

Press-to!

Assembly 206 News

Calendar Reminders!
 Monday, Nov. 16 - SAM 206 Monthly Meeting
 Thursday, Nov. 19 - Gertner Lecture
 Saturday, Nov. 21 - Johnson Clinic

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

New Member Night

President-Elect Carl Seagren as Moderator

From The President: Hull Youngblood

Connections.

"The advantage of seeing and hearing... is not in the seeing and hearing, ... but in the ideas we realize..." - Leigh Hunt (1784-1859) On the Realities of Imagination

Many years ago, I bought a set of the Harvard Classics (everyone under 30 probably has to go Google that to find out what it is). The Harvard Classics is a 51 volume anthology of classic world literature, assembled in 1909 by Charles W. Eliot, then the President of Harvard University. It was the "proper" gentlemen's collection of classic literature. Three years ago, I decided to read all 51 volumes of the Harvard Classics. Plato, Machiavelli, Darwin. Serious literature. Sometimes it is boring. Sometimes it is astonishing beyond measure.

The volume I am reading now is a group of English Essays, and it includes the essays of Leigh Hunt, quoted above. As I read his essay, written in mid 1800's ponderous English (by our standards today) his insight into imagination, and what it is, and what it is not, struck

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me as something that all magicians need to understand.

I remember reading "The Andromeda Strain" in my freshman year at college. It was written by a then relatively unknown author named Michael Crichton (Jurassic Park, ER, etc.) I read that book in one sitting, straight through the night. I was anxious, riveted and scared as I read of the threat to all life on earth arising from a virus from space. It was a scary, heart-pounding read. Likewise,

From the President (cont.)

if you are driving in heavy traffic, and the car in front of you stops suddenly, you slam on your brakes, your heart rate goes up, you fear a collision, etc.. For a few seconds you are in real danger, you feel anxious, your heart is pumping and adrenaline is surging through you.

Mr. Hunt's essay quoted above points out that the things you feel (like during the traffic problem), the things that happen to you physically, can just as easily occur from poetry, essays, novels, plays, and from my perspective, even the performance of magic.

Just hearing and seeing magic is really like watching someone solve a puzzle. Magic can be so much more than that. We owe our audience more than that. The imaginative performance of magic can create real feeling, even more profound than "Astonishing", if we make the effort to connect with the imagination of the audience.

**Get connected.
Hull**



MARK IT DOWN!

SAM 206 Christmas Party!

6:00 pm - Monday, December 14, 2009
First Baptist Church (901 Trinity)

This is some starter info and more details will come shortly in an email.

We will be asking folks to bring a side dish or dessert. We will designate what you need to bring in a follow-up email (same as past years.)

A group of volunteers to help with set up and clean will be needed so if you can come early or stay late please let me know.

If you are interested in the dessert contest we will be having a contest this year so start looking up those recipes.

Entertainment: TBA

Contact:
Tammy Dietz (cantutg@sbcglobal.net)

Assembly 206 October Meeting Report: by Sue Caldwell**Collecting and Classic Magic**

Our October 19 meeting began with a Broken Wand ceremony for Rod Foyt, who had been a magician in the Austin area for 30 years. First Vice President Carl Seagren then conducted the business meeting, which included the election of officers for 2010: President Carl Seagren, 1st VP Doc Stan Seaton, 2nd VP Ron Cartlidge, Secretary Sue Caldwell, Treasurer Heather Poggi-Mannis, and Sergeant-at-Arms Will Mannis were all elected by acclamation.

Ron Cartlidge presented the evening's program, "Collecting and Classic Magic." Ron had filled tables with many examples of collectible magic, which the audience was invited to explore. Ron enumerated categories of collectible items, with slides to illustrate each: books, ephemera, illusions, magic sets, tokens, posters, and automatons. The lecture was interspersed with demonstrations of classic magic: Kent Cummins discussed and performed the Ball and Vase; Dick Todd used Dean's Box to produce linking pretzels; David Frenkel performed the Chinese rice, orange, and checkers triple transposition; Jim Dunn presented a Blackstone handbill to Ron; Jim Baldauf demonstrated levitation with a balloon; Ramon Galindo used a Thayer Orange Box to find a ring inside an orange threaded on a shoelace; and Doug Gorman brought the meeting to a rousing close by performing the Sympathetic Ten (based on Nate Leipzig's classic effect, Sympathetic 13).



