

# FLEMING FLASHPAPER

SEPTEMBER 2020

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!

Join us for our next Zoom meeting!

We will be voting for officers, AND doing virtual magic!

Mark your calendars for October 1<sup>st</sup>, our installation meeting. DUE TO COVID, IT WILL BE OUR FIRST VIRTUAL INSTALLATION MEETING, BUT WE ARE WORKING ON AN AMAZING TALENT TO PERFORM FOR US AND TO SWEAR-IN OUR NEW OFFICERS.

have a special ...

## 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 3<sup>RD</sup>  
7:00 PM

ZOOM

Look for email from Wendy Sobel for instructions. You can sign in to Zoom as early as 6:30 PM

We are on twitter!  
@ibmring21

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



## LINKS TO PRIVATE IBM 21 MEMBER VIDEOS

In light of Coronavirus shelter-in-place, we have asked members to upload some of their performances as private youtube videos. Below are some links:

4/27/2020: Bob Thomas: FUNNY book test with Lex participating:

<https://youtu.be/FQ-w0bOXSS4>

4/22/2020: Michael Larkin: A ninja ring routine I put together myself, and a great coin routine by Daryl.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bShYQju5Zqk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyUg-UGhGiw>

4/21/2020: Karl Johnson: Fun and Funny performance that my 8 year old daughter and I did for her school talent show:

[https://youtu.be/mkKwufGLB\\_Q](https://youtu.be/mkKwufGLB_Q)

4/16/2020: Don Kinney: Short but hilarious interview at Kingsley Manor.

<https://fpkingsleymanor.oneday.com/Video/E3B7436B42>

4/18/2020: Jim Richardson: A fun cart trick, and the longest card trick:

<https://youtu.be/TptMf-XKe30>

<https://youtu.be/Mri2yvZMBCK>

## MAGIC RESOURCES

<p><b>MAGIC APPLE</b>  <b>The best magic shop and one of the few Remaining “brick and mortars” around!</b>          11390 Ventura Blvd          Studio City, CA 91604  <b>Also online:</b> <a href="http://www.themagicapple.com">www.themagicapple.com</a></p>	<p><b>MAGIC ON THE GO</b>          Great magic instruction brought to you by our very own Steve Valentine:  <a href="https://magiconthego.vhx.tv/">https://magiconthego.vhx.tv/</a></p>
<p><b>Westside Wizards Sam 291</b>          Note: See <a href="http://www.westsidewizards.org">www.westsidewizards.org</a> for calendar of events          Stoner Park OPICA Adult Day Care          11759 Missouri Ave, Los Angeles, CA</p>	<p><b>Mark Wilson IBM Ring 280</b>          Note: See <a href="http://www.ibmring280.com">www.ibmring280.com</a> for info and calendar          The Boys &amp; Girls Club of Santa Clarita Valley          24909 Newhall Ave. Newhall, CA 91321</p>
<p><b>Vertical Wine Bistro Dinner &amp; Magic Show</b>  <b>NOTE: Vertical Wine Bistro has the best steak around!</b>          70 N. Raymond Avenue, Pasadena, CA, 91103  <a href="http://www.verticalwinebistro.com">www.verticalwinebistro.com</a>          626-795-3999</p>	<p><b>Woodley Proper Magic Monday</b>          Bar has magic on Monday nights.  <a href="http://www.woodleyproper.com">www.woodleyproper.com</a>          16101 Ventura Blvd, Encino, CA 91436          (818) 906-9775</p>
<p><b>MAGIC MONDAY</b>  <b>Santa Monica Playhouse</b>  <a href="http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com">www.santamonicaplayhouse.com</a>          1211 4th Street Santa Monica, CA, 90401</p>	<p><b>Magic and Wine – David Minkin</b>  <b>Bardot</b>          1737 North Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90028  <a href="http://www.MagicandWine.com">www.MagicandWine.com</a>          (800) 838-3006</p>
<p><b>Ivan Imodei’s Intimate Illusions – The Show</b>  <b>Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire Hotel</b>          9500 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90212  <a href="http://www.ivanamodei.com">www.ivanamodei.com</a>          (866) 811-4111</p>	<p><b>Smoke and Mirrors</b>  <b>The Road Theatre</b>          5108 Lankershim Boulevard          North Hollywood, CA 91601  <a href="http://www.SmokeandMirrorsMagic.com">www.SmokeandMirrorsMagic.com</a>          (310) 450-2849</p>
<p><b>The Magic Castle</b>  <b>7001</b> Franklin Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90028  <a href="http://www.magiccastle.com">www.magiccastle.com</a>          (323) 851-3313</p>	<p><b>Magic Mondays</b>  <a href="https://www.magicmondayla.com/">https://www.magicmondayla.com/</a></p>

