

Mordecai's Journal



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June 2019



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)

June Meeting: Old Dog, New Tricks

President Beady asks us to use some imagination to perform an old trick in a new way; (see his Change Bag for details). Put on your thinking cap and join us on **June 10** at **7PM**. Join the officers for dinner at 6PM.

Minutes of May Meeting

13 May 2019 7:40 PM 11 members attending

Pres. **Brad Beady** presiding.
 Secretary's report approved as published.
 Treasurer's report delivered.
 Old Bus.: The public show at *Lost Acres Vineyard* went very well. After paying costs (a Facebook ad and pizza for the performers), the treasury netted \$940.50. **Dan Sclare** gave his business card to someone there who owns a restaurant in Simsbury and might want us for a show at *his* place.
 New Bus.: The S.A.M. half of the club appointed **Marlene Clark** to be our delegate to the National Council, and voted for the National officers.
 Announcements: Dan mentioned two possible future lectures. This club and SAM#127 will look into having **Christopher T. Magician** sometime this Fall.

G&W: Dan and **Rich Gilbert** were contacted by a New York group to entertain at a function for a charity associated with diabetes research.

Bob Hale and **Dave Garrity** will be at Comix on the 18th.

Adjourned at 8:20PM

The theme for tonight was "Impromptu." The group was asked to show what they would do in public when challenged to do a trick.

Dave Garrity did the old stand-by coin-through-the-table, with the aid of a salt shaker. (This was of great interest to **Jason Abate**--he had never seen it done before!)

Jon Cap borrowed a pen that had a cap and

performed a routine in which the cap magically moves to strange places.

Dana Ring took advantage of the restaurant setting to do a Hobson's Choice prediction with an assortment of artificial sweetener packs.

Dan Sclare showed a small card with a number of numbered items on it. He had two volunteers pick a number and think of the item on the card that matched their number. Dan was able to name both items.

Ray Lorenzo tore a corner off a dollar bill, tossed the corner into the air, and the bill was immediately whole again.

Brad Beady handed Dan his phone, open to a drawing application, and asked Dan to draw anything he wanted. (Dan drew a flower.) Dan then deleted the picture, closed the phone and returned it to Brad. Brad somehow knew the picture was a flower!

Barry Moran passed a borrowed quarter through the back of his hand.

Finally, **Jason Abate** put two different bills on the table and rolled them up into a tight tube. When unrolled, the bill on top and the bill on the bottom had switched positions.



Jason places a \$5 on a \$1.



He rolls them together.



When the two bills are un-rolled



The \$1 is on top!

From The President's Change Bag

Hello everybody,

Hope everyone is having a great start to their June! We'll be back at Rockledge Grille again for our June meeting. Join us for dinner at 6pm, meeting around 7pm and magic to follow.

We have reached that time of the year where our list of magic meeting themes has run its course. Looking back at the original list, composed by Rick St. Pierre I found was composed in [September 2014](#) and also included "Theme Captains" that would present, direct and host discussion on the theme or on other topics of their choosing. This probably got lost due to scheduling conflicts over the years, but I think this was a good idea that we may want to discuss reintegrating in some way.

The magic themes are good way to evoke some performances tonight but, in my experience I've see some of the same effects from the same people year after year. Some themes, although they contain good magic, may not be conducive to an interesting and diverse discussion or presentation ideas. A theme like *Sponge Magic*, for example, can lead to only so many sponge ball transpositions or sponge bunny two in the hand, one in the pocket routines.

Where I'm going with this is that maybe we should broaden the magic themes slightly to cover how we present our magic, in presentation or technique, rather than just the apparatus we use for our effects. *Card Trick Night* may not be attractive to everyone but *Magic with an Emotional Hook*, for example, is a theme that anyone can draw from and share their ideas or routines for.

That being said, let's try this theme: *Old Dog, New Tricks*. Bring something new to an old trick whether it be a new, more engaging presentation or an update on some move that makes a routine easier.

See you next meeting!

– Brad

some world class card tricks. The venue was especially good for watching a close-up card magic show with elevated seating and close proximity to the stage. Helder was great as always and I have always appreciated his creativity and willingness to always put out new stuff. The highlight of the show was making a signed card appear in a sealed bottle of bourbon which he gave away as a souvenir. If you are in the area (or are willing to fly out to LA for a weekend) I recommend seeing it.

Next up was a show by Connecticut native magician Blaise Serra called *Leap of Faith*. He and his partner Carlos Suarez performed a duo magic act on top of the [Montalbán](#) rooftop theater with a showing of the movie *The Prestige* following. I was excited to find out that Blaise would be performing one of his first big time shows at the exact time we would be in the area so I couldn't miss it. It was a fun blend of magic, music and lots of cards tricks, Blaise's specialty. Blaise is an insanely talented technician already with accolades such as consulting with Shin Lim and his ridiculous [One Arm Bandit](#) release.

The last stop on our magic LA trip was, of course, The Magic Castle. I got an invite through Blaise and was super excited to finally see the hub of magic history and tradition. I was not disappointed. From Irma to the close-up room, the numerous bars to countless shows, it was one of the most fun magic experiences of my life. We managed to see four complete shows with a mix of close-up and stand up acts from John Kippen, The Bornsteins, Greg Otto and Hannibal. It was a thrill exploring all the rooms of the castle; new doors just seem to keep appearing and new performance spaces appeared at every turn. Do yourself a favor and get to the castle at some point to see a show or two.

Thanks to Liana for taking these pictures and putting up with me when I didn't want to take them but ended up using them for this article ☺

Until my next trip,
Brad

Ta-Da Plans in La-La Land

by Bradley Beady
photographs by: Liana Layug

My girlfriend, Liana, and I just got back from a Memorial Day weekend-warrior type trip from Los Angeles. The weather was beautiful and we managed to pack in a lot of magic over the course of just two days plus some escape rooms, great food and sight-seeing.

We started off the magic spree with Helder Guimarães's new show [Invisible Tango](#) which was a blend of storytelling and



Playbill for *Invisible Tango* in front of the Geffen Playhouse in Westwood, LA.



Liana, Helder and me in a post-show fanboy picture.



The entrance to the Magic Castle.



Liana and me enjoying some drinks before Blaise's *Leap of Faith* show.



Liana and me in front of a normal bookcase and a listening owl...



Blaise welcomes us to his first show under his new TAME media production (*Through a Magician's Eyes*).

CCMA Officers

President

Brad Beady bdbeady@gmail.com

Vice-President

Roger Cisowski mrcmagic@hotmail.com

Secretary

Dana Ring dana@danaring.com

Treasurer

Soll Levine soll.levine@sbcglobal.net