

Press-to!

Assembly 206 News

Calendar Reminders!
 Saturday **September 19th** - Ball & Vase Clinic
 Monday **September 21st** - SAM 206 Monthly Meeting

NEXT MEETING:
September 21st @ 7:00 pm at the Omni Southpark
Friends & Family Night
Hear about TAOM 2009-Houston and TAOM 2010-Austin!

**From The President:
 Hull Youngblood**

Thanks to Houston and the “Blue Shirts”

We all know that TAOM 2009 was hosted in Houston over Labor Day. You may read reviews of Michael Ammar (who kills every time!), sound systems that made a star out of Oscar Munoz, and the “Grab and Go” burgers in the lobby at 1 am. But those reviews probably WON’T tell you about the hardest working group at the convention – the unsung heroes in blue shirts and sunglasses - the members of Assembly 206 who did an incredible job on lots of levels. I can’t list everyone’s name, but here are just a few.

JD Stewart headed up the group of SAM 206 members who were the “Ushers in Blue”. We all wore Royal Blue dress shirts with a TAOM 2010 seal on the front. Also on the shirt was an “Ask About Austin 2010” button that Robert Castillo arranged. Twenty ushers and credential checkers got the audience of 600 to 700 seated on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, and the uniform alone started the buzz about Austin.

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The registration bags were stuffed with a flyer on the Austin Auction, a flyer on the TAOM Magic Camp (to be produced by the Kent Cummins Magic Camp), the tri-fold brochure on the 2010 convention AND a flyer about the special things each registrant would get IF they registered at the 2009 convention.

Of course the Blues Brothers made an appearance at the end of the Saturday Night show, and after their routine, everyone in a blue usher shirt

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From the President (cont.)

put on their Blues Brothers Aviator sunglasses. It was a great night for the 2010 convention. The Buzz about Austin got even hotter when Dan Page, Kent Cummins, and Opie Houston were wearing the cool blue – highly sought after – Austin Blue Shirts, with Blues Brothers sunglasses at midnight. As a group we were “redlining the cool-o-meter”.

During the whole convention Brooks Griffith, Doc Seaton and others did card tricks using gaffed cards with ordinary bicycle backs, but specially printed faces that listed the reasons to go to the TAOM 2010 in Austin. (The cards were masterfully designed by Diane Klinetob and provided by Texas Magic Supply.) Austin magicians gave away nearly 250 of those promotional playing cards.

Mike Collins, Carl Seagren, Beverly Seagren, JD Stewart and a cast of thousands decorated the registration area with balloons and banners early Sunday morning as registration opened for the 2010 TAOM. Will Mannis, Gwen Youngblood, Sandy Griffith and Beverly Seagren manned the registration desk for our convention for almost 30 hours straight under the leadership/direction of Heather Poggi-Mannis.

The response to all of this was astounding. But one of the key reasons for our success was the fact that Scott Hollingsworth (2009 TAOM President) and Judy Donaldson (2009 Convention Registrar and Treasurer) traveled the state, created a statewide TAOM newsletter and generally re-energized the TAOM. Suddenly, TAOM is fun again.

When that was coupled with a well organized, entertaining convention, people were interested in what would happen next year in Austin. Scott and Judy gave us the perfect springboard to start the promotion of TAOM 2010.

The bottom line is that Assembly 206 put on a total dedicated effort to increase the number of people who registered for the 2010 convention while in Houston. And it worked. What an INCREDIBLE group of people you are. Thanks to all.

Like I have said before... there is nothing like this magic club ANYWHERE!

HULL



L to R: SAM 206 members Paul Mims, Roger Gorss, Jake Dues, Larry Johnson and Lee Lucas prepared for the spotlight in their official TAOM 2010 outfit.



2009 TAOM President Scott Hollingsworth (L) presents 2009 TAOM Honoree Ramon Galindo (R) with a 50 year TAOM membership certificate.

Ball and Vase Clinic:**by Roger Gorss**

Dear Colleagues in Hocus Pocus:

I am very pleased to inform you that Kent Cummins will be conducting the Workshop on Saturday morning, September 19, 2009.

Doug Gorman from San Antonio, famous for his award-winning synchronized Cups & Balls routine with Michael Tallon, has agreed to be a guest performer and teacher at the Ball & Vase Clinic on Saturday, September 19, at Texas Magic Supply in Cedar Park.

