



Volume 11, No. 8 August 2020



Message from the President 2020: *Perfect* Vision for TAOM

Family and friends of the Texas Association of Magicians,

As you have no doubt read or heard, we cancelled our physical 2020 TAOM convention. But through some added effort by a select few who refuse to give up, we are still going to throw down for 2020. We are putting on the 2020 TAOM Virtual Convention. Yay!

The convention will be totally online and digital. Let me tell you a bit about it. Keep in mind that frantic preparations are taking place daily, so these events may be subject to change over the several weeks.

The convention will be a mix of activities familiar to TAOM convention regulars, but it will take place over a slightly abbreviated schedule. All activities are free, but some activities require you to register if you want to attend. Other activities are open to the public to just drop in. The important thing is that you stay tuned to the TAOM 2020 Facebook page and www.taom.org/2020 for the latest details as they are made available.

The annual TAOM Board Meeting will be held via Zoom conference on Friday, September 4 at 4pm. Mary Cay Gold will send out the notifications to the board members containing the meeting logistics.

The convention opens Friday evening at 7pm with our TAOM Welcome Show. We will discuss the convention activities, agenda, and schedule. We will give you an idea what to expect throughout the course of the following days and introduce a few friends of the convention. The Welcome Show will be immediately followed by the Friday evening show which will feature the Junior Stars of Magic. (We are refusing to call them future stars. They were tomorrow's stars, but that was yesterday. So now, they are stars in their own right, they are just young!) See the www.TAOM.org/2020 website for listings of ALL our convention talent.

Saturday morning starts off with the World of Willard; not quite the usual private Willard Breakfast or brunch that you are used to. It WILL be a brunch, so you will need to bring your own sustenance. Scott Wells will most certainly be enjoying his brunch as he hosts the event among a small gathering, at the home of Trixie Bond, where the Chateau du Magique will serve as the backdrop for the event! Scott has an exciting program in store that will give outsiders a small sample of what Willard members do every year at this annual, private event. The new Order of Willard inductees will be introduced during this meeting. This is the only chance you will ever get to peer into the World of Willard unless you are a member, so you will not want to miss this opportunity.

Next will be a lecture by Nick Lewin. Nick will lecture from his home via Zoom. This is one of those events you must register for. You can register at www.taom.org/2020 as soon as registration becomes live. Later Saturday afternoon will be the TAOM Dealer Room...slightly modified to be virtual. The dealer room will effectually be a dealer show, featuring the dealers who were originally scheduled for the physical convention in Fort Worth! You might get a glimpse of their shops or collections if you look carefully.

Dealers will likely offer specials or bargains that are effective only for the duration of the convention. Links to their websites and ordering logistics will be made available during the convention.

Later that afternoon, Trixie Bond will take us on an adventure to Marshall, Michigan. There we will go on a virtual tour of the American Museum of Magic with museum board member Jeffrey Alan. During the interim times all day, Zoom meeting will remain live when possible, to minimize your effort of disconnecting and reconnecting all day. During those times, convention-related ads will be scrolling, many with live convention info to help you navigate the convention activities.

Saturday evening climaxes with our evening show, featuring many of the magicians who were originally slated to be part of the physical convention. Do not miss the chance to see some of the best magical talent in the world coming to you - straight from their home theaters and domiciles. There will never be another convention like this!

Sunday morning opens with one of the TAOM staple shows, The Gospel Magic Show, presented by Bronson Chadwick! It will be followed by the annual TAOM General Meeting.

Finishing touches will be added to the convention by none other than Gregory Wilson, who will perform a lecture from his home. This event will be open only to registered attendees. The best advice for access at this point is to stay tuned to www.taom.org/2020 and the TAOM 2020 Facebook page.

