up three new members at the July meeting.

Our assembly will have a booth at the "live" Austin Street Magic Festival on September 2. From that booth we can do magic, and not just the tricks. This is a great opportunity to tell the public about assembly 206 and extend the hand of fellowship to others who are interested in magic.

Hopefully we will have added another ring to our long list of awards on our S.A.M. banner. I think this may be the last spot on the banner. Also, the award this year was a beautiful inlaid box with a very nice wand inside. It brought back memories of the time when I was president, and I used to take the wand from its holder to open meetings and to place it back in its holder to close meetings. Just a nice touch of symbolism I thought. Unfortunately that was dropped a few years back.

**Assembly 206 July Meeting Report:**

*(left to rt.)  
JD Stewart ,  
Opie Houston,  
& Eddie  
Boswell  
demonstrate  
Paper Magic  
during the  
SAM 206  
July meeting.  
(Danna Luther photos)*



## Member Spotlight: David Frenkel

***It started at the beginning and continued to the middle.....The end has not yet happened.***

It all began with a magic set that I received when I was nine. I was fascinated and made many trips to the local library on my Western Auto bike. Books showed me how to make magic with cardboard, paper, rubber bands, paper clips, scraps of wood, and just about anything in the garage. Soon, I discovered that there was a magic shop and magic club across town. I joined the club, entered weekly contests, won that year's annual sorcerer's-apprentice trophy, and spread the word about "Amazing Dave."

My little printing press was used to make up flyers that were distributed around the neighborhood. They announced magic shows featuring me and my magician friends. For fifteen cents, neighbor kids and an occasional parent or two were admitted to our backyard, provided a seat, a box of popcorn, and a waxy paper cup of Koolaid. We, the magicians, appeared in a puff of smoke created by three or four smoke bombs. In the mist, we stood choking and coughing, eyes watering, lungs burning, and arms extended, milking the applause. Great Stuff, or at least it was to us!

I began to learn the real craft at Papino's Pizza Palace, with its sticky floors and screaming kids. Seeing flying pepperoni was an unforgettable experience. It was magic under battlefield conditions, but the real tests came with Cub Scout Blue-and-Gold banquets and Boy Scout Pinewood Derbies. That is where one learns who is really running the show!

Another memorable experience was performing in a high-school talent contest for peers.

Surprisingly, there were no hecklers, and I performed on a real stage, with real lights and a real sound system. Before the show, the student stage manager had told me to break a leg, to which I responded with righteous indignation, "Go to hell." I still had a lot to learn about theater and magic.



My mentor and friend was Danny O'Day, a very special person who was much like our own Ramon Galindo. Danny, like Ramon, was a bird man. Danny was a Vaudeville magician who performed hundreds of school shows across the south. His mentoring demanded that I pay close attention to original presentation and showmanship. At one of our sessions, Danny's wife, Eve, an angel who kept me fed during my collage days, gave me a fantastic Zipper Egg Bag that she had made. I still use that bag at every show and have for the last thirty-eight years.

In about 1972, I entered the world of Magic Theater, with a fully-disfunctional performing troupe of crazies, eccentrics, professionals, geniuses, lunatics, Indians, gypsies, and other misfits. Like Karawak or Kessey, we were on the road, looking for something further. Our cast of characters was right out of Magical Mystery Tour. I was Amazing David, with a long, flowing, purple velvet robe, adorned with gold embroidery that was covered with mirrors.

*(Continued on p.7)*

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

**BOB CARROLL** just returned from his trip to Alaska and according to Bob he brought back 200 pounds of fish. When pressed for further information, Bob admits that only 100 pounds was his.

**MIKE COLLINS** is having a great time in his visit to China and even sent out a clip from a China television show which featured a group of Chinese magicians.

**RICHARD GARRIOTT** is in the news again. He is involved in a law suit claiming that he was fired at NCsoft and lost about 47 million dollars for having to prematurely sell his stock options. The trial got underway on Monday July 26 before a jury in Sam Sparks' U. S. District Court.

Incidentally, Sam and I graduated from high school together.

**RAY BROWN** will be taking a trip to California soon and hopes to take a look at the movie industry while he is there. He also hopes to make his first visit to the Magic Castle.

Talked to **JOHN MAVERICK** the other day who says that he will do his best at President of our assembly if elected.

It was nice to see **GREG JOHNSTON** back at a meeting the other night. We have been missing Greg at our meetings.

