



**MAGIC
ACROSS
TEXAS**

Vol. 6, #9 - September 2015

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Official Newsletter

of the

Texas Association of Magicians

for all magicians everywhere!

Message from the President

Dear Texas Magicians,

The 2015 TAOM Convention is history! It was my honor to lead a team of very talented and dedicated volunteers that helped shaped this convention into a fun and memorable experience for our 450 attendees. I appreciate the entire team's ideas, contributions and hard work!

And, WOW, did it take an extraordinary team to pull off all the moving parts of our convention! We had 27 different magic performers, 12 lectures, 2 workshops, 4 public stage shows, (make that 5 if you include the Sunday President's Party with 20



different 5 minute performances), a trip out of the hotel to Esther's Follies, the Willard Luncheon with 52 attendees, 36 performers in 12 different music and variety acts – all in 3 ½ days. Although the convention was sponsored by IBM Ring 60, we had the support of the entire Austin Magic Community. And, TAOM members from across the state and U.S. stepped up to help. The 2015 team was truly the very best group of people I have ever worked with ...on any function! Simply put, "We did it." According to several convention revues that have already been published, the "Magic, Music, Weirdness and Women" truly came alive in Austin.

We were also honored to have both international presidents of our magic fraternities attending our convention: IBM president, Joe Turner and SAM president, David Bowers. I was surprised and very flattered to receive a presidential citation from SAM.

Thanks to you, we also raised over \$1800.00 for Heroes Night Out, a center in the Austin area that helps our wounded veterans. The founders, Wes and Judy Pierce, were present during the convention and were most appreciative of the donation.

If you would like to look at photos or share photos you took during the convention go to: <https://2015taomconvention.shutterfly.com/#>
Also, as promised, we have added Joe Vitale's lecture notes "The Secret of Real Magic" download to our website:
<http://taom.org/2015/category/lectures/>

Again, thank you for the privilege of serving as your president this past year.

Yours in Magic,
Trixie Bond, 2015 TAOM President



It's a Wrap! WHAT A CONVENTION! **Review by Scott Wells**

The first Day of TAOM 2015 was only a few hours long, cut *what* a few hours! ...the perfect way to kick off another great convention. Thirteen dealers from around the world (from Germany to Oregon and Japan to Ft. Worth, Texas) have it all. The afternoon started with a nice dealer's show followed by an outstanding lecture by Jay Scott Berry.

Friday evening's "Masters of Magic" was hosted by Robert Baxt and featured Ken Scott, John Carney, Paprika, Bob Fitch, Mark Merchant and Peter Samelson. After the show, Peter Samelson gave a lecture followed by another lecture from Randi Rain. Then Brian Brushwood presented "Scam School Live" with guests, including David Rangel and Diamond Jim Tyler, from previous episodes.

The first full day of the TAOM was chock full of activities, some of which required you to choose what to see and what to miss. For example, the Bob Fitch lecture was opposite the close-up competition. Ken Scott started the day by talking about working library shows at the same time in another room, Mica Calfee taught how to make a "Card Fountain". Keeping with the kid-show theme started by Ken Scott, Oscar Munoz performed then taught some ideas for a "School Show".

Next up was Bob Fitch who gave us some practical advice on how to improve our acts. After lunch was a special tribute to our veterans, complete with live music and a color guard. Five magicians gave abbreviated lectures including Doug Gorman, Oscar Munoz, Scott Wells, John Cornelius and Diamond Jim Tyler. The professional close-up show followed with Suzanne the Magician, Peter Samelson, John Carney, Jay Scott Berry, and Robert Baxt.

The evening gala was an all-female show hosted by Ali Shelley and featured Margaret Steele, Amanda Eve, Rachael Bunn, Jesse Patterson (a hula hoop expert who drew the first sustained ovation that turned into a standing ovation), Tiny Bubbles, and the beautiful Jade closing the show.

Late night activities started with Robert Baxt talking about comedy followed by another lecture called "Two Extra-Ordinary Women" with lectures by Randi Rain as "Vamp-IRA" and Steve Daly, aka "Tiny Bubbles". This lecture competed with the traditional "Roger Klause Midnight Madness" show hosted by Jamie Salinas. This show always featured some of Roger's friends performing their one pet effect. Jamie continues this tradition by hand-picking his friends to do just one thing.

Morning until night (well, really...the next morning), Sunday was full of activities again including lectures, contests and shows.

