

# FLEMING FLASHPAPER

NOVEMBER 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 have a lecture by none other than a Magic Castle lecturer of the year!

## Howard Hamburg



RING 21 CLUB MEETING:

First Thursday of the month

NEXT MEETING:

NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

7:00 PM

ZOOM

Look for email from Wendy Sobel for instructions.

We are on twitter!

@ibmring21

And the internet!

[www.ibmring21.org](http://www.ibmring21.org)



## 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!

# LETTER FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Hello everyone!

I hope all are doing well and enjoying the crisp fall weather! Hard to believe that we will be approaching the end of the year and the holidays soon. Personally it is my favorite time of year and I am super excited for what we have lined up for everyone at IBM Ring 21!

We will be having a lecture on 11/5/2020 you will not want to miss via Zoom. Our friend Howard Hamburg will be with us!

If you are a member you should be receiving an invite email with the Zoom Link to join the lecture. As we get closer to the event non-members can attend as well and the link will be shared on our Facebook page and website. But please be prepared to pay a \$10 entry fee if you are not a member of IBM Ring 21. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm PT.

For December we will also be holding our meeting via Zoom and the theme will be Holiday magic! There will be prizes that you will not want to miss out on. Also, since we cannot do food this year we are trying something unique. We will be putting some holiday drink recipes in the news letter that we encourage you to pick from and make one! That way while we are all together on Zoom we can all share in a festive drink together while enjoying the magic.

Will be a strong finish to 2020 at IBM Ring 21 as we move into the year 2021.

See you all Thursday 11/5/2020 for the Howard Hamburg lecture. Don't forget to get out and Vote!

Best,

Erin S Kabbash

## LINKS TO PRIVATE IBM 21 MEMBER VIDEOS

In light of increased online magic due to Coronavirus, we have asked members to upload some of their performances as private youtube videos. Below are some links:

5/8/2020: Bob Carroll's Variety Shows:

Part 1: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Q\\_BLZKAzQ&t=970s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Q_BLZKAzQ&t=970s)

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0WdS4KOFb8>

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 card 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 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 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>

## MEETING ARTICLE

Facing the challenge of our annual installation of new officers and a guest performer,

Ring 21 had its October meeting via Zoom and managed to survive the experience.



Luckily with Past S.A.M. National President Ice McDonald agreeing to be our performer of the evening, the meeting attracted a large group of members. Ice started the evening's events with some startling bird productions and then moved on to several original close-up effects that included a ring jumping from one plastic bag to another and some clever card work. In spite of a few glitches (since doing "Zoom Magic" always seems to be a challenge), Ice kept our attention and even got some good audience participation.

Then it was time for the installation and Ice proceeded to read through the ceremony and have the new officers agree to abide by their upcoming responsibilities. The new officers will be: President Erin Kabbash; Vice President Lex Schwartz; Secretary (continuing) Gerry Schiller; Treasurer Wendy Sobel; Sergeant-at-Arms Karl Johnson; and at-large Board Members Don Kenney, Charles Cisneros, Gadi Rowelsky, and Bob Thomas.

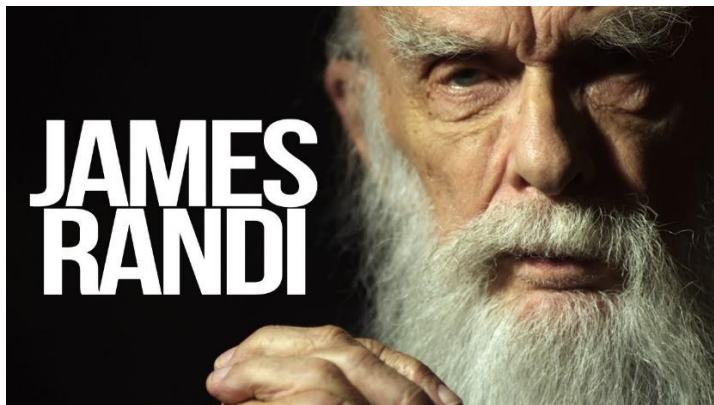
After the ceremony, it was time for our raffle with members given numbers and a spinning (electronic) wheel. Lots of prizes were available (mostly simplified by giving away gift-certificates to the Magic Apple Magic Shop). However, Karl Johnson provided one Grand Prize to one lucky winner, who turned out to be long-time member Bob Thomas. It was a box of brand new magic tricks from Karl's collection, a prize probably worth several hundred dollars!



