

# FLEMING FLASHPAPER

OCTOBER 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!

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>: Turkey Show. We are doing something unusual for November. Bring your worst trick to show the gang!

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:

Installation!

October 4<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 pm

Taix Restaurant  
1911 Sunset Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA  
(213) 484-1265

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/>

# PUPPET MAGIC!

Our September program was a bit success! Lois Harmeyer presented a puppet workshop. Here are some photos. The first two are from one of Lois's workshops years ago, and the last two are from the current workshop.



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



## The Davenport Brothers

During the late 1800s there was a sudden popular interest in the subject of spiritualism and the possibility of communicating with the departed. Two sisters named Fox in Hydesville, New York, claimed to have been visited by spirits, and soon all over the country people began to believe in unexplained phenomena and the possibility that some individuals had the power to talk to the dead.

Ira Erastus Davenport was born in 1839 and his brother William Henry was born in 1841. Both grew up in Buffalo, New York. Their father was a local policeman. As with the Fox girls, Ira and William, as teenagers, began to experience what they claimed were visits from spirits, and said they were able to do unbelievable things. Realizing the commercial possibilities, their father resigned from the police force and began to take his sons around and exhibit their apparent abilities.

Eventually they developed an act they called "The Spirit Cabinet." The brothers were tied hand and foot and sat at opposite ends of a long bench facing each other. They were then locked in a large wooden cabinet along with various musical instruments. Soon tambourines would sound, drums would be heard, bells would ring and hands would appear at windows in the cabinet. If the doors were suddenly opened, the brothers would still be found tied in their original positions. A spectator locked in the dark cabinet with them would suddenly exit with his clothes turned inside out.

For more than ten years they toured the U.S. and England assisted by William Fay and J.B. Ferguson—a Presbyterian minister who would make long speeches during the show about the existence of ghosts and spirits. Many other magicians debunked their show and in Liverpool, England two amateur conjurers tied them so well that no phenomena took place and the Davenport Brothers had to be cut loose. The crowd rioted, destroyed the cabinet, and demanded their money back.

Magician and film maker George Melies even exposed their methods in a short film he made called *The Cabinet Trick of the Davenport Brothers*. In spite of detractors, they continued touring with their cabinet act. Perhaps many in the audience believed they had unusual powers and others were just looking for entertainment.

In 1877 while touring Australia, William Davenport died and Ira returned to America and went into retirement. But in 1895 Ira attempted to revive the show, Unfortunately for him, it was a failure and did not attract audiences. Ira died in New York in 1911 at the age of 72.

Just two years before he died, Ira had met with Harry Houdini and told him that the brothers had never claimed their cabinet was actually visited by spirits. Ira even showed the escapist the secret to his rope tie which Houdini would explain in his book, *A Magician Among the Spirits*.

Ironically, when young Houdini was just thirteen, he had seen a show like that of the Davenports and this gave him the incentive to work on doing escapes—but escapes that he would always maintain were done by purely physical dexterity, never with any claim of “spiritual intervention.” And much later in his life, Houdini would embark on a crusade to expose the methods of fraudulent spiritualists, claiming he could duplicate any of their methods. Not one ever tried to claim the \$10,000 he offered if they could exhibit an effect he would be unable to explain.

2017 – 2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD	MEMBERS AT LARGE
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<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>	