

The Fleming Flashpaper

The International Brotherhood of Magicians RING 21 Hollywood, California Newsletter

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Meetings held 1st Thursdays'

of each month & Board meetings

on the 3rd Thursdays' via the

link below all starting at 7 pm

[RING 21 Teams/Microsoft Board](#)

All welcome

[Meeting link](#)



click logo
or website



Bizarre Award Performance Night

Thursday, May 7th, 7 p.m. at

Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Cathedral
AUDITORIUM

[650 Micheltorena St, Los Angeles, CA 90026](#)

[Click above for driving directions](#)

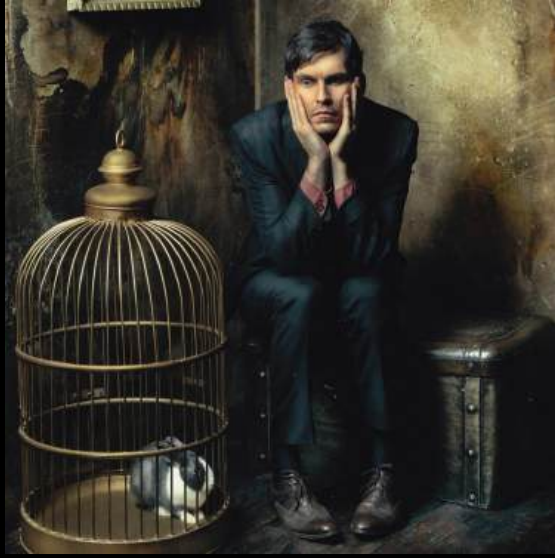
Free parking in their lot

Step Into the Shadows for an Evening of the Extraordinary
Prepare yourselves for a night where the line between reality and the supernatural blurs. Our **Bizarre Award Performance Night** is not your typical magic show. Join us for a showcase of the dark, the mental, and the macabre—from pulse-pounding mentalism and E.S.P. to the visceral thrills of geek magic. **Viewer Discretion Advised.**

This isn't just a performance; it's a competition. **You** are the jury. Your votes tonight will determine who walks away with the prestigious Bizarre Award at our Annual Banquet on October 1st. Come prepared to be unsettled, amazed, and ultimately, to decide the fate of our performers as well as perform too.

PLUS RAFFLE PRIZES

RING 21 Hollywood presents another
SUPERSTAR★LECTURER



Rob Zabrecky Thursday

July 2nd 7:30pm at

**Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox
Cathedral AUDITORIUM**

650 Micheltorena St, Los Angeles, CA 90026

FREE for members

\$25 for non-members
(applicable towards our annual dues of only \$35)

Free parking in their lot for all

How our Awards will be Awarded

At the 89th Annual Awards and Installation Banquet set for October 1, 2026.

The judging shall be based on our Constitution and By-Laws on the following rating system:

Presentation: Includes continuity, costume if required, preparedness, applicability to performance night theme (ie. Approach to table/intro) and entertainment value.

Originality: Is the effect new, personalized or a different twist?

Effect: Skill level, was it magical? Did they accomplish their goal?

Each of the above 3 categories are to be judged on a scale of 1 to 5 in with the Maximum point award of 15 for any performer.

We're looking at rating sheets to be given out to each person in the audience that evening to vote in accordance with above, however only members in good standing are eligible to win.

Time limits may be imposed. For the Strolling Award night it will be 8 minutes with a timer going off prior to wrap-up. The results will be announced at our banquet.
Subject to changes.

Holy Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Cathedral

650 Micheltorena Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026

By Silver Lake Blvd. and the 101 Freeway



RAFFLE

MAGICAL PRIZES RAFFLE TONIGHT!

WIN INCREDIBLE PRIZES!

FANTASTIC MAGIC PRIZES



TICKET PRICES

1 TICKET



5\$

(\$5 A PIECE)

5 TICKETS



20\$

(GET 1 FREE!)