Doug Gorman in sympathetic action



Ramon Galindo conducting orange surgery

Upcoming Central Texas Magic Events:

Monday, November 16, 2009, 7:00 PM

Assembly 206 Meeting

What: New Member Night

Where: Omni Southpark Hotel

Thursday, November 19, 2009 7:30 PM

Paul Gertner Lecture

Where: Northcross Suites Hotel,, 7685 Northcross Dr, Austin, TX 78757

Cost: \$15 magic club members, \$20 non-members

MAP: www.IBMring60.org <BLOCKED::http://www.IBMring60.org>

Contact: JD Stewart, Chris Walden

Great news! Paul Gertner will be here in Austin for a lecture. This is brought to you by Ring 60. At this lecture you will have the opportunity to one of the greatest magician in the country teach you some of his best stuff. I am excited about it.

You will not want to miss it! Not only that but it is in a great location where you will not be cramped, have to work around tables or waiters trying to collect money. It is a great venue. See you there!

Saturday, November 21, 7 pm

Doug Gorman Dinner Show at Spaghetti Warehouse in SA

Where: Spaghetti Warehouse in San Antonio

Contact: [Doug Gorman - douggorman@att.net](mailto:douggorman@att.net) <mailto:douggorman@att.net>

Cost: \$22.50 for dinner, tax, tip and show.

Upcomming Central Texas Magic Events: (Continued)

Saturday, November 21, 10 am to 1 pm

Linking Ring Clinic

Last clinic of 2009.

Who: Larry Johnson

Where: Texas Magic Supply, Cedar Park, Texas

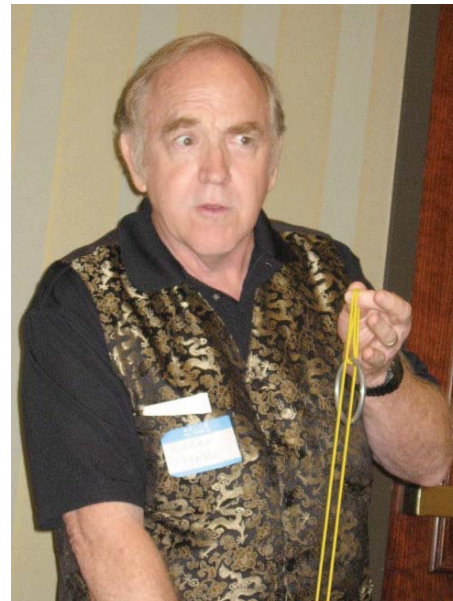
Dear Colleagues in Hocus Pocus:

I am very pleased to inform you that Mr. Larry Johnson (The Magical Grandpa) will be conducting the Clinic on Saturday morning, November 21, 2009. The Linking Rings are one of the most beautiful pieces of classical magic I know. Since I met Larry Johnson almost six years ago, one trick has been linked (pun intended) to him, the Linking Rings.

Larry's study of the linking rings and specifically Dai Vernon's "Symphony of the Rings" makes him the perfect host for or final workshop of the year.

So come out to see, "Lord Larry of the Rings". Seven rings and one Larry to rule them! Those of you who attended Larry's previous clinic know that Larry is always prepared with a meticulously thought out presentation. If you've always wanted to take up the rings or want to dust off an old routine, this clinic is for you.

You want to be first in line to reserve a seat for his latest offering on the Linking Rings. Seats will go fast, as space is limited. The particulars are as follows:



*Larry
Johnson
Magical
Grandpa*

By the nature of the intent of the Clinics with hands on instruction and the size of our room, there are given limits the number of attendees. Don't be disappointed. SIGN UP NOW by return e-mail 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.

Your friend in magic

Roger Gorss

New Directories are Available!

The Fall 2009 Directory was distributed to all dues paying members at the last meeting of the assembly. As always happens when you print a new directory, there was a rush of changes made even though we had been asking for members to come forward with changes for the past 8 weeks.

