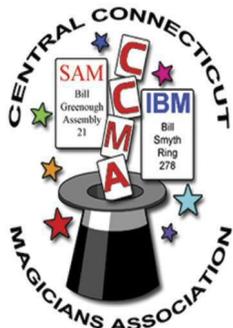


Mordecai's Journal



www.ctmagic.org

September 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)

September Meeting: My Favorite Magician

Do you have a favorite magician? Tell us about him, or her, at our next meeting. What did (s)he do that earned your life-long respect? Share the details of your admiration with us at the restaurant, and have a glass of your favorite beverage on **September 9 at 7PM**. Join the officers for dinner at 6PM.

Minutes of August Meeting

12 August 2019 7:44 PM

8 members attending

MI Brad Beady presiding.

Secretary's report accepted as published.

Treasurer's report received.

Announcements: On October 3, **John Carey** will be lecturing, in conjunction with the Wallingford assembly.

Old Bus.: **Jeff Leitz's** backyard barbeque last month was wonderful. Well attended.

New Bus.: There is a shared lecture in October.

Illusionists is under fire for marketing an effect that is not theirs. **Mark DeSousa** reports that **Harrison Greenbaum** created an effect that Illusionists has allegedly ripped off.

Gd & Welf.: The ICBM annual convention is November 13, 14, 15. One of our members reports that "the midnight event is worth it!"

Adjourned: 8:02 PM

Theme Captain **Dana Ring** declared it was time for "A Song of Ice and Fire." He presented a puzzle: how to get an ice cube out of a glass of water using only a piece of string. You are not permitted to touch anything that touches the ice with the exception of the string. The answer is to wet the string, lay the string on the ice cube, then sprinkle

When Last We Met



Rick St. Pierre's 16-piece trick.

salt over the string. You then lift the string out of the glass and the ice will come out with it. For a Fire trick, Dana did an old chestnut of having the matches in a matchbook counted, then one match is removed. That match is lit and quickly extinguished to "mark" it. The match vanishes and re-appears inside the matchbook, re-attached! **Rick St. Pierre** had a card selected, unseen. He folded it several times and had a number chosen by another volunteer. He tore the card into many tiny pieces and laid in a line on his close-up pad. The pieces that were at the chosen number from each end were set aside. The remaining pieces were revealed to be undistinguished, but the chosen pieces--were the indexes! Rick says he uses this trick as an "ice-breaker."

Marlene Clark presented a work-in-progress. She chose Brad Beady and Jon Cap to sit at a table. The object was to connect color to people against the background of Ancient Egypt. ("Not exactly the Ice Age, but old enough.") She took eight colored stones from a little bag. She had a prediction in a small notebook. Brad took the stones and passed them from hand to hand, then placed half of them on the pad. These went back in the bag and Jon was given the rest of the stones. Jon put two on the pad, and then in the

(Continued on page 4)

From The President's Change Bag

Hi everyone!

Fall is looming around the corner so make sure you get the most of your summer before it's gone! Whether that means golfing, fishing or staying safely inside to escape the harsh UV rays of the sun, you do you!

Speaking of golfing, we will be back at the Rockledge Grille on 9/9/19 for our September meeting. Join us for dinner at 6, a magic