

Mordecai's Journal



www.ctmagic.org

November 2018



CCMA Officers
President: Brad Beady
Vice President: Roger Cisowski
Secretary: Dana Ring
Treasurer: Soll Levine



SAM 21 Officers
President: Brad Beady
Vice President: (currently open)
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

Rockledge Grille

289 South Main Street
West Hartford.

(I-84 exit 41)

November Meeting: Video Night

Have you got a DVD recording of one of us from the past? Or maybe a DVD of a show you really liked? We'll project the video on the wall so everyone will be able to see it. So if you have one, bring it in and , share it with us on **November 12 at 7PM**. Join the officers for dinner at 6PM.

Minutes of October Meeting

8 October 2018 7:36 PM 11 members attending

Pres. **Brad Beady** presiding.
Secretary's report approved as published.
Treasurer's report delivered.
Announcements: Dues are due. Send \$25 to Soll.
Old Bus.: **Dan Sclare** reports that he has the club banner, and two parabolic stage lights and the stage curtains. The stage itself is stored in **Dana Ring's** garage.
New Bus.: **Jon Cap** inquired about the possibility of paying dues electronically. Treasurer **Soll Levine** says it is not practical at this time.
It was moved and passed that next month's theme be Video Night, with members encouraged to bring magic videos (not lectures) to be shown. Dana will bring a projector.
G&W: Asm. 29 has **David Corsaro** on Oct. 22 in Waterbury.
Asm. 17 has Peter Samelson on Dec. 3. Their competition has been postponed—no date available.
Adjourned 8:38 PM
Theme: Pocket or Packet Tricks
Bob Hale did a card-matching routine using a small packet of Tarot cards.
Rick St. Pierre used "element" cards representing Earth, Air, Wind, and Fire. **Eric Wolfe** selected one; he and Bob signed it, then the packet was torn

When Last We Met



Tom Gentile pulls Brad Beady's card out of a bag.

and shown to match despite odd mixing. Essentially, it was a version of Will The Cards Match, with a "compatibility test" thrown in.
Dan Sclare did a trick with a bunch of cards that looked like small cereal boxes. A box was chosen and proved to have a different back from all the others.
Eric did an "Alzheimer's Test" in which we all would try to remember what he showed us--blue-backed, blank-faced cards that somehow turned into a red-backed spade royal flush.
Bob showed four old-style cards—the four face cards became pip cards.
Jason Abate did a basic card trick. Eric chose a card and Jason bent it and had Eric tear it. Jason "restored" it--with a stapler! To prove himself, though, he massaged the card until the tear disappeared.
Dana Ring did Emerson & West's "Eight-Ball."
Dave Garrity did "Wild Card" using a buckle count.
Tom Gentile offered **Brad Beady** his choice of three cards from a packet; Tom did likewise. Brad marked one, then all six were torn into quarters and put into a paper bag. The bag was

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A Magic Fish Story ... by Eric Wolfe

If you're reading this, you're probably thinking there's been an editorial mistake as evidenced from the inclusion of the "look what I caught" picture of the unusually large rainbow trout. But it's actually got a lot to do with our CCMA.

When I was a teenager, I had a little experience doing professional magic for birthday parties and retirement homes, but nothing substantial. Later, college, travel and various time-consuming professions took me far away from the magic hobby that I once loved. I began to throw myself into a different hobby, fly-fishing, because it was a shared passion with my father and it enticed travel to sandy, warm and/or beautiful places enjoyed by both me and my wife.

As my interest in fly-fishing increased, my awareness of magic decreased. Then one day several years ago my wife and I stumbled upon a Hank Lee magicians' conclave in Cape Cod. We loved it! (OK – mostly I loved it.) Suddenly a little boy's fascination with magic was tweaking at my consciousness again. The problem, I was in one of those careers that consumed all of my time and energy. I couldn't commit to anything because of continual work-related travel and a schedule commonly filled with late nights at the office. Commitments to any organization, let alone the CCMA, were simply not in the pasteboards.

A funny thing happened on the way to the forum (it's an aging reference to a Zero Mostel comedy – sorry), I got laid off near the end of my 30-year career. My company combined my role with that of someone in Europe and located the role in Denmark, leaving me without a job and, perhaps more importantly, leaving me with lots of time. Because of this new found time, my wife encouraged that I get involved with an organized group engaged in one of my hobbies, so I started to finally attend the CCMA monthly meetings.

Immediately I observed that several CCMA members had been attending these meetings literally for decades. And while the magic sparkle from our meetings might have appeared a little less shiny in the eyes of some beholders, for me it was all shiny. I began to interact with people of a

shared interest and meet folks that actually did magic...some even professionally – wow!