# FOUR CORNERS!

## OUR AUGUST MEETING VIA ZOOM

Continuing to observe all pandemic safety precautions, Ring 21 met via Zoom for its August meeting with members checking in from many parts of Southern California.

Erin Kabbash—who has agreed to take over the presidential duties

—called the meeting to order even though he won't officially assume the new office until October's inauguration. At the September meeting we will announce the election winners, and like a another election that is scheduled

to happen (I'm told) in November, our "inauguration" will be via Zoom—not with the traditional hoopla.

The theme for our August meeting was familiar to most members, but with a significant difference (let's face it, these days it seems that every activity

is being done differently). In the past a "Four Corners" meeting meant that four magicians in four corners of the room taught a skill or trick and members moved from one to another about each 15 minutes, so they learn from each presentation.

Our Zoom version had each performer taking the "spotlight," teaching for the whole group, then relinquishing to the next presenter.

Lex Schwartz began with an excellent session on some basic card sleights. These included false cuts and shuffles (including some of his own ideas), "second deals," and concluded with (that fearful sleight for the new

performer) "palming." All of those present learned a lot—and maybe some

may have gotten over the often felt fear of doing a card sleight.

Erin Kabbash taught a packet trick he called "Reverse Psychology" and it proved to be an easily learned effect and one that required writing on cards with the dramatic "Pick Me" for a finish.

Karl Johnson called his effect "Ambitious ACAAN" that cleverly combined the traditional card that keeps jumping to the top, but even better with a card that jumps to a chosen position.

Gerry Schiller finished the evening with what he called "A Simple Matrix."

It's a coin Matrix with four coins and two jumbo cards. The coins manage to assemble themselves under one card and it finishes with a very big coin showing under one of the cards.

Since various versions of the coin matrix are popular, many other members had suggestions about other sleights and approaches to this traditional effect.

With Zoom Sessions now becoming the norm for many rings, the challenge seems to be: which tricks work well in this format, and which tricks just won't. So the theme for our September meeting will be: find a trick that adapts itself to a Zoom Meeting.

So there won't be any volunteers choosing cards, no one will be reaching into that egg bag (except the magician), and all those "mind reading" effects

will happen over a very long distance.

It certainly promises to be a challenging and intriguing evening.

Gerry Schiller

**The Greats of Magic**  
**A Series of Capsule Biographies of Famous Magicians**  
**Compiled 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.

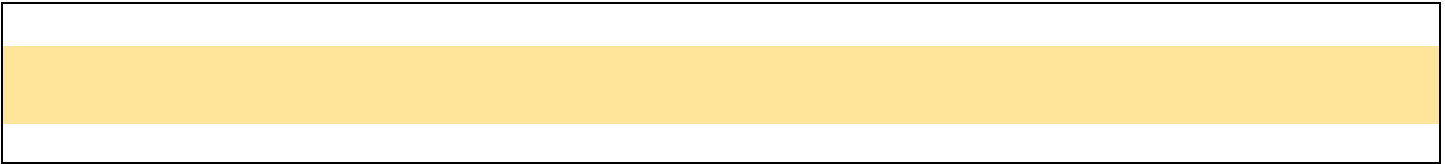
When Selbit arrived in the U.S. on a tour, many theaters blocked him from performing the effect since they felt Goldin was the “owner” of it. Selbit sued Goldin in 1921 for stealing his effect but lost his case when the court decided Goldin’s version was based on an entirely different principle. In actuality, 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.



2018 – 2019 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: Erin Kabbash 720-261-5566 <a href="mailto:erinskabbash@gmail.com">erinskabbash@gmail.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></p> <p><b>Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is the third Thursday of the prior month. Please put "IBM 21 Newsletter" in the topic line.</b></p>	