

Mordecai's Journal



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October 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)

October Meeting: Bob Little Lecture

Wiz, the best there is! The Hatboro wild man will lecture for us this month. Free to paid-up CCMA members, only \$10 all others. Be in attendance on **October 10**. Meeting starts at **7:00 PM**. Join the officers for dinner at 6PM.

Minutes of September Meeting

12 September 2016 7:07 PM 8 members attending

Pres. **Dan Sclare** presiding
Secretary's minutes accepted as published.

Treasurer's report submitted.

Old Business: **Bob Little** lecturing in October. He'll donate \$100 worth of books to our club.

The auction is scheduled for Nov. 19th from 1 to 5. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

New Business: none

Announcements: Waterbury has an auction on Sept. 26th. The Boy Scout/Cub Scout camporees are looking for extra help. Oct. 15 in Ashford, CT, and Oct. 22 in Pittsfield, MA. The SAM Virtual Assembly V1.1 meets 11/18 at 7. The next OMI is April 20-23 on Cape Cod. The lady who embroiders shirts will do it again for \$12 per shirt. Bring \$ and shirts to next meeting. Lost Acres Winery is interested in another show in the spring. Dan will talk to them in December. **John Marenholtz** is doing about the same as ever; he got about a dozen birthday cards from magi.

Gd&Wf: **Angelo Chirico** is a 10-year SAM member.

Adjourned at 7:25PM

Tonight's theme: Stuff from your Junk Drawer. Magic that we used to do, but for whatever reason put it away for months or years.

When Last We Met



Jon Cap does a trick for **Dan Sclare**

Dan Sclare started off with a NEW trick he brought back from Magic Live. He borrowed an iPhone and passed a red hanky right through the screen and out the back!

He also showed us a die-box that uses a Rubik's Cube (which he made himself). He did the standard die-box routine in which the cube travels "invisibly" to the hat. He even managed to solve the cube at the end.

Bob Hale had a frame around a picture of a bunch of miniature cards (with a picture of the backs of the cards on the reverse side). A card from another deck was chosen and waved over the picture. Suddenly, one card was shown to be face down. Turning over the picture, one of the face down cards was now face up--and it matched the selection.

Next, he showed us a trick he's had since his teens: a glass inverted on a deck of cards. An invisible penny was "slapped" through the glass and became visible. Most of us were sure it was a quarter (it was), but when he let it slide to the

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From The Dean

The 1957 Hartford Convention, Part Two

Thursday arrived and my expectations soared. Old Friend Sol Solomon of Hartford's Sol's Toy and Novelty store, had arranged for me to attend the Annual Conference Show held in Foot Guard Hall, on High Street next to the old post office, about a block from the hotel. Senor Ermando, in Mexican serape did his dove act (which headlined the third *It's Magic* a few weeks later); Charlie Chan (Vic Torsberg) did a black arts bit which fascinated me; Kardwell, Card Manipulations (a poor man's Cardini); Hans Landay who rode in on a unicycle, did some comedy magic and ended with a rising card under a glass dome (which I loved); Handsome Harry (Bruce Reynolds) who did a cigarette act with tons of smoke coming from his mouth to close; and my first ever exposure to the legendary Dorny (Werner Dornsfield, who would soon become National Dean upon the death of Jean Hugard—who was also in attendance) who did a comedy bit like Karrell Fox would do in later years in which he described a trick and his Chicago pal, Vic Torsberg, would pantomime it. I was starry eyed. I met Milbourne Christopher, Dr. Tarbell and Harry Blackstone who performed at the Banquet and was to appear in Hartford a few months later for one of his last full evening shows. (I was there!)

Friday night was dynamite! Al DeLage and Margaret opened the show with a lightning fast act including a substitution trunk—the first time I ever saw it! Harlan Tarbell did stuff right out of his famous course, followed by the legendary Robert Harbin who decapitated and (unlike Sorcar) restored an assistant's head. Jack Gwynne performed an oriental costumed set producing fishbowls, dissecting his assistant in sixths, the colored sand in water trick and some small stuff I had trouble seeing even with my youthful eyesight. Finally P.C. Sorcar (the father not the son) took the stage and performed his Magic of India. It was gory! Blood flowed as he pushed swords through bodies, cut out an assistant's tongue (and, an act of mercy, restored it) and closed with a buzz saw in which he dissected a woman and DID NOT RESTORE HER! Assistants pushed the two parts into opposing wings as the curtains closed! Dorny was the MC and I don't recall him intruding on the stars, but kept the show going with amusing stories and anecdotes.