The directory has been printed so you will receive a new correction sheet that can be placed inside the new directory

so you can make changes as you want to.

This will include two members who have dropped since the directory was printed and a couple of additions from new members. During the year if you have any new changes in work, telephone numbers, or addresses, please send corrections to your 2nd Vice President, Ron Cartlidge, who is keeping a data base on his computer and makes changes every month. Send corrections to: texashoudini@msn.com

Member Spotlight:**by: Ron Cartlidge****Ron Cartlidge**

Well, we have presented ten new members of the month this year and this month we will highlight an officer, your Second Vice-President. I've visited with several new members recently who told me when we talked that "I didn't know that about you".

Don't think that I am tooting my own horn here. It is just that Bob Galloway is asking for articles and I'm having surgery in the morning and maybe you'll find this interesting. So, here is a brief history on Ron Cartlidge.

My dad influenced my interest in magic.

He would bring tricks home from Douglas Magicland in Dallas and perform them for me when he returned. That perked my first interest. My cousin Bo who performed magic as a teenager and accumulated a nice collection from Douglas Magicland passed away at 19 and I received his magic collection. I performed for my junior high and high school classes and taught a University of Texas education class how to read a mark deck. After that I put my magic away and concentrated on teaching and coaching which was my profession.

Later at coaching school (T.C.U.), I visited the local magic shop in Ft. Worth and started my magic career again. I joined the local Ring and participated in my first Austin Magic Auction in 1993.

Before I got back into magic, I was President of the Austin Jaycees, Texas J.C.I. Senate, and Mustang Owners

*Ron
Cartlidge*



Club of Austin. I was Vice President of the Parks and Recreation Board and served on that board for eight years as well as the Citizens Environmental Board for three years. I was appointed to both boards by the City Council. I developed an interest in acting, much like our own Steve Farmer, and appeared in two feature films (Faculty and Home Fries), four or five made for television movies, and as the Houdini expert in the documentary Texas Legend: the Paramount Theater. Later, I was the Houdini family photographer when David Copperfield and Marie Hinson Blood unveiled the Houdini postage stamp in New York City in 2003.

I have visited major magic collections in the homes, warehouses, or studios of David Copperfield, Jack White (current I.B.M. President), Ken Klosterman, Cesareo Pelarez, Gary Darwin, Arthur Moses, and many others. I also served

Member Spotlight (Continued)

as Assembly 206 President between 2004-2006 when the chapter won the Harry Houdini award two straight years and expanded from 27 members to about 77 members. It laid the foundation for the membership growth we see today.

Another hobby of mine is sports and I am a huge fan of the University of Texas and have season tickets in football, men & women's basketball, and baseball. I have attended 50 Texas Oklahoma football games and try to attend as many out of town game as possible. This year I went to the games in Wyoming and Dallas and will attend the Rose Bowl or whatever bowl we attend. I've also played against the Harlem Magicians, Dallas Cowboys, and in the state T.A.A.F. basketball and softball tournaments. I beat the Guinness Book of World Record holders in a shooting contest and placed third in the state in a free throw shooting contest (23 of 25 that day).

You'll be surprised, but I was the first magician asked to perform in the new



Ron holding 6 of his 7 books

Long Center here in Austin and performed in Mexico City in 2006. I've also performed in many of the elementary and junior highs in Austin as well as some of the churches. I've also written seven books on magic and am working on two more. I think I've probably bored you enough for this writing, so I hope you have a very magical day.

Membership at 117 and growing!

Our membership has grown to 117 despite a couple of drops this month. We entered the year (June 1) with 109 members and the calendar year (January 1) with 97 members, so membership continues to grow in the assembly. We currently do not have any membership totals from Philadelphia or New York City who were ranked #1 and #2 in membership on June 1st of this year.

Please keep your national dues paid as there is now a cheaper \$45 internet membership available to you when you renew. Regular membership is still \$65 per year. Also a reminder that your local dues are now due for 2010. Dues are cheap, just a buck a month if paid by the third week in January. Why not send Heather a check for your 2010 dues now?