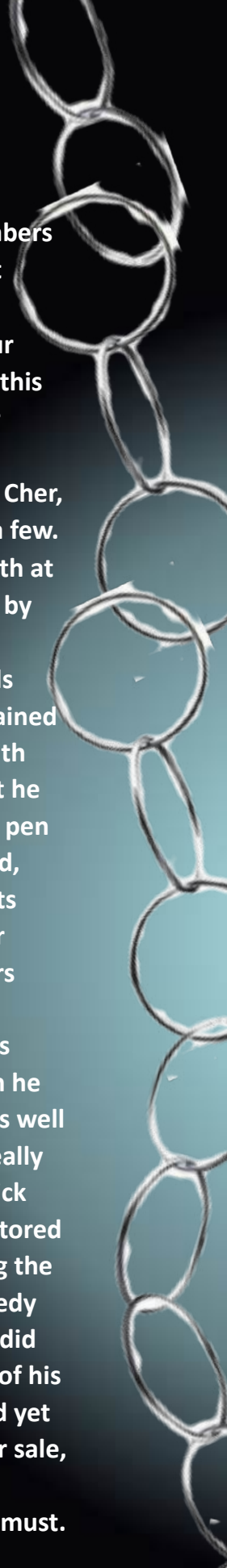
Raffles, dues & donations help support our club

April

LINKING RING REPORT BY BOB WEISS

President Bob Weiss began our April meeting introducing three new members Marguerite Krick, Storm Velez, and Jay Jackson. Each told a little bit about themselves, their interest in magic and more. Then Bob announced an exclusive invitation to the John Gaughan illusion Studio Warehouse for our members in May. This will be a chance for members to visit and talk with this amazing person and his magical place. John has done illusions not just for magicians like David Copperfield, Siegfried and Roy, Ricky, Jay, and Doug Henning, but also in the music world such as The Doors, Michael Jackson, Cher, Alice Cooper (his infamous guillotine) and Barbra Streisand to name just a few. Bob also announced another "field trip" for members to meet up April 27th at The Green Room in the Valley for they have Magic Monday Nights hosted by Matt Felten.

