

# FLEMING FLASHPAPER

March 2017

CARYL FLEMMING IBM RING 21 NORTH HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA  
Celebrating the enjoyment and camaraderie of magic since 1938!

## DON'T MISS OUT: WHAT'S COMING UP!

### MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>: IBM 21 MEETING

In March we will have a four corners lecture. Come prepared to learn some good magic from our own club members. Our four performers will be:

Gerry: Card trick

Karl: Make your own sponge bunnies

Raul: Ring and String

Robert: Sponge ball routine

### A message from one of our own (Raul):

Greeting Fellow Ring 21 Members,

I am currently teaching a high school Magic club class at Esteban Torres High School in East Los Angeles on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 pm until 3:30 pm. The class currently has 8 students, 5 boys 3 girls. As a start up youth magic club, I am looking for donation of used playing cards, beginning magic books and sponge balls as well as old VHS videos, obsolete DVD would be great.

If you have any items which you are willing to donate I can collect them from you on our Thursday, March 2 meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Raul

### APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>: IBM 21 MEETING

Sucker Tricks. Bring your favorite April Fools sucker trick. Examples include die box, monte, paddle tricks, etc.

### MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>: IBM 21 MEETING

Performance/Critique. Come prepared to perform a dress rehearsal of one of your routines. You can elect to have it critiqued or not.

### JUNE: SUMMER PICNIC

Date and time to be determined. Stay tuned!

### RING 21 CLUB MEETING:

First Thursday of the month

### NEXT MEETING:

Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
7:15 pm

Providence St Elizabeth  
10425 Magnolia Blvd  
North Hollywood, CA

We are on twitter!

@ibmring21



# BRENT GERIS LECTURE!

First, we have three new potential members who visited our meeting:



Rob Hollander is a student at the Magic Castle. He has studied under Mark Wilson.



Parker Abercrombie has had a lifelong interest in magic and is also a student at the Magic Castle. He is a Software Engineer at JPL.



Elizabeth has been interested in magic since she was a kid. She is part of a singing and magic duo with Simone.

Brent Geris was our featured lecturer for the evening. Brent is the owner of one of the greatest magic stores in the country, The Magic Apple, which just happens to be right in our backyard. His address is

The Magic Apple

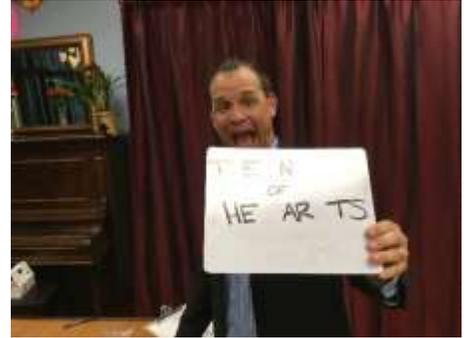
11390 Ventura Blvd, Studio City, CA 91604

He can be reached at 818-508-9921



Brent started his lecture with a flash! This is him performing his torn and restored routine on a skewer with a big flash of fire. He talked about how he structures his performances, starting with something that catches people's attention.

He covered a variety of effects, some that are original creations by the Magic Apple, including Coffee Break and Vortex Card. He explained what you get if you purchase the effect, but also how to make your own if you like.



He covered a lot of ground. In the photo above, he is demonstrating an effect where the audience is taken through a series of highs and lows and the "wrong" prediction turns into the right prediction. His lecture was full of insights, not only on good effects to perform, but on the subtleties of how to keep an audience entertained. He explained a wonderful Balducci force, a great ACAAN, and a monte routine that is so good, yet so simple, that one of our members is now performing it.

**The Greats of Magic**  
**A Series of Capsule Biographies of Famous Magicians**

By Gerald Schiller

The Great Lafayette

By far one of the most colorful and unusual performers in conjuring history was the man who was born in 1872 in Munich, Germany as Sigmund Ignatius Neuberger. Both in life—and in death—his career was both amazing and bizarre.

He came to the U.S. at the age of twelve and by the age of nineteen was performing in vaudeville as an archery marksman. He soon became a polished quick-change artist, a skill he would eventually use to great success in his magic act years later.