Doug will both perform and teach his original routine with two ball vase and NO GIMMICKS, "The Stones of Tutankhamun." For a preview, go to: <http://www.featsowonder.com/node/79>

Doug will also bring some interesting ball vases from his personal collection. The particulars are as follows:

**Ball and Vase With Kent Cummins
Saturday, September 19, 2009
10 am to 1pm
Texas Magic Supply, Cedar Park**

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 or if you don't have access to e-mail, call Roger, (254) 289-4305. It's free to RING 60 members and only a modest fee of \$5 for non-members. ALL SEATS RESERVED, please.

Come learn about one of the oldest and most important tricks in magic... The "Ball & Vase!"



Yes, that kids' trick which is in nearly every magic set is also used by many award-winning performers...including this month's moderator, "The Fantastic Kent Cummins."

Come to this workshop to learn about the history of this wonderful little trick, along with some of Kent's original routines. Learn WHY Kent calls it "The \$500 Trick;" see a fascinating collection of different versions of the trick; learn how to perform Kent's published surprise ending, "A Kiss for the Ball & Vase;" learn about the biggest Ball & Vase made by Owens Magic Supreme, and why Kent doesn't have it in his collection; come prepared to have fun!

All workshop participants will receive a beginner's Ball & Vase, Magic Crystal Box, and instructions courtesy of The Kent Cummins Magic Camp. A few professional models will be available for sale. Participants will also learn a basic sleight that is explained in "The Discoverie of Witchcraft," the oldest book on conjuring in the English language.

If YOU have an interesting version of the Ball & Vase trick, please bring it to the workshop for Show & Tell.

F.I.S.M. 2009 Report:**by Ron Cartlidge**

Three assembly members made the trip to Beijing, China for F.I.S.M. which is held every three years. The next F.I.S.M. was awarded to Blackpool, England and will be held in 2012. A brief report on the magic is as follows.



(rt to left) Ron Cartlidge, Ramon Galindo, and Bertil Fredstrom at F.I.S.M. 2009 in China

There were 50 stage acts and 50 close-up acts in the competition. I was able to see 47 of the stage acts and 49 of the close-up acts. About 40% of the acts in the competition were from South Korea, Japan, and China. If you were in Dallas a couple of years ago at the S.A.M. convention, then you got a preview of some of the winning acts. Charming Choi from Korea plucked the best original act trophy for his cups and balls routine underwater that produced goldfish. Shawn Farquhar, who lectured at an assembly meeting a couple of years back, took the Grand Prix in Close-Up and also won 1st in Card Magic.

He beat out Marc Oberon from Great Britain who won 1st in Parlour Magic and was also the winner in Dallas. The Grand Prix in Stage Magic was won by Soma from Hungary who took items off the street and built a robot as well as a robotic dog.

Yo Kato, from Japan, tied for first in stage manipulation and was a finalist in the Grand Prix Stage competition. He was also in Dallas and you may recall his outstanding manipulation acts with thimbles and wands. We all enjoyed Beijing and have many stories to tell. The heat was worse than Texas if you can believe that. Not as hot, maybe in the high 90's, but plenty muggy. Then there was the smog. I saw only three days that had any sunshine at all of the 17 days I was in Beijing.

There was one ugly incident that occurred at F.I.S.M. It happened in the close-up competition. A gentleman, I believe it was Mago Larry, who was entered in parlour magic, did a mentalism bit. In the act he used three countries' flags, including Taiwan. When the act finished, a delegate from China jumped onto the stage and proceeded back stage to pull Mago Larry back in front of the audience to scold him.

He informed Mago Larry that Taiwan was not a country to a smattering of boos from members of the crowd. It was unclear who was being booed, but most of us thought it was the Chinese delegate. It should have never happened. F.I.S.M. should have stepped in. In my opinion it was a disgrace for China at an otherwise very nice convention.

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

MARK WILSON has been working on a new film. I'm not sure if it is called "Hope" or "Playland", but it will certainly remind you of a trip to Dave and Busters. Mark worked on a film a year or two ago called Biggest Weakness and it was submitted in a competition with Doorpost Films. The film was quite good and made the finals. Because of that, the crew was given a budget of \$30,000 and allowed to compete again. The group has come up with another comedy short film and it has been submitted to Doorpost Film. The competitive vote ends in mid September. If you catch the film, you just might see Mark as a "Funktastic" drummer.

The Boz, **EDDIE BOSWELL** has a new slick business card advertising his role as a professional magician. Eddie is also taking his first college course.

