

HISTORY OF NATIONAL MAGIC WEEK

The Society of American Magicians adopted the idea of National Magic Week as a way of promoting the Art of Magic by performing shows at orphanages, hospitals and nursing homes for those who would have difficulty getting to a theatre to see a live performance. The members of the Society of American Magicians who participate in these shows find it a rewarding activity. Many people enjoy magic shows during this week that otherwise would not be able to do so.

The roots of National Magic Week go back over 80 years. Before there was a National Magic Week there was a National Magic Day. It all started with a "Houdini Day" in the summer of 1927, less than one year from the death of Harry Houdini. A trophy in honor of Houdini, who served as the President of the Society of American Magicians for nine years until his death on October 31, 1926, was presented by Mrs. Harry Houdini in New York City.

There were many other "Houdini Days" following, but it was not until 1938 that Les Sholty, a Chicago member of the Society of American Magicians, sought official sanction for a "Houdini Day." A friend of the Houdini's requested and obtained permission from Mrs. Houdini to proclaim October 31 as National Magic Day in honor of Harry Houdini. The plan was formulated at that time to have free performances for shut-ins and handicapped people.

Many newspapers carried the story about National Magic Day and various magical societies kept the idea alive. It was not long before National Magic Day became National Magic Week.

The first radio broadcast about National Magic Day occurred over radio station KQW on July 20, 1938. Mrs. Harry Houdini participated in that broadcast.

Magic displays can be found at libraries, stores and malls throughout the country during National Magic Week.

National Magic Week is the S.A.M.'s and the magical fraternity's way of sharing with others in a great art form that is deeply loved by those who participate in it. Now we can use the love of our art to help others in their time of need.



Go to www.magicsam.com/magicweek2009 for ideas on how you can get your local radio and television stations involved in your fund-raising efforts. Working together, you can get lots of extras including free publicity!

- Homeless Shelter
- Soup Kitchen
- Battered Women's Home
- Hospice
- Aids Clinic
- School in need
- Library
- Health Clinic
- Fire Victims
- Family in need
- Business in need
- Student in need
- Disaster Victims
- Radio or TV Station charity
- Animal Shelter
- Scholarships
- Neighborhood Associations
- Anyone in need

NATIONAL MAGIC WEEK

OCTOBER 25 - 31

A WEEK OF GIVING



❁ PLEASE READ! ❁

Take 3 minutes to read this pamphlet. Doing so could help your Assembly, help your community and even change you.





YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH FOUR EASY STEPS:

1. Select a community cause to help people in need.
2. Perform a magic show.
3. Raise awareness and money.
4. Feel good.

**Magic-Unity-Might
to help your community!**



A WEEK OF MAGIC-UNITY-MIGHT

S.A.M. Assemblies meet in local communities all over the world. Every member is an integral part of their neighborhood and they have a special talent - magic. Your magic can not only be used to entertain, but also to help people in need. In the book GIVING, it says, “the act of giving takes many forms...offerings of time, skills, objects and ideas can be just as important as contributions of money.” Fortunately, magicians can use their skills to help with awareness and even raise money for people in need. The Society of American Magicians Magic Week is going to kick off a time to help out people in your community. This will be a week of giving.

The goal is to be there for as many local charities as possible and do some good for your community. It won't be a lot of effort. Your Assembly can do it together or you can do a show on your own in the name of The Society of American Magicians. Here are the simple steps you need to do to achieve our goal:

- Pick a local cause to help people in need.
- Perform a show for them and raise awareness and money.
- If you've raised some money for them, present them with a check during Magic Week.
- Fill out the Magic Week Form on our S.A.M. website.

Elsewhere on this brochure you will see ideas on possible charities you can look for in your area. Below are some universal agencies that could use your help.

The shows can be performed at **any time of the year** but we would like any funds that were raised presented to the charities during Magic Week.

In past years, we have collected proclamations from mayors and governors and we are happy to continue that tradition but this year we would like our members to concentrate on using their “powers” to **help** the world with magic.

If you need more information or advice on how to get the wheels in motion, please contact:

Shaun Rivera, Magic Week Chairman
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**IF YOU WISH TO HELP GLOBALLY,
CONSIDER THESE AGENCIES:**

CHARITY	WEBSITE
KIVA	www.kiva.org
Global Giving	www.globalgiving.com