



OCTOBER 2023

# The Fleming Flashpaper

The International Brotherhood of Magicians RING 21 Hollywood, California Newsletter

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Regular meetings are on the 1st  
& Board meetings on the 3rd  
Thursdays' of each month at  
7 pm, when not in person click:

[RING 21 ZOOM Meetings](#)



click logo  
for website

It's time for

Our 85th Annual Awards and Installation Banquet

## Thursday, October 5th, 2023

Social starting at 6:30 pm and Dinner at 7:00 pm

at *Miceli's Restaurant Hollywood*

1646 N Las Palmas Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90028

[Click here for Directions from your place via Google maps](#)

### Everyone welcomed!

**This is a great opportunity to bring friends and family members  
or just yourself to an IBM RING 21 event!**

#### Buffet Style

Includes their **famous dinner rolls, Caesar salad**, cheese and pepperoni **pizzas**, **Baked Ziti** with ricotta and mozzarella cheese, marinara sauce, **Chicken Piccaanti** with pasta, **Pasta Primavera** plus refillable **soft drinks** and **mini cannolis**.

Tix \$60 each **includes**, tax and gratuity. Parking \$10 or less. PLEASE REMIT NOW.  
[PayPal Link Here](#) - Please include name(s), email and you can also  
add your annual membership of \$35. If you want to mail a check please  
[click here](#) to email Treasurer Robert Thomas for address or any  
questions, we [Venmo](#) too.i.e. one annual dues and one dinner = \$95.  
Add \$60 per each add'l dinner.

A bunch of **raffle prizes** and following dinner a  
*special magic show by **Robert Ramirez**, seen on  
Masters of Illusions, twice on Penn and  
Teller: Fool Us! And All rooms of The  
Magic Castle in a single year!*



*From The Beatles to Marilyn Monroe to Jim Carrey and many  
others.....see why they all love Miceli's!*

We will be in the special room, the haunted basement.

Limited to the first 60 reservations

# Annual Dues Due

Renewing or new members only **\$35** per year!

The easiest way to pay is [PayPal](#) using this link

# Upcoming Scheduled\* Events

**October**-Annual Banquet

**November**-Lecture by ???

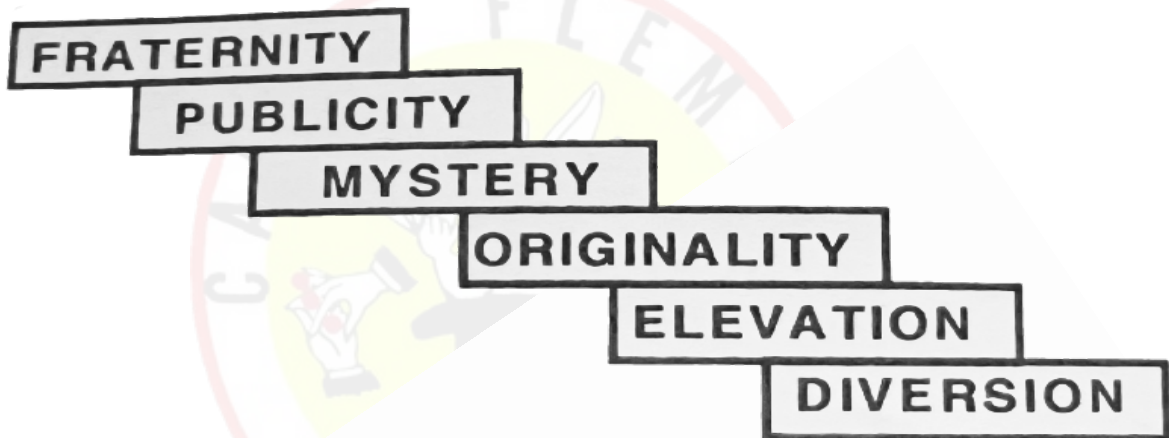
Magic Convention by Pacific Coast Association of Magicians

[PCAM 2023, Nov. 9-12, 2023 Carlsbad, CA](#)

**December**-Potluck Dinner and Free to Perform

**July**- [I.B.M. Convention July 10-13, 2024 Tacoma, WA](#)

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



These steps are listed on our Membership Charter,  
representing our Goals and Accomplishments.