**HULL YOUNGBLOOD** will be featured on each and every S.A.M. membership card this year. When you receive your new

card, turn it over and look for the four of spades. Mike Miller, past national president of the S.A.M. tells me that the four of spades was put on the card in honor of Hull's missed prediction at the national council meeting that was held in Austin a couple of year's back. This will now give Hull an out when he misses again.

**RON CARTLIDGE** has been spending a lot of time at the Harry Ransom Center lately.

He has been selecting items from the Harry Houdini collection at the center to show a group of about 15 attendees who will be taken to the center to view some of the Houdini items on Friday afternoon of T.A.O.M.

Congratulations to **DAN PAGE** for all the hard work on the Austin Street Magic Festival. This should be an excellent opportunity to showcase magic in Austin, Texas. **DOC SEATON** has given a lot of support to this venue in the hopes of bringing more magic to the public in Austin.



*Dan Page  
at the July  
Assembly  
Meeting*

*(Danna Luther photos)*

## Among Our Members: (Continued) by: Ron Cartlidge

I was impressed by a show I saw at the Founders Lion's Club luncheon today. **J. D. STEWART** was the featured speaker and opened with a comical prediction routine and then performed an invisible card prediction that was terrific. He performed a Houdini Escape & a Chinese Linking Ring routine that were comical in nature. Joining J. D. at the luncheon was **MARK WILSON** who was filming J. D.'s performance. A friend who was a member of the club invited me to see a local magician perform. Little did I know that it would be J. D. I took along a S.A.M. membership application in the event that I did not know this performer. Of course J. D. and Mark have both been long time members of our assembly.

Just read in today's newspaper (Friday July 30) and found out that the jury was out for 3 hours yesterday in the law suit filed by **RICHARD GARRIOTT**. He was asking for 47 million dollars from his former employer who had fired him while he was in Russia. This caused him to have to sell his stock options when the market was low. The jury awarded Richard 28 million dollars to which Richard responded, "I am extremely pleased with the jury's decision." Lawyer Laura Merritt who was representing NCsoft said the the company was considering all options for next steps in the legal process. Richard has won a huge battle, but the war may not be over yet.

## Demo Night at Texas Magic Supply by: Cy Albertson

Just a reminder for Texas Magic Supply's Demo Night.....

When: August 12, 7:00pm

Where: Riverplace Country Club - You can dress casual and there is a bar and grill...you are welcome to purchase food and drink in the grill before or afterwards.

What: See the magic of Alakazam Magic from the UK. They are the largest magic producer in England. Come see Cy Albertson perform these tricks and see what they all do.

Cost: Nothing



RSVP: Not needed but would be nice so we know how many chairs to set up. ([cy@albertsonmusic.com](mailto:cy@albertsonmusic.com))

Cyrus Albertson  
Albertson School of Music, Founder  
512-349-0090 x117

## Member Spotlight: David Frenkel (Continued from p.4)

My fellow players wore an assortment of costumes and regalia. We were chameleons, in the shadow of the night.

My companions and fellow crew members were: Michael Anthony, fellow magician and ringmaster; Blue Jay, the Fire Eater; Pretty Polly, the Queen of the belly dancers, and her 8 to 30 sister dancers; the Whistling Dwarf; Toad; and The Laughing Bear. We published several magazines, for which I took photos of all the performers. Ask me and I may show you.....well, maybe not! They helped me realize some of my dreams, in which magic and music prevailed.

Demonstrating magic at Fools Paradise, during my college days in Albuquerque, was the answer to a long-term dream, as was my employment as a record-store manager. At the magic shop, I drooled over the Okito production items. I played with all the Johnson Coins, Viking products, and gems by Rings and Things. We also had UF Grant and Supreme items which helped to round out my knowledge of magic. There, I discovered what it took for an item to be a "collectible." Ah, the memories!



With school done, it was time to load up the old VW bug with my stereo, shirts, Cups and Balls, Egg Bag, and records, and drive to Austin. (Remember those days?) Here, I spent the next twenty-seven years, six-to-seven days a week, and twelve hours a day, as a manager with Tandy

Corporation and Radio Shack, where I became a techno geek and cyborg, but I never stopped doing and loving magic.

Now, I can focus, create, twist, listen, and better enjoy life in a magic community that has made me a family member. With your help, perhaps I can add a new twist or two in the helix of our magical universe.

Peace..... Amazing Dave, Shape Shifter

## Austin Street Magic Festival



*Flourish and Fool (right) and Brother Paul (left) will perform at the upcoming Austin Street Magic Festival*



**Feature Article:****by Kent Cummi**

Austin's Inaugural Street Magic Festival is only a few weeks away!

