

The Fleming Flashpaper

June
2009

News, Information & Current Happenings of IBM Ring 21

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Hi Everyone!

Summer is almost upon us, and while for students it means the end of the school year, for parents it means kids rattling around the house complaining of boredom, for many it promises some time off and (maybe) a vacation.

For Ring 21 it means our annual picnic. A year or so ago we moved it from the boiling month of July to the more balmy month of June and this proved to be a positive change. Once again, it means some barbecued burgers and hot dogs, some delectable contributions from members' kitchens, some mouth-watering salads and some ignore-the-diet desserts.

The date is Saturday, June 13, and the location is the picnic area behind the LDS Church (same as last year). Of course, Ring members should all bring family and friends to enjoy a magical and convivial get together.

Be sure to bring some food as a contribution, bring a trick or two to perform at our after-lunch informal show, and bring some magic items we can auction off—some stuff you just don't use anymore. You can bring up to a maximum of 4 items and whatever they're sold for is yours (the club takes no cut of the proceeds). Also bring some money to bid since you can often get a real "steal" on some valuable trick, book or DVD.

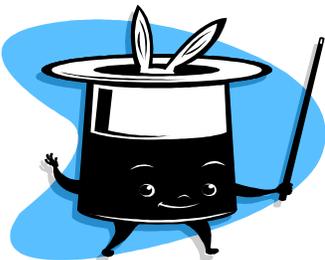
Above all, come and have fun; start your summer off with good food, good magic and the good fellowship of the terrific people who make up our Ring 21.

See you at the next meeting.

Gerry

Points of Interest

- Greats of Magic— Charles Morrirt
- May Recap— John Abrams Lecture
- June—Picnic
- August—New Member Induction, presentation of slate and lecture



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The Envelope, Please (Magic for Dummies)

The Effect: A volunteer shuffles a deck. You hand over a sealed envelope containing a prediction. The volunteer turns over the top card—and it matches the prediction!

The Secret: Before you begin the trick write “3 of Spades” on a piece of paper. Also write the date of a day *last week*. Put this prediction into a standard business envelope—and then seal it shut. Remove the actual 3 of Spades and hold it behind the envelope, face out. (It doesn’t have to be the 3 of Spades. Use whatever card you want.)

Holding the card behind the envelope, no one can see it. Keep the envelope by your side since it doesn’t come into play until step 2.

1. **When you’re ready to begin the trick, ask a spectator to shuffle the cards.**

“Before I begin, would you please shuffle these cards? Over and over again. Would you mind? Thanks.”

“You know, I’m a very gifted individual,” you can continue as the shuffling goes on. “I have flashes of the future. Last week I predicted the weather correctly more times than the TV weather guy. I told my best friend the Microsoft stock would go up, and it did. It’s really freaky—I’m still experimenting to find just how far my predictive powers go. Let me know when you’re finished shuffling.”

2. **When the shuffling is over, simply set the envelope on top of the deck, in the process setting the hidden card on top of the cards.**

That, of course, is the entire trick. It’s direct, deceitful and thoroughly delicious. Under cover of the envelope, you just baldly put a new card onto the top of the deck—and not a soul suspects.

“*This—*” you can say as you set the card and envelope down, right under the spectator’s nose “—is a prediction I made before we ever started. In fact, I wrote down this prediction *last week*. Go ahead, look it over. The envelope is completely sealed.”

You’re actually *telling* the spectator to focus on the envelope. Oh, the cruelty! The sneakiness! The misdirection!

The Greats of Magic — Gerald Schiller

A Series of Capsule Biographies of Famous Magicians

Charles Morritt

If you read Jim Steinmeyer's fascinating book, *Art and Artifice*, you'll find two essays about an illusion in which a live donkey is made to vanish. Many people feel this effect was the forerunner of Houdini's famous vanishing elephant. It seems possible since Houdini purchased a number of illusions from the man who created the donkey trick. His name was Charles Morritt.

Though known for his magical inventions, Charles Morritt also had an interesting career as a magician. Born in Yorkshire, England in 1860, Morritt as a boy read about the famous Davenport Brothers' "Spirit Cabinet." At the age of 17 he built his own cabinet that could make an assistant disappear. By the time he was 18 he was performing, and by the age of 21 he was managing several music halls in the north of England.

