

# SAM Sala Bim

Issue #1

The SAM Assembly 206 Newsletter

January 2004

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Important Notice

## From The President

From Outgoing President, Opie Houston

I wish to thank Assembly 206 members for your enthusiastic participation in the club's activities over the past year. You know who you are, you who made the programs a success. Let us all endeavor to come to meetings prepared to participate, perform, and share.

Happy New Year, and may all your most-ambitious dreams come about...

opie

## From Incoming President, Ron Cartlidge

We are looking to one heck of a year in the SAM. The end of 2003 finished with a bang. I don't think I've seen that many Austin magicians in a room together since the final days of the old Austin Magic Auction.

It was great to visit, have fun, buy & sell magic, and to just enjoy the company of other magicians. What a night!

January 15th will be another important night for our assembly. It's the beginning of a New Year and new administration for Assembly 206. We welcome all magicians into the fold. This will be your club this year.

Our officers welcome your comments and suggestions. We certainly want everyone to participate and I think we will have such a varied program this year that we will offer something to interest everyone.

It is my goal to streamline our business meetings. Just over 60% thought that part of our meetings were long. To do this, I will try to provide an agenda for each meeting. That means, if you want to make an announcement or bring up some new business, I need for your help in providing that information to me at least one week prior to the meeting date. That is not to say, that if an emergency item comes up that you can't be heard. We just want our business portion to move smoother and faster so that we can get to the important issue of MAGIC.

I'd also like to thank my board for a great start. They have done everything I have asked them to do and more. I think we are all excited

about the coming year of MAGIC in Austin. You have elected a good board with a lot of talent. I hope that in December of 2004 you can call it a GREAT board.

Finally, I offer the hand of magical friendship to Ring 60 and offer any help that we can provide to that organization. It was nice to see IBM Ring 60 President Will Mannis, at the auction. I might point out that Will is one of our dual members, of both the SAM and IBM. I understand that the Ring is gearing up for their big activation project of a Magic Show at Esther's on 6th street, possibly in March. It is their chief fund raiser of the year. Try to go or be a part of the gala event.

My wish for each of you in the coming year is peace and joy at Christmas and a very Magical New Year!

Ron Cartlidge, President 20004

## From the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the Assembly 206 Newsletter. The first issue of anything is always special. It is the first incarnation of a new idea, with high hopes, but an uncertain future. This edition is no exception. You, the Assembly 206 membership asked for a newsletter to reflect the activities and style of our club. You requested the newsletter to be available electronically. Armed with that information, Ron Cartlidge took a great deal of initiative and handed me a newsletter almost complete. Normally a newsletter takes a good month to put together. Ron helped me to do it in a matter of a few days. Thanks, Ron!

While I hope to have refinements in the format and to provide content that you will look forward to, I am pleased to give birth to this first edition. We have news about the December auction, the upcoming 2004

meeting calendar and other news. It is a modest, but earnest beginning. However, I hope the next edition to be even better. To do that I will need your support.

Please, consider contributing a regular column to SAM Sala Bim. Every member of our club, from the hardest working pro to the hardest working amateur, has a valid and useful perspective to contribute. It doesn't take long to sit and write your thoughts on something which is going on in the art of magic. It doesn't have to be an effect, or a "how to" document. It can simply be an editorial on any subject that has been on your mind. It may not seem valuable to you, but you would be surprised at the people who benefit from your thoughts.

My goal in this newsletter is to provide reports from the officers, news of local happenings, and information to keep you prepared for meetings and SAM activities. This information is for *you*. If you feel that something is missing, please let me know.

I am pleased and honored to take on this task. So enjoy, our little seedling of a newsletter. Help us to cultivate it and turn it into something that we'll all be proud of.

Chris Walden  
Newsletter Editor 2004

## SAM Auction Provides Many Presents for Local Magicians

Ron Cartlidge

Our third annual auction is now history. It was our largest in terms of attendance, almost forty, and active members working on the project, six. Since the auction ended, I have received six emails and telephone calls thanking me for the tremendous auction and

offering the Austin Magic Community this type of project again.

Although I had a hand in the organization of the auction, the real thank yous go to those who worked it. The shining angel was Bobby Cordell. Seeing a need for a runner between the display tables and the auction stage, Bobby took charge without even being asked. That's the type of activation I like to see among our members. Bobby was superb and made the auction process run a lot smoother. For the first time we had a silent auction table which we may expand to the membership next year. We are definitely getting larger and better. Doc Seaton provided many items for the table and those of you that didn't want to pay the entry fee provided the remainder of the items. We earned \$84 from the sale of the silent auction items. Doc did a splendid job in running that part of the auction.