The Order of Willard (for members with 25 years or more of consecutive membership in the TAOM) featured a wonderful presentation by Margaret Steele on an historic figure in magic, Adelaide Herrmann. The stage contests then began and were the best I've seen in years...here or anywhere at any magic convention (except FISM, of course), followed by John Carney's wonderful lecture. Next was an afternoon awards presentation. This was immediately followed by Joe Vitale's inspirational, motivational lecture.

Contest winners were Keith West for Senior Stage, G Sparks for Comedy, Trigg Watson for Senior Close-up, and Hannah for Junior Stage. Hannah's act was so outstanding, her score merited the distinguished "Herman Yerger Best of Convention" trophy as well.

The evening had the registrants separated into two groups, one staying in the hotel to see the "Stars of Tomorrow" hosted by Amanda Eve and featuring James Irwin, Ava Byers and Drake Stanton with Nick Lewin closing the bill. The other group went to Esther's Follies for a special presentation that featured my favorite magician, Ray Anderson. There were many who had never seen this show which has cutting edge, topical humor that is PG to R rated.

Back at the hotel, the evening concluded with the President's Purple Palooza Party where everyone was encouraged to wear purple. We were treated to snacks, live music and multiple variety acts including singers, tap dancers, pole dancers, plate spinners and more. It was a real hoot, as we say in Texas.

One of the things that was not mentioned earlier in this report but was an integral part of the convention was the music. Throughout the event, there were live musicians and performers who played & sang & juggled between events. It made for a festive convention with never a dull moment.



A TAOM First!

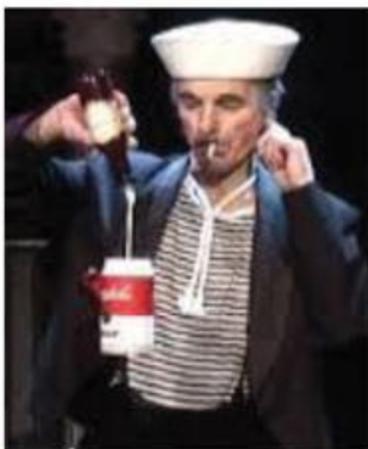
Standing: Austin S.A.M. 206 President Edard Boxwell, Austin I.B.M. Ring 60 President Steve Farmer, Dancing Girl #1, 2015 TAOM President Trixie Bond, State Contest Winner Keight West, Close-up Contest Winner Trigg Watson, International S.A.M. President David Bowers, International I.B.M. President Joe Turner, Comedy Contest Winner G Sparks, an Best of Convention and Junior Contest Winner Hannah. Kneeling: Dancing Girls 2 & 3 and Trophy and Awards Committee Chairman Bob Emery.



And the winner is.....

drum roll, please) **HANNAH**. A Junior contestant won the Herman Yerger "Best of Convention" trophy for the first time in TAOM's 65 year history. 2015 was the first year when a junior magician presented an act of such outstanding quality as to merit this honor. This 14-year-old marvel also won the trophy for top score in the junior stage competition and monetary awards from the Don Stiefel and Royal Brin funds for juniors.

Hannah lives in Fukuoka, Japan, and comes by her talent naturally, being the granddaughter of famed magician Kikuchi. She won second place in the junior competition at the 2015 I.B.M. Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Her flare, stage presence, and technical skill belie her young years. Watch out for this one!



Keith West won the Senior Stage category with an elaborate illusion presentation featuring three beautiful showgirls in Las Vegas showgirl costumes. The Senior Comedy trophy went to funny man **G Sparks**. Texas' own **Trigg Watson** was the Senior Close-up winner.



Fumio should take home an award for traveling the farthest to enter the close-up competition. He is a regular at TAOM conventions, making his way each year from his home in Toyko. Over the years, Fumio (real name, Eric Inagaki) has won numerous TAOM trophies for comedy magic. He says he enters the competition, not to win, but to have a chance to perform and have fun with his fellow conventioners.

TAOM COMING ATTRACTIONS



Austin, October 2 & 3 - Ivan Amodei "Intimate Illusions" at the Omni Hotel. This unique blend of magic, illusion, music and audience participation has amazed audience all over the world, including the last four years with regular appearances at the historic Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills.

