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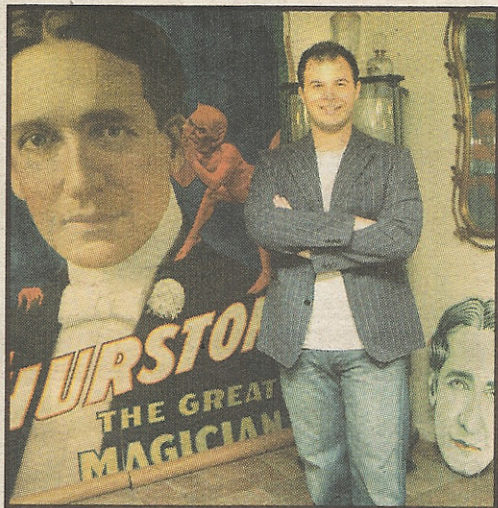
Harry Houdini may have made an elephant disappear in Manhattan, but his heart was in Coney Island, where he delighted audiences with his magic and met his wife, Bess.

Magician, collector and **Midwood** resident Rory Feldman hopes Coney Island will conjure the same “oohs” and “ahhs” when he pulls the Museum of Magic out of his hat. With the world’s largest collection of master magician Howard Thurston memorabilia and even some of Houdini’s props—as well as a fervent desire to educate and captivate the public—Feldman is creating a venue that displays artifacts, hosts lectures and film screenings, and—abracadabra!—presents live magic performances.

What else does Feldman have up his sleeve? “The Museum of Magic will be an exciting place, where the exhilaration I felt as a seven-year-old discovering magic for the first time will be part of the museum’s experience, no matter what your age.”

And he’s well on his way to making the new museum appear right before our eyes. Last year, it received nonprofit status and Feldman’s business plan was a finalist in the Brooklyn Public Library’s Business Plan competition. He continues to raise funds and is scouting for a location, hopefully in Coney Island, a.k.a. America’s Playground. According to Feldman, “Coney Island has a long history of magicians and it’s the perfect backdrop for a museum that celebrates the conjuring arts.”

If you want to help Rory Feldman conjure a new museum, contact him at roryfeldmanmagic@aol.com or check out the website at www.museumofmagic.org.



◆ *Rory Feldman's making magic*