



THE TARBELL TRIBUNE

OCT. 2026

IBM RING 43 NEWSLETTER

The Month & Upcoming

ABC Teach a Trick

Next Meeting: **Friday,**
October 16th, at 7:00 pm
@ **Magic Inc**

October is here, and this month's Tarbell Tribune is packed with plenty of Ring 43 magic. Inside, we look back at Steve Valentine's fantastic September lecture, explore more of our club's history with Sam Berland, and mark the 100th anniversary of Houdini's passing with a special edition of "Prez Says." Also, please take note that our November meeting featuring a lecture from Abby Segal will be on **Tuesday, November 17th**, not our usual Friday.

But after a year filled with great lectures, performances, ideas, and plenty of new magic to explore, October is our chance to turn the spotlight back on our members.

Our next meeting on Friday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Magic Inc. is our ABC Teach a Trick—Anything But Cards! The idea is simple: bring an effect that doesn't involve playing cards, perform it for the group, and then teach us how it's done. Coins, ropes, mentalism, silks, rubber bands, everyday objects, bizarre magic—if the deck stays in the case, it's fair game.

We've had the opportunity to learn from some tremendous magicians throughout 2026, so this is also a great excuse to **go back through your notes, revisit something that inspired you, and put it into practice.** Maybe it's an effect you've performed for years. Maybe it's something you discovered at a lecture this year. Or maybe it's a forgotten gem you think more Ring 43 members should know.

Whatever you choose, the goal is to share, learn, and leave the meeting with a few new ideas in your repertoire.

Bring a trick. Teach a trick. Learn a trick. And give the cards the night off. We'll see you October 16!

Last Month: Steve Valentine Lecture

The activity for our September meeting was a lecture by **Steve Valentine.**

Steve is a multi-award winning magician having won the Magic Castle close-up magician of the year (twice), lecturer of the year (twice), stage magician of the year as well as the Milbourne Christopher award.

Steve has toured the world from huge theaters with The Illusionists, to intimate shows at The Magic Castle to private shows for certain Royalty with his comedy and sleight of hand magic.

He created the on-line Magic on the Go subscription-based platform with over 1000 instructional videos and hosted the Magicians Only podcast.

After a few short announcements **Alec Schraaegle** introduced Steve. Steve mentioned how he had gotten started doing on-line instructional videos at Magic on the Go (MAGICONTHEGO.COM)





Next, Steve showed a Three Card Monte routine. At one point he placed a KC in a spectator's pocket then vanished a red King and it was found in the spectator's pocket.

Steve got five volunteers up on stage and each one picked a card. He placed a shuffled deck in **Gary Wenzel's** pocket. As each volunteer revealed his card, Steve reached into Gary's pocket and instantly produced the matching card. (5 Card Finger Bang)

Next, Steve had three volunteers pick cards from one deck while he picked three from another deck. Of course Steve's cards matched the selected cards. (Card Eureka)

Steve explained some of his ideas for using Black Art:

He showed a small size Bicycle Deck and instantly turned it to a poker size deck.

Next came a deck where all the cards were cut in half but when he touched the cut decks they instantly restored themselves.

Using black art he turned a regular rectangular card into a circular card.

He also showed how to instantly turn a normal card into and over sized card and then return it to normal.

Steve displayed a full shot glass, spilling a few drops, then covered it with a silk and cleanly vanished it.

For a finale, Steve demonstrated that he could cut an exact number of cards off the deck, anywhere from one to thirty cards.

- John Hutsebaut



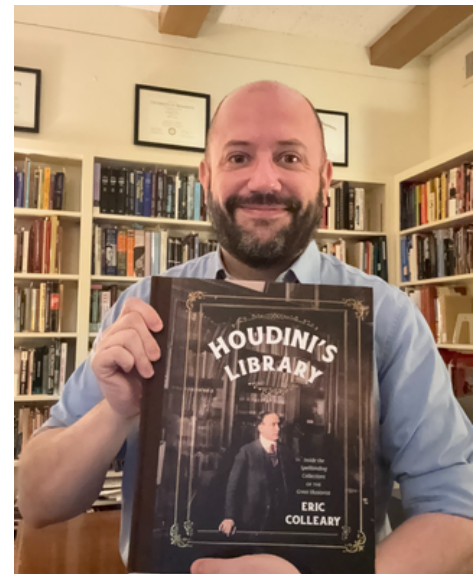
Continued on page 4...