# Join The World's Largest Magic Club International Brotherhood of Magicians *And Join Local I.B.M. RING 21 Hollywood!*



- Linking Ring Magazine
- Monthly Meetings
- Conventions
- Lectures
- Contests
- Workshops

## Contact:

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[wsobel@roadrunner.com](mailto:wsobel@roadrunner.com)

Gerry Schiller, Secretary 805-657-8921  
[geraldschiller36@gmail.com](mailto:geraldschiller36@gmail.com)

*Celebrating the enjoyment and camaraderie of magic since 1938!*

### Click here

[For newsletter  
Submission  
Consideration](#)

[Click here to go to our  
zoom room](#)

Our Member Charles  
sponsors Book Day on our

*Instagram*

every Wednesday which is  
dedicated to  
promoting books on magic and  
magic history. See what's being  
shared **each Wednesday.**

## We are on:



X

[@ibmring21](#)

facebook



[IBM RING 21 The Caryl Fleming  
Ring](#)

instagram



[ibmring21](#)

**And the internet!**

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

I.B.M RING 21 presents

# Our 85th Annual Awards and Installation Banquet

## Thursday, October 5th, 2023

Social starting at 6:30 pm and Dinner at 7:00 pm



NOW at **Miceli's Restaurant Hollywood**

1646 N Las Palmas Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90028

[Click here for Directions from your place via Google maps](#)

### Everyone welcomed!

This is a great opportunity to bring friends and family members or just yourself to an IBM RING 21 event!

### Buffet Style

Includes their famous dinner rolls, Caesar salad, cheese and pepperoni pizzas, Baked Ziti with ricotta and mozzarella chesse, marinara sauce, Chicken Piccaanti with pasta, Pasta Primavera plus refillable soft drinks and mini cannolis.

Tix \$60 each **includes** tax and gratuity. Parking \$10 or less.

### [PayPal Link Here](#)

- Please include name(s) and you can also add your annual membership of \$35. If you want to mail a check please [click here](#) to email Treasurer Robert Thomas for address or any questions, we [Venmo](#) too. i.e. one annual dues and one dinner = \$95. Add \$60 per each add'l dinner.

A bunch of **raffle prizes** and following dinner *a special magic show with*

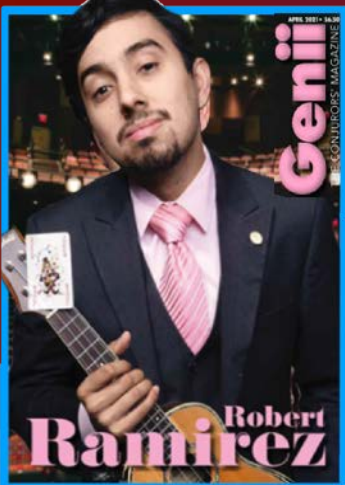
**Robert Ramirez**, seen on Masters of Illusions, twice on Penn and Teller: Fool Us! & All rooms of The Magic Castle

We will be in the special room, the haunted basement.

**Park for \$10 just south, in lot, mention RING 21**

Looking forward to seeing you all there, well no more than 60.

*Subject to changes*



# Do Be Do Be DO

## Gentle Reminder:

### Dues DUE

# Renewing members or new member dues still only **\$35** per year!

The easiest way to pay is PayPal using the link below.

Add \$60 per person for the banquet. In the notes/what's this payment for? section of PayPal include the name(s) and if attending the banquet. If you want to mail a check please [click here](#) to email Treasurer Robert Thomas for address or any questions.

We also accept Venmo, under the name Robert Thomas.  
i.e. one dues and one dinner = \$95. Add \$60 per each add'l dinner.