And since our "virtual meeting" limited the typical magicians' show-and-tell conversation, much of the remainder of the evening seemed to be about the technology now available to those who want to do more magic by Zoom for the immediate future. The year to come may well provide some fascinating changes.

*Gerry Schiller*

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



**JAMES RANDI**

One of the sources I frequently refer to in writing these columns is a book that's now over twenty years old: *Conjuring* by James Randi. I do utilize many other books, internet references, and magazines, but *Conjuring* has been a major resource over the years. Unfortunately, I discovered from Randi himself (when he visited the Castle several years ago) there will probably not be a revision or update, and this (definitely for me) is a major loss.

The man responsible for this marvelous look at the art of magic was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on August 7, 1928. His name was Randall James Hamilton Zwinge.

At the age of thirteen he began to visit the Arcade Magic and Novelty Store in Toronto, and the owner, Harry Smith, soon became his mentor. Randi gives credit to performing as a magician for helping him develop many skills, since, as a child he had little self confidence and even was a stutterer. Doing magic helped to give him the confidence he needed.

At seventeen he was doing magic with a carnival. By the age of twenty he was the Great Randall, Telepath, doing stage shows and making regular predictions on the radio. But when people began to believe he was a genuine seer and sought him out for personal advice, he decided it was time to leave Canada and he came to the U.S. now using the name, The Amazing Randi.

When he was able to get out of a jail cell to garner publicity for his magic act, he began to get pressured to do more escapes. So he escaped from ropes, handcuffs, boxes and coffins. But rather than trying to replicate Houdini's persona, Randi's approach was more lighthearted and humorous. He would tell jokes while he did an escape and maintain a much more casual atmosphere.

Like Houdini, who spent much of his later life debunking spiritualists, Randi also became a well known de-mystifier of paranormal activity, faith healers, and other non-scientific types. He appeared frequently on television and wrote extensively with such books as *Film-Flam! Psychics, ESP, Unicorns and Other Delusions* (1982), *The Faith Healers* (1987), *An Encyclopedia of Claims, Frauds, Hoaxes of the Occult and Supernatural*

(1995), and an expose of Uri Geller in *The Truth about Uri Geller* (1982). Randi and Geller had an ongoing feud and he even exposed Geller's dishonest claims to paranormal skills on a live Johnny Carson show in 1973.

He was the founder of The James Randi Educational Foundation and his work has won him awards from the MacArthur Foundation, the Academy of Magical Arts (the Magic Castle), The National Council Against Health Fraud, The American Humanist Association, and dozens of other citations, honors, and degrees.

His foundation has a standing challenge to any psychic who can demonstrate a genuine example of a psychic phenomenon, and receive a million dollar prize.

To this date the award remains unclaimed.

Randi, who died this year at the age of 92, wished to be cremated, and (as he told the *New Times* in 2009) "...I want my ashes blown in Uri Geller's eyes."

# HOLIDAY JINGLE MAGIC BY KARL JOHNSON

## EFFECT

This is a matrix routine that can be done at any time of the year with different props, but this is a holiday version that uses jingle bells. At the end of the explanation, we will cover other props that can be used at other times of the year. It uses three holiday jingle bells, the little metal bells that might be worn by Santa's Elves. The three bells are placed in a triangle around a round paper with a spiral drawn on it, and one by one, they disappear from the triangle and appear on the spiral in the middle.

## SETUP

You need four small metal jingle bells. If you do the advanced version described later, you will need five jingle bells. You can purchase them in assorted sizes and then try different sizes to see which suits you best. You are going to need to classic palm them from a table. You will need to remove the ringer ball from one of them. Using a butter knife, you can pry open the bell and remove the ball, then press the open section to restore the bell to its original look. This gimmicked bell is your initial hidden bell. In addition, you have a round white circle piece of paper or paper napkin that has a spiral drawn on it. Have three of the bells in a bag and the gimmicked bell separate. You start the routine with the gimmicked bell palmed in your right hand. Sometimes, if I know I will be performing this, I place the four bells on a key ring and place it on my keychain. Prior to performance, I just need to remove the gimmicked one and palm it. My patter can start with asking people if they do anything to get in the spirit of the holidays.