For details, go to <http://www.ivanamodea.com>

Dallas, October 11 - Shoot Ogawa Lecture at 1:00 p.m. at Crosspointe Church Community Center, 2425 Parker Road in Carrollton. For more information about Shoot Ogawa and his incredible magic, go to

<https://www.vanishinginmagic.com/magician/Shoot-Ogawa/>



Dallas, October 14 - Masters of Illusion at 8:00 p.m. at the Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie. This record-shattering production is a must-see! Groupon has discount tickets for the back of the theatre.

Wylie, October 25-29 - The Great Texas Magic Festival,

a.k.a. The Magic of Wylie. Details at <http://www.themagicofwylie.com/>

This event is co-hosted and sponsored by the Dallas Magic Clubs and features magic at multiple venues every day. The final evening of the festival will showcase illusions at the Wylie Event Center.



Houston, November 8 - Annual Magic Auction at the IATSE Hall, 3030 North Freeway. More details next month.

Convention Business



During the Sunday afternoon awards presentations Madam President Trixie Bond accepted the Past President's medallion and passed the heavier President's medallion to Judy Hollingsworth. Judy extolled the magic and exciting venue for the 2016 TAOM Convention in Corpus Christi. She reminded everyone that seats could be reserved by anyone who registered for Corpus before the Austin convention was over. The 2016 TAOM convention will be laid-back, family-oriented, full of magic and fun on the beach. Emerald Beach Hotel in Corpus Christi gives conventioners instant access to the Gulf of Mexico plus all the amenities of a fine resort hotel. The room rate is only \$119 and that includes FREE PARKING and FREE IN-ROOM WI-FI.



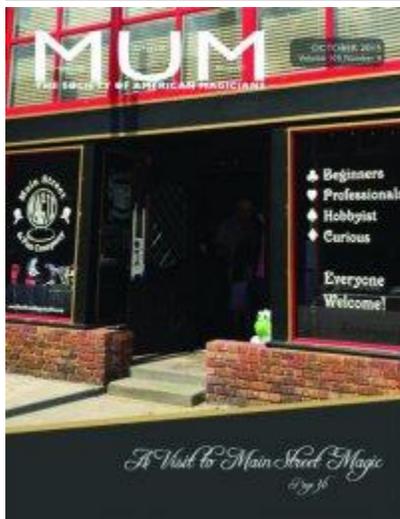
To emphasize the locale for the 2016 convention, master sand sculptor **Albert Lucio** (who also happens to be an Austin magician) created an outstanding sculpture just outside the registration area. Albert competes all over the U.S. with elaborate sand designs. He has won many awards. One of his best creations is still in the future -- he will design and construct a massive magic-themed sculpture on the beach right outside the convention hotel in Corpus Christi for the 2016 TAOM convention.



Bits and Pieces of Interesting Stuff

Esther's Follies Wins Another Award!

Besides being arguably the best magic show in Texas, the production at Esther's Follies has been named the Best Live Comedy Show. The performances on Sunday night during the 2015 TAOM convention for magicians only were the highlight of the convention for most of us. Ray Anderson's illusions were definitely audience favorites. Anytime you're in Austin, be sure to catch the current production. It changes all the time to keep up with topical political humor and satire.



Main Street Magic in McKinney

is another Texas icon with a real brick and mortar magic shop as well as public shows, magic lessons for all ages, party packages, host lectures, and provide a meeting place for Dallas' S.Y.M. Assembly. Main Street Magic is pictured on the cover of the October 2015 issue of M.U.M. with a nice story on page 36 by Norman Beck and Geoff Grimes. Owners Chris and Jennifer Gracy were totally surprised when Norman presented them with an advance copy to the delight of several members of the Dallas magic clubs.

TAOM Past President Kent Cummins is sharing his vast experience and expertise through a series of articles in LINKING RING magazine beginning with the September 2015 issue. Look for "Marketing Magic" for excellent advice on how to sell yourself and sell your magic.

Magic on the Grill at Tokyohana Every Thursday and Saturday Night

David Rangel coordinates a covey of local area magicians who perform close-up magic each week atop hibachi grills at Tokyohana Grill and Sushi Bar. Come enjoy some excellent oriental cuisine or sit at the sushi bar and enjoy some sushi and a drink with some magic on the side.

Where: Tokyohana Grill and Sushi Bar,
3239 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77027

When: Thursdays from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.