## [PayPal](#) and [Venmo](#)

Banquet payment is needed by 10/1  
for your guaranteed reservation

[Click here join I.B.M. International](#)



Members of RING 21 are also members of PCAM which celebrates their 90th anniversary this year at their convention in Carlsbad (40 mins.north of San Diego) September newsletter has full line-up with dates and times [PCAM 2023, Nov. 9-12, 2023](#)

# MAGIC RESOURCES AND MORE LINKS

## OTHER LOCAL RINGS

RING 280 SANTA CLARITA  
[www.ibmring280.com](http://www.ibmring280.com)

RING 313 ORANGE COUNTY  
[ring313.org](http://ring313.org)

RING 96 LONG BEACH  
<https://www.ring96.com/>

## OTHER LOCAL MAGIC MEETINGS

SAM 291 WEST LA  
[www.westsidewizards.org](http://www.westsidewizards.org)

SAM ASSEMBLY 22. DUARTE  
<https://sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home>

Orange County Magic Club  
[theocmc.com](http://theocmc.com)

## MAGIC LEARNINGS

THE MAGIC APPLE-magic shop  
11390 Ventura Blvd  
Studio City, CA 91604  
Also order online:  
[www.themagicapple.com](http://www.themagicapple.com)

MAGIC ON THE GO  
Magic instruction by Steve Valentine  
<https://magiconthego.vhx.tv/>

## SHOWS

MAGIC MONDAY  
Santa Monica Playhouse  
[www.santamonicaplayhouse.com](http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com)  
1211 4th Street Santa Monica

Ivan Imodei's Intimate Illusions  
Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire  
9500 Wilshire Boulevard,  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
[www.ivanamodei.com](http://www.ivanamodei.com)  
(866) 811-4111

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

## PERFORMANCES ONLINE

Lex The Illusionist performs an excellent Anniversary Waltz: <https://youtu.be/PuAwD2PukIE>

Bob Thomas: FUNNY book test with Lex participating:  
<https://youtu.be/FQ-w0bOXSS4>

Michael Larkin: Ninja ring Daryl coin routine  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bShYQju5Zqk>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyUg-UGhGlw>

Karl Johnson and daughter give a fun performance:  
[https://youtu.be/mkKwufGLB\\_Q](https://youtu.be/mkKwufGLB_Q)

Don Kinney: Short hilarious interview at Kingsley Manor.  
<https://fpkingsleymanor.oneday.com/Video/E3B7436B42>

*[Celebrating the enjoyment and camaraderie of magic since 1938!](#)*

**Less than one year after the famous magicians death, Houdini Day is established before later becoming immortalized as National Magic Day, October 31st.**

## **Harry Houdini: The Master of Assimilation**

How to explain the durability of Harry Houdini?

He died more almost 100 years ago in Detroit, yet his fame remains undimmed and unabated. Indeed, utter his name to adolescents and — even though they're unlikely to have seen any of the dozens of movies and documentaries about him, or read any of the books he wrote or the countless biographies — they've probably heard of him. Along with J.P. Morgan, Henry Ford and P.T. Barnum, Houdini inhabits, in the American popular imagination, the innocent excitement of the early 20th century before the crash of 1929, before World War II, before evil was systematized.



His longevity is not only the result of his resourcefulness as an entertainer but, as Teller, of the Las Vegas-based team Penn and Teller, puts it, because he was a “multidimensional” character and “a force of nature.” Teller adds, “If there was a new medium, a new technology, if there was a new idea that was center stage in the culture, Houdini was right there.”

Or might this Jewish immigrant from Budapest, Hungary — a Rabbi's son, born Erich Weiss — be less an *artiste* than a superhero, a symbol of interwar Diaspora Jews. Unlike David Blaine, with his TV-made stunts (Blaine is part Puerto Rican, part Russian Jewish), but maybe similar to David Kotkin (Copperfield ) who credits his Brooklyn-born Russian Jewish father and especially his tough Israeli mother. Houdini was a desperate “great escaper” for the masses. He sorted himself out of hopeless situations — like breaking

away from a milk can and a Chinese water torture cell, or wriggling out of a straitjacket while being suspended from a crane that was being used to build the New York subway. And he did it all in front of millions of people from diverse economic backgrounds.