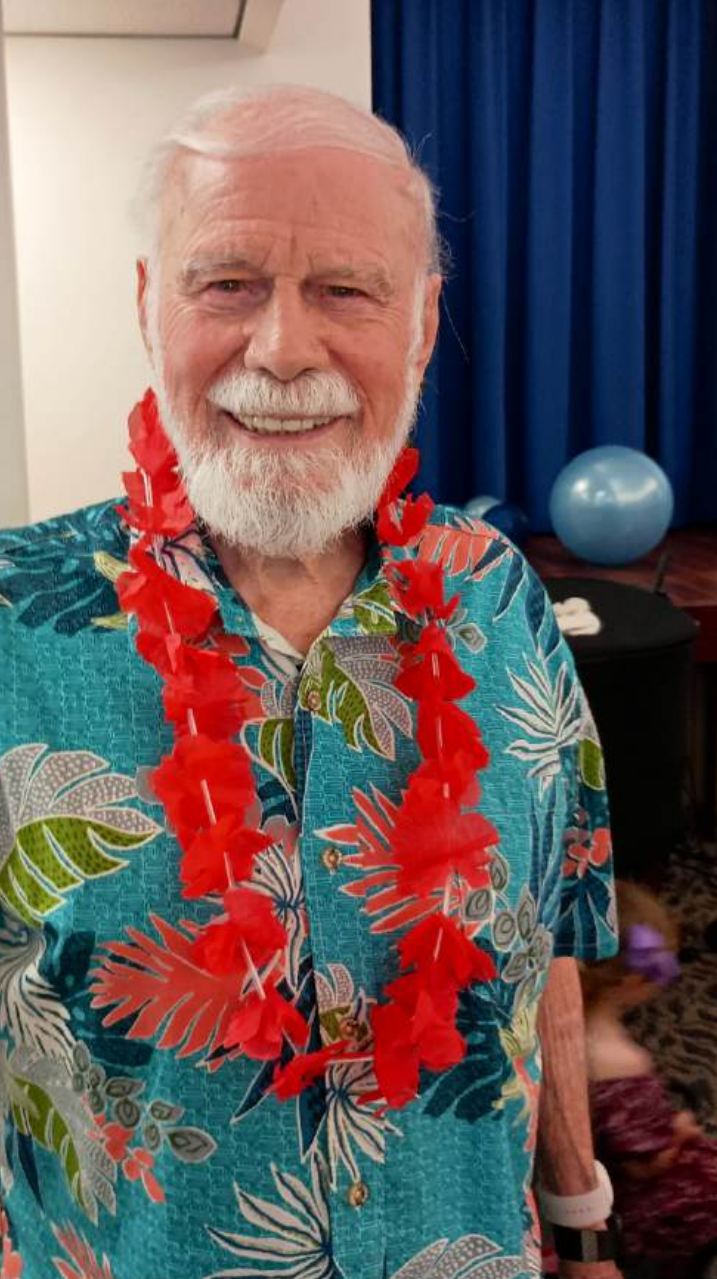
Then it was onto our lecturer Gregory Wilson. He began showing his hands empty and so cleanly then all of a sudden a poker chip appeared, he explained how it worked using Dexter putty and all the finesses of the poker chip with the comedy byplay of the chip appearing on the spectators shoulder. Next he began with another cool, strolling magic effect using a pen and a cap. The pen kept changing direction and the cap as well. At the end it was all examined, next he had a spectator give a large number then he reached it to his pants pocket pulling out all these coins, giving the spectator them to count their value and yes, his pocket was shown cleanly empty and yes, the spectators number matched exactly the value of all the coins. Next he had golf tees disappear and reappearing in different hands. Then he had these golf balls coming endlessly out of their box over and over again, truly magical. Then he did this other effect where blank playing cards turned to a straight flush as well as the colors on the backs changing. Then he showed us how to make a really easy effect with a Starbucks, snack bag, and a swizzle stick. The swizzle stick could be heard snapping, even spectators broke it, and yet it was fully restored and of course the bag was cleanly empty. Then he did another effect using the three card Monty routine, but with colored credit cards. He then did comedy byplay with a chosen card that kept appearing under him on his chair. He did more with coins, appearing and disappearing, a card box spinning on top of his finger, and a Rubiks Cube effect with two mixed up one by a spectator and yet they matched, and they were examinable. A lot of these effects he had for sale, and as you can guess, many members were anxious for these purchases. Gregory's lecture was fantastic, if you ever have a chance to see him, you must.



John Engman's 95th birthday Celebration

By Roy Ball

Everyone had a wonderful time at John Engman's 95th birthday on Saturday April 18th held at his residential community in Duarte. It looked like several hundred people showed up filling up the meeting Hall completely. People from his residential community, from his church, his kids, grandkids and great grandkids came. People from his professions as a lawyer and accountant, his community involvements and of course there was a special table just for magicians. Lunch was catered by the In-N-Out Burger mobile truck. I didn't know they had one. After a few speeches and an interesting slide show the highlight of the afternoon was the cutting of the birthday cake with John blowing out the candles. Our own Wendy Sobel also helped to serve cake to the guests. A good time was had by all and we are all looking forward to John's 100th birthday. Happy Birthday John!





HAPPY 95th BIRTHDAY JOHN ENGMAN
from your RING 21 Family

Free Magic Show

Second & Fourth Wednesday

1 pm on Zoom

Go to <https://openmicmagic.com/> and get your free tickets. You can even perform or just watch. It's magicians from all over the world and quite entertaining!



2nd & 4th Wednesday

Showcase Your Skills After The Meeting!



Calling all magicians!

