

The Fleming Flashpaper

The International Brotherhood of Magicians RING 21 Hollywood, California Newsletter

Executive Board 2025-26

PRESIDENT

Wendy Sobel 310-753-5357
wsobel@roadrunner.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

David Martinez 714-336-0996
fanofchan@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Manny Gonzales 424-653-7614
mannydmagoent@outlook.com

TREASURER

Mark Anthony Petrucelli
 818-809-5144
markanthonyfilms76@gmail.com

SGT-AT-ARMS

Ellen Stein 818-400-4398
ellensteinmagic@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bob Weiss 213-925-5757
magicRW@aol.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Rachel Slocombe 323-791-2227
rachelviola@yahoo.com

John Kowalczyk 323-383-8874
john.kowalczyk.do@ugofsc.com

Roy Ball
dac909@yahoo.com

Gerry Schiller 805-657-8921
geraldschiller3@gmail.com

Brendi Mora 562-395-8187
brenmora9@gmail.com

Newsletter Writer/Editor
 Bob Weiss

RING21Hollywood@gmail.com

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 Meeting link](#)
 All welcome



click logo
 for website



No regular meeting as it's our 88th Annual Awards and Installation Banquet

Thursday, Oct. 1st, 7 p.m. with Happy Hour 6 pm at

**El Mariachi Mexican Grill
 15627 Ventura Blvd, Encino, CA 91436**

Click for directions

DUES ARE DUE NOW

**Click here to pay, \$35/yr
 Banquet \$60 pp**

As this month marks Houdini's 100th Anniversary of his death so ends my articles on him. I've hope you have enjoyed them as I've tried to share the not so common facts of his life and death. A surprise inside how you can own some Houdini's artifacts.

Also ending is my column Optical Illusions.

Get your dues and banquet tickets today!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the banquet!



I.B.M. RING 21
HOLLYWOOD
ANNUAL DUES
ARE NOW DUE

MEMBERSHIP DUES | \$35 PER YEAR

**RENEW TODAY TO RETAIN YOUR STATUS
AND ACCESS ALL CLUB EVENTS**



PAY BY CLICKING HERE



OR PAY AT OUR NEXT MEETING

**CONSIDER PRE-PAYING FOR BOTH YOUR
DUES AND BANQUET TICKETS**

88th ANNUAL AWARDS & INSTALLATION BANQUET

BANQUET TICKETS: \$60 PER PERSON

DON'T MISS THE MAGIC! RING 21 IS RENEWING!

IT'S TIME!



DON'T DELAY. RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Click here to pay

RING 21 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

ONLY
\$35
for the
YEAR!



: UNLOCK EXCLUSIVE MAGIC!



: MEMBER-ONLY EVENTS & BENEFITS



: RECEIVE THE MONTHLY SCROLLS



: INCREDIBLE LECTURES!



RENEW NOW!

RENEWAL LINK: <https://ibmring21.org/pay/>



**YOUR RING 21
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

I.B.M RING 21 HOLLYWOOD MAGIC CLUB presents



The 88th Annual AWARDS and INSTALLATION BANQUET

October 1, 2026

Happy Hour starting at 6:00 pm and Dinner at 7:00 pm
at

El Mariachi Mexican Grill

15627 Ventura Blvd
Encino, CA 91436

**Tix on
sale now**

You are cordially invited as this event is open to all!

Starring
Brent Geris
and
Nader Hanna



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Mesmerizing
Magic Show



Annual Awards
Ceremony



Exciting Raffle Prizes



Delicious Gourmet
Dinner



Installation of New
Officers



Networking with
Fellow Magicians

\$60 per person

Includes dinner and show
Tax and tip

For reservations click to pay

Choice of entrees:

Carne Asada con Camarones-Served with
veggies, steak, and shrimp or

Arroz con Pollo-served on a bed of rice topped
with ranchero sauce, cheese, sour cream and
pico de gallo on the side or

Shrimp Veracruz-shrimp cooked with our
homemade Veracruz sauce (mild sauce) or

Veggie Fajitas- Veggies, onion & bell peppers
served with rice, beans, pico de gallo and tortillas or

Fish al Mojo de Ajo-Fish served with butter
garlic veggies sauce.