Houdini had myriad perspectives, first and foremost of these was his career, including his partnership with his wife, a Christian, and his Buried Alive stunt, in which he was placed, straitjacketed, into a casket filled with sand. But also considered are his Hollywood movies, such as “The Grim Game” (1919) and “Haldane of the Secret Service” (1923), as well as several unfinished films; his endurance in the popular imagination, as in E.L. Doctorow’s novel “Ragtime” (1975), in which he plays an important character, or Matthew Barney’s “Cremaster” films (with a Houdini played by Norman Mailer). He even appears in the work of contemporary artists like Vik Muniz, Allen Ruppersberg and Deborah Oropallo, who use conceptual techniques to invoke Houdini’s enchantments.

with decoder viewer



Houdini’s name is synonymous with escape, but that simply bolsters, and is bolstered by, his fame. There’s a United States Postal Service stamp that replicates one of Houdini’s favorite posters and is a magic effect too, a musical based on his life and a Houdini Plaza in Appleton, Wisc. He is also said to have named Buster Keaton after he saw the future vaudevillian fall down the stairs uninjured, then told his father Joe Keaton: “Your son is quite the buster!”

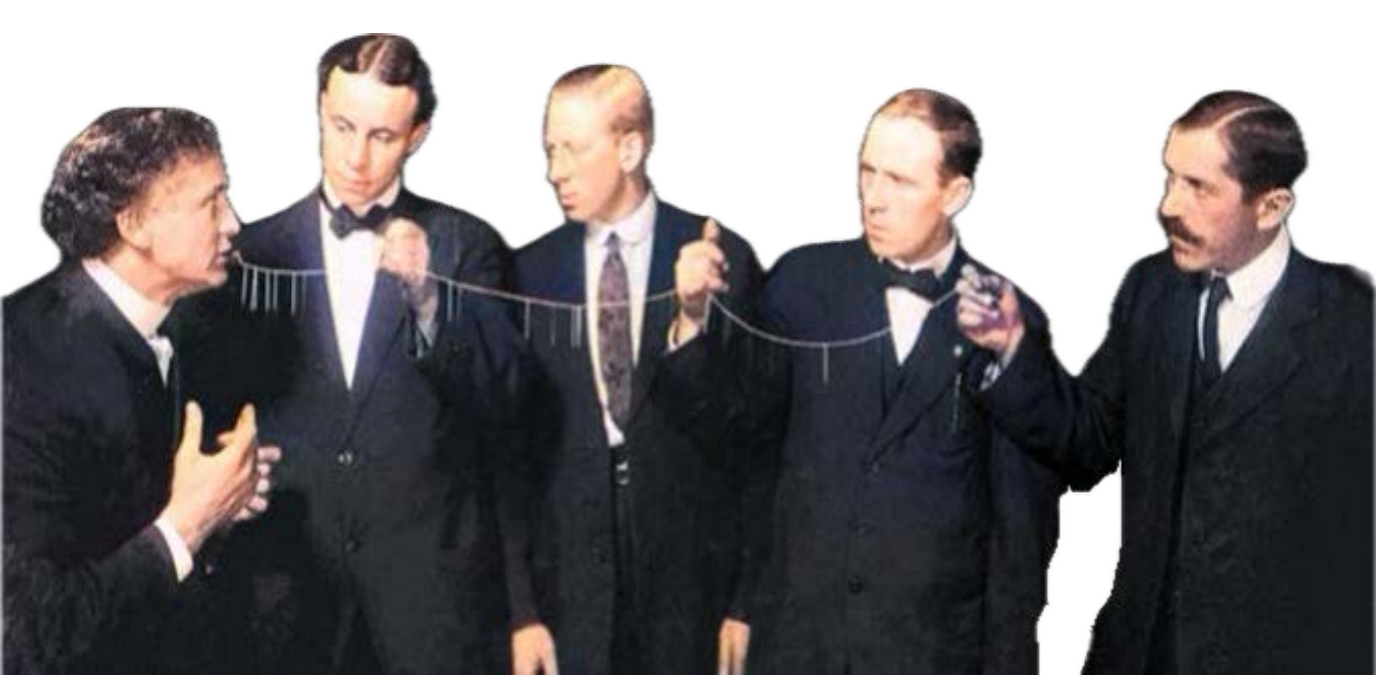


Houdini left behind a large trove of what anthropologists call “material culture”: extraordinary sepia photographs; his personal diaries; lithographs, publicity posters and other theatrical paraphernalia; newspaper and magazine clippings, and biopics such as the 1953 “Houdini”

with Tony Curtis, directed by George Marshall.



