



Volume 11, No. 6 June 2020



Message from the President 2020 Perfect Vision for TAOM

Family and friends of the Texas
Association of Magicians,

It has been a CRAZY 3 months....has it not? For some of you, your online web meeting attendance has quadrupled. For others, you now know what a web-meeting is and have actually attended one!

Many of you are lecturing or performing magic to the web-cam of your computer. Most of us have viewed more Facebook and YouTube videos than we care to admit involving pets and family members doing crazy things at home. We have been watching the weather report presented from the meteorologist's dining room table and our favorite news anchor addressing us, with a clear view of their living room window blinds in the background! We have witnessed races and sporting events with empty grandstands and empty arenas. We have had foods delivered to our front door that were never really meant to be eaten outside of the premises on which they were prepared. Let me guess...many of you have suddenly seen the inside of your co-workers' or fellow magicians' homes for the first time - right? Oh...and you have heard their pets either meowing, barking, or...yes...even snoring!

Some of you who thought yourselves to be modern or with-it because you had previously replaced your VHS tapes with DVDs, have been quickly ushered into the technical fast lane of the 2020's as you find yourself walking-the-walk and talking-the-talk by asking an offending web conference attendee to "go on mute because the feedback coming through the audio feed on their web-meeting connection is disrupting your virtual conference!"

Is it just me, or have the last three months felt like one, long, absurd day that will not end? In this edition of the column, I want to address some things that you already know, tell you a couple things you may not know, and then present a call to action.

What you know:

Like me, you are watching the news programs, all of which truthfully appear to be unashamedly left or right wing, but rarely unbiased or neutral. During this deadly pandemic and series of events that has spawned serious racial and civil tension throughout the country, you have become well-versed in the clichés being spread over the airwaves. You know that we live in either "challenging, uncertain, interesting, or trying times," and that we are witnessing these "unprecedented events" while we are "sheltered at home" gaining weight by eating "no-contact delivery" food while "quarantined in the safety of our homes," participating in "virtual" events (possibly making a "virtual" pay check?) with the result that "the distance between us has grown" while the world is experiencing "social or racial unrest." You have heard all of that many times - right? By the way, there is a cleverly titled article in the June Linking Ring called "Sheltered Online" (p. 58) - you should definitely check it out if time permits.

Finally, you, like me, have witnessed the prevailing shortage of tempers and tolerance. Finger pointing is everywhere; Republicans blaming Democrats; Democrats blaming Republicans. Racial intolerance and hatred is surging. Facebook and Twitter posts, along with television news broadcasts, have been critical, and overtly indicative of the intolerance and hatred I mention - **EVEN AMONG OUR MAGIC BROTHERS AND SISTERS!**

That is what you know; what we all know.

Now, what you may not know:

Amidst all of this uproar and commotion, the TAOM Planning Committee is trying to make good on our promise to deliver a quality TAOM convention. We are working with the hotel to line up ballroom and meeting room modifications, should it be necessary to maintain social distancing. We are discussing the 6-foot-away "Wait Here" signs, acrylic counter top dividers, and maximum occupancies for elevators and ballrooms. We are considering the schedule for room sanitizing and refreshing between events to ensure the safety of the attendees.

As Texas begins to re-open, sports are ramping up, restaurants and shopping have opened up at 50%, and that number is projected to move to 75% by the end of June. Our TAOM planners are of the opinion that Texas needs magic. Texas magicians need magic. As the re-opening commences, we want to be the leaders in that reopening. We want to help SET the standard for conventions and large group meetings as the country re-opens. To me, it is not just about re-opening. It is about blazing new paths, setting new standards, it is about restoring fellowship and relationships, and it is most certainly and most importantly about healing.

Call to Action:

At this point, none of our talent or dealers have cancelled and the convention is still a GO! However, what we are trying to do requires some cooperation on your part - along with a bit of patience and effort from everyone in advance in order to make this happen.

In all honesty, those people who always wait until August to register for the TAOM are injuring our cause here. We have half the number of registrations we are hoping for, to make this a quality event. Honestly, our talent does not want to come and play to a half-filled venue. Our dealers do not want to spend the time, effort, and money to come, knowing that they will not make a profit. Our workshop presenters do not want to travel from out of state if they are not going to be able to present their skill and ideas, and to sell their products to a full house of registrants ready to learn and adopt their ideas.

If everyone who has not registered for the convention waits until August to register for a September convention, we cannot deliver the quality convention that you all want and deserve.

Do you want a top-notch convention to happen? We need to know NOW that you are with us and that you want a great convention. Explore the website all you want to get a feel for the talent and the events, and then tell us that you want the fabulous convention described on the website by committing NOW. If you are planning to attend the convention, let us hear your voice by registering for the 2020 TAOM now. [Click here to register](#). We need you to book your hotel rooms ASAP through the links to get the \$109 nightly rate. [Click here to book your room](#). You can also visit <https://TAOM.org> to reserve and book through the website.