Before starting the routine, you have the gimmicked bell palmed in your right hand.

## PERFORMANCE AND HANDLING

You take the three jingle bells from a bag or your keychain with your left hand and place them in your right hand, cupping your hand so they don't see the extra jingle bell. Start by placing two in your right hand in case they "talk". If you aren't familiar with magician jargon, "talk" means when you pretend to have one item in your hand when you really have two items and they make a noise by hitting or rubbing against each other. Place the third jingle bell in your hand. Keep your hand cupped a bit, just so they aren't able to count exactly how many bells you have. You place the round white spiral circle on the table.

Here is sample "holiday" patter:

"Things always get weird during the holidays, don't they? I'd like to show you what happened one year when three of Santa's Elves went on a reconnaissance mission to the Bermuda Triangle. Santa would have gone, but he was busy. These bells are going to represent the three elves who went on this dangerous mission and this round spiral circle... well, it represents... not good things for anyone who end up there."

You place the three jingle bells around the spiral circle, forming a triangle.

"You have to imagine that as the Elves are busy on their mission, they are singing 'jingle bells'" You close both hands as if you are holding a bell and you sing the first two lines of jingle bells as you move your hands as if you are "jingling bells". If you don't want to sing, you can try to get your audience to sing as you pretend to operate the imaginary bells. This serves to sell the idea that you don't have any additional bells in your hands. It really doesn't matter whether you sing well or not. This is my patter: "jingle bells, jingle bells, no? ok, I'll stop singing." Then continue with the story:

"So, The elves went to three different islands in the Bermuda triangle." Place your left hand over the lower left bell from the triangle and your right hand over the middle spiral. Say: "One of the elves experienced a mysterious wind." You move your hands as if they are being blown about as you make a wind sound with your mouth. You lift both hands after palming the bell in your left hand and releasing the bell in your right hand, leaving it on the spiral. As you do this, you say: "And he was gone. Now, you know where he went."

You do the same thing, but this time your left hand goes over the spiral and your right hand goes over the lower right bell in the pyramid.

You do it a final, third time, with your left hand going over the remaining bell in the pyramid and your right hand going over the spiral.



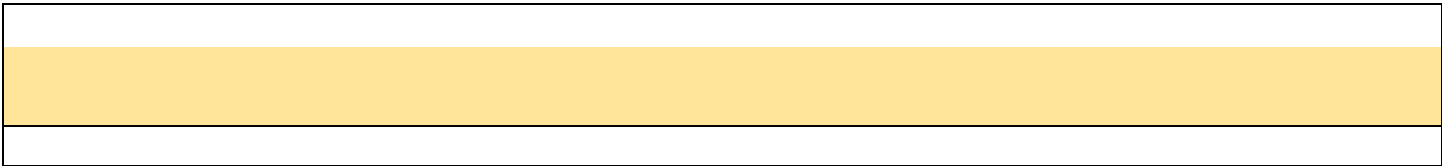
## ADVANCED VERSION

If you want to get ambitious, there is an advanced version. This version fools lay people and magicians. For this version, you use two gimmicked bells, one held in finger palm, but pinched between your middle and ring right fingers and one held between your middle and pointer right fingers. When you do the first two phases above, your left hand goes over the left bell and your right hand goes over the spiral and when you do the second phase, your left hand goes over the top bell and the same right hand goes over the spiral. You ditch the bell in your left hand in between the first and second phase as you pick up the bell in the middle with your right hand and give it a shake at the same time as you drop the left hand bell in your lap, thus masking any noise it makes. Finally, the third phase is done with your left hand on the spiral and your right hand on the triangle bell on the right.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

I said up front that this is a version of the bottle cap matrix because you can do a similar matrix effect with either beer bottle caps, water bottle caps, or soda bottle caps. I particularly like the "holiday" version because it adds an element of audio deception.

I hop you enjoy the routine.



2018 – 2019 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></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>	