Appetizer Platters on the tables with Beef &
Chicken taquitos, Buffalo Wings, Chicken
Quesadillas, Nachos, Guacamole, sour cream,
Pico de Gallo.

Also, chips, salsa, and bean dip.
Plus coffee, tea, soda and dessert!

Choose entrees at venue but must pay by 9/24/26

www.ibmring21.org





BRENT GERIS

Lectures for us in November

FREE for RING 21 members

\$25 non-members

(applicable towards dues within 6 months)



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.



Holy Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Cathedral

650 Micheltorena Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026

By Silver Lake Blvd. and the 101 Freeway



Shoutout to John Kowalczyk, Manny D'Mago, Brandove and myself for their recent donations to our raffle



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!



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!



Tzen Hordun reads the The Fleming Flashpaper



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

The Ultimate Escape: Fire, Feuds, and the Fate of Houdini's Million-Dollar Magic

When Harry Houdini died on Halloween in 1926, he left behind a massive fortune, a grieving wife, and a 23-clause will designed to protect his legacy—and wage a posthumous war on fake psychics.

While history books focus on his daring escapes, the real story of what happened to Houdini's wealth, his secret stage props, and his family after his final curtain call is filled with defiance, irony, and multi-million dollar feuds.

The Fortune and The Secret Code

Contrary to popular myth, Houdini did not die broke. He was one of the highest-paid entertainers of his era, leaving behind an estate worth roughly \$500,000 (equivalent to several million dollars today).

Houdini used his final wishes to orchestrate an ultimate test of the supernatural. He and his wife, Bess, shared a secret 10-word code from their early mind-reading act that translated into a single word: "BELIEVE."

Bess held an annual séance every Halloween for ten years, waiting for Houdini to break through from the afterlife and utter the code. Finally, on the roof of the Knickerbocker Hotel in 1936, Bess declared, "Ten years is long enough to wait for any man," turned off the red light next to his portrait, and accepted that spirit communication was a myth. See our August newsletter for more on this along with actual photo of the event.

A Brother's Defiance

The fate of Houdini's actual magic secrets rested on a strict command in his will: his stage illusions were left to his brother, Theodore Hardeen, with instructions that they must be completely burned and destroyed upon Hardeen's death.



Packing crate escape off New York Harbor was taken on **July 7, 1912**.

Hardeen could not bring himself to destroy history. In 1945, facing a routine operation to treat stomach ulcers, Hardeen suffered unexpected post-operative complications and died suddenly in 1945 at age 69. He died before he could complete a book he was writing about his famous older bother.

Instead of burning the props, Hardeen had quietly sold the bulk of the collection—including the legendary Chinese Water Torture Cell—to an intense Houdini enthusiast named Sidney Hollis Radner. Hardeen did follow part of the instruction in 1927 by burning Houdini's personal, highly sensitive files and papers in a basement furnace, but he could not bring himself to destroy the physical, historic stage illusions.

Other Striking Will Provisions

The Library of Congress Gift: Houdini officially willed his massive, priceless personal library of magic, illusions, and spiritualism books to the Library of Congress.

The Destruction Clause: He left his theatrical effects, props, and secret stage illusions to his brother, Theodore (the magician Hardeen), with strict instructions that they must be completely burned and destroyed upon Theodore's death.

The Jewish Law Condition: He left specific inheritances to family members, but structured some payouts to be valid only if the recipients were confirmed according to traditional Jewish law.

Cutting Out the In-Laws: He used his will to intentionally and explicitly bar his sister-in-law, Sadie Weiss, from receiving a single cent of his estate due to a deep family grudge.

Fulfilling the Will by Fire
For decades, Radner preserved the collection, eventually putting it on display at the Houdini Magical Hall of Fame in Niagara Falls. Then, on May 1, 1995, a catastrophic fire gutted the museum.

In a strange twist of historical irony, the flames achieved what Hardeen could not, reducing most of Houdini's wooden props to ash. However, heavy metal does not burn easily. Salvaged from the wreckage were Houdini's iconic metal Milk Can, dozens of custom handcuffs, and the charred, twisted metal skeleton of the Chinese Water Torture Cell.