Then there are the stage props eternally connected with Houdini: chains, ropes, handcuffs, straightjackets and man-size tanks. In part, Houdini's image is attached to them because of the metaphor of escape he has come to represent. Why is Houdini pertinent now? What keeps him in vogue? Serendipity might be the easy answer, but not the right one. Given the current technological bombardment that defines us, we have lost the capacity to be enchanted by theatrical acts of wizardry, and Houdini's stunts remind us of our basic instinct to be hypnotized by what seems, on sight, impossible. What kinds of superheroes do we embrace today if not plasticky ones, depending always on special effects?

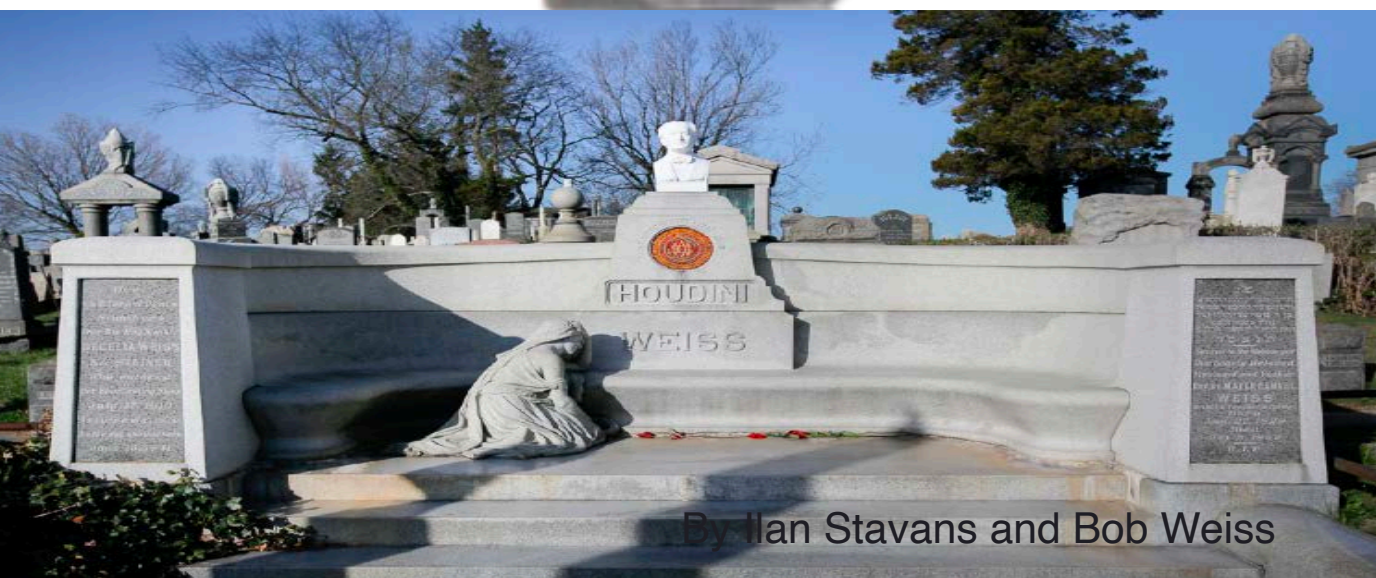


He served as one of the models for a child's fantasy life. And in that pantheon was Houdini. Kids in any generation... loved learning card tricks and sleight-of-hand, making coins disappear, trying to hypnotize one another, that sort of thing. And behind all that tomfoolery stood the figure of Houdini. Even though he was long since dead. Perhaps because he was long since dead.