With a partner named Mike Whelan he worked theaters in the Wild West in a sharpshooting act, but was interested in finding a skill that was a bit more sophisticated. When he witnessed a performance of the Oriental magician Ching Ling Foo, he saw an opportunity to change his career.

Donning the garb of an Oriental conjurer, he put together a show of illusions that he eventually took to London, appearing at the famed Hippodrome Theater to great success.

Soon he adopted the name of Lafayette—insisting he be called “The Great Lafayette”—and mounted a show with 45 assistants, a horse, elaborate sets and costumes, his own orchestra, and even a lion (probably the first lion to appear on stage in a magic act).

His many illusions were little plays in which he would vanish, change costumes, and appear in totally unexpected places. In one called “The Lion’s Bride,” Lafayette would enter riding a horse to save a maiden about to be thrown to a lion and then assume the guise of the young lady, wearing her clothing. When the beast attacked, suddenly the lion’s head would fall off and there would be Lafayette!

The magician’s dog “Beauty,” (who had been given to him by Houdini) often appeared in the act. “Beauty” was the creature on whom Lafayette lavished money and attention. When she died on May 3, 1911, he was distraught. He had her embalmed and buried in a luxurious coffin.

Eight days after the dog's death, during the performance of "The Lion's Bride" in Scotland, a fire broke out in the theater. While the audience was able to escape with no injuries, nine of those on or behind the stage died (many stage exits had been locked). The lion and the horse were fatalities, and Lafayette, who had tried to save the horse, was overcome by smoke and perished in the inferno.

His remains were cremated and about to be buried when another body was discovered in the rubble of the theater—a body wearing Lafayette's rings. The first body was not Lafayette's but his double, a man named Richards who frequently substituted for him in some of the quick-change illusions.

At a lavish funeral (several hundred thousand lined the streets) the magician was laid to rest. His ashes were placed in a box that was put in the same casket as his embalmed dog, resting between the paws of "Beauty."

At the age of 39, the flamboyant Lafayette had played out one final scenario in his strange and amazing career.

# MAGIC TRICK OF THE MONTH!

If you would like to share a magic trick, please email it to the editor at [karl.johnson@gwcmi.com](mailto:karl.johnson@gwcmi.com)  
If you share a magic trick in the Newsletter, we ask that you come perform it at the next meeting.

## THE KISSING CARDS

By Karl Johnson

### THE KISSING CARDS

#### EFFECT

Eight cards are shown, four jokers, and four fours. On the fours, four funny bits are written. A participant holds their hands open, and the four jokers are placed on their hands. You place the four fours in your pockets, as you say they really shouldn't have the four fours, they could get them in trouble. You ask if they would like to have them. They say they would. You do a magic gesture and the four cards trade places. They end up with the four fours.

#### SETUP

This effect requires one gimmicked four. By the way, you can use any four of a kind, but it is best to use cards with plenty of white space for writing. For the purpose of explanation, we'll use four fours. You will need to get a product called Clear Plasti Dip spray. It is in a spray can and when applied to a card, it gives it a fine rubbery coating that gives a single card a non-slip surface. Unlike roughing fluid, you only need to apply it to a single card. You will need a duplicate four. On the face of the four, write: "Get Out Of Jail Free". Place it on a piece of newspaper in a well ventilated area. Apply one single quick spray across the card from a distance of around six inches. You just want a very light coating. Let it dry. Turn the card over and apply one single quick spray to the other side in the same way. Let it dry. Your gimmick is now ready.

You will also need four jokers. Place the gimmick card face down on top of the four face down jokers. You will also need a regular deck of cards that matches your gimmick back, or simply four fours (or any other four of a kind you like that matches your gimmick), and the same sharpie or marker you used to write on the gimmick. You are ready to perform.

#### PERFORMANCE AND EXPLANATION

The most important part of this routine is to pick the right participants. You can modify your patter for married people, singles, men or women. I would suggest that if you are a male performer, select a male participant and if you are a female performer, select a female participant. For the purpose of this explanation, let's assume you select a single male participant.

"Are you married? No? OK, I think you are going to enjoy this little trick."