C. J. JOHNSON will probably take time out from his college tour to make it to T.A.O.M. in Houston. C. J. almost never misses one of these events.

ARSENE DUPIN was recently on the Today show in New York City. Not sure if he was outside holding up a sign or balancing a guitar, or maybe a guest on the show. Guess we will find out when he returns to Austin in the next few weeks.

CY ALBERTSON and **DIANE KLINETOB** are opening a new magic shop in southwest Austin. The old one hasn't closed, but this new store will better serve the

customers of Austin. The northwest store will remain open off highway 183. Yes, it'll be called Texas Magic Supply.

BERTIL FREDSTROM is still touring his home country of Sweden. He won't return to Austin until after T.A.O.M. Look for Bertil to head back sometime in September. Bertil, **RON CARTLIDGE**, and **RAMON GALINDO** had their photographs taken with the entire security force at the China National Convention Center. It only took one of the security officers to say yes and then they all wanted to be in the photograph.



DEBBIE COSTA has purchased a new place near Cripple Creek, Colorado.

Guess she has decided that Central Texas is way too hot in summer. That's not a bad idea!!! Colorado is a great place to visit in June, July, and August.

Although not a member of the assembly, **DAVID ROWYN** has come up with a super design for the new pamphlet advertising T.A.O.M. 2010 which the assembly will sponsor next year. Thanks David!!!

BOB CARROLL has been out of town

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Among Our Members: (continued)

for training. He attended a clinic on sexual violence. Rrrrrranger Bob is still taking classes on law enforcement. You criminals better watch out.

I understand that the Blues Brothers will be making another performance in Houston at T.A.O.M. If you didn't get to see this attraction at the competition, then you have another opportunity to catch the act of **HULL YOUNGBLOOD** and **CHRIS WALDEN**.

KENT CUMMINS has closed out another successful summer of Magic Camp. At last report, Kent would not be teaching his popular magic classes at the University of Texas in the fall, but will probably be back teaching a class in the spring.

BOB WHITE has been under the weather again and is recovering from a recent stroke. He sounded good on the telephone the other night and is looking forward to returning to our assembly meetings.

RIK GERN has been busy making money this summer with Ringling Brothers Circus. Rik is a professional clown and this is his busiest time of the year. By the way, the circus was in town recently and played the Erwin Center here in Austin. According to my daughter, it was really good.

In case you didn't know, **JIM DUNN**

serves on the board of directors of the Texas Association of Magicians. Jim represents the Invisible Lodge. For all you members of the lodge, there will be another conclave in Branson, MO., April 29 through May 1, 2010. Also, our own **MARY CAY GOLD** is the current Secretary/Treasurer of the organization and Hull Youngblood is the Vice-President. Board members from our assembly are Ron Cartlidge representing Assembly 206 and **DAVID LUTHER** representing IBM Ring 60. That gives the board quite an Austin flavor, when you throw in Trixie Bond who has moved to Burnet and is the Houston ring's rep, **MICHAEL TALLON**, a member of Assembly 206 who is the San Antonio assembly's rep, and **JUDY DONALDSON**, another member of our assembly, who is the Houston Assembly's rep. I didn't mention past T.A.O.M. presidents Ramon Galindo, Kent Cummins, **SCOTT WELLS**, and **PETER THE ADEQUATE** who are all members of assembly 206 and also serve on the T.A.O.M. board. Did I leave any one out?

JIM CALDWELL is out of the hospital and is doing well. We look forward to Jim's return to our assembly meetings.

Also, I talked to **PAUL GALINDO** the other night. If you are wondering where Paul has been hiding out, the answer is work. He too can't wait to get back to assembly meetings.

Member Spotlight:**by Ron Carlidge****Tim Dietz**

I first got started with magic through my dad who bought me my first magic kit when I was 12. He bought the kit from a little shop two doors down from where we lived. The trick I wanted to start with was the cups and balls but there were no instructions. I asked my dad where he got the kit, then went there to see if they could help me learn the trick. When I got to the shop I found out that it was owned by the Great Scott. He not only taught me the cups and balls but all of the tricks in the kit. From that point on I began to collect other tricks and started giving free shows to the neighbors, telling them that I was practicing to be a magician. That is how it all started.