I asked Chris Walden to track the sales of the auction. If anyone can run a lap top it's Chris. He was almost unnoticed sitting in the corner, except when he would pop his hand up to bid, but his work provided needed information that we can use in other auctions. We were able to track total sales for the first time. We guessed that the first auction brought in between \$500 and \$1,000. Last year, Dick Todd, brought twice as much stuff as he did this year, and we guessed the auction take was about \$3,000. This year we know what the sales were. More than \$2,300 was sold in three and one-half hours of bidding. We may be able to provide a final sheet of auction sales.

J. D. Stewart mentioned on his questionnaire that he too would be willing to work on the auction. He took my place at the registration table and did a commendable job. Thanks to Dick for bringing a lot of the high dollar goodies and to John Maverick and Daniel Bull

who showed up with some big dollar items. Also, don't forget Roger and his daughter Stephanie. Wasn't Roger good at getting the names of all those guests we had and then telling us who was visiting. You might not have noticed Stephanie, but she will be appointed our club historian in January. She was taking auction pictures. Look for more articles about the Assembly in your Mum this year. Well, what can I say about Kent Cummins? He is like the energizer bunny, he just keeps going and going. I can't tell you how many times I've seen Kent work the stage at the Austin Magic auction. He just keeps things going and pops in every once in awhile with a comment that adds to the enjoyment of the festivities.

Soooooo. If you missed it, you missed a good one. I was the last one to leave the auction room at 11:15 p.m. I did not see one folder on the floor after the meeting which means everyone took their information home. Two important items were in the folders for members, the calendar for the year and information on why you should join Assembly 206. Not that you don't know a lot of reasons why you should join, but there are a few that even you haven't thought about. Inside the non-member packets was an additional item of a membership application. We picked up one new member at the auction and I expect from all of the good comments I've heard, we can look for a few of our other guests to join.

## 2004 Board of Directors is Already Hard at Work

Ron Cartlidge

While a lot of you were out having fun on Saturday December 4th, our board was

spending their Saturday working for you. Our retreat and planning session was held at Doc Seaton's house. The group arrived early to enjoy breakfast tacos, fresh fruit, and Krispy Kream donuts before going to work. The meeting started promptly at 8:30 A.M. We started the meeting by getting to know each other better and everyone told something to the group that was not already known. After the ice breaker, we follow the agenda and got down to business. Each officer set goals in his portfolio. The results of the questionnaire (discussed later in this newsletter) was given by President Ron. I should mention that 100% of your board members attended the meeting with special guests Kent Cummins and Stephanie Gorss in attendance. Many items were discussed and there will be a lot of special surprises for the club this year. After the general discussions, the board went to work on the programs for the year. Using YOUR ideas, a program was developed. Several important items that the membership should know about are that the auction is tentatively set for the second Monday of December rather than the third Monday. The third Monday fell on the 20th which we felt was just to close to Christmas. In addition the board is interested in founding a SYM (young members) and Kent Cummins has said that Magic Camp will lend their support to the idea. If it is indeed founded, they, the SYM, will take part in one of our programs this year. A committee will be formed to work on that project. We took one short break in the morning, but otherwise pressed on. We had pizza for lunch, but took munches in between work. The board meeting finally broke up around 3 P.M. We hope you enjoy the efforts of the 2,004 Board of Directors in the coming year. We will hold three additional scheduled board meetings during the year and members are welcome to attend.

## New Calendar Looks Super Duper

Ron Cartlidge

If you were at the auction, you received the SAM Assembly 2004 Calendar in your bid packet. This effort to provide you a quality calendar was made possible by the hard work of Doc Seaton. The next time you see Doc, give him a pat on the back for this beautiful calendar. Don't lose it! Each member receives one calendar that can not be replaced. It will be more valuable than a Siegfried and Roy calendar this year.

The calendar provides a wealth of information. Noted are the meeting dates of our members. This coming year, by the way, is a leap year. In addition, the most important magic conventions are noted on the calendar. Our activities and projects are also listed. The entire Board of Directors with contact information is listed on the back of the calendar with the programs for the year. Also, the calendar is tri-colored which adds to its beauty. Thanks Doc!!!!

## January Meeting to be Held at Esther's Follies

Ron Cartlidge



Important Notice

In January, our meeting topic is **Stage Magic!** Where else should you do stage magic but on a stage and in a theater? Ray Anderson will host this year's January meeting at Esther's Follies on East 6<sup>th</sup> Street. This will be a hands-on experience, a close-up look if you will, at Ray's stage illusions used in the hit series of Esther's Follies, which is *the* show on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and perhaps in Austin! The moderator of this unique event will be our own Kent Cummins. There will be an interview by Kent of Ray's experiences in show business. A question and

answer session will follow between Ray and the members of Assembly 206.

**This will be a members only meeting. Only dues paid assembly 206 members will be allowed to attend this meeting on stage magic. Please, no guests at this meeting unless they intend to join.** You may show your Society of American Magicians membership card at the door and pay your Assembly dues of \$12.00 if you have not already done so. Applications for SAM membership will also be on hand at the door.

This meeting alone will be well worth the annual dues of \$12.00 in the Assembly. Ray Anderson, probably the best known of Austin's professional magicians, has been gracious in providing the meeting location for this kick-off meeting. This is one of the many benefits of joining Assembly 206. It is actually a "free" lecture for members of the club. All we are asking, for *you* to benefit from this outstanding meeting, is to pay your dues.

## What Are You Doing Out There?

### Ron Carlidge

This year we knew little about our members except that Kent was running his annual Magic Camp. If you have a gig, let us know. If you are sick, let us know. Bobby Cordell recently had surgery, but how many of you knew? Didn't he look great at the auction? Mary Cay is still taking treatments, but I understand that the last one is coming up soon. After that, perhaps we can welcome Mary Cay and Mike back to our Assembly meetings. Darn, I miss that coin count that she use to do annually. If you win an award in the work place then let us know. I don't think that anyone other than Doc knew that I was inducted into the United States

Jaycees Hall of Leadership in L.A., California back in September. Also, although Brad Henderson is not a member of Assembly 206, it was announced at the last Ring meeting that he will be doing his second performance at the Magic Castle in the new year. It is always best to make a second performance than a first. That means that someone liked you. That also means that not just Austin knows about the talents of Brad. We would like to meet our members. I hope we run that type of column in our newsletter. It doesn't take much time to tell us about yourself and guest articles are always welcome.

Even Steve Farmer has promised to help this newsletter, not to take charge mind you, but to help. Expect a guest article from Steve in the near future. Don't forget to tell us if you are on tour or on the lecture road.

Brian Bosworth and C. J. Johnson have been all over the United States, mainly with the Brooks and Dunn show. Just keep in touch with us and we'll keep in touch with you!!!

## News

### Assembly 206 Dues Due January

A few people have already paid their Assembly dues early (in December) and are to be commended. It is extremely important for you to pay your dues in January. I know, it's just after Christmas and unpaid bills may be due. If you want to be listed in our new directory which will probably come out at the February meeting then you need to pay your dues in January. Dues for our organization are only \$12. That's one dollar a month. The only other catch is that you become a member of the Society of American Magicians, an International organization. I know, they have had only one convention outside of the United States, but they are an International organization. Oh, that convention was in 1951 in Havana, Cuba. Go to a National meeting and see how many people are there from outside the United States!

### Ray Anderson coming to Assembly 206 In January

January, first meeting of the year, will provide Austin's premier stage illusionist Ray Anderson as part of our program on stage magic. Ray has appeared for many years at Esther's Follies on 6th Street. It is a treat to see him perform. He will discuss in a question and answer session, his life in magic. A moderator will lead the discussion. He also intends to give us information on the tricks of the trade in stage magic. Ray has long been a member of the magic community in Austin. Because the Ring meetings are on Thursday night, he has been unable to attend those meetings for the past few years. However, Ray has made his intentions known that he wants to be an active member of Assembly 206. Look for Ray at our meetings this year.

### World Magic Seminar Next Big Convention

Sponsors of the World Magic Seminar are Siegfried and Roy. I heard recently that Roy Horn's goal was to be back in Las Vegas by Christmas. I know that he has a long way to go, but he is on the road to recovery.

If you have never been, it is one of the better conventions in the United States if not the best. Almost every big time magician makes an appearance at this convention. At last count, six members of Assembly 206 were going. It begins on January 11th and is one of the most expensive conventions to go to, but only because of the \$175 registration fee. Lodging at the hotel is \$75 per night and airfare was on sale last week for \$99 each way on Southwest. If you don't go this year, save your money for next year and join in the fun.

### Mark Thompson Joins Assembly 206

Mark Thompson's first magic meeting was the Assembly 206 Auction. He wasted little time in joining in on the fun, when he paid both his national dues to the Society of American Magicians and his 2004 dues to Assembly 206. Welcome aboard Mark. Regular members please greet Mark at the January meeting if you were unable to do so at the auction. He does not have email and probably won't see this notification and welcome.

SAM Sala Bim is a monthly publication of the Society of American Magicians Assembly 206, Austin, Texas.

Submissions are due the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month and should be sent to Chris Walden, cmwalden@mythmade.com.