

# Mordecai's Journal



www.ctmagic.org

September 2016



**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)

## September Meeting: Clean Out Your Drawers

No, it's not laundry day! In a drawer somewhere or at the back of a shelf is a trick you used to do, but put it aside. Brush the dust off that miracle and show us what it was like in its heyday, or why it deserved to go into exile. Bring it to the jury on **September 12**. Meeting starts at **7:00 PM**. Join the officers for dinner at 6PM.

## Minutes of August Meeting

10 August 2015 7:08 PM  
Pres. **Dan Sclare** presiding 8 members attending  
Secretary's minutes accepted as published.  
Treasurer's report submitted.  
Old Business: We have not heard back yet from Lost Acres Vineyard.  
New Business: We have booked **Bob Little** to lecture at our October meeting. He is bringing \$100 worth of books to give to the assembly, and we can do with them as we will.  
The Auction/Tag Sale will be a separate date in November, probably a Saturday. [see page three]  
Dues are due next month. Every member paying their dues will get a CCMA sticker for their vehicle.  
Gd&Welf: PNP **Vinny Grasso** is on P&T Fool Us this week.

Adjourned at 7:19PM

The weather had been really hot lately, so the club took advantage of it to do tricks that were really hot, or totally cool.

**Dan Sclare** did a simple card by **Joshua Jay**. The selected card was found, leaving Dan with a royal flush in spades.

**Jason Abate** brought out a deck and did "Blaze." A card was selected, signed, returned to the deck, and re-boxed. A piece of flash paper was

## When Last We Met



**Bob Hale** with a hot trick.

lit and tossed at the box. The box had burn holes, but only the selected card was singed. He also showed us a straw in a water bottle. The cap was removed from the bottle and the straw was passed around. With the bottle re-capped, the straw penetrated the cap and was inside the bottle once again.

**Bob Hale** showed a sheet of ice--plastic, with holes. Plus a frame, also with holes. A shoelace was threaded through the sheet and frame, locking them in place. Bob said, "the sheet, being ice, melts and re-freezes." The sheet came right out, leaving the frame and shoelace behind. Bob also presented "Psychic Heat" using a black coil. "An old toaster element," he said. Dave Wright, Jason, and Bob completed a circuit and the element started to glow a dim red!

## Reminder

Dues are due.  
Bring \$25 to the meeting, or mail a check to:  
**Soll Levine**  
34 Round Hill Road  
New Britain, CT 06052

## From The President's Hat

Well I'm back from Magic Live and Hollywood. I had a wonderful time, thank to Stan Allan and Bob and Debbie Carroll. Magic Live was fantastic! I can't wait until 2018.

There should be a report by Bob Hale in this newsletter about his first Magic Live experience [*next month, sayeth the Editor*]. Jon Cap and Danielle were also there.

While in Hollywood I visited the Magic Castle again. This was my third visit.

The first time was in the 80s and I got to meet Dai Vernon. Every magician should try to visit the Magic Castle. If you follow me on Facebook you saw lots of pictures.

Bob Carroll, Rich Gilbert and I spent all day Sunday the 21st there. We had brunch and dinner there and saw some awesome magic.

Bob was able to get Rich and me tickets to the taping of America's Got Talent Christmas Special. We had 2nd row seats! It was very interesting and tiring. We were there from 3:00-8:00. Let me tell you that reality TV is not real! Ask me about this at our meeting.

If you have a Facebook account please like our CCMA page. Remember dues are due this month. you will get a small gift with your dues payment.

Bob Little was hired to lecture for us in October, more info to follow.

We are also planning an auction, Saturday, November 19, 2016, again more info to follow. Start looking for treasures to sell and save your money to purchase new treasures.

See you at the meeting.

**Please do more this year than just paying your dues. Contribute to our newsletter and share magic at our meetings!**

**Share any ideas or suggestions with me to make CCMA bigger and better.**

Dan Sclare, President and historian

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## Trevor Duffy in Cromwell

Tom Prete SAM Assembly #127  
Radisson Hotel Cromwell (NEMCON Hotel)  
100 Berlin Rd., Cromwell, CT (Jersey Room)  
\$10.00 pp for non-127-members

Trevor Duffy is an award winning magician and innovator of magic, residing in Johannesburg, a full-time Professional Entertainer for private and corporate events, as well as having worked at one of Johannesburg's top restaurants for 11 years. He has developed a unique blend of comedy and magic, that you will see in his new lecture, *Negotiating the Barriers*. His magic encompasses close-up and platform shows, effects with coins, thin cards, banknotes and special innovations with clothing and playing cards.

## From The Dean

### Part One

May 29, 1957. Dwight D. Eisenhower was in the White House, five months into his second term. Two months from now, he would order federal troops to protect black kids seeking to enter a public school in Little Rock. The Cold War still had school kids ducking under the desks during air raid drills; the Russians were about to place Sputnik in orbit, starting a race to the moon America would win, and Elvis Presley purchased Graceland. Milk was under a dollar a gallon; hamburger 39 cents a pound; you could double your pleasure with a six pack of Wrigley's gum for 19 cents. Gas? 29 cents a gallon and Lou Tannen's 436 page catalogue of jaw dropping wonders was two bucks, delivered to your door!