This is going to be one of the most exciting, magical events to ever happen in Austin!

The TAOM Convention? Oh yeah, that, too....but I'm talking about the Inaugural Austin Street Magic Festival, immediately preceding the convention.

Sponsored by SAM Assembly 206 ([www.sam206.com/](http://www.sam206.com/)), the festival starts at 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 2, with family-friendly activities and entertainment throughout Austin's famous 6th Street Entertainment District. Red River Street will be shut down between 5th and 6th Streets (next to Esther's Follies), and 6th Street will be closed to vehicular traffic once the area gets crowded enough to justify the closure.

The Street Magic Festival is the brainchild of Assembly 206 Past President Stan "Doc" Seaton, who wanted a way to get people to come earlier for the TAOM convention. Apparently it worked, as nearly 100 magicians have already committed to come Thursday instead of Friday...and more are expected as the time gets closer. Doc's goals for the festival are twofold: (1) to activate the membership of the Austin magic clubs by providing a fun filled event in which anyone and everyone can enjoy participating, and (2) to showcase Austin's world of magic to the Austin community. (The wizards already know, but what about the more than a million Muggles?)



*Arsene Dupin will perform at the Austin Street Magic Festival*

SAM 206 member Dan Page is the Committee Chair for the festival, and a group of more than a dozen talented people have been meeting regularly for several months to make sure that the inaugural festival is a stunning success.

Thanks to member Arsene Dupin, the quintessential international street performer, some of the best street performers in the world are headed to Austin just for this festival. The Kent Cummins Magic Camp, under the leadership of Executive Director Aaron Parker-Fasel, will be out in force with entertainment and activities for all ages ([www.MagicCamp.com](http://www.MagicCamp.com)). Three Ring Service is providing a dunking booth and their famous Screamin' Demon ride ([www.ThreeRingService.com](http://www.ThreeRingService.com)). GattiTown is bringing the CRU (Craving Relief Unit) Wagon, with fresh pizza baked on location. Laura Scarborough, the

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

"Hoop Lady," ([www.hoopcircle.com](http://www.hoopcircle.com)) will lead a Hula Hoop contest on the main stage, with prizes for the winners.

Magicians, musicians, jugglers, clowns, puppeteers, ventriloquists, balloon twisters, and other variety entertainers will be seen throughout the entertainment district, from Esther's Follies to the Driscoll Hotel. There will be food booths, craft booths, and magic booths. A fortune teller will sign copies of her new book. Community organizations will be represented.

Admission to the festival is FREE, but you will want to bring some money to tip the performers. Trust me, you WILL want to tip the performers!

But here's the best part. YOU can perform at the festival! Contact John Maverick ([www.john-maverick.com](http://www.john-maverick.com)) you would like to perform, MC, or work tech at one of the many clubs and restaurants that are participating in the festival. Or you can just show up at the ASMF booth on Red River at 6th Street and pick up your souvenir credentials that allow you to perform on the street without the usual permit.

Do you not want to perform? No problem! SAM Assembly 206 can use dozens of volunteers to run the festival booth, hold signs on 6th Street, help with logistics, and many other things. You will have fun, and you will be a part of this amazing event! Call Dan at (512) 537-9439.



*Magical  
Mystical  
Michael  
will perform  
at the  
up coming  
Austin  
Street  
Magic  
Festival*

Austin's world-famous Esther's Follies ([www.EsthersFollies.com](http://www.EsthersFollies.com)) will have their regular Thursday evening show featuring the magic, illusions, and comedy of our own Ray Anderson at 8:00 pm. Then immediately following the show, at 9:30 pm, Ray will host and MC a magicians-only open mic night, right on the Esther's stage.

By the time you leave Esther's, the sun will be down and the night will be buzzing with edgier entertainment and fun. John Maverick, Austin's Second-Best Magician, has lined up nearly a dozen clubs, restaurants, and other venues in the festival area, all of which will have magicians on stage, strolling, or at least having a bite to drink and perhaps a beer or two! The magic continues until 2:00 am, when the Austin Street Magic Festival disappears...perhaps to reappear next year!

More information is at ([www.AustinStreetMagic.com](http://www.AustinStreetMagic.com)), or call Dan Page. Friend the festival on FaceBook. Tweet about it! Austin is the Live Music AND MAGIC Capitol of the World!