Growing up lots of us remember being mesmerized every time watching the Tony Curtis movie, which happened once a year, in November, when for some reason television showed it on a Sunday afternoon. The last scene, in which Houdini dies without being able to escape a fish tank, is engraved in imagination. The movie doesn't explore his religion although it does cover his crusade against Spiritualism, in which he attacked those who purportedly spoke with

pretended to have spoken with his deceased mother — in English, although his mother only communicated in Yiddish and German. The Jewish community loved Harry Houdini then and continues to love him today. This is because he was simultaneously an insider and an outsider. Was he seen in the 1920s as an assimilationist? He surely was, yet that was also the general impetus of those Jewish immigrants from the Pale of Settlement: to make it in America, and to make it big. Harry Houdini was a role model. He didn't parade his Jewishness — but he didn't hide it, either. He changed his name because he didn't want to be seen as an immigrant, although he wanted his peers to respect him; that is, because he wanted the full attention of Americans and the world at large. His Hungarian identity was in his way, so he hid it. Kenneth Silverman, professor emeritus of English at New York University and the author of the biography, "Houdini!!! The Career of Ehrich Weiss" (1996), writes that Houdini ate kosher and moved in Jewish circles, that anti-Semitism roused him and that his Jewish immigrant temperament caused him to work harder than everyone else and to fight animosity through success.

That Houdini remains an object of adoration today, in some measure, is a result of his bifurcated identity. In the end he died, at age 52, after a McGill University performance a man punched him in the abdomen as part of a murder, *but that's another story*. He traveled to Michigan, where he performed at the Garrick Theater, after which he passed away, of a ruptured appendix, peritonitis and streptococcal infection on October 31, 1926. As it turned out, he was, indeed, human. His grave is in Glendale, Queens, in the Machpelah Cemetery, although, as the never-ending interest in him shows, Houdini has escaped his tomb as well.



You've probably heard of Magic Eye, below is one with a photo that really becomes quite 3D. Hold the center of the image up to your nose. Focus as though you are looking through the image into the distance. Very slowly move the image away from your face. Try to look through the image, not at it. Once you see it you can move up, down, sideways to really see the 3D magical effect. Still can't see it?. It's usually easier to view the stereogram in printed form rather than on a monitor. Try this raise your index finger and hold it in front of your face, about as far away as you would have the magic eye image. Look past your finger and focus on something beyond your finger. Do that for the magic image below.





## **Dear Fellow Wizards!**

**The October tradition is back**

**Reading To Kids is looking for magicians to perform at their Sat., October 14 reading clubs. The organization promotes literacy to underserved kids, and their Oct. reading club theme centers on... magic!**

**Magicians would need to arrive by 10:30 am, and present a 15-minute stage/parlour family show at approximately 11:15 am. Many of our Westside Wizards have volunteered in recent years, performing for welcoming, enthusiastic audiences of 100+ children at the 8 central L.A. elementary schools hosting RTK clubs.**

**Our own Raul Fernandez is coordinating volunteers from both Westside Wizards and IBM Ring 21. Please touch base with him at [rfern91501@gmail.com](mailto:rfern91501@gmail.com) for all the details.**



# You are invited ...

*and your family and guests*

*...to attend*

## An Afternoon of Magic

*by the Society of American Magicians  
Hall of Fame and Magic Museum, Inc.*

**Saturday,  
October 21, 2023**



**FREE**

**This is our Fall Show celebrating National  
Magic Week**

Westminster Gardens, in Packard Hall,  
1420 Santo Domingo Ave.,  
Duarte, CA 91010.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m., with "curtain time" scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

**WILL YOU PLEASE CONFIRM OR DECLINE THESE RESERVATIONS:  
YOUR RESPONSE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED**

**Mr. John Engman at 626-239-0349   or   Ms. Kim Hallinger at 310-832-7812**

### **What is An Afternoon of Magic?**

The S.A.M. Hall of Fame and Magic Museum, Inc. is pleased to invite you to An Afternoon of Magic. The magical presentation is geared to family audiences.

There will be a professionally staged magic show.  
Magical apparatus, posters, and memorabilia will be on display.

Enjoy your visit to this unique, entertaining and educational institution.

There is a large parking lot.

There is absolutely no smoking in the Hall of Fame and Magic Museum or Westminster Gardens at any time, by any person, in any room or area. Photography and audio or video recordings are also not permitted in the facility without prior approval.

<http://www.samhalloffame.com>