

# FLEMING FLASHPAPER

SEPTEMBER 2018

CARYL FLEMING IBM RING 21 NORTH HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA  
Celebrating the enjoyment and camaraderie of magic since 1938!

## DON'T MISS OUT: WHAT'S COMING UP!

SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>: Puppet Workshop with Lois Harmeyer!

Note: We were mistaken in the last newsletter. Lois is scheduled to do her puppet workshop during the September meeting!

We will also have elections for the new board, so if you want to throw your hat into the ring, the September meeting is your opportunity.

Don Kenney will perform his fantastic dog puppet act!

OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>: Installation Banquet! Come enjoy a great magic show with Paul Green! The cost for the Banquet to our members is \$40, which is a bargain as our cost is a bit higher. In addition, if you renew your annual membership prior to the Banquet, you get five free raffle tickets! The cost of the IBM 21 annual membership is \$35.

NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>: TBD

DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>: Holiday magic and catered party.

## DO YOU EVER SHOP ON AMAZON?

If so, then add our website link to your favorites and use the Amazon link at the bottom of our web page. Our club will get a referral bonus!

RING 21 CLUB MEETING:

First Thursday of the month

NEXT MEETING:

September 6<sup>th</sup>  
7:15 pm

Providence St Elizabeth  
10425 Magnolia Blvd  
North Hollywood, CA

We are on twitter!  
@ibmring21

And the internet!  
[www.ibmring21.org](http://www.ibmring21.org)



## MAGIC RESOURCES

### Westside Wizards Sam 291

Note: See [www.westsidewizards.org](http://www.westsidewizards.org) for calendar of events  
Stoner Park OPICA Adult Day Care  
11759 Missouri Ave, Los Angeles, CA

### Mark Wilson IBM Ring 280

Note: See [www.ibmring280.com](http://www.ibmring280.com) for info and calendar  
The Boys & Girls Club of Santa Clarita Valley  
24909 Newhall Ave. Newhall, CA 91321

### Vertical Wine Bistro Dinner & Magic Show

NOTE: Vertical Wine Bistro has the best steak around!  
70 N. Raymond Avenue, Pasadena, CA, 91103  
[www.verticalwinebistro.com](http://www.verticalwinebistro.com)  
626-795-3999

### Woodley Proper Magic Monday

Bar has magic on Monday nights.  
[www.woodleyproper.com](http://www.woodleyproper.com)  
16101 Ventura Blvd, Encino, CA 91436  
(818) 906-9775

### MAGIC MONDAY

Santa Monica Playhouse  
[www.santamonicaplayhouse.com](http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com)  
1211 4th Street Santa Monica, CA, 90401

### Magic and Wine – David Minkin

Bardot  
1737 North Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90028  
[www.MagicandWine.com](http://www.MagicandWine.com)  
(800) 838-3006

### Ivan Imodei's Intimate Illusions – The Show

Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire Hotel  
9500 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
[www.ivanamodei.com](http://www.ivanamodei.com)  
(866) 811-4111

### Smoke and Mirrors

The Road Theatre  
5108 Lankershim Boulevard  
North Hollywood, CA 91601  
[www.SmokeandMirrorsMagic.com](http://www.SmokeandMirrorsMagic.com)  
(310) 450-2849

### The Magic Castle

7001 Franklin Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90028  
[www.magiccastle.com](http://www.magiccastle.com)  
(323) 851-3313

### Magic Mondays

<https://www.magicmondayla.com/>

## GOT SILK?

The August meeting of Ring 21 (which was originally scheduled to highlight Lois Harmeyer's puppet workshop) had a quick theme change to "silk magic." Lois will present her workshop for the September meeting.

After some announcements about the PCAM Convention (in August) and an upcoming convention in Manila next year we moved to our popular raffle which produced several happy winners. Upcoming in October will be our annual installation of new officers and the featured performer will be the popular Paul Green—who will also do the ceremony. Some officers will be repeating their jobs and a few new faces will be on the Executive Board.

Then came the colorful silks and a few magical surprises. Bob Thomas led off with his amazing silk through the mirror. Then Elroy Coddling produced a streamer from his (apparently) empty hand.

Raul Fernandez was able to slide a silk through a tube that seemed completely closed at both ends! And Erin Kabbash proved to be a very quick study since his effect was one he had just won in the raffle. A host of small silks amazingly morphed into a large streamer.

Gerry Schiller did the classic Twentieth Century Silks (that really should be promoted to the 21st Century by now) and ended it as all the silks in a bag were flipped into the air and became one large one with all the colors in it.

September will be Lois' workshop and we're looking forward to a novel and informative experience.