Feature Article (Continued from p.9)

with wonderful costumes (naturally) and terrific illusions...and a huge cast of dancing girls. Standing Ovation just for "Bump in the Night," and another at the end of the show.

The interviewer, who was apparently as impressed with his show as I was, asked George, "Why don't you do this full time?" He answered, "Because then it would have to be cost-effective."

As a working magician who still had his day job, I understood what he was saying. But on January 1, 1986, I sold the SamWitch shops and became a full-time professional magician. It was my childhood dream: I was making my living as a magician! (Well, at least part of my living. I couldn't have done it if Margot hadn't had a "real job," complete with benefits.) It took several years before I finally was grossing enough money to get by. I can remember an article in the Austin American-Statesman about how much money people made, and they listed me as making six figures as a magician (the writer thought that was incredibly cool!). But that was GROSS sales (the figure that the writer specifically asked for), not NET. Margot's job still mattered!

And guess what? George Goebel was right: everything had to be cost-effective! I couldn't afford the luxury of buying the latest and greatest new trick and playing with it. I didn't have time to read the magic

magazines any more. I missed a lot of magic club meetings and conventions. I had to spend my time doing marketing, and budgeting, and financial planning, and networking, and almost everything EXCEPT playing with magic. MAGIC was simply not my hobby any more.

My friend Peter the Adequate recently told me of a similar experience. When he was performing every night in Branson, he was too busy to just enjoy magic.

But when he started selling "Sham Wows," he had enough income to relax and enjoy magic as a hobby again. He still performs, but it doesn't all have to be cost-effective.

Several local magicians (you know who you are!) have asked me at various times why they weren't making as much money as I was from magic. After all, they were better magicians than I was.....

The answer is simple. All they were doing was working on their magic. I was working on the magic BUSINESS. Different skill set entirely, but it's one that you either have to develop or hire (as in a manager) if you are serious about earning a living as a magician.

I still do between 50 and 100 shows a year, but performing is no longer my focus. I now try to put my best efforts

Feature Article

by: Kent Cummins

The Art of Making Money from Magic

Q: What's the difference between a Large Pizza and a Professional Magician?

A: A pizza can feed a family of four!

I don't actually like that joke, but it did make me laugh. I guess most good jokes make us a little bit uncomfortable.

David Copperfield probably wouldn't get it. He has consistently been among the highest-paid celebrities in the country. Also, he doesn't have a family of four...probably because he still does more than 500 shows a year. (Think about that. There are only 365 days in a year, and one of his shows takes more than two hours and a stage full of assistants and equipment. (plus a few assistants in the audience, but that's another story!)

So David has figured out the secret to making money from magic. Work, work, work!

Most of us don't want to work as hard as David Copperfield, but would like to be able to make some money from the thing we love most (next to that family of four, of course)...MAGIC!

When I was making my living by owning and operating a chain of sandwich shops in Austin, I had a page from Abbott's New Tops magazine under the glass on my desk. It was from an article about George Goebel (the magician, not the comedian).

I had seen George Goebel's live stage

1979 SamWitch ad, when I was making my living through selling sandwiches

show at least a couple of times, and it was one of the best illusion shows in the world.

You see, George's "real job" was owning and operating a costume shop in Baltimore, and he made a deal with one of his dance studio clients that he would provide costumes for their shows if they would provide dancers for his magic shows. He only performed about once a year, if I remember correctly. But that show was a full-evening extravaganza,

Feature Article (Continued from p.10)

into teaching...through after-school enrichment programs and The Kent Cummins Magic Camp. And I'm trying to get back to the point where magic is my hobby.

Many times, someone will ask me, "Should I become a full-time professional magician?" The answer is always, "No." If you have to ask, then you probably don't have the passion to succeed. It's tough, trying to make enough money to pay all the bills and still put some into savings. And it takes away your favorite hobby.

But if you're willing to be a businessman whose product is MAGICIAN, then good luck to you. That's what worked for Mark Wilson. And when it works, that's what works for me. And I wouldn't trade my experiences for anything. - Kent



Kent Cummins professional magician