As I wrote in last month's Magic Across Texas newsletter, upon finding out that our physical convention was not possible, we planned a simple board meeting and a virtual evening show. It was not shortsighted, it was spur of the moment. Our planners and workers were not lazy, they were trying to figure out what to do on-the-fly, in a brand new world, with very, very short notice. We wanted to give our members *something*, in lieu of a full-blown physical convention. Feedback let us know that the demand was out there for something more. As we successfully planned a couple activities, we realized that we could indeed add a couple more, and so the event has grown from there. What we have in store will be no substitute for the in-person TAOM experience that we all know and love. Some of the moves we made were to mitigate risk because this is our first time attempting this digitally. We will do our best to put out something that is a higher quality and more dependable.

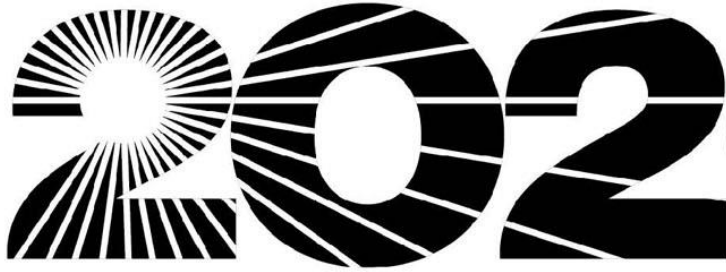
We cannot make everyone happy with the events we chose to do or the manner in which we are doing them. We saw twenty-two months of planning and lots of hard work by our committees go down the drain, much of which our critics will never be privy to see. We stopped on a dime and in a matter of weeks put together a brand new convention to be presented over a brand new media. To address those who loudly proclaim that they know a better way of doing things, I can only say that nothing is ever ideal. EVERYONE working on this convention for two years has been volunteering. Our talent, dealers, planners, volunteers are all doing this as a labor of love...WITH NO COMPENSATION. I could not be prouder of everyone who has worked, and is working, to facilitate and deliver this convention. Haters will hate, naysayers will say nay, critics will criticize. However, they are not raining on our parade. They can keep on raining...and we'll just be the parade!

Consider this an invite to spend a portion of your Labor Day weekend with us. Good, bad, ugly...this convention will never be forgotten!

Thank you for making Texas magic great!

Joey Byers
President, Texas Association of Magicians

- If you previously registered for the physical convention and did not cancel, you will not need to register again. You will receive an email with access information to The 2020 Virtual TAOM Convention.
- A limited number of new registrations will be taken on the website, www.taom.org/2020.
 - All communication concerning registration procedure will be done on the website www.taom.org/2020 and the TAOM 2020 Facebook page.



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Physical Convention Cancelled

After months of contemplation, holding out as long as they could, and hoping the Texas coronavirus situation would improve, regrettably the 2020 Convention Planning Committee and TAOM elected officers have decided to cancel the physical 75th annual TAOM convention.

Recent requirements regarding social distancing hotel ballroom seating, talent cancellations, and spikes in the Texas virus make a physical convention gathering no longer feasible or prudent.

The Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 will be contacting each convention registrant to make refunds either by check or PayPal payment. Please be patient as the club works through their enormous pre-registration list.

Free Virtual Convention Scheduled

There will be a FREE virtual convention Labor Day weekend! Check www.taom.org/2020 and the TAOM Facebook page for the schedule of convention events and registration details they become available.

The total number of registrations are limited.

Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists

But wait....there's more!

Exclusive for TAOM 2020 registrants: Get the best seating and the best price for next year's awesome TAOM 2021 Austin convention. Sign up no later than September 6, 2020, and you can get the entire convention for the same price that you paid for TAOM 2020.

Seven great shows, a banquet, loads of lectures, your favorite dealers, two contests, and all the fun you expect from a TAOM convention!

The regular price for people NOT registered for TAOM 2020 is \$250.

See: www.taom.org/2021

Enjoy old Friend & New Experiences at TAOM 2021 in Austin!"



Some GOOD NEWS for a change

Exclusive to 2020 registrants: Get the best seating and the best price for next year's awesome Austin convention. Sign up no later than September 6, and you can get the entire convention for \$225.

Seven great shows, including a banquet! And of course there will be lectures, dealers, contests, and all of the fun that you expect from a TAOM convention. Just fill out the included form and mail a check, or go to www.TAOM.org/2021 and sign up NO LATER THAN September 6. After that, the price goes up.

