

Mordecai's Journal



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November 2015



CCMA Officers
President: Dan Sclare
Vice President: Roger Cisowski
Secretary: Dana Ring
Treasurer: Soll Levine



SAM 21 Officers
President: Dan Sclare
Vice President: Angelo Chirico
Secretary: Dana Ring
Treasurer: Soll Levine



IBM Ring 278 Officers
President: Roger Cisowski
Vice President: Jason Abate
Secretary: Rick St. Pierre
Treasurer: Soll Levine

Meetings:

Second Monday of every month except December

Angelo's on Main

289 South Main Street
West Hartford.

(I-84 exit 41)

November Meeting: Hanky hanky-panky

The object of the November meeting is to do magic using anything made of cloth. Theme Captain **Dan Sclare** is looking for someone to pull the wool over our eyes. Of course, some people don't cotton to getting panty-hosed. (Okay, I'll put a sock in it!) Bring your material, made of material, to the club on **November 9**. Meeting starts at **7:00 PM**. Join the officers for dinner at 6PM.

Minutes of October Meeting

13 October 2015 7:08 PM

Pres. **Dan Sclare** presiding
Secretary's minutes accepted as published.
Treasurer's report submitted.
Old Business: none this month except to reiterate that **Sandy Rhodes** is available for three different lectures.
New Business: For the May meeting: A lecture by **Barry Mitchell** is available. It was moved and seconded to book him for May. Passed.
Gd&Welf: **Pop Haydn** has a show Friday, October 16, with a lecture on the 17th in Waterbury.
Kevin Aust is a 5-year member of the SAM.
Audrey Portonova is a 25-year member.

Adjourned at 7:14PM

Tonight: **Greg Wilson Lecture**

Greg presented a wonderful night full of stuff both simple and sophisticated.
Some highlights:
Impromptu magic.

"Chip on Your Shoulder" using Dexter's putty, which became a running game throughout the lecture.
The cap of a pen flashing from end to end.
Producing the exact amount of money in coins called for from your pocket.
Five cards change from blank to a Royal Flush, along with a back color-change.
A seemingly stretchable finger ring — with a couple of gimmicks!
Divining the "open code" to an iPhone.
After the break, he continued with:
Inside-out Starbucks coffee sleeves, along the lines of Card Warp.
A pastry bag and a stir-stick becomes a broken-and-restored stick, in the manner of toothpick-in-hanky.
A spinning deck (with a metal plate), plus many Controls and ring routines.
Afterwards he did a brisk business selling some of the wonderful props he had created.



From The Secretary's Trouser Pocket

The President's Hat is on vacation this month. It returns in the January newsletter.

Random thoughts from the Secretary

Profuse thanks to Bob Killian for his column this month.

I see the TV powers-that-be are developing a new Star Trek series for next year. Look for it on CBS (at least the premiere). It's amazing that some of the futuristic gadgets that series created have become today's commonplace items (cellphones, tablets). And the original series' "tapes" looked almost exactly like the 3½-inch floppy disks of thirty years later (now almost obsolete).

I run the local SYM chapter on the first and third Wednesdays of the month—all year 'round. If anyone would like to attend a meeting and teach the youngsters a trick or two, that would really be appreciated! This month I'll be teaching a trick using my leftover Halloween candy. Hey, maybe I can write off the cost of the candy as a tax deduction! Now that would be a great trick. Actually, staying out of jail would be the real trick.

There's no official meeting in December, but some of us will pop by Angelo's on the 14th anyway to have dinner and share magic. See you there?

Shameless Plug Department

Upcoming public shows by our members

David Garrity

at Comedy Magic Monthly
BAR • 234 Crown Street • New Haven CT
Tuesday, November 24 at 8PM
www.barnightclub.com

Also: on December 29 at the same location.

Do you have an upcoming public show? Send the details to mordecai@ctmagic.org and it will appear here.

The Dean's Column

by Bob Killian

I've often wondered why you guys chose me as your Dean. I knew my two predecessors, **Fitch Cheney** and **Bassett Mordecai** and they deserved to be Deans. I guess I was selected because I am one of the few remaining 50 plus year members of Assembly 21. Our club has a proud history. While I'm very happy to have made it to the present, I think it is important not to forget our past. Dana has asked me to write an occasional column for the Journal and I think I will use the ink to recollect bits of our history.

Fitch Cheney was a unique individual. He retired as chairman of the University of Connecticut math department in the early 60's and then became chair of Math at the University of Hartford. He lived in a Single Room Occupancy hotel in downtown Hartford (although he owned a house near UCONN) and showed extraordinary kindness to hundreds of street people who would have been hungry except for Fitch's kindness. He was a charter member of SAM 21 and before me and Bassett served as its Dean. His magic, rooted in his math, was often complex and he was always amusing.

Fitch loved teaching, but loved magic even more. He died in 1974 at 79 years, wanted no funeral service, and, among other bequests, left a number of manuscripts and tricks he had created for distribution to our members.

Developing a mathemagic effect was always a work in progress for Fitch. (His real first name was William, a fact many of us didn't learn until he died.) He would unveil permutations at successive meetings. He first published the trick in the 1950s in the Journal of the American Mathematical Association. It was to become known to the world of both mathematicians and magicians as the "Fitch Cheney Five Card Trick." I first saw a refined version in the 1960's. Fitch asked a member to provide five random playing cards to a third member, **Bill Greenough**, who mixed the five cards handed him, selected one and placed it face down on the table. Then Bill was asked to place the other four cards face up on the table. Fitch, who had walked to the back of the room, then returned, looked at the four randomly selected cards and immediately announced the name of the tabled card! The dealers' ad would say: "Use a borrowed deck, no gimmicks, no electronics."

Google the Fitch Cheney Five Card Trick and you'll see how famous it is. Here's a link: <http://headinside.blogspot.com/2008/08/fitch-cheney-card-trick.html>

It's not easy and requires use of grey matter. But then, our Dean, Fitch Cheney, had a lot of that! He was a hell of a guy.

Theme Captains for 2016

	Captain	Theme	
Jan.	Dana Ring	Holiday Magic	Perform a trick with a holiday theme (Holiday of your choice)
Feb.	Open Panel	I've Been Wondering	Open forum meeting – Ask about something you have been working on, read and don't quite understand, method of a sleight, etc.
Mar.	Soll Levine	Things Around The House	Effects with everyday household objects (but not a deck of cards)
Apr.	Roger Cisowski	Read All About It	Perform a trick that was published in the M.U.M. or Linking Ring
May		Lecture by Barry Mitchell	



My neighbor's house, decorated for Halloween. Hanging ghosts, copious cobwebs, and crime-scene tape. Note the "pumpkin pi" on the stoop. I love math jokes.

CCMA Officers

President

Dan Sclare danslare@gmail.com

Vice-President

Roger Cisowski mrcmagic@hotmail.com

Secretary

Dana Ring dana@danaring.com

Treasurer

Soll Levine soll.levine@sbcglobal.net

Compiled by compeer Rick St. Pierre

Complete description of the Captaincies are in the July 2015 newsletter. This schedule is not carved in stone; if you want to run a theme for any month, contact Rick, or secretary Dana Ring.