Dozens of Houdini's original straitjackets, leg irons, and specialty handcuffs (including the famous Mirror Handcuffs) survived. Some keys and lockpicks were severely charred but remained intact.

The Multi-Million Dollar Resurrections and Feuds

Determined to save the crown jewel of magic history, Radner sent the cell's charred frame to John Gaughan, the world's premier master illusion builder. Gaughan spent years meticulously rebuilding the mahogany and glass cell around the original metal frame.

The partnership took a bitter turn in 2003 when Radner discovered that Gaughan had used his access to create a second, identical replica of the cell for his own collection.

Furious that a duplicate would ruin the scarcity and value of his artifact, Radner filed a formal lawsuit against Gaughan.

The legal drama cast a shadow over "The Great Houdini Auction" on October 30, 2004, held at the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas. Radner, 84 at the time, auctioned off his remaining 1,000-piece collection in Las Vegas. Legendary magician David Copperfield purchased the bulk of the surviving choice props, including the fully restored Chinese Water Torture Cell. They are currently housed in Copperfield's massive, private museum in Las Vegas. Other escape devices were purchased by independent collectors or donated to university archives like Indiana University. Despite the controversy, the auction brought in roughly \$1 million. Legendary illusionist David Copperfield aggressively swept the bidding, buying the restored Water Torture Cell for a record-breaking \$300,000 (later settled out of court to \$150,000 due to bidding disputes) alongside the Milk Can for \$35,000 and The Iron Gibbet, a heavy metal restraint cage for \$65,000. Dozens of smaller personal items were scattered into private hands. Houdini's custom escape keys, lockpicks, personal letters, and charred handcuffs salvaged from the 1995 fire went for prices ranging from a few hundred to several thousand dollars each.

Ultimately, Radner and Gaughan mended fences out of courts builders often create reference models. By 2011, the two men had publicly mended fences. At the opening of the Houdini: Art and Magic exhibition in Los Angeles, both John Gaughan and Sidney Radner attended together, and Gaughan's reproduction cell was openly showcased alongside other historic magic lore.

Today, Houdini's greatest surviving secrets sit heavily guarded in Copperfield's private museum, see my article about that in our January '26 newsletter—safe from furnaces, flames, and the passage of time.

Escape Genius
Soon to Retire



On a farewell tour of the world, Harry Houdini, celebrated man of mystery, is at the Moore until Saturday night. Houdini will retire in 1925 and operate a children's theatre of magic in New York city. This may, therefore, be his final Seattle appearance.

UNITED STATES - CIRCA 1931: On the stage - in person, Hardeen, brother of Houdini, handcuffs and jails will not hold him: the greatest mystery show of all times. Also with mentalist supreme, Princess Yvonne, the mystery girl.

Likely to retire, nope, it was just to sell more tickets. Today's stars use the same thing, ie. Farewell tours of Elton John, Cher, Jay-Z , Tina Turner , The Who, Barbra Streisand, etc.

Not only Hardeen his brother keep performing but so did his wife Bess. Here are some ads and snippets of Hardeens' including a performance you can see.

HARDEEN
Inherits his Brother's Secrets



"FOURTH: I give, devise and bequeath to my brother, THEODORE, Professionally known as **"HARDEEN"** all my theatrical effects, new mysteries and illusions and accompanying paraphernalia, to be burnt and destroyed upon his death:

Houdini

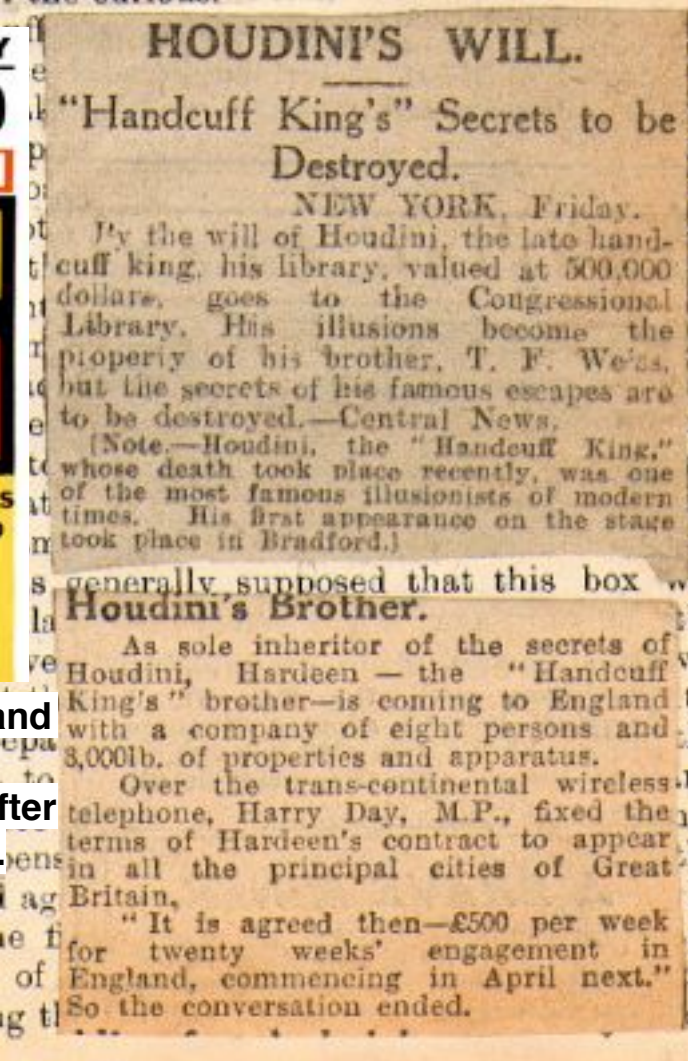
HOUDINI'S WILL



Makes possible the continuance of **HOUDINI'S MASTER MYSTERIES**



How Houdini's Brother Kept His Act (and Legacy) Alive
 The family business continued even after the legendary escape artist's death.



Click to the left and see Hardeen perform the Metamorphosis Trunk in Brooklyn, New York.



Houdini
 circa 1908

From Niagara Falls, of course before the fire that destroyed much of it. I was lucky enough to have visited there in my childhood remembering touching the wooden crate, seeing displays of a massive amount of keys, handcuffs and locks and of course my folks buying me a magic effect or two.

I.B.M RING 21 HOLLYWOOD MAGIC CLUB PRESENTS



THE 88TH ANNUAL AWARDS & INSTALLATION BANQUET & INSTALLATION

OCTOBER 1, 2026

HAPPY
HOUR:
6:00 PM

DINNER:
7:00 PM

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

MESMERIZING
MAGIC SHOW
ANNUAL AWARDS
CEREMONY
EXCITING RAFFLE
PRIZES
DELICIOUS GOURMET
DINNER
INSTALLATION OF
NEW OFFICERS
NETWORKING WITH
FELLOW MAGICIANS



EL MARIACHI
MEXICAN GRILL
15627 VENTURA BLVD,
ENCINO, CA 91436

\$60

PER PERSON
Includes Dinner, Show,
Tax, and Tip

FOR RESERVATIONS
CLICK HERE TO PAY



ENTREE CHOICES:

Carne Asada con Camarones, Arroz con Pollo, Shrimp Veracruz, Veggie Fajitas, Fish al Mojo de Ajo. | (choose at venue)

PAYMENT DEADLINE: 9/24/26

TIX ON SALE NOW!

www.ibmring21.org



**Come Visit The
Magic Apple!**

*In the shopping center at the
intersection of*

*Tujunga Avenue and Ventura Blvd
in Studio City*

From the stars of our
October 1st 2026 Banquet
comes

The E.S.P. Project

by **Nader Hanna**
&

Brent Geris

Available at:

The Magic Apple

mention RING 21 for 10% off magic

**And get your banquet
tickets today!**

\$60

includes full course dinner, show,
tax, tip and more! If you never
attended you don't know what fun
you're missing!

The Magic Apple presents:

The E.S.P. Project



Twenty Five Cards

Five Symbols

Non-Marked Backs

Bicycle Cards

SIX MIRACLES!