After our meetings, Manny will be ready to record anyone who wants to perform a quick, 30-second or so magic effect/trick or illusion for a fun Instagram Reels video project.

This is your chance to shine and share your magic with the world. Join in and let the magic happen!

Did you know that the clapboard (pictured above was invented by a RING 21 member? Leon Leon, son of the Great Leon, was a cameraman for many movies like Gone With The Wind and it was he who invented the clapboard by wrapping tape to two sticks. This is still used in every movie or TV production although many have gone digital.



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Houdini's death

JAMES AVE



This is indeed Harry Houdini and the legendary comedian, pool player and juggler W.C. Fields.

This photo was taken in Beechhurst, Queens (a neighborhood of Whitestone, NY). Both men actually lived in this area at the time; Houdini lived on Powell's Cove Boulevard, and Fields lived just a few blocks away.

The "James Ave" sign in the background is the famous giveaway for this specific meeting. James Avenue (now part of 166th Street) was right in the heart of the

"celebrity colony" in Beechhurst where many vaudeville stars resided like The Marx Brother and Mary Pickford. You have to imagine these two walking down James Ave and bumping into other legends.

Before Fields became a movie icon, he was a world-class "eccentric juggler" on the same vaudeville circuits as Houdini. They were contemporaries and friends who shared a mutual respect for each other's work ethic and showmanship.

You can see Fields' signature look even here—the broad shoulders and that specific tilt of the head. It's a fantastic shot of two of the 20th century's greatest entertainers just hanging out in their own neighborhood.

The 1920s in Beechhurst and Whitestone were essentially the "Hollywood of the East," and seeing Houdini and W.C. Fields together on James Avenue is the ultimate crossover for that era.

Here are some of the best "hood" stories and local lore about their time in Queens:

The "Trick Door" and the Tunnels

Houdini's home on Powell's Cove Boulevard was just a few blocks from where that photo was taken. Local legends about the house were as mysterious as his act:

- **The Trick Foyer:** Visitors reported that one of the interior doors was rigged with a "hinge-side" opening mechanism. If you didn't know the secret of the knob, you couldn't get through the second door.
- **The Speakeasy Tunnel:** Neighborhood lore persists that Houdini had a secret tunnel running from his basement directly to a local pub on the corner. While never fully proven before the house was demolished in 1995, it fits his "escape artist" brand perfectly.
- **The Bathtub Practice:** Houdini was known to spend hours in his oversized bathtub in Beechhurst, timing how long he could hold his breath to the point of worrying his wife, Bess.

While the photo shows them smiling, their relationship was famously competitive:

- **Billing Battles:** In 1904, they appeared on the same bill at the London Hippodrome. Fields, who was then a world-class "eccentric juggler," was reportedly steamed that he was billed third behind Houdini.
- **The "Friend Harry" Paradox:** Despite the professional envy (Fields' biographer noted he often "seethed" at Houdini's massive success), they remained friendly as neighbors. Fields famously referred to him as "Friend Harry" and was recorded as being genuinely happy to see Houdini whenever they crossed paths in the neighborhood or on tour.
- **The "Deli Wars":** Though it's a modern staple, the neighborhood's obsession with local rivalries continues today with the famous "Two Dannys" deli war in Whitestone—a fitting legacy for a neighborhood once defined by the rivalry of titans like Houdini and Thurston (or Fields).

It's a much more personal, "neighborly" photo than the staged publicity shots we usually see of them.

Check out our very own

Also Visit:

RING 21 Hollywood Magic Club

Flickr Account & YouTube Channel



[@ibmring21](#)



[ibmring21.hollywood](#)



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Hollywood, CA

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Space is still available for your visit to
John Gaughan Illusion Studio
Warehouse on May 23, 1 PM. See below
for details and RSVP to get your slot.
This is only available to RING 21
members and is certainly a rare
invitation to experience this most
amazing person and his magical place.