I was pretty nervous at my first meeting because it was obvious that there were a lot of seasoned magi in the room, but no one laughed or criticized my lame effects; OMG everyone was simply supportive and encouraging confidence. They conveyed that even the most experienced hobbyist or professional member was still openly learning and sharing. This provided a behavioral setting which motivated me to learn and maybe even share a little bit. Ultimately, that confidence and experience of sharing in front of supportive magicians gave me the wacky idea that maybe I, too, could do something perhaps semi-professional with this playful art. So, I started to develop a magician's website (someday it will be up) and routines for potential gigs.

Then, during this past August while fishing in Montana with my father, before dinner he urged me to perform some magic for other guests at the fishing lodge. One couple in attendance was quite renowned in the world of fly-fishing. The husband's photography was on the front of every major fly-fishing magazine and his wife was a champion caster. She'd won a contest among formidable competitors by casting a fly into a small cup sixty feet away.

To appease my father, I went into a little impromptu routine at the lodge using various forced card predictions and the "TOXICO" mentalism effect. Afterwards, the renowned couple quietly called me aside and proposed that I visit their private fishing waters in Pennsylvania. They would guide and lodge me for two days in exchange for a brief private magic show for some of their close friends and grandchildren. While I accepted the barter agreement, I was a little reluctant because I generally didn't do much magic for children. Later, confiding with Dan Sclare, he encouraged that I try working in a few simple kids' classics to the routine. When I visited Pennsylvania to perform, for the children I shared effects like "Sponge Bunnies", "Magic Coloring Book" and "Assistant's Interview" (which I had just learned at Devin Knight's recent lecture). For the adults I shared effects like "Mental Killer" (iPhone trick), "Powerball" with a mentalist twist and "Flap Card" (again which I had just picked up at Devin Knight's local lecture).

While performing the routine, outside the rain poured and the thunder roared because of a tornado which had just touched down nearby that afternoon. The kids giggled and cowered with tense excitement from each thunder. Changing set plans to match the mood, I went into a spooky, tongue-and-cheek routine including a voodoo doll version of Tenyo's "Magic Butterfly", "Needle Through Hypnotized Balloon," "Now is the Hour" (a packet trick sold to me years ago by one of our CCMA members), and "Haunted Key", which despite its simplicity simply slayed due to the ambience from the freakishly threatening weather.

I never got to fish the second day in Pennsylvania because the tornado from the previous afternoon had flooded the stream with high, muddy water. But during the first afternoon while being guided by my gracious hosts, I fished in a gray and eerie calmness as unbeknownst to us the tornado was

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...The Fish Story Continues

touching down just a few miles away. Suddenly a violent and slashing gulp on the river's surface ravaged my floating beetle imitation, which led to landing perhaps the largest trout (pictured) I've ever caught on a fly rod with a small floating fly.

I can honestly say that I wouldn't ever have experienced such a rewarding opportunity, intersecting my two favorite interests of fly-fishing and magic, had it not been for the engagement and support of the CCMA. Thanks to everyone for your encouragement, and special thanks to you for sharing your infectious interest in this fantastic art of magic!

October Minutes, continued

shaken. Tom reached in and removed just four pieces. Those four were the pieces of Brad's card.

Dave did a cute "Out To Lunch" routine.

Dan did a down/under deal with several gorgeous girl cards and one yuck! Guess which one was left at the end of the deal?

Finally, Bob showed a real stunner with four cards riveted together at one corner. Impossibly, the two inner cards could change places.

Themes for 2019

	Theme Name	Description
Jan.	Still Going Strong	Perform a trick you have been doing for years.
Feb.	Things Around The House	Effects with everyday household objects.
March	I've Been Wondering...	Workshop — ask about effects you are learning.
April	Read All About It	Perform a trick that was published in M-U-M or The Linking Ring.
May	Show Me A Trick	Perform something impromptu.

Thanks to Rick St. Pierre for compiling the original table.

President's Change Bag

Hey everybody!

Winter is coming! I hope everyone is getting their poofy coats, fuzzy socks and "Santa Stuck in the Chimneys" ready for the Locking season. (This comes from Kurt Vonnegut who describes November and December as [Locking](#).) We will be having our meeting again at the Rockledge Grille before we take December off for the holidays.

Speaking of holidays, Halloween just passed us by as did National Magic Week/Day. I tackled both holidays by dressing up as a magical fairy named Cosmo from the cartoon show The Fairly OddParents. We ended up winning Best Couple's Costume at a Halloween party!

I also participated in the Northeast New England Magic Contest hosted by IBM Ring 122. There were 12 participants from a combination of MA, NH, NY and CT. First prize went to CT's Adam Parisi (several of you probably know him) who performed his unique take on the Chop Cup which he might showcase at the upcoming NEMCON. I managed to win the People's Choice Award for a multiple selection routine which both entertaining and very deceptive. You can check out some photos [here](#).

See you next meeting!

– Brad

CCMA Officers

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