From a deck of cards, you remove four fours and hand them to a participant. You put the rest of the cards away and take out the four jokers and gimmick from the packet trick holder and place the holder in your pocket. Take out your Sharpie. Take the four cards back and place them face up on top of the face up jokers.

Spread the cards so eight are face up and visible and hold them four in each hand.

"I have four fours and four jokers. People say the jokers have magical properties, but with just a magic marker, I can make these fours have magical properties. Wanna see?"

Square up the cards and on the first card, write: "Good for a free drink". Hand them the card and say: "This is now a magical card. Present this anywhere for a free drink." On the next card, write: "Good for a free kiss". Hand them the card and say: "This is even more magical. Of course, there are no guarantees, but it's worth a shot, right?" On the next card, write: "Good for another free kiss". Hand it to them and say: "OK, this might be pushing your luck, but hey, it might just be the start of a happily ever after, right?" On the next card, write: "Get out of jail free". Hand it to them and say: "OK, in case things don't go well with that last card, you might need this card."

As they are examining the cards, you are going to transfer the top gimmick card to the bottom. This isn't a move, just move the top card to the bottom.

We'll refer to the "Get out of Jail free" card as the GOOJF card.

Hold the cards in your right hand, between your pointer and middle finger. Take back the four fours, making sure that the "Get out of jail free" card is on the bottom. Unless they have re-arranged them, they should already be in that order. Take the cards back with your right hand thumb and pointer finger. Grasp the cards between your pointer and middle finger (the four jokers plus the gimmick) into your left hand and place them on top of the four fours in your right. These motions are a bit confusing to the eye, and make it look like you have switched the packets.

Deal off the four bottom cards face down into their hand and immediately turn over the packet in your right hand, showing the gimmick four with the duplicate "Get out of jail free" four face up. They will assume you have all the fours in your right hand. Say: "You hold the jokers. Place your left hand on top of them so they don't get out and cause trouble." You then take the top card from your packet, without showing the face and place it in one of your pockets. As you do, casually show the gimmick GOOJF card face. Take the next top card and place it in another pocket as you also casually show the face of the GOOJF card. Do the same with the third card. Next, openly show the "last card" and place it in your breast pocket. In your breast pocket, drop the gimmick into your pocket and position the card so it is protruding from the pocket.

Say: "I think you might get into trouble with these cards.", as you point to your pockets. "Don't you think? Would you like to see if they have any real magical powers? Now, maybe, just maybe these cards could jump out of my pockets and into your hands and trade places with the four jokers... I can't guarantee they will stay. They might just jump right back, but let's try."

Make a "popping" noise with your lips as you give each pocket a little "tug".

Say: "Don't open your hands just yet. Did you feel anything? No? Oh. That's not good. OK, open your hands and let me have the jokers."

They reveal the four fours in their hand, and then you remove the four jokers from your pockets.

Note: If you are going to perform this walk-around, you can either take the cards back and perhaps write one or two of the sayings on any other indifferent card and give it to them, or you could have multiple gimmicks prepared to do the effect with different number cards. If you place the multiple gimmicks in one pocket, you could pocket the jokers on top of the gimmicks in your pocket and every time you remove the jokers, you remove a gimmick along with them. Stagger the gimmicks in a way that you can remember. For example, you could have the 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, A, 3, 5, 7, 9.

## CREDITS

One of my favorite magicians is Gary Jones. This routine is similar to a fantastic routine of his called "Upper Hand". If you don't have it, check it out. In fact, you might want to check out all of Gary's work. The differences in this routine are the gimmick is treated differently, the handling is a bit different, and the entire premise and impact on the participants and audience is completely different.

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<p>BOARD MEETINGS are on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at  Four 'N 20 Pies located at 4723 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Valley Village, CA 91607. Phone: 818-761-5128.</p>	
<p>EDITOR: KARL JOHNSON 818-790-9600 <a href="mailto:karl.johnson@gwcmi.com">karl.johnson@gwcmi.com</a></p> <p><b>Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the prior month.  Please put "IBM Newsletter" in the topic line.</b></p>	
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