Magic at the Improv

In Addison EVERY SUNDAY at 2:00 p.m. Doors open at 1:00 for lunch and pre-show entertainment.
<http://addison.improv.com/>

In Arlington EVERY SUNDAY at 2:00 p.m. Go to <http://arlington.improv.com/> for details and performers. **Special Note: John Kline and Ian Richards will perform September 27.**

In Houston - Ted Schwank and Carter Blackburn take you on a high-energy adventure in magic, illusion, and comedy. For dates and times, go to <http://houston.improv.com/>



Shane Wilson & Chris Alonzo Performing At Sakura Japanese Steakhouse in Houston

Shane Wilson & Chris Alonzo now appear regularly at Pearland's superb hibachi restaurant, [Sakura](#). Catch live performances every Friday and Saturday beginning at 7:00 p.m. See Chris Alonzo on Fridays and Shane Wilson on Saturdays.

See Ben Jackson Live Each Week at Campioni Restaurant in North Houston

Ben Jackson performs close-up magic on Tuesday and Friday nights when it doesn't conflict with his busy professional schedule of corporate performances. Catch him when you can.



Campioni - 5419 FM 1960 West in Houston
Phone 281-893-2267 for current information and to make dinner reservations.



Second Saturday Magic Sale at

[Magic, Etc.](#), at 9:00 a.m.

Forest Park Blvd. at 1-30 in Fort Worth.

Laugh It Up! Going and Growing.

Check out the new location and expanded magic section at 4414 Dowlen Road, #102, in Beaumont. The new location offers more magic and an opportunity for magicians to share their skill and performances with patrons. The shop welcomes you to stop by and is always happy to accommodate special orders. Email info@laughitupgifts.com for information and check out the website at www.laughitupgifts.com



Cards in South Austin

The South Austin Card Group meets on the last Saturday of each month, usually at the home of Ron Cartlidge. Get in touch with Lou Hornung at lhornumg@sbcglobal.net for details and to be added to the meeting notice distribution list.



Rick Hebert - Every Other Weekend at Claudio's in League City

Rick Hebert is performing restaurant magic every other weekend at Claudio's Restaurant & Piano Bar in League City. Their website is:

<http://www.claudiospianobar.com/>

Rick will be strolling table-side magic, as well as doing a short magic show on the main stage every other weekend. Check the website to dates and times.

Monday Night Magic in Arlington



All magic aficionados are invited to attend informal gatherings at Humperdink's Restaurant at LaQuinta Inn, #6 North Six Flags Drive every Monday night. Bring your cards and props to practice your "chops" in the back room.

But wait....there's more:

Second Tuesday TOO!

This special interest group focuses on performance. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9:30 at Humperdink's Restaurant at Six Flags in Arlington.

The purpose of the Mid-Cities Magic Circle is to provide a venue for Dallas/Fort Worth performing magicians to study their art and improve as public performers. The meetings will focus on a single theme each month. There is no formal membership, no notes or minutes, no officers -- each meeting will address the development of performance skills, routines, and other elements important to the public performance of magic.

For more information... forget it! There is simply no one in charge who will respond! Just show up each second Tuesday at Humperdink's Restaurant at Six Flags in Arlington at 7:00 and join in the fun and magic!

The Last Word



Trading hats from TAOM Club Coordinator and newsletter editor to president hardly gives one time to think, but I have had moments to remember and mourn a dear friend. Don Stiefel died on August 24, 2015, after a lengthy fight with diabetes and numerous accompanying ailments. His determination to give the disease his best defenses kept him active in Corpus Christi magic circles despite the pain and chemo reactions. Don was a staunch supporter of TAOM for many years, serving as President in 2001. His membership goes back to 1977, with both the Order of Willard membership and the 35-year medallion. Several years ago, he donated a substantial sum to the TAOM treasury for the benefit of the annual convention and junior contestants. He was honored by the TAOM Board of Directors by being named Life Member.

I will treasure his memory, from the "Duck-O the Clown" days to near the end when his valiant fight was over.

The 2016 convention in Corpus Christi will have a void where his speedy electric chair would be, but we will fill it with magic, magic, and more magic.

Speaking of the 2016 convention, I apologize for the absence of a working website, but want everyone to know that "working" is the operative word -- I'm working on it! Give me a call if you want to register now - 361-972-3430 or send me an [email](#).



Judy Hollingsworth
TAOM Club Coordinator
Magic Across Texas Editor
TAOM President
(stop the madness....)