Gerry Schiller

**The Greats of Magic**  
**A Series of Capsule Biographies of Famous Magicians**  
**by Gerald Schiller**



## **P.T. Selbit**

Though his name may not ring any bells of recognition to many people casually interested in magic history, Selbit was a most important innovator and was responsible for developing many amazing illusions. Some even give him credit for originating and popularizing one of magic's best-known effects: "sawing a woman in two."

Born in London in 1881, Percy Thomas Tibbles worked as a silversmith and later as a journalist. As a young boy, he had become interested in magic, and soon he developed an act doing card and coin manipulation. He decided to reverse the letters of his last name and drop one of the "b's" and he became known as Selbit.

He began to develop and perform effects for the stage, and these included "spirit paintings" in which colors materialized on a canvas and created a painting in the style of an artist chosen by the spectators. His "mighty cheese" was a large circle of "cheese" that stood on its end and defied even the strongest spectator's attempt to knock it over. He introduced "walking through a brick wall," an effect that Houdini would incorporate into his act and which was extremely popular.

But Selbit's most famous creation was "sawing a woman in half." He first presented it to an audience in January of 1921 and it was a sensation. He promoted the illusion by having an ambulance parked in front of the theater and having assistants come out to the sidewalk between shows and pour buckets of murky red "blood" in the gutters! Magician Horace Goldin quickly developed his own version of the trick and when Howard Thurston saw it, both were soon adding the illusion to their acts in the U.S.

When Selbit arrived in the U.S. on a tour, many theaters blocked him from performing the effect since they felt Goldin was the "owner" of it. Selbit sued Goldin in 1921 for stealing his effect but lost his case when the court decided Goldin's version was based on an entirely different principle. In actuality, descriptions of the "sawing" trick had appeared in books many years even before Selbit performed it.

Disgusted by losing the court battles, Selbit returned to England in 1922. He did develop a number of other fascinating illusions based on similar ideas: “destroying a girl,” “the indestructible girl,” and “crushing a woman.” In the crushing illusion, a girl lay in a large box filled with balloons. Another box (almost the same size) with two men in it was lowered from above to nest into the first box. As it came down into the box where the girl was, balloons began popping. Finally the first box was opened and the girl had vanished. When the second box was lifted from the first, she magically re-appeared!

Selbit died in 1938 at the age of 57. Horace Goldin died the following year. However, the popularity of his “sawing a woman in half” continued to grow over the years—in many manifestations. Harry Blackstone performed a buzz-saw version for many years (as did his son), and numerous other ways of slicing, dicing, and mutilating assistants became popular as well. Credit, however, for popularizing the original should go to P.T. Selbit, one of the very first to ever cut a woman in two—and then, fortunately, to return her to her original status.

2017 – 2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD	MEMBERS AT LARGE
<p>PRESIDENT: Bob Thomas 661-390-3068  <a href="mailto:bdbbss@yahoo.com">bdbbss@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>VICE-PRESIDENT: Karl Johnson 818-790-9600  <a href="mailto:karl.johnson@gwcmi.com">karl.johnson@gwcmi.com</a></p> <p>SECRETARY: Gerry Schiller 805-499-8921  <a href="mailto:geraldschiller@gmail.com">geraldschiller@gmail.com</a></p> <p>TREASURER: Robert De La Guerra 818-269-8917  <a href="mailto:delaguerramagic@yahoo.com">delaguerramagic@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>SGT-AT-ARMS: Karl Johnson 818-790-9600  <a href="mailto:karl.johnson@gwcmi.com">karl.johnson@gwcmi.com</a></p> <p>PAST-PRESIDENT: Wendy Sobel 310-753-5357  <a href="mailto:wsobel@roadrunner.com">wsobel@roadrunner.com</a></p>	<p>Terrell Chafin 323-478-9748  <a href="mailto:terrell.chafin@gmail.com">terrell.chafin@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Gadi Rowelsky  <a href="mailto:growelsky@gmail.com">growelsky@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Don Kenney 818-896-7261  <a href="mailto:dkmagik@ca.rr.com">dkmagik@ca.rr.com</a></p> <p>Bill Turner 818-786-5326  <a href="mailto:billturner26.2@hotmail.com">billturner26.2@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p>BOARD MEETINGS are on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at  Four 'N 20 Pies located at 4723 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Valley Village, CA 91607. Phone: 818-761-5128.</p>	
<p>EDITOR: KARL JOHNSON 818-790-9600 <a href="mailto:karl.johnson@gwcmi.com">karl.johnson@gwcmi.com</a>  <b>Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is the last Thursday of the prior month.</b>  <b>Please put "IBM 21 Newsletter" in the topic line.</b></p>	