Prez Says – Houdini's Library



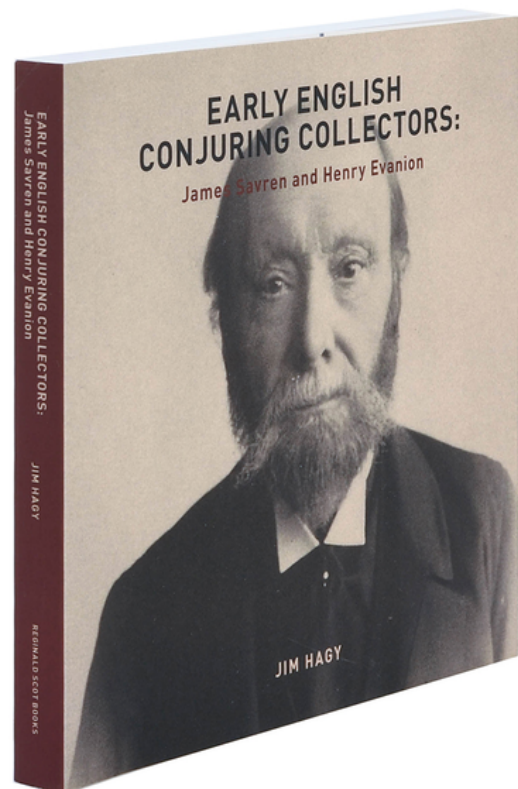
This October marks the 100th anniversary of Houdini's death. I previously recommended Charles Greene's *Exposing Houdini* and Dr. Larrian Gillespie's *Houdini: The Man Who Died Twice*. I can also recommend Eric Colleary's *Houdini's Library*, available through Amazon.

Dr. Colleary is the Curator of Performing Arts at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. His book explores Houdini's theater collection and includes many wonderful images, some of them have never been published. The collection contains an amazing variety of historical theater material, along with a wealth of magic posters, playbills, programs, and personal letters to Houdini's wife, Bess.



Colleary also tells the fascinating story of how Houdini built his collections and, ultimately, how this portion of his collection came to the Ransom Center. One of the collections Houdini acquired was that of Henry Evanion, an English magician and one of the early collectors and preservers of magic history.

If this aspect of magic history interests you, I can also recommend a book by our own Jim Hagy, *Early English Conjuring Collectors: James Savren and Henry Evanion*, available from Quicker Than the Eye. Hagy's book provides a deeper look at these early collectors and, more importantly, at the role they played in preserving the history of magic.



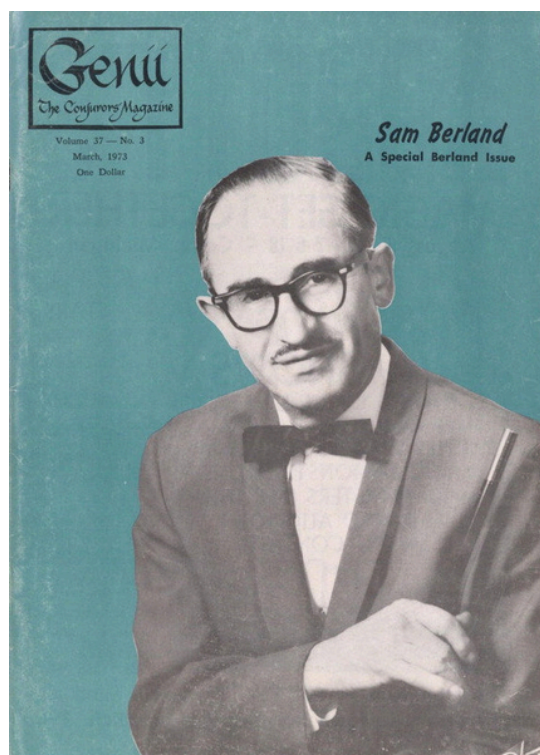
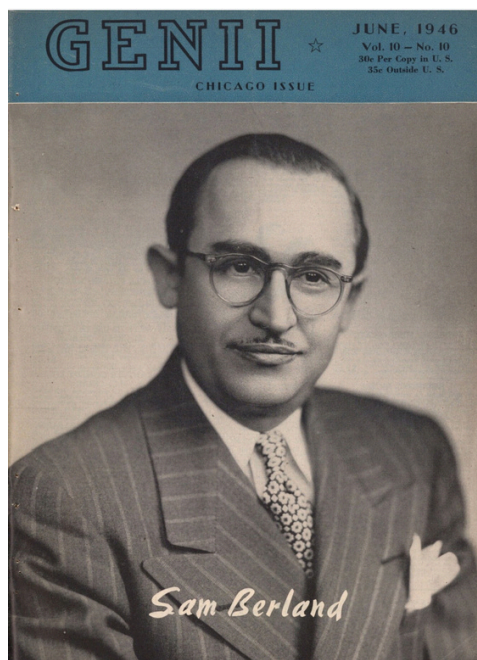
Sam Berland (1904–1987)

At our lecture, Steve Valentine mentioned Sam Berland's creations. Sam was a charter member of Ring 43.

