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MAGIC MUSEUM ANNOUNCES SUMMER OF MAGIC LECTURE SERIES

The American Museum of Magic is pleased to announce *Behind the Curtain*, a history of magic lecture series. Presented by magician, author, and magic historian, Dennis Laub, the series will tell stories and show rare artifacts related to the most unusual and interesting magicians and mystery entertainers in history. The three part series will be presented at 7 p.m. on July 15, July 29 and August 26 at the Museum's Lund Research Library located at 111 E. Mansion St. in Marshall, Michigan. Seating is limited and it's recommended that tickets be purchased in advance.

Thursday, July 15: *Mind Readers, Mesmerists, and Magnetic Ladies* is a look at some of the most unusual entertainers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Topics will include the incredible W. Irving Bishop, a celebrated performer who could read peoples unspoken and unwritten thoughts , and The Georgia Wonder, Miss Lulu Hurst, a Georgia farm girl who captured the attention of America's newspapers and fascinated audiences nationwide with her ability to do amazing feats of strength using her "magnetic force."

Thursday, July 29: *Magicians and Card Sharps* will explore the relationship between magicians and those who cheated at card games. These two groups often sought each other out to learn secrets of handling cards. Part of the program will focus on the mysterious S. W. Erdnase, author of Expert at the Card Table, an expose of card cheating methods. The book set off a quest to find the real identity of Erdnase.

Thursday, August 26: Meet the real ghostbusters. *Magicians Among the Spirits* tells the tale of the often adversarial relationship between magicians and spirit mediums. From John Maskelyne's accusations of fraud against the Davenport Brothers in the 1860s, to Houdini's war on fraudulent mediums in the 1920s, magicians have frequently challenged those they believe are using magic to defraud the public.

The *Behind the Curtain* lecture programs will provide an entertaining look at some of the little known stories of magic, as well as show off some of the rarely seen artifacts in the American Museum of Magic's collection. All programs will be held in the Museum's Library at 111 E. Mansion Street and begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10/person and will be sold at the door, however seating is limited and it's recommended that tickets be purchased in advance, either at the Museum's admission desk or by calling (269) 781-7570.

The American Museum of Magic is open Thursday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM during the months of April, May, September and October, and Tuesday through Saturday in June, July and August (Adults \$5; Seniors/Children \$3.50), or by request (269-781-7570).

The mission of the American Museum of Magic is to inspire and delight the public with the wonder of magic, as well as to document and celebrate the contributions and resilience of the magician.