Harbin, Gwynn and Sorcar has all appeared in the TV special earlier in the week (along with June Merlin and Rene Septembre who I did not see.) This public show was in the Bushnell Hall which then held 3100 people on its main floor and there was a good crowd supplementing the 450 registered magi.

Friday night's banquet (which I heard about from Cal, Fiori Silvester, Dr. Jim Johnson, Vynn Boyar, Basset Mordecai, and Al Juster, (all members some of us remember lovingly and part of the committee) had a number of magical greats including Tarbell, Blackstone, Gene Gordon, and others (Jerry Andrus debuted his famous "Linking Pin") was supplemented with speeches from British, Indian, French and American magicians including incoming Prexy Milbourne Christopher.

Our Bill Greenough was the General Chairman and the

program coordinator was Vynn Boyar. They put together a memorable event, one still warmly remembered by the dwindling number of magicians who were there. In some ways, it was magic's equivalent of the world's honoring that other "greatest generation." I am so happy to have borne witness to some of it!

Next time: Some remembrances of our 1979 Hartford confab.

From The President's Hat

Boo!

Happy October. I'm looking forward to Halloween, one of my favorite holidays. I'm working on a great idea for our Halloween decorations this year. Hope to impress the kids and adults in the neighborhood once again this year.

I'm also looking forward to helping to teach two groups of scouts magic this month along with other S.A.M. members from our club and a couple of other assemblies, that volunteered to help out. Hope we can pick up some new S.Y.M. members.

Speaking of volunteering or not, we will not be having an auction this Fall due to the lack of volunteers. Once again I am asking members to do more than just pay their dues, and to contribute to our club. I'm sure you have ideas that you can share about some aspect of magic.

Our lecture this month should be interesting. Bob Little will have lots of cool ideas to share. Hope to see you at the lecture. Bring a friend and introduce them to magic and our club. Bob is bringing \$100 worth of books that we will raffle off.

Once again we are offering the chance to have our logo embroidered onto shirts. If you are interested, bring in shirts, new or old, and \$12 per shirt. Show your pride in CCMA and wear a shirt with our logo.

This is a reminder for those that have not paid their dues. Cash or check to CCMA mail it to Soll Levine, 34 Round Hill Rd., New Britain, CT 06052 or bring it to the meeting.

How about trying to scare up some new members? This year's S.A.M. National President's theme is "Get Just One" new member. So if you know someone with even a small interest in magic invite them to our meeting. See you at our meeting.

Dan Sclare, President and historian

Minutes, continued

Space was a little tight this month so **Bob Hale's** fantastic report of *Magic Live 2016* will appear next month. Promise.

table, it was indeed a penny.

Lastly, he showed us a "doubler-board" [paddle] which doubled a penny, a nickel, a dime, and a dollar. After he removed all the doubled items, he showed us how it worked--it used mirrors!

Jon Cap did a coin trick with two coins that started as casino chips and became a half dollar and an English penny, culminating in one giant coin in Dan's hands.

Dana Ring performed the trick Bewildered, that he obtained in 1979 at the Hartford Convention, in which a stack of quarters penetrates the top of a solid brass cap, teleports from under one cap to another, then vanishes without a trace.

Rick St. Pierre showed us an old deck from his Drawer Of Many Incomplete Decks, and had one selected. Rick explained that the instructions claimed the deck was supposed to be "marked" for a certain game, but the marks for Bridge, Poker, or Blackjack were not apparent. The only choice left was "magic trick" and it turned out that only the chosen card proved to be marked.

Themes for 2016-2017

	Theme name	description
2016		
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

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

Thanks to Rick St. Pierre for compiling this table.
