

# THE CHAINLETTER

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AN E-NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR THE  
ESCAPE COMMUNITY



**We thank  
Chris Campbell**



**For our great  
new banner!**

## This month's Chains...

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**Wolflock is a  
"Proud Papa"**



So proud of  
my daughter.

She has  
studied  
security and  
has achieved  
quite high  
certification  
grading.

Her man is the  
owner of their  
new security  
company.

Not so long  
ago, one of  
their clients (a  
company),

was robbed. The security guards were cuffed  
and keys taken.

Even the Hawks (a good security company in  
South Africa) did not know what to do.

My daughter picked them out of the cuffs  
with everyone watching intently!





# GEO Turns 50!

It has only been a short time since the Global Escapology Organisation opened their doors for business. First members joined in February of this year.

Once the doors were open, the organizers set themselves a goal. Allan Taylor, Andrew Basso and Cliff Gerstman wanted to have 50 members by May 1st. As of the third week in April, they made it. The Geo now has 50 members with more hopefully on the way.

Once the lockdowns have fully lifted, we will be working on moving to the next level.

Conventions, on either side of the pond are ideas we are hoping to bring to life.

More sharing, mentoring and comradery will soon be available.

Are you a member? go to [the-geo.com](http://the-geo.com) for an application.

Feel the excitement coming!



## Old Memories from Cliff Gerstman

I was 16 years old and just starting to learn about escapes when this story takes place. Truth was I could kind of pick handcuffs, but I was not proficient at it yet.

I was in the basement of my cousin's house. He had a few friends over and we were hanging out. There was a washer and dryer in the basement, and opposite to them was a small bathroom. I mean small. A toilet and tiny sink, and no room for much else. The door had no handle on the outside, but it pushed into the room barely clearing the sink to go in. The inside of the door had a handle and a latch. This bathroom was small, but it was solid wooden paneling over 2x4's. There were also two small holes one on top of the other in the door near the edge. My guess was there had once been a handle bolted on to use from the outside, but it was gone and only two holes remained. This gave me a thought for a challenge. The rest of the guys were talking about going out and playing some soccer. Are you the type to take a challenge? I am if I have something to gain. I was already thinking like an escape artist, and I wanted to see if I could pull this off. While the guys were talking about it, I took a length of thin rope. It might have been clothes line.



"Wild about Harry"  
John Cox' Houdini web site  
[www.wildabouthoudini.com](http://www.wildabouthoudini.com)





I passed the rope through one of the small holes from outside the bathroom to inside, and then passed it back through the other hole which was about two inches lower. I tied a knot anchoring the rope to the door. Before the



other guys left to play what ever game it was, I told my cousin to tie the other end of the rope to something to hold the door tightly shut. When he saw me enter the bathroom, he protested that he did not want to lock me in. I told him I was going to

get out without help. One of his friends saw the set up and asked if I had scissors or a knife on me. I showed empty pockets with all the showman ship of an egotistical 16 year old. My cousin agreed hesitatingly. I went into the bathroom empty handed and with no tools. He tied the other end of the rope tightly to a water pipe that fed the washing machine. He told me he was done and told me where they were going. I said that was fine and that I would either join them, or wait to be let out



when they got back. My cousin was still not happy about it, but I assured him I thought I would get out. He knew I thought I would, but he didn't know if I would. Here is the thing about me, I do not win every challenge I take, but I never take a challenge unless I think I can win. You see I did not know if it would work or not, but I had a plan.



Simply put as soon as my cousin and his friends left I took my index finger nail and began to scratch the rope. I kept scratching in the same direction, down along the rope and soon saw results. I was cutting the fibers successfully. I don't know how long it took, but I would not be surprised if it took 10 or 15 minutes. Maybe it was less, but I wasn't wearing a watch. Soon the rope parted and I was free. I was just going to leave and join my cousin, but I decided instead to re tie his knots and mine so that when we all got back to the basement, it looked like I must have passed through he wall. That fooled no one. But they did not know how I had gotten out. They must have known I had retied the rope. If I was doing that today, I would hide a small piece of razor blade somewhere first.



**The Magic Nook**  
[www.magienook.com](http://www.magienook.com)

"Do-It-Yourself" Magic for  
"Built-It-Myself" Magicians



A great tribute site to the amazing  
David De-Val



<http://www.davidde-val.com/>



# Birthday Party: Chris Campbell Style



Our friend Todd Gardner, aka Hot Todd Lincoln, celebrated his birthday last month. The guests to his "Zoom" party

included many sideshow performers. Our own Chris Campbell was there and he performed an amazing act. With his hands cuffed behind him. He appeared



to pick open the locks using nothing but a fresh out of the package razor blade. Imagine how sharp a razor blade is when it is in brand new out of the package condition. A salute to Chris for an amazing escape!

Break a Chain!



# Begging Box!

Your input  
is our output!

This is the part of The Chainletter where the editor begs for you to give him some material to publish. No idea what to write?



Well, How about...

- ◆ Your first escape.
- ◆ How did you learn to escape?
- ◆ Your creative process.
- ◆ Your last escape.
- ◆ Who is your hero? Why?
- ◆ What makes a good escape.
- ◆ Your escape bio.
- ◆ An escape you saw on TV.
- ◆ An escape you saw live.
- ◆ Anything escape related.



If you are  
interested in  
occult escapology,  
you want S. Rob!  
<https://www.srob.co.uk/>

This site is well worth  
the time to study if  
you want to learn  
about lock picking  
[www.lockpickguide.com](http://www.lockpickguide.com)

"Without a key"  
For all your lockpicking needs  
[www.withoutakey.co.uk](http://www.withoutakey.co.uk)



# GEO Launch Party!

From Allan Taylor!



*"We promised you some exciting new - so here it is! On 15th May we will be holding a Zoom call for all members - This will be our launch party and a chance to*

*celebrate gaining 50 members. This will be a chance for us to all get to know each other and it will give the founders a chance to discuss or vision for the future. The time is still to be decided but It is looking like it will be 9AM California Time - 5PM UK - this may change but we need a suitable worldwide time than will enable most to attend "*

First things first. If you are not a member of GEO (Global Escapology Organisation) why haven't you applied yet? So far GEO is just a Facebook page, but big plans are coming down the road. Even now, that Facebook page is pretty damn amazing. There are features such as: Caption this, How would you escape, From the dungeon, Escapes gone wrong, Comedy escapes, and deep questions to help



us get to know each other. Can you imagine all that valuable content on a simple Facebook page?



Just think about what we can do when the quarantine is lifted and we all get back to work.

If you are not a member, and want to be, go to [the-geo.com](https://the-geo.com) and get an application.

If you want to be a member, but feel a little weak in one or two areas, we can help you with that too.



This is going to be big and it is going to be great... So don't miss out. Join us if you can!



**Have the lads at Guinness turned down your world record? Online World Records can help... Contact Fenyx Fyre [info@fenyxfyre.ca](mailto:info@fenyxfyre.ca)**