

**Caryl Fleming  
Ring #21  
Hollywood**

# The Fleming Flashpaper

**August  
2011**

News, Information & Current Happenings of IBM Ring 21

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## Prez-tidigitation

Hello to my fellow Ring 21 members. Yep, it's August and I have two months left as your president.

Rick and I were on holiday for the last week. We were up in New Mexico and Arizona. I hate to admit it, but I put everything on hold for these past 7 days. It might be the reason why this newsletter is coming in late. Our trip was truly a pleasant one. There are so many things to see in the U.S.A. and some of those sites are not so far away. I am sad that it is over, but glad that we are already planning another get away possibly in mid October. Yahoo.

I would like to share with you what is going on with health issues now. I am sure you have read or heard of some unfortunate person being misdiagnosed with a health problem. Well, now I, too, can tell of my experience. As many of you know, I was recently diagnosed with COPD. It's a lung problem. Well, since March I have been given various inhalers and antibiotics to treat these symptoms. For some reason I was not getting any better and in the back of my mind I was still more concerned with my cancer issues. Since my pulmonary doctor was not scheduling any tests to see if the COPD was interfering with my cancer, I went to my oncologist to have him schedule the test. Guess what folks? Turns out my breathing and coughing had nothing to do with the COPD. As a matter of fact, I show no signs of having COPD. The cancer tumor is pushing against my lung, thus not letting it expand as it should. So with only a small portion of my left lung functioning my right lung is doing a majority of the work. Here is the kicker, my pulmonary doctor is no longer working at the medical clinic. Sorry, no "yahoo" on this.

So what are we to do? I will have to commence my chemotherapy treatments at the end of October. The positive thing is, the treatments work and I will be back to myself after the six treatments. And I do not have to worry about having COPD. And that is all to report on the personal front.

With August upon us, I do hope to see you at the upcoming David Regal lecture on Thursday, August 4th. If you missed his last lecture, you are in store for a wonderful evening.

We will be presenting the new slate of officers for the new term at this meeting, as well. As a reminder, if anyone is interested in joining the board, please let us know. Voting will be taking place in September, followed by our swap meet.

I do hope to see you at either meeting.

For now, just keep the wonder of magic going.

E. Rafael Ortiz, President



### Points of Interest

- **Greats of Magic**— Ross Bertram
- **July Recap** — Member's Choice
- **August** — Slate of Officers, Lecture by David Regal
- **September** — Swap Meet and Election of Officers

## 2010-2011 Executive Board

**President:** Rafael Ortiz (818) 761-0426  
eros69@mindspring.com

**Vice-Pres:** Robert de la Guerra (818) 269-8917  
delaguerramagic@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** Gerry Schiller (805)499-8921  
geraldschiller@gmail.com (and past president)

**Treasurer:** Lois Harmeyer (Inactive)  
(626) 358-2637 lharmeyer@dslextreme.com

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Wendy Sobel (310) 859-2989  
wsobel@roadrunner.com (and Flashpaper editor)

### Members at Large

Tim Mannix (323) 848-8922  
tjmagnificent@gmail.com

Bill Turner (818) 786-5326  
billturner26.2@hotmail.com

Jim Richardson (818) 848-1978  
heyjimr@aol.com

Don Kenney (818) 896-7261 (Inactive)  
dkmagik@ca.rr.com

Wayne Miller (909) 856-5808

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## Everyone Wants a Piece of David Regal



Only Ring 21 has him...  
On Thursday, August 4 beginning at 7 p.m.

## The Greats of Magic — Gerald Schiller

### A Series of Capsule Biographies of Famous Magicians

#### Ross Bertram

Although his name may only resonate with a limited number of current magicians, Ross Bertram's career was an extremely important one to those who knew and admired him.

John Ross Bertram was born in Toronto, Canada on July 28, 1912. His whole family was musical and, even as a young boy, Ross became an accomplished saxophone player.

He became interested in magic when he saw the shows of many performers — especially Howard Thurston. Bertram developed his own skills by reading and studying the books of Robert-Houdin, Professor Hoffman and Erdnase.

At the age of 14 he began doing magic at a resort in northern Ontario, and also played the saxophone as well. He contributed his first (of many) articles to *The Linking Ring* when he was only 17.

In the mid 1940s he was sent to Buffalo to try to persuade Dai Vernon to come do a lecture in Toronto. When he met Vernon, he was able to persuade him to do the lecture, but also dazzled the "Professor" by showing him some of his coin sleights. The impression he made on Vernon was so significant that soon he was spreading the word about this talented young performer.

At the combined SAM-IBM Convention in Chicago in 1948, Ross again overwhelmed Dai Vernon (and many others) with his coin assembly — probably one of the first versions of "matrix." Vernon was so impressed that he insisted Ross teach it to him.