Hartford's SAM 21 was about to host our fair city's first ever National Magic Convention. Only one of our current members, Cal Vinick, was a member then. In fact, he was on the organizing committee. But one other current member—yours truly—was a very young magician who then charged \$2.50 for a 30 minute birthday show and was counting the hours before he would attend the first of two of that year's convention shows.

In those days, Assemblies vied for the honor—and the fiscal responsibility—of hosting conventions. The last Assembly-run convention was Hartford's effort in 1979—but more about that in a future reminiscence. The 1957 conclave was headquartered in the Statler Hotel, a spanking new structure, now a parking lot, across from Bushnell Park with a knock out view of the state capitol. This 450-room beauty was also across Asylum Street from the venerable Bond Hotel which had been the venue for many smaller, regional magic conventions before and after 1957.

The first night featured a members-only show in the Hotel ballroom. I couldn't even sneak in. New Jersey's Lu Brent, who wrote dozens of books published by Tannen's, offered his well-known act *Magician Supreme*, Frank Derrick presenting *Smooth Deception* with dramatic flashes of fire punctuating magical climaxes; Sondra, who performed as a dancer doing magic, presented her *Mélange of Magical Grace* and John Prendergast, a comedian, were supplemented by two European stars who had appeared two nights before on NBC's 90 minute magic special, *Producer's Showcase*. June Merlin, then Billy McCombs wife presented her *Bewitching Witch* manipulation act and Rene September performed *De Paris*, producing gold fish bowls, doves and manipulations, an act she made famous at Paris' Lido.

Several of the stars during the week had appeared on the New York production. They came to America on NBC's nickel and Milbourne Christopher, a featured performer on that special who was to become the new National President at our convention, helped get them here. The entire 90 minute special is on You Tube [www.youtube.com/watch?v=6g6ZwetA488](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6g6ZwetA488).

*Part Two next month*

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## Virtual Assembly 1.1

Last month, about 40 compeers worldwide attending an “online meeting.” We attended this meeting on our computers, watching the screen and occasionally typing in a comment. For the first part, which lasted about an hour, the screen was a quick re-cap of the Indianapolis Convention. The second part, lasting about 10-15 minutes, had our moderators on the screen, live. At any time, whatever you typed (after hitting Enter) showed up on the screen for all to see. You get there by going to [magicsam.com](http://magicsam.com) and logging in. If you’ve never done it before, instructions are on the left of the main screen. Once in, go to the Member Area and look for the Big Red Door.

The next meeting is September 18 at 730PM EDT. It will last about an hour and features a LIVE mini-lecture from Bruce Kalver on the topic of Tech Tricks. You’ll be able to type your questions and get answers in real time.

I will say that some attendees had trouble seeing the video, so if you’re not going to use a desktop, go to the site ahead of time and look for the link to the TinyChat app, just to the left of that Door.

## CCMA Tag Sale/Auction

*Submitted by Rick St. Pierre*

We have set a date for our long planned CCMA Auction.

Date: Saturday, November 19, 2016

Time: Hours to be set, but it will be in the afternoon

Place: Angelo’s on Main

In order to have a successful event, I am looking for volunteers for the following tasks. (You may volunteer for more than one task)

Auctioneer - self explanatory

Set up crew - 2-3 people to set up chairs and tables

Teardown crew - 2-3 people to put extra chairs away and reset room to normal layout

Door fee collector - Non-members will be charged an entry fee, we need someone at the door to collect this fee

Clerk-of-the-Works – 2 or more people to record items brought to auction, record who bought and for what price, whose items sold, and calculate the auction fees, etc.

The more members who volunteer, the easier the tasks will be. Please let me know at the September meeting what task or tasks you are ready to help with. If you can’t attend the September meeting, but want to help, please e-mail me at [r\\_pierre@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r_pierre@sbcglobal.net) to let me know.

## Themes for 2016-2015

	Theme name	description
2016		
Sept.	Junk Drawer Revival	Perform a trick you put away or haven't done in a while
Oct.	Lecture	Bob Little
Nov.	Holiday Magic	Perform a trick with <i>any</i> holiday theme
2017		
Jan.	Show Me a Trick	Impromptu Magic
Feb.	Rope-a-Dope	Tricks using rope, string, cord or chain
March	Works in Progress	Perform something or ask questions or advice on something you are working on
April	Mail Call	Magic with an envelope, box or any kind of package
May	Shop Notes	Perform an effect for which you made some or all of the props

Thanks to Rick St. Pierre for compiling this table.

## Convention Contest Winners

Close-up	Stage
Chairman’s high-score: Jim Vines	Chairman’s high score: Nicolas Dutel

## CCMA Officers

### President

Dan Sclare      [danslare@gmail.com](mailto:danslare@gmail.com)

### Vice-President

Roger Cisowski      [mrcmagic@hotmail.com](mailto:mrcmagic@hotmail.com)

### Secretary

Dana Ring      [dana@danaring.com](mailto:dana@danaring.com)

### Treasurer

Soll Levine      [soll.levine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:soll.levine@sbcglobal.net)