*Tim Deitz
in action.*

As a teenager we moved back and forth from the U.S. to Rhodes Greece several times. In between scuba diving for Octopus and Sea Urchin, I kept practicing my magic as often as possible. I talked to the Head Master of my Junior High in Greece and convinced him into letting me perform a show during an assembly. Everyone liked it so much that I was asked to perform again. I even did a show at the Rhodes Palace Hotel at age 17. That was my first paid gig.

After moving back to Austin for the last time in 1995 I decided to go into cooking. After cooking for several years I realized that the magic was still my passion. In 2006, I quit cooking and took on magic full-time. My whole life I had admired magicians like the Great Cardini and Lance Burton and the classic magic style and decided that was the style of magic for me. I started collecting material on dove magic and sleight of hand. One of my mentors was Ramon Galindo, who helped me develop my dove skills and motivated me to enhance my dove productions. I now use all of the influences of classic magic as a base to my shows and try to give them my own twist.

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Among Our Members: (continued from p. 6)

LEE ROBERTSON will be returning to his mission work shortly so we wish Lee well.

He'll be with us for a month or two before he is off, and will probably return to us in the spring.

Member Spotlight: (continued from p.7)

By chance in searching for magic supplies I came across Texas Magic Supply. When I was there I saw a flyer for the Society of American Magicians and called the number. I talked to a very enthusiastic man who really wanted me to come and see what it was all about, and that man was Stan Seaton. Since joining S.A.M. #206 I have had so much encouragement and support from so many members like Doc Seaton, Hull Youngblood, Steve Farmer, Chris Walden, Ron Cartlidge and too many more to name. I could never have gotten to where I am without it.



*Tim Deitz
with dove.*

As of today I perform all around Austin and Texas and work the Gentlemen's Club circuit here in town, plus all of the private, corporate and special event shows that come my way.

New Texas Magic Supply Store:

by Cy Albertson

We are excited to announce that this Saturday, September 12, 2009, we will be opening our second bricks and mortar store in south Austin (shops of the Galleria in Bee Caves). Everyone is invited to stop by to see what we have to offer and drink some free champagne.

This store is smaller but crammed full of magic. Call us if you need directions at 512-260-0012 or visit us on line at www.texasmagicsupply.com for a map to the store. Check out these new items that will be on display at the south store beginning this weekend or simply order yours online!

Thanks again for all your support and hope to see you Saturday! -Cy



Cobra Sharpie 2.0 \$180

After months of testing and research Mozique has finally released the Cobra Sharpie 2.0 to the magic and mentalism fraternity.

Hidden inside the Cobra Sharpie 2.0 is an extremely powerful utility tool with the following features:

Electronically detect neo-dymium magnets at a range of 1 - 6 inches. User changeable batteries. Discreet vibration unit. Easy to use.

Full DVD instructions with routines, maintenance guide and handling tips. The Cobra Sharpie 2.0 is being used by some of the worlds best magicians and mentalists.

New Texas Magic Supply Store: (Continued from p.8)

The Manchurian Project - Hypnosis for Magicians \$80

Whether it is to satisfy a fascination with hypnosis, the desire to mix hypnosis with your magic or you want to be able to perform impromptu hypnotism this DVD Box Set is for you.

Aimed at amateur and professional magicians and mentalists, this unique DVD is aimed solely at performance hypnosis. As well as interview-style explanations and training we include footage of taking these skills to the street and public bars. You will gain the confidence, attitude, patter and techniques required to excel.

Ascension \$50

A major breakthrough of a classic effect that will go straight into your repertoire!



Butterfly Blizzard by Jeff McBride \$49

Paper Butterflies Come to Life, dance and float at your command, finally bursting into a rainbow snowstorm of color and majesty! You receive all props necessary to perform this lyrical effect, just as Jeff has performed it in his stage act for the past 15 years.

Exotic Asian Fan, 1 Dozen Special Invisible Thread, Very Special Invisible Thread, Professional Quality Training DVD.

Jeff McBride shares the secrets he has used for over 15 years in his own performances of the Enchanted Butterfly piece, as well as many ideas and touches you can use to create your own amazing performance with the Enchanted Butterflies. Magic's foremost teacher, McBride always shares more than just the simple technique for accomplishing an effect. He includes tips on presentation, rehearsal, care of the props and much more. It's almost like having a personal session with Jeff McBride.

Order on line or call the shop at 512-260-0012 or visit us and get them in person!