We want you to attend the TAOM convention in September and help us define (cliché alert!) the new normal. Looking back in 6 or 8 months, we want you NOT to feel that you simply accepted the way things evolved. Rather we want you to feel that you actually played a part in shaping and determining how things re-opened post coronavirus quarantine. We need each other here. We need you. Our performers need you so they can perform. Our dealers need you so they can deal, and our contestants need you so they can compete. But I propose that YOU need US as well. You need the magic and you need the fellowship and comradery with your magic family that the convention will provide. YOU NEED THE HEALING. Without you...there will be no convention, so register and let us hear your voice now!

The craziness and ugliness of the past 90 days has reared its shameful head. But, we can all be about restoring and healing. TAOM 2020 is about magic, but also about restoring and healing. You have to want these things, and you have to show that you want them. R&R...Register and Reserve now.

I hope to see all of you soon at the TAOM convention when we can share all of our scary and crazy stories in person. Until next month, take care, stay safe, and help someone begin the healing. As always, thank you for making Texas magic great!

Joey

Byers

Your 2019-20 TAOM

President

The 75th annual TAOM convention will be in Fort Worth, hosted by SAM Assembly 138, Alliance of Illusionists. This column will keep you up on perpetual developments as they happen on a month by month basis. Our website will keep you up to date on the convention happenings, and process your registrations as well. So, please visit www.taom.org and explore the website for the latest on talent, the convention schedule, hotel info, dealer info, contest info, and FAQs (frequently asked questions). Some of this info is changing daily, so it will be updated as we know more and finalize plans. Also, check out TAOM 2020 on Facebook for latest developments.





San Antonio S.A.M. Installation Banquet

July 2

You are all invited to attend the installation banquet for S.A.M. Assembly 52 in San Antonio on Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at The Magicians Academy. This lovely venue is located at 217 Alamo Plaza (across from the Alamo). You can park at the Houston/Nolan parking lot for only \$3.00 and it's just a 5 minute walk to the theater.

Your \$5.00 admission includes entertainment by the incoming officers and PIZZA!. Bring your own drinks or buy soft drinks for a buck.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Get in touch with Ray Adams at rhainsa@satx.rr.com or Doug Gorman at douggorman@att.net before July 1.

MAGIC IN THE **LIVING ROOM** with the **UNusual Suspects!**

TUE 2 DAY
JULY 7TH
7PM

TICKETS
\$15 IN ADVANCE
\$20 AT THE DOOR

WE HAVE BEEN MISSING...
BUT WE ARE COMING
BACK WITH A NEW
SHOW OF MAGIC AND
COMEDY, DELIVERED
FROM A SAFE DISTANCE.

Live Entertainment • Magic • Food & Drink
WWW.MAGICLIVINGROOM.COM

THE LIVING ROOM @ THE LINE PUBLIC HOUSE
940 E. BELTLINE RD, RICHARDSON TX
21 & OLDER ONLY • FIRST DRINK INCLUDED



• DALLAS MAGIC CLUBS •

Annual Installation Banquet



Entertainment by

NICK DIFFATTE

Nick Diffatte is quickly becoming one of the most talked about and in demand young comedians working today. His unique brand of entertainment seamlessly blends humor, quick wit, and incredible skill. His performances are presented with perfect comedic timing far beyond his years and a deadpan delivery that has audiences laughing uncontrollably from beginning to end.

At the age of 23, Nick has already been a featured performer at the world famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, appeared on The Late Late Show on CBS, appeared on the cover of both Genii and Vanish Magazine, has won multiple awards for both his magic and his comedy, has held multiple long-term residencies on the Las Vegas strip, headlined on Disney Cruise Line and has performed a multitude of shows at casinos, comedy clubs, and corporate events internationally.

Food & Entertainment

Dallas Club Members and
their guests – \$40
Non-members – \$45

Payment options:

- Cash or Check at April Club Meeting
- PayPal (\$1.50/ticket convenience fee)

Meal includes Chef's Choice Dinner
Buffet – details to come.
Cash Bar Available.

Currently scheduled for Tuesday,
July 21

Brookhaven Country Club

3333 Golfing Green Dr.
Farmers Branch, Texas 75234

Banquet Room in main building, Free Parking

Order Tickets Online at: <http://www.dallasmagic.org/>
(coming soon)



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

The Workshop Convention

\$100 Basic Registration

Includes Three Full Evening Shows - Pro Close-Up Show
Contest Shows - Dealer's Room - Classics of Magic Show

\$225 Workshop Registration

Includes all the Basic Registration Events Above
PLUS Twelve Hands-On Hour-Long Workshop Sessions
PLUS Bonus Speed Workshop! Less than \$10 per session!