Enjoy old friends and new experiences in Austin, where it all began!



**Accommodations will be at the
Courtyard by Marriott Austin Pflugerville
& Pflugerville Conference Center**

Special room rate is \$129 per night plus occupancy tax. Room rate includes free parking, WiFi, and breakfast. Hotel guests will also receive a drink ticket for Friday night's cocktail party. (Some restrictions apply.)



TAOM COMING ATTRACTIONS

A CHANCE TO GO BEYOND "BEHIND THE BOOKCASE"

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE 52ND ANNUAL AWARDS SHOW OF THE ACADEMY OF MAGICAL ARTS

The First
Ever Virtual
Version

Sunday
August 23, 2020
7:00 p.m. PDT



AMA AWARDS

featuring members of the AMA Board of Trustees and
the AMA Board of Directors plus Surprise Guests!

FIND OUT WHO WILL BE THIS YEARS HONOREES

Magician of the Year
AND ALSO

Stage Magician of the Year | Parlour Magician of the Year
Close-Up Magician of the Year | Lecturer of the Year

PLUS A DISTINGUISHED ROSTER OF
Fellowship Recipients

It's all happening online! You can attend, and so can your friends
—and it's FREE for everyone! Watch at www.magiccastle.com/awards

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

There will be a free digital souvenir program, released at the start of September.
And yes, we will be selling ads, at greatly reduced prices. For information about
sizes, prices, graphic assistance, or how to become an Awards Show sponsor,
go to www.magiccastle.com/program



2020 Banquet & Holiday Party



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 dry 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, headlines 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. Cash Bar Available.

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Doors Open 6:30 pm, Dinner served 7:00 pm
Showtime 8:00 pm(ish), approx. 45-60 minutes

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/>

All reservations and tickets must be paid for by date **TBD**. Tickets are fully refundable, minus convenience fee if applicable until date TBD. **NO REFUNDS** after date TBD, but tickets may be transferable. Contact Derrel Allen for details: poof@omagic.com

Nick will also be conducting a lecture Wednesday, December 16 at 7 pm.

Location: Addison Tree House (club meeting location)



FREE for DMC Members who purchased banquet ticket | \$25 for everyone else



BITS AND PIECES OF INTERESTING STUFF

Right now, all of us need to have our spirits lifted. David Blaine plans to do that as he takes to the skies in a new stunt. The magician has announced his first live event in nearly a decade: Flying above New York City by holding a bunch of helium-filled balloons. The illusionist and endurance artist is partnering with YouTube for the event titled "Ascension" where he "will bring wonder, hope and untethered possibility as he launches from New Jersey and journeys across his native New York City skyline to tackle his most ambitious and revolutionary feat yet." This special will launch on August 31st ONLY on YouTube. [CLICK HERE TO SEE DAVID BLAINE GO UP.](#)

In Memoriam



Marvyn Roy, aka Mr. Electric

Marvyn Roy became a member of TAOM when he performed for the 1984 convention in Abilene. He married Carol Williams in 1956 and the duo became world-famous during the next four decades, opening for Liberace and Dean Martin, appearing on numerous television variety shows, and performing in Paris, New York and Las Vegas. His storied life is well documented, including five appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show and multiple appearances at the Magic Castle in Hollywood and Magic Island in Houston. He was billed as "Mr. Electric".

Carol died in 2009 and Marvyn on July 1, 2020 at the age of 95.

ONE LAST THING



In normal times, I'd be thinking about "what to wear" and "what to take" for the convention. This year I'm gonna wear my jammies!

I'm really looking forward to this novel (sorry 'bout that!) approach to a our convention and extremely proud of the job Joey and his crew have done, dealing with all the exigencies.

I've hinted at retiring from writing this newsletter a few times and several people have shown an interest in taking on the task. I've thought long and hard about it, but for now I'm contended to continue. Other obligations and outside demands on my time have vanished with the current situation, so I'm happy to keep going. I really thank those who offered to step in and I'll call on you one of these days.

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

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