Cy Albertson

Feature Article**by: Kent Cummins****HOUDINI WHO?**

When I was still an undergraduate at LSU (no, our mascot was NOT the dinosaur!), I had the opportunity of taking a self-study course on the Psychology of Deception. As part of my course work, I conducted a study of people's attitudes about magic and magicians. One of the questions was simply, "Name a magician." A few put my name, since they knew me, and a few put Mark Wilson (this was in the early sixties), but most put, "Houdini." The reaction was statistically significant. And yet, Harry Houdini had been dead for nearly forty years.

Forty-five years later (July 27, 2009), I was doing a show in Seguin, and I said (rhetorically), "Who do you think is the most famous magician in the world?" A teen girl in the audience immediately called out, "Houdini!" The man stopped breathing on October 31, 1926, yet he breathes life into our performances even today. One reason that people want to watch magic shows today is because of the excitement created by Houdini, more than eighty years ago. WOW!

Just for fun, I just put "HOUDINI" into the Google search engine, and looked through the first ten out of "about 3,250,000" entries. Absolutely fascinating. Never mind all of the books, magazines, and clippings I have so painstakingly collected over the years. The Internet puts it all at our fingertips, far more than we

could assimilate in a lifetime. Now THAT is magic!

Last month, I mentioned the 71 shows that I did on the bally platform for the Mighty Thomas Shows Carnival. The exhibit was called, "The Secrets of Houdini...EXPOSED!" Why not the Headless Lady, or Spidora? Because the carnival owners knew that HOUDINI was a name to conjure with, both in the Unites States and Canada. The very name would draw attention to the exhibit.



"But wait," you may protest. "Aren't you a Life Member of the S.A.M.; didn't you sign an Oath of Secrecy?" Houdini was the president of the Society of American Magicians from 1917 until his death in 1926. How dare I reveal his secrets to the general public?

Well, like most carnival attractions, the exhibit was a bit of a sham. Here's the actual script for the pre-recorded bally spiel:

"HARRY HOUDINI: the greatest magician the world has ever known! Now, for the first time on public display, the secrets of Houdini are EXPOSED! An authoritative and fascinating display, with more than 150 items from the private collection of a professional magician, disclosing the actual methods used by Harry

Feature Article (Continued from p.10)

Houdini to escape from handcuffs, strait jackets, and other diabolical restraints. Learn how Houdini vanished a LIVE ELEPHANT! Learn how the creator of Sherlock Holmes was convinced that Houdini had SUPERNATURAL powers! Learn why even Houdini was afraid to try the deadly bullet-catching trick! Learn the truth: How did Houdini really die? Examine the evidence: Did Houdini return from the dead? Learn Houdini's real name, and the famous French conjuror from whom he took his stage name. Discover Houdini's famous brother. See Houdini's private love letters! Learn the STARTLING SECRET behind Bess Houdini's kiss! You'll be amazed at the lock Houdini COULDN'T open!"

The spiel, written May 10, 1986, played continuously, in a loop, during the time the carnival was open to the public. And you can probably discern that many of the so-called "secrets" were really just biographical factoids. There was a milk can in the exhibit, made by a metal worker in downtown Austin (no secret parts). Posters were enlarged by Miller Blue Print. Handcuffs came from Army surplus stores.

Other "secrets" were really just amusing anecdotes. For example, the secret of the Vanishing Elephant was adapted from Steinmyer's wonderful book, Jarrett:

"4 assistants wheeled a huge cabinet onto the stage. Houdini led the elephant into the cabinet and closed the doors. When the doors were opened, the audience could see right through the cabinet...the elephant was gone! 16 assistants then wheeled the cabinet off the stage!"

Harry Houdini retains many connections to Austin, Texas. For example, the trophy from his famed flight over Australia is here, along with many of his letters, theatre posters, and the like...all at the Ransom Center of the University of Texas. UT also houses part of the McMannis Young library, also connected to Houdini. The Paramount Theatre has a "Houdini Martini," and loves showing off the hole in the ceiling where Houdini supposedly hung one of his famous escapes. I understand that he once did a strait jacket escape hanging from the Littlefield Building. Houdini and Bess stayed at the Driskill Hotel when they were in Austin.

Austin is also home to Ron Cartlidge, a collector and biographer of Houdini, as well as Jim Bard, whose childhood friendship with one of Houdini's old vaudeville pals led to the discovery of some incredible authentic collectables. Oh yeah, and there's the guy who traveled with the Mighty Thomas Shows Carnival, telling everyone Houdini's secrets.



Kent Cummins