\$109 Radisson Hotel in North Fort Worth on I-35W

Radisson Hotel Fort Worth North - Fossil Creek - Free Parking
2540 Meacham Blvd, Fort Worth, Texas 76106 - 877-612-4486
Ask for Texas Association of Magicians Rate - Expires 07-27-20

Registrations are Limited to 250 Attendees!

September 4 - 7, 2020 - www.TAOM.org

Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists Inc

BITS AND PIECES OF INTERESTING STUFF



A True Magician is...

- Respectful
- Prepared
- Enthusiastic
- Confident
- Humble
- Creative
- Authentic
- Giving



DALLAS MAGIC ACADEMY

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

In Memoriam



Longtime TAOM member, Jesse Langston, took his final bow April 1, 2020 at the age of 92. Besides being a magician, he was a ventriloquist and had been a First of May clown with the Gainesville Community Circus during the 50's in Gainesville, Texas. He was an honorary lifetime member of Ring 15, the Fort Worth Magicians' Club. He held IBM membership number 09476.

Jesse was proud of having a routine published in Rice's Encyclopedia of Silk Magic, and another in the New Jinx. Despite being confined to a wheelchair in an assisted living center, Jesse continued to perform shows for the other residents, his last show being just a few weeks before his passing.

A showman until the end, Jesse passed away on April Fool's day.

ONE LAST THING



Help, please! To increase the distribution list for Magic Across Texas, I ask that you to make an announcement at your next in-person or virtual magic club meeting about MAGIC ACROSS TEXAS.

A few months back, the server that distributed MAT went out of business and I changed to MailChimp. In the process, I asked confirmation from everyone who wanted to continue receiving the newsletter. As a result, the number of subscribers went down a lot, but I'm afraid many people just didn't see the "opt in" information. So PLEASE encourage your fellow magi to send me an email to be added to the subscription list: taomnews@yahoo.com or taom@tisd.net

MAGIC ACROSS TEXAS is a FREE monthly publication that contains information about all sorts of up-coming magic events in the State of Texas. Anyone can advertise a future public magic performance.

Judy Hollingsworth
Editor, Magic Across Texas

p.s. Please check your club's listing to make sure the contact information is correct. Let me know.

MAGIC CLUBS IN TEXAS

**All magic club meetings are being held online until further notice.
Please contact each club for log-in information.**

AUSTIN - IBM Ring 60
First Monday at 7:00 p.m. except January and September
I.H.O.P at 11654 Research Boulevard in Austin
Contact: president@ibmring60.org

AUSTIN - SAM ASSEMBLY 206
Third Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Various Locations
Contact bertilfredstrom@hotmail.com or magicpta@gmail.com

CORPUS CHRISTI - IBM RING 157
First Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
Ronald McDonald House at 3402 Fort Worth Street in Corpus Christi
Contact: douglasjp3@yahoo.com

DALLAS MAGIC CLUB - IBM RING 174 & SAM ASSEMBLY 13
Third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Addison Treehouse at 14681 Midway Road in Addison
Contact: dalsanders@stagemagic.com
<http://www.dallasmagic.org/>

FORT WORTH - IBM RING 15 and FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB, INC.
First Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at 4055 International Plaza
Call 817-606-7770 for details
Contact: fortworthmagiciansclub@hotmail.com

FORT WORTH - SAM ASSEMBLY 138

Third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Illusion Warehouse at 3917 McCart Avenue in Fort Worth
Contact: communication@allianceofillusionists.com
www.sam138.com/alliance

HOUSTON - IBM RING 39
Fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. except May and December
Bayou Manor at 4141 South Braeswood in Houston
Contact: judy4birds@yahoo.com
<http://www.houstonmagic.com>

HOUSTON - SAM ASSEMBLY 19
First Monday at 7:00 p.m. except September
I.A.T.S.E. Union Hall at 3030 North Freeway in Houston
Contact: milesroot@aol.com
<http://www.houstonmagic.com>

LUBBOCK MAGIC CLUB
First Monday at 7:00 p.m.
John Ransom's Home, 6405 CR 7410
Contact: drhonea@gmail.com
<http://facebook.com/magicclublubbock>

MID-CITIES MAGIC CIRCLE
Second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
The Golden Coral, 465 East I-20 in Arlington
Facebook: "Mid-cities magic circle"

SAN ANTONIO - IBM RING 18
Fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Beethoven Hall at 422 Perida Street in San Antonio
Contact: paul.mims@hotmail.com

SAN ANTONIO - SAM ASSEMBLY 52
First Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
The Longhorn Café, 12311 Nacogdoches Road
Contact: douggorman@att.net