An Exclusive Invitation to the Workshop of John Gaughan

We are honored to announce a landmark event for the members of I.B.M. Ring 21. On May 23 at 1:00 PM, we are opening the doors to a location rarely seen by the public: the private workshop of the legendary John Gaughan.

You'll see legendary props up close, hear stories by John Gaughan, the master craftsman of modern magic. His engineering genius has powered the careers of icons like David Copperfield, Siegfried & Roy, Ricky Jay and Doug Henning. Beyond the magic world, his artistry has been sought after by legends such as Michael Jackson, Cher, Alice Cooper, and Barbra Streisand and The Doors. Whether he is restoring 19th-century masterpieces like Robert-Houdin's Blossoming Orange Tree or inventing the next generation of stage illusions, John's workshop is where "the impossible" is built.

Event Details:

- Date: May 23
- Time: 1:00 PM
- Location: Atwater Village (Address provided to RSVP'd members)

Strict Attendance Policy: Due to the private nature of the workshop, this event is strictly limited to current Ring 21

regular members. No guests or walk-ins will be permitted as limited space. This is a rare, intimate look into the creative heart of magic innovation—don't miss your chance to be where magic history is made.



[RSVP here](#)

David's COMEDY CORNER



EMPLOYMENT OFFICE



"I see, but apart from being able to do a 'perfect double-lift' you are, in fact, available for work."

Submit your magic related jokes, memes, comics to:

fanofchan@gmail.com

by David Martinez

I.B.M. RING 21 HOLLYWOOD

IS RETURNING TO THE
EL MARIACHI MEXICAN GRILL!

OUR OWN PRIVATE DINING ROOM
COMPLETE WITH THE STAGE!

RAFFLES! DINNER! SHOW!



AND A VERY SPECIAL
GUEST STAR:

THE AMAZING

...N? ...M? ...S?

???

WILL BE REVEALED SOON!

*KINDLY NOTE: IDENTITY TO BE UNVEILED LATER

BANQUET DATE OCTOBER 1, 2026

THE PLAYBILL OF UPCOMING SCHEDULED* -EVENTS-

May 7-Bizarre Award Performance Night

23-Special Closed Event for regular RING 21 members only, at 1 pm an exclusive invitation to the workshop of John Gaughan, must [RSVP](#)-limited space.

June 4-Children's Award Performance Night

July 2-Picnic with Rob Zabrecky Lecturer

August 13-Initiation Night and Schiller & D'Mago Fool Us! Performance Night

September 3-Elections and Four Corners Night

October 1-The 89th Annual Awards & Installation Banquet

WWW.IBMRING21.ORG



*subject to change

**Coming
August 13th!**



Famous Houdini Quotes:

“A magician is only an actor - an actor pretending to be a magician.”

“Anyone who believes in magic is a fool.”

“The greatest escape I ever made was when I left Appleton, Wisconsin.”

“What the eyes sees, the ear hears, and the mind believes.”

“My Brain is the key that sets me free.”

“Never try to fool children, they expect nothing, and therefore see everything.”

Never before seen photo



Optical Illusions



Flipping practice for today. Can you perceive this as a peak going up, or as a tunnel going in, then flip between the two orientations? Try to spatially "feel" the peak point at the top closer to you or the tunnel depth further away from you.





Remember no venue fees!
Instead perhaps buy a raffle ticket or donate a prize!



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

Make sure to check out the all new and improved I.B.M. International website

magician.org

You'll be surprised and enjoy the all new resources



ATTENTION

ALL RING 21 Members & Readers of this newsletter...



GET 10% OFF!
by mentioning RING 21

Come Visit The Magic Apple!

*In the shopping center at the intersection of
Tujunga Avenue and Ventura Blvd in Studio City*

11390 Ventura Blvd., 2nd Floor Studio City
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Tuesday - Saturdays 11am to 6pm Sundays Noon to 5pm
(818) 508-9921
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Contact:

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mapetrucellifilms76@gmail.com

Celebrating the enjoyment and camaraderie of magic since 1938!