Presented & Taught by
Nader Hanna &
Brent Arthur James Geris



HA! HA! HERE'S A BARGAIN!

Send 10 cents in silver or stamps and receive in return a large book explaining how to do Magic Tricks, Second Sight acts, and catalogue of a large number of the latest tricks in Magic, Spiritualism, Illusions, etc., etc. The book is called
Magic Made Easy.

It contains many valuable secrets and receipts of how to make various things.

Address all orders,

Prof. HARRY HOUDINI,
"School of Magic." 57 E. 115th St,
New York City.

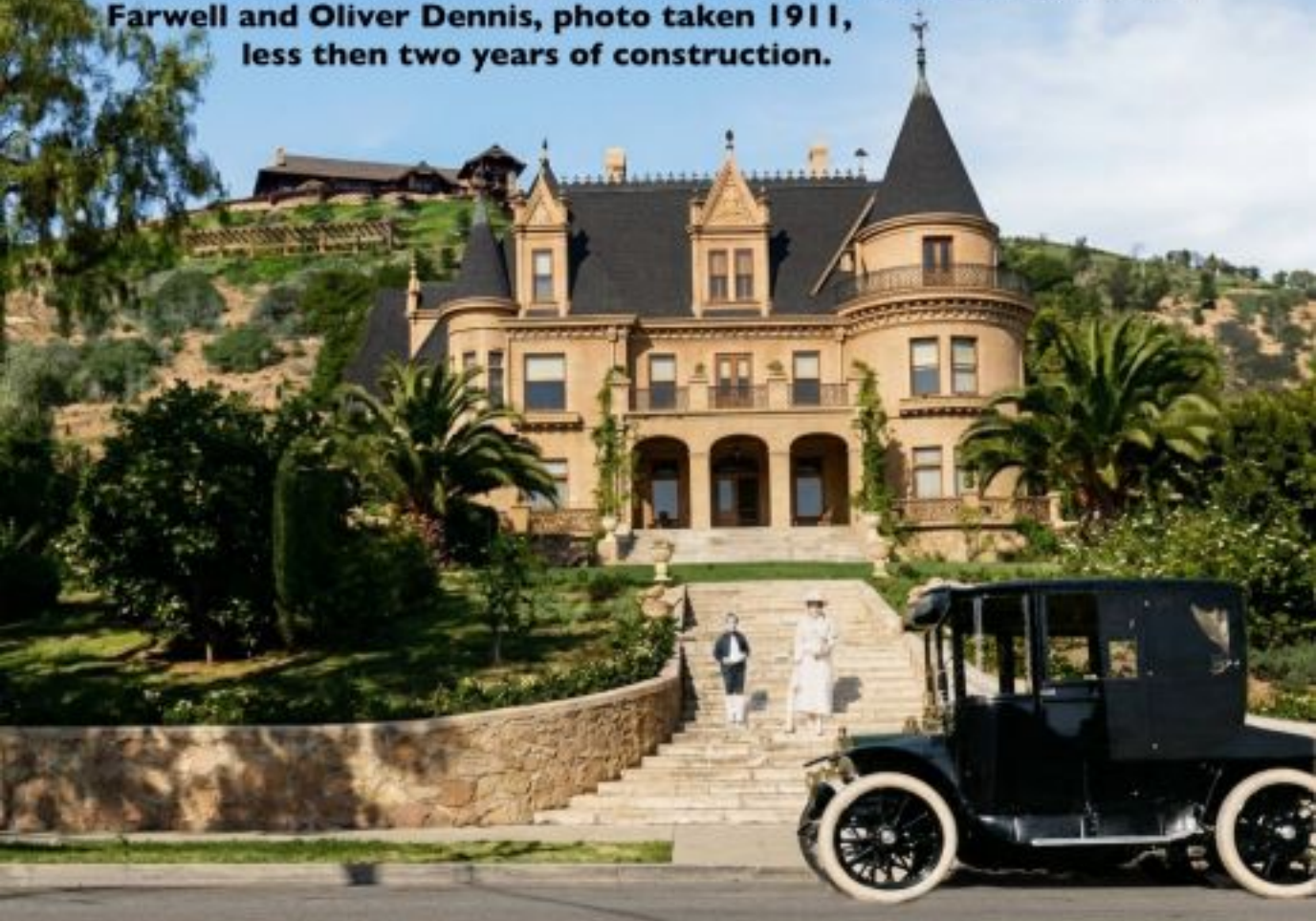
This above is a real ad Harry Houdini published as a mail-order advertisement **circa 1896**. It appeared as an advertising circular/flyer in **New York City**, listing his residence and headquarters at **57 East 115th Street** in East Harlem. It was early in Houdini's career before he achieved international fame as an escape artist, back when he was selling magic catalogs, tricks, and mail-order instruction booklets like *Magic Made Easy* to make a living.