Ross Bertram's highly inventive close-up ef-

fects were published in almost every magic magazine (*The Sphinx*, *The Phoenix*, *Genii* and *The Linking Ring*) and he was quickly recognized as a true innovator.

In addition to his close-up work, he was an accomplished stage performer and made a living performing with a busy schedule of trade shows and private parties. He even built a special table for trade shows that included an overhead mirror so his magic could be seen by large crowds.

In 1954 Ross Bertram was asked to go to Korea to entertain the troops. He did more than 60 shows as well as many impromptu close-up performances.

Bertram performed frequently on Canadian television and maintained a heavy schedule but in 1968 he suffered a nervous breakdown and was admitted to Clarke Institute of Psychiatry. Part of his therapy involved helping other patients, and he used his many skills (including magic) to do this.

Additional health problems forced him to withdraw from active performing, but he continued writing about magic and his books were greatly admired. He also made several movies illustrating his routines (many years before the advent of videotape and DVD's.)

Ross Bertram died June 12, 1992, just weeks before his 80th birthday. Though never a flamboyant personality, he was, to all who knew him, a genuinely creative force in the history of magic.



## The I.B.M. Convention in Dallas

By Mario Seki

The I.B.M. Dallas Convention was a blast! Waking up the first day to compete was by far the coolest part, and every day we woke up and went to a lecture or shopped in the dealers' room. I stayed up until 2:00 every night talking with other magicians my age and sharing effects. I also was in the Y.M.X. show, aka Young Magicians' Experience, where I got to perform with 8 other magicians, ages ranging from 5—20. My best highlight was that I met Daniel Garcia, Rudy Coby and Jeff McBride, and I saw their lectures. And I ran into somebody I know from Ring 21, John Accardo. I'd really like to thank Ring 21 for supporting me in getting to where I'm at. I got tons of experience that will last for eternity.



At the July Ring 21 meeting Mario gave us a taste of what it's like to travel with your magic props. Because of not wanting to lose any of his things on the way to the convention, Mario carried certain magic effects with him onto the flight, which left some very strange moments with airport security, such as with his card fountain and his appearing cane. It took the guys a little time to figure out that Mario was not a terrorist, just a magician.

Mario also told us that he got to see some family in Austin and the book depository which was the location from which JFK was shot. Mario expressed some disappointment that even though he competed in the YMX, he didn't win. But ElRoy pointed out to him that he's almost a professional. He is in a position where he's being seen. After all, not everyone gets a chance to compete and he was one of seven in the youth category. He was competing with kids from Taiwan and China. What a great experience for him.

Next month Mario is going to Toronto to take part in the Sorcerer's Workshop. He got a full scholarship from them. Way to go, Mario!

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

**August Board Meeting**

July 16, 2011, Valley Village, CA

Scheduled for 7:00 pm, **Tuesday August 16, 2011** at Four 'n 20 Pies located at 4723 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Valley Village, Ca. 91607 Phone 818 761-5128.

**Just a reminder that on the evenings when we have a lecture there will be NO raffle, Trick of the Month or Video of the Month.**

**Video Library**  
You can see the list of videos available at the Ring 21 website. [www.ibmring21.org](http://www.ibmring21.org)

**David Regal will be lecturing at the Ring 21 meeting Thursday August 4.**

If you have seen David lecture for Ring 21 before, or even for the Magic Castle, he has promised Ring 21 an entirely different lecture from the Castle.

David is very creative in all the areas of his life. A writer (Rugrats), standup comedy and developer of some of the best magic on the market. (In addition to being one great performer). David has new magic items, in addition to books and DVD's. For a great, fun-filled evening, join us this Thursday for the David Regal lecture.

**Dues are Coming Due**  
This time of year is always fun, getting ready for the upcoming swap meet in September, looking forward to our lecture in August and the opportunity to support Ring 21 and the magic we enjoy throughout the year.  
For the very nominal sum of \$25 (before the end of October) you give yourself the gift of being part of a very special club, where you can learn, exchange ideas and have a supportive environment to present your magic. Ring 21 and your board have worked hard all year to make each meeting fun and enjoyable. We look forward to another year of magic with you. (After the October meeting the dues is \$30.)

**Please Note**  
There is **NEVER** taping of any Ring 21 meeting without prior approval from the board.  
Thank you.

**Westside Wizards Meeting**  
The Westside Wizards meet the second Tuesday of the month, August 9 at 7 pm at the Boys and Girls Club of Venice.  
The address is: 2232 Lincoln Blvd. Venice  
This month the SYM youth will be entertaining. Come and join the fun.

- Calendar of Events**
- August 4** — Slate of officers, new member induction, a lecture by David Regal
  - September 1** — Election of new officers, Swap Meet!!
  - October 6** — Banquet
  - November 3** — TBD

**The Caryl Fleming IBM Ring #21**  
Meets @ **7:00pm** first Thursday of the month  
Next Meeting  
**August 4, 2011 7:00 P.M.**  
Bob Baker Marionette Theater  
1345 West 1st Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

\* Calendar subject to change without notice.