Sam became interested in magic as a child when his friend Harry Faber showed him a card trick. This led him to the library where he discovered (via ads) magic shops such as Roterberg (which later sold to A.P. Flesman). At the shops, Sam met other teen magicians: Johnny Platt and Korman. He caught many shows at the Chicago theaters including Thurston, Goldin, The Great Leon, Leroy, Blackstone just to name a few.

Sam was an early I.B.M. member, carrying No. 1067 and joined SAM 3 in 1929.

In 1925, Sam became a dealer in Chicago, originally in partnership with Joe Berg and Harry Faber (who later dropped out) in the Princess Magic Shop. In 1926 Berland was bought out by Berg and Sam founded the Central Magic Company in Chicago, which he sold to J.C. Fabian in 1954. Berland was the founder of the Berland Printing Co. in the late 30s in Chicago. In addition to non-magic work, he was able to use the firm's facilities to print many of his own books and instructions for effects.



In 1986 Berland received a Creative Fellowship for his many original effects from The Academy of Magical Arts.

During his life he invented more than 100 effects including the popular "Devil's Dollar" and "Enhanced Cigarette Holder." Sam also wrote some 15 books on tricks and illusions including: Berland's New and Original Tricks (1933), Novel Cigarette Tricks (1934), Xclusive Trix (1935), Berland's Biltrix (1940), Match-effex (1940), Blue Ribbon Card Tricks (1942), New and Original Tricks with Watches (1942), Tricks with Paper Cups (1942), Berland's Blue Ribbon Card Tricks (1942), Berland's Book of Routines (1950), New Applause Winning Tricks (1956), More Exclusive Tricks (1961), Tricks for Today and Tomorrow (1970), The Close-Up Magic of Sam Berland (1986).

Ring 43 created the Sam Berland award for creativity with John Hustesbaut receiving the first award in 1989. The trophy was only awarded one other time in 1997 to Joseph Fleischman.

- Mike Kamlet

Membership Dues

It's that time of year again—when summer finally starts loosening its grip, the calendar starts filling up, and Ring 43 membership dues make their annual appearance.

This year, dues have increased by \$5 to \$40 (individual) and \$50 (family). That increase helps us continue supporting the lectures, meetings, activities, and member experiences that make Ring 43 such a great magic community. If you haven't renewed yet, now's the time. We've included a payment link and QR code to make the process quick and easy...no sleight of hand required.

[Payment Link](#)



Welcome New Members!

Michael Dalton Steven Vasilakis
John McCartin
Scott Petersen

Happy Birthday

Fernando Flores Mark Mycyk
Michael Goldman Brian Waddick
Steve Horn Stephen Weiner
Terrence Hunter
Ian Murray



Events Calendar

OCT 16 ABC 'Anything but Cards'

NOV 17* Abby Segal Lecture

Dec 18 Works in Progress

Meeting location is graciously
hosted by



1838 W Lawrence Ave. Chicago, IL 60640

*Meeting date different from our normal 3rd Friday of
the month, on Tuesday

Upcoming Conventions

Houdini Club of WI Convention - Oct 30 - 31,
2026 | Milwaukee, WI
<https://www.houdiniclubofwisconsin.com/>

Coin Magic Study Group - Work through the
classic coin magic book, Bobo's Modern Coin
Magic, on the second Saturday of every
month from 2 pm - 4 pm.

Mentalism Study Group - A NEW study
group, working through Practical Mental
Magic by Annemann, on the fourth Saturday
of every month from 2 pm - 4 pm.

Magic Inc. - Support your local magic shop!
For more info, call 773-334-2855 or
magicinc.net.

Club Meetings:

S.A.M. Assembly 3—At Magic Inc, first Monday
of the month 6:30pm.

www.magicalchicago.com

Conjurer's Corner Magic Club—Fourth
Monday, Mr. Beef & Pizza, 1796 S. Elmhurst Rd.,
Mt. Prospect.

IBM Ring 43 Board of Directors

President - Mike Kamlet (312) 213 - 3001

Vice President - Alec Schraegle (312) 259 - 8632

Secretary - John Hutsebaut (847) 337 - 9761

Treasurer - Kevin Owens (312) 929 - 3644

Board Member - Terrence Hunter (773) 802 - 8348

Board Member - Kristen Kaniewski

Dedicated to teaching its members to become better magical entertainers!