With his sister he developed a "Second-sight" act in which she, though blindfolded, could identify objects he pointed out to her in the audience. Amazingly the code they used was all done with pauses and he gave her no verbal cues!!

In 1887 Morritt went to America with the act and was hired by magician Alexander Herrmann to perform in Niblo's Garden Theater in New York.

A year later he returned to England and was hired by Maskelyne and Cook to perform at their famous Egyptian Hall to do a regular magic act. He did a fairly standard act with billiard balls, card sleights and even hand shadows. But Morritt was an inventor and eager to experiment creating larger illusions.

He tried doing a show on his own at Prince's Hall, but it proved to be only a modest success. Then in 1897 he went to Aus-

tralia with a vaudeville company. While in Australia Morritt apparently developed a major drinking problem. When he returned to England, his career had slowed to a crawl. He only played small theaters and most magicians thought he had died.

In 1912 David Devant discovered Morritt performing in a small theater doing his vanishing donkey effect, and helped him to re-establish his career. Soon Morritt was touring England with his vanishing donkey and, along with Devant, Morritt developed quite a few new illusions. These included a production of two assistants on a large octagonal table and his "Pillar Box" Mystery—the transposition of three assistants from one round pillar box on the stage to another.

Harry Houdini was impressed with Morritt's work and hired him to develop several new illusions for a show he was putting together for the 1913-1914 season.

By the 1920's, however, Morritt's health was declining, very likely due to his drinking, and he retired from the stage. He died on April 10, 1936 of tuberculosis, forgotten by most of those in the magic world.

Many of his ideas, however, especially using mirrors in illusions, remain in use today. And some of his creations still defy explanation.





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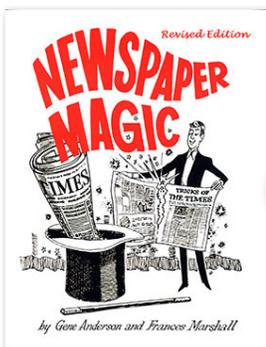
Cheek to Cheek Deck / DVD

Oz Pearlman

The Cheek to Cheek Deck allows you to perform one of the cleanest and most powerful routines in card magic--with absolutely no sleight of hand! If you can have someone pick a card, put it back in the deck, and shuffle... you can do the trick!

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The Flash Pot — a potpourri of news, info, postings, etc.

June Board Meeting

June 10, 2009, Valley Village, CA

Scheduled for 7:00 pm, Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at Four 'n 20 Pies located at 4723 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Valley Village, Ca. 91607 Phone 818 761-5128

June Meeting—Picnic!!!

It doesn't seem possible, but it's time to get ready for the picnic this year. It will be at the same place as the last two years, LDS in the San Fernando Valley. It will be June 13 from 3-8 pm.

Please watch the website for other announcements about the picnic. We, of course, want people to bring salads and desserts, (even chips and dips are good) the Ring will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, condiments, etc. There will be an auction and a show for whoever wants to entertain or be entertained. Along with great music (thanks to Matt.)

We do ask that you bring enough food to feed 4—5 people or there will be a \$15 charge at the "door."

Bring family, friends, anyone who loves a great time, having a lot of fun and MAGIC!!!

Calendar of Events

June 13 —Picnic at LDS
July 2 — Patriotic Magic
August 6 —New Member Induction, slate of officers and a Special Lecture
September 3 — Elections and Swamp Meet

June Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all Ring 21 members celebrating their birthdays in June including Steve Jennings and John Armstrong. And to magicians in general such as: Eugene Burger, Fred Kaps, John Mulholland, Dai Vernon, Siegfried Fischbacher, Charles Carter, Ormond McGill, Richard Turner, Michael Ammar, Kreskin and Harry Blackstone, Jr.

Happy Birthday to all (whether on this plane of action or the next) from Ring 21!!

(If your birthday was missed, tell Wendy)

* * * * *

Best Wishes To Doris Roach

Hi Doris. We hear that you've had an interesting time there at the hospital (although my desire is that you are at home when you're reading this) and just want you to know that we are thinking of you and send you our best.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the picnic, maybe? It was so nice to see you at the Soap Box Derby out in Agoura Hills (although it was so hot that day, we almost melted).