Here's Houdini.



Part of 80,000 spectators watching
Houdini challenge, Providence,
Rhode Island, March 7, 1917

The Magic Castle, originally named "Holly Chateau" built by banker and real estate developer Rollin B. Lane designed by architects Lyman Farwell and Oliver Dennis, photo taken 1911, less then two years of construction.



WANT TO OWN SOME HOUDINI??

Now you can as Kevin Connolly has 100 Houdini items from his personal collection that will go up for auction.

Billed as "**Houdini Returns: The Centennial Auction**" will take place at this Halloween, Saturday October 31st. At The Magic Castle. Those who are interested can watch the auction live and bid on items at the [**Potter and Potter Auctions website**](#) 1:00pm PDT.

And the next day, Nov 01, 2026 from 8:00AM to 2PM PST it's his timed auction

[**Houdini Returns: The Encore.**](#)



22 year old Harry Houdini and his wife Bess, taken 1896

Check out our very own

Also Visit:

RING 21 Hollywood Magic Club

Flickr Account & YouTube Channel



[@ibmring21](https://twitter.com/ibmring21)



[ibmring21.hollywood](https://www.instagram.com/ibmring21.hollywood)



[ibmring21](https://www.facebook.com/ibmring21)



And the internet www.ibmring21.org

Follow Us On
[Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#)

Click here

[For newsletter](#)

[Submission](#)

[Consideration](#)



Optical Illusions



RING 21 Wishes you a very magical scary
Halloween



The 88th Annual Awards & Installation Banquet

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!

*Starring
Brent
Geris*

With special guest star
Nadar Hanna!

BANQUET DATE OCTOBER 1, 2026

THE PLAYBILL OF UPCOMING SCHEDULED * —EVENTS—

Annual \$35 dues are due! See Mark Anthony or
[our payment page](#)

October 1 -The 88th Annual Awards & Installation
Banquet

Starring Brent Geris and Nader Hanna
at
El Mariachi Mexican Grill
15627 Ventura Blvd, Encino, CA 91436

November 5 -Brent Geris Lecture

WWW.IBMRING21.ORG



*subject to change



**Remember no
venue fees!**

**Instead perhaps
buy a raffle
ticket or donate
a prize!**



FRATERNITY

PUBLICITY

MYSTERY

ORIGINALITY

ELEVATION

DIVERSION

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
Mondays Closed

Tuesday - Saturdays 11am to 6pm Sundays Noon to 5pm
(818) 508-9921 www.themagicapple.com

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:

Bob Weiss, President
213-925-5757
magicrw@aol.com

Mark Anthony Petrucelli, Secretary
818-809-5144
mapetrucellifilms76@gmail.com

Celebrating the enjoyment and camaraderie of magic since 1938!

Dues, Donations, Raffles,
Banquet payments and more,
RING 21 accepts

PayPal Venmo ZELLE

Scan
this in
your
bank
app to



mapetrucelli@gmail.com (Mark Anthony)

Click or Scan ABOVE

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

[Click logo to join Hollywood RING 21](#)



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!

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



Lois Harmeyer's Broken Wand Ceremony



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
11390 Ventura Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604
Also order online:
www.themagicapple.com

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

Free Lecturer
Reciprocation!

10% OFF
by
Mentioning
RING 21

SHOWS

The Magic Castle
7001 Franklin Avenue
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=bShYQju5Zqk>
<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!