# MAGIC AND MORE

## 310-473-1820

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**Ring 21 August Specials - Limited to stock on hand**

Jaw Droppers Svengali Deck and DVD Combo .....	\$ 8.50
Legend, A Ghost Story - DVD .....	\$20.00
Animated Match Box .....	\$ 5.00
Atomic Water Vase .....	\$ 5.00
Feather Duster Wand by Silly Billy .....	\$28.75
Multimum Parvo Set, Plastic .....	\$20.95
Elusive Orb by Visual Magic .....	\$19.95
Reception Vase, Brass .....	\$10.95
Gag Bag, Zipper .....	\$ 7.95
With This Ring, a Comedy Rope Routine .....	\$ 8.95
Mouth Coils, 50', White, 12 pack .....	\$10.00
Mystic Production Box by Mak Magic .....	\$21.00
Super Silver Cascade with Re-Winder, 1" x 90', 3 pack .....	\$ 6.50
Zombie Foulard, Dark Blue, 25.5" x 25.5" .....	\$4.50
Atta Boy .....	\$42.50

**LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND AND WHEN GONE, IT'S GONE  
CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR ITEMS AND PICK UP AT THE MEETING**

**TAX INCLUDED ON ALL ITEMS**

**Call Les or Doris at 310-473-1820 to find out more about these products**

### August Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all Ring 21 members celebrating their birthdays in July which include: Robert de la Guerra.

Other magical birthdays include: John Calvert, Randi James, Dary, Channing Pollock John Northern Hillard, Adelaide Hermann, Paul Curry, Tony Anverdi, Jay Marshall.

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

(If your birthday was missed, tell Wendy)

### Installation Banquet Thursday October 6

**Tickets to the banquet are \$25 per person for August and September.**

**The price will be \$30 at the door.**

**Please come and join us for this fun-filled evening at Taix Restaurant**

### July Recap

- Our July meeting was member's choice.
- The meeting started with Mario talking about his trip to the convention (see page 2). There were announcements about the 291 bbq and pool party and David Regal lecturing at Ring 21 in August.
- We were informed that Rafael was not feeling well and sent wishes he would be doing better soon.
- The raffle prize winners were: Gerry with Frame Up; Nicolas with the Miracle Marbles; Don with a change bag and Wendy got two books.
- For the performances, which were a choice of patriotic magic, show and tell or DVD magic, Mario turned red, white and blue scarves into an American flag.
- Gerry, in Show and Tell, has a new puppet from David Ginn, the Blue Monster and he helped with a card trick. ElRoy showed the Lucky 13 prediction, and it always works. Les Cooper also had a prediction with three cards being picked which turned out to be red back, white face and blue back. Don was using instruction cards to have the assistant do the work. Wendy showed some Rope and Ring things from Aldo Colombini's DVD. Tim did a demonstration with a pool triangle and a cup of water, and then swung the triangle with the cup balanced on it. It was quite a show and tell and a very enjoyable evening.

“All art is a kind of subconscious madness expressed in terms of sanity.”

Ross Bertram

**SAM 291 (aka Westside Wizards)** would like to invite all members of Ring 21 and their families to the SAM 291 Westside Wizards Second Annual Summer Pool Party/Barbeque on Saturday, August 27, 2011 3 pm to 7 pm. Please enjoy burgers, dogs and the smoker being done by our own El Feo.

The Westside Wizards will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, tri-tip, soft drinks and condiments. Please bring your own beer/wine or other hard beverages and some snacks or desserts. We do ask that you bring enough food to feed 4—5 people or there will be a \$12 charge at the “door.”

When you RSVP please let Stephen know whether you are bringing appetizers, salads or desserts.

**YOU MUST RSVP BY MONDAY AUGUST 22** to Stephen Levine at [slevine@wrslawyers.com](mailto:slevine@wrslawyers.com) or 818 426-6266 (so we can get an accurate head count).

### ATTENTION!!!

**Beginning immediately, anyone parking at the Bob Baker Theater will be charged \$3 for parking. DO NOT PARK IN THE RESERVED SPACES — EVER.**

FaceBook is the newest way to keep in touch with everything that's happening at Ring 21.

Fleming Flashpaper  
Wendy Sobel, Editor

**CARYL FLEMING  
RING #21 HOLLYWOOD**

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

We're on the Web!  
[www.ibmring21.org](http://www.ibmring21.org)

**See You Thursday August 4 @ 7:00 pm**



## Flash Points

- **GO TO THE WEBSITE FOR FUN STUFF**  
[www.ibmring21.org](http://www.ibmring21.org)
- **August 4** — Slate of Officers, New Member Induction, Lecture by David Regal
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