Anyway, we know that Les is giving you the best attention. So you just relax and enjoy it. All the best to you.

From Ring 21

The Caryl Fleming IBM Ring #21
Meets @ 7:00pm first Thursday of the month
Except for the PICNIC!!
Next Meeting—Saturday
June 13, 2009 3:00 P.M.
Church of Jesus Christ LDS
1555 Saticoy Street
Van Nuys, CA 91406

* Calendar subject to change without notice.



A slate is displayed that is marked off into 6 equal squares, as pictured. The magician makes a prediction regarding the thoughts of a spectator.

It is written in one of the top squares and covered so as not to influence the audience. A spectator is asked for any random thought, such as a name, color, number, etc. This is written below the magician's prediction and remains in full view.

Twice more, predictions are made and random thoughts recorded in a like manner.

When the magician's predictions are revealed, they match exactly the spectator's random thought.

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<http://magicandmore.auctivacommerce.com>.

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A specially printed set of ESP Symbols supplied in deck form. There are 5 symbols per set, and five sets per deck, making up each 25 card deck.



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May Recap— And the Envelope, Please

John Abrams Evening

John Abrams has been a friend of Ring 21 since he gave us a great fundraiser show at South Bay Academy a few years ago. He provided Ring 21 an opportunity with a very nice venue to do a show that directly benefited our Ring.

It's nice when we can help out people who have helped us, so we were very happy that we had the opportunity to provide him with a space and an audience to present his lecture.

Although his lecture is not specifically geared to magicians, it was felt that there was a lot of good material and ideas that could be of great use to anyone building a new show.

John showed us how to systematically create a themed presentation geared to a specific market. Ring 21 was glad that we were able to provide him a venue to launch his new program. And we sincerely wish him the best of luck in his newest venture.

* * * * *

Upcoming Attractions

Ring 21 has two new fundraisers on the horizon. One is a Halloween show (October 25) for one of the temples in the San Fernando Valley.

Another is also a Halloween show for Bob Baker. So there are a lot of opportunities coming up for people who would like to be involved in shows which Ring 21 is going to be producing.

There are always ways to help out or actually be in the show. Please contact Gerry Schiller if you want to be added to the list. We're always looking for new volunteers.

The Envelope, Please (cont from Pg. 2)

3. Ask the spectator to open the envelope and read the prediction.

The trick is actually long over. But your showmanship keeps the fun alive.

"All right—I'd like you to tear open the envelope and read the prediction I made. Please note that I've never even touched the cards. You've been in charge of this trick from the very first moment."

The volunteer opens the envelope and reads the prediction—out loud, if you're performing for a group. Don't hover. Stand far enough away from the cards that nobody will accuse you later of having manipulated the deck as you were standing there.

"That's *amazing*, isn't it?" you can say after the prediction has been read. "I mean, I wrote that prediction a whole week ago—and I was *right!*" Hold your hands in the air as though you're Evita greeting her adoring crowds. "Thank you! Thank you very much!"

"My *prediction* says the 3 of Spades—it would be a spectacular coincidence if the top card really is the 3 of Spades, wouldn't it? No, not a coincidence—just one of my incredible premonitions. Go ahead, turn over the top card and have a look."

4. Tell the volunteer to turn over the top card.

The volunteer turns over the top card and you've got yourself a blockbuster. It's short, sweet and utterly impossible.

* * * * *

The Pre-climax recap

According to "Magic for Dummies" the recap is necessary to remind everyone of the impossibility of what you're about to do. The trick would not be as strong without giving the information of what you just did (see No. 3 in *The Envelope, Please*). The recap also misdirects the audience and helps them to forget any little details that might have started them guessing. Such a speech also summarizes the action so far, clearly lays out the rules of the game and gets the audience to admit in advance that your work will qualify as a miracle—if you pull it off.

Fleming Flashpaper
Wendy Sobel, Editor

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See You Saturday June 13 @ 3:00 pm

MagiCToons by Jim Richardson



Flash Points

- **GO TO THE WEBSITE FOR FUN STUFF**
- **June 13**—Picnic, Auction, Magic Show
- **July 2**—Patriotic Magic
- **August 6**—New Member Induction, Presentation of slate and Special Lecture