Dues, Donations, Raffles,
Banquet payments and more,
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When sending money ZELLE is preferred.

PLEASE send regular delivery so we do not have to pay the fee for immediate delivery, contact Mark Anthony for alternate payment methods, thank you in advance!

Mike Elkin

His passing marks the end of a long era at The Magic Castle. For many performers, he was a bridge to the "Golden Age" of the Castle, having been active there since the 1980s. His presence during the Millennium Magic shows and his work with the AMA committees made him a well-known mentor and peer to many of the performers working today. He was awarded twice the Award of Merit in 1988 (shared with Margaret Hennessy and Hugh Rappaport) and again in 1998 for recognition of his service to the Academy. These awards are typically given to individuals who have gone above and beyond in their volunteer or committee work for the organization.

His status within the club was also solidified by his inclusion in "The Magic Castle Walls of Fame," a collection of caricatures honoring the performers and members who helped build the legendary status of the Hollywood landmark. (See below). He was a long-time resident of West Hills and maintained a professional-grade woodworking studio at his property for decades, where in 2005 he had an accident occur and he lost four of his fingers.

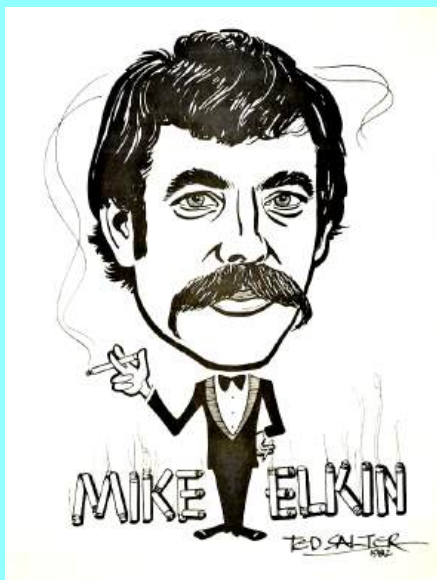
It was that same West Hills shop where he famously transitioned from building furniture to focusing on his "one-handed" magic technique during his recovery. His resilience became a legendary part of his story, especially for fellow magicians in the San Fernando Valley who visited him during that period.

He continued to work with wood as a craftsman and artist, however his focus shifted more heavily toward magic and his roles within the Academy of Magical Arts following the mid-2000s.

By the time he was performing his "reinvented" magic act in the late 2000s and 2010s, he was primarily known as a performer, though he never lost his passion for the workshop. It's a testament to his skill that many who saw him perform in his later years never even realized he had adapted his technique to such a significant physical change nor realize that he never could use his left hand and he had the end of his coat sleeve tucked into his front side pocket.

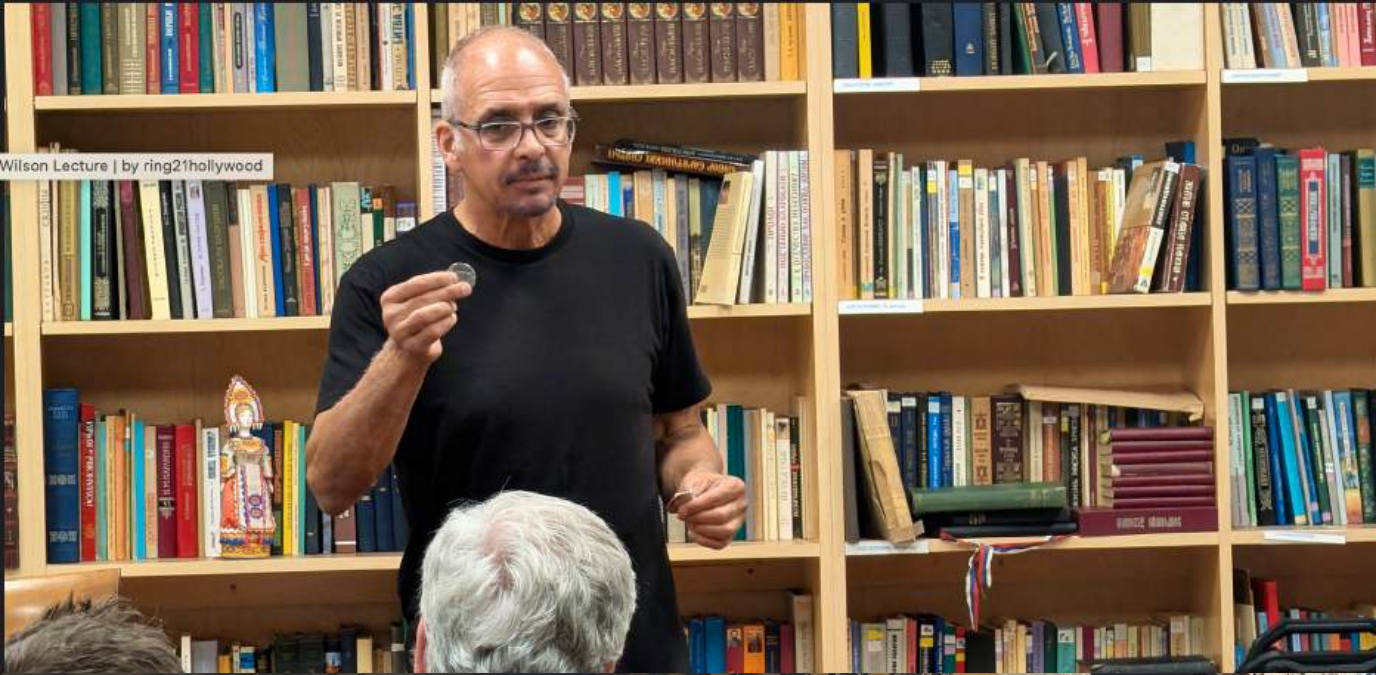
The Academy held a memorial for him as he was a regular performer there. He once told me it was his son who thought that the tissue box gag was hilarious when he was young so he put it into his act and boy was it funny.

Great guy. Aloha Mike.



To See Lots More RING 21 Photos and Videos [click here](#)





Wilson Lecture | by ring21hollywood



Gregory Wilson Lecture | by ring21hollywood



RING 21 membership is only \$35 a year, a value so huge because we have several lectures a year, performance nights, two dinners (one a picnic in July and the other a Holiday dinner party) plus lots of camaraderie and more. Come experience live magic with a fun group of local professional and amateur magicians sharing magical ideas each month.



MAGIC RESOURCES AND MORE LINKS

OTHER LOCAL RINGS

RING 280 SANTA CLARITA
www.ibmring280.com

RING 313 ORANGE COUNTY
ring313.org

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

OTHER LOCAL MAGIC MEETINGS

SAM 291 WEST LA
www.westsidewizards.org

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

Orange County Magic Club
theocmc.com

MAGIC LEARNINGS

THE MAGIC APPLE-magic shop
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Also order online:
www.themagicapple.com

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

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RING 21

SHOWS

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Hollywood, CA 90028
www.magiccastle.com
(323) 851-3313

Illusion Magic Lounge -
[Santa Monica Click here for their website](#)

PERFORMANCES ONLINE

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

Michael Larkin: Ninja ring Daryl coin routine
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bShYQju5Zgk>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyUg-UGhGIw>

Karl Johnson and daughter give a fun performance: https://youtu.be/mkKwufGLB_Q

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

Jim Richardson: A fun card trick & longest card trick: <https://youtu.be/TptMf-XKe30>
<https://youtu.be/Mri2yvZMBck>

More Photos and Performance Videos from our past Meetings
[Just Click Here!](#)

Celebrating the enjoyment and camaraderie of magic since 1938!