



THE CAULDRON

WWW.SAM104.COM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
296 LAFAYETTE STREET

MAY 2010



**Back by popular demand is
Sam 104's Member Performance and Sharing Night.**

**Got something to show, share or scare? Bring it along!!!
If you don't have something, come any ways.
This will certainly be a great time.**

**Wednesday, May 5th, 2010
Meeting starts at 7:30pm
First Baptist Church
296 Lafayette St.
Salem, MA
Assembly 104 Members FREE.**



Preceding the Workshop is "Bill Towne's School Of Magic" at 7pm.

Len will be going over Topological card tricks.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month's meeting will be a Member's Performance and Sharing Night. We had one such meeting in December, and it seemed to be one of the most popular of the year. I got more positive feedback from that meeting than any other this past year. There will also be an opportunity (if you wish) to receive feedback from the audience after your performance. We had some feedback at the December meeting, but due to the pending Yankee Swap, time was limited. That shouldn't be a problem this month. Bring something to share with the group, be it a trick, or something magic related that you think would be of interest to the group.

During the business portion of the meeting, we will be having our Annual Election of Officers. As it stands right now, all incumbents are willing to keep their positions for another year! Thanks to the Nominating Committee Jim Loscutoff, Rob Snider, and Glen Blinn, for their work in providing a recommended slate of Officers! According to the By-Laws, nominations will still be accepted from the floor at the meeting, but as it sits right now, everyone is running unopposed.

Thanks to Kathy Forrest and Dick Newcomb for volunteering to be the Audit Committee. They will be presenting their report at the meeting.

As you are aware, SAMCON is progressing very nicely. All the contracts are in, the hotel is all set, and by the time you are reading this, registration should be open on our website. You can even pay online using PayPal! Thanks to Derek for setting everything up on the website. Thanks also, to Steve Rogers for organizing and producing SAMCON again this year.

Next month is the Installation Banquet. It will be at the Mandarin Buffet in Salem. Details will follow. We are working on entertainment, etc. Thanks to J Hubbard for setting up the restaurant, and to Eddie for getting the entertainment.

Thanks also to Rob Snider for preparing and getting out the Cauldron each month. He does an excellent job!

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Thanks to Tony Gangi for his lecture last month. It was fun and informative. If you haven't read his book *Carny Sideshows – Wonders of the Midway*, get a copy! It is a good read! A review of his lecture will be in the Assembly Notes section of June's MUM magazine. You can also get info at www.carnysideshow.com. Check it out!

Until I became President, I didn't realize how much stuff goes on behind the scenes. Things don't just happen; it takes lots of planning and preparation! Thank God for the willingness of everyone to help wherever they can. It makes my job as President a lot easier.

Bill Jensen

The (kids) Magic Man

I stand in front of screaming fans.
My customers from distant lands.
My fame is sad, I'd rather hide.
Hipity hop rabbits? Have I no pride?

I can fake a smile, I'm in a trance.
I can get out alive, there is still a chance.
I turn reality into fantasy.
My volunteer has to pee.

These kids they move out of place.
I think this ones from outer space.
With deftness almost never seen
He just punched me in the spleen.

A rabbit appears out of a bowl.
I just lost complete control.
Of the laws of physics, time and space.
Take me to my happy place.

My words are chosen with such caution
"Your party was fun, it was just awesome".
I'll bring you joy that only I can.
You all know me as the magic man.

Brian Happie Foshee
www.HappieAmp.com

>> *From SamTalk* <<



MINUTES FROM APRIL'S MEETING:

Carny Sideshows, Fleas, and much more!

Following the business portion of our April meeting, SAM 104 member Tony Gangi presented his "lecture" covering his newly released book Carny Sideshows, Weird Wonders of the Midway.

Tony began by giving us a brief history of Carny Sideshows, how they came to be, how they developed over time being at one time the event of the year for some communities and how they have now (sadly) dwindled down to only once in a while events, with only a couple of shows in permanent locations. He shared several very entertaining stories, most of which are in the book, of his encounters with sideshow people both past and present, as well as his experiences while attending Sideshow School at Coney Island in New York.

The "Author's Photo" in his book is an x-ray of Tony's head with a nail inserted into his nose! Tony shared a very interesting story of how hard it was to get the x-ray taken mostly due to liability issues. He said on a scale of one to ten, the difficulty in getting someone to take the x-ray was an "eleven". He showed the photo to a "blockhead wannabe". Tony later overheard the wannabe say to a friend "I have to steal that photo use for advertising my act". Tony went on to tie the comment into a brief message on "stealing" other performers performances and tricks and the importance of being yourself and unique. As he said, "The guy didn't even take into consideration all the time and effort I put into making this happen, he was just going to take it" Food for thought!

Following his history lesson, Tony presented bits and pieces of his "work in progress" which will become a show that he will be touring with. The show is presented in a manner that is a "kid's show for adults". It included secret words, songs, bits, mail call, and lots more. Some of the bits included a poem of how his Mom punished him for misuse of his mouth instead of using a bar of soap. It has a very interesting ending! Instead of swallowing a sword, he placed a small sword into his nasal cavity, and afterwards, he did the same thing with a battery powered hand drill, drilling into his nasal cavity. This portion of the show is called the Human Blockhead. The "show" is very informative, entertaining, and just plain fun! I'm sure it will be a success wherever it is presented and would recommend it to everyone who gets the chance to see it. Keep your eyes open, it could be coming to your area soon!

Tony finished up by presenting his flea circus. We previously had Tony present his flea circus to the SYM group in our Assembly, so I was aware of how "real" it seemed and how well Tony presented it. His attention to detail, including a lesson on flea anatomy, life expectancy, care and training, etc is unequalled! After the SYM session, the kids were asking questions such as "How long do the fleas live?" "What's involved in the training?" "Where do you get them?" Tony's presentation is so real, you feel the fleas actually exist and believe that all the "stunts" they perform have happened!

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As an extra closer, Tony explained that he had a chest that contained some special items including a shrunken head, a misshaped fish and other items that just HAD to be seen and in true Carny fashion, "It won't cost you \$20, it won't cost you \$5 or even \$1. All you have to do is buy a copy of Carney Sideshows, and it's free!"

You can order Tony's book Carney Sideshows at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or Borders. I have just begun to read my copy and it is truly fascinating.

You can contact Tony at his website www.carnysideshows.com. Visit the website, there are several links and photos including the above mentioned x-ray.

SAMCON 2010

All the contracts are in, and we are pleased to announce the line-up for SAMCON 2010 to be held on November 6th from 9 am to 10pm Performers will include Michael Vincent, Mike Caveney, Tina Lenert and Silly Billy! Registrations are now being accepted. See our website www.SAM104.com for info and registration forms. New this year, you can register online and use PayPal to pay registration fees!

Best wishes to all who read this!

Bill Jensen
President SAM104

SAM104 meets the first Wednesday of each month (except July & August) at the First Baptist Church, 296 Lafayette St, Salem MA



MAY 2010

THE CAULDRON
ROB SNIDER
1 MARGUERITE RD.
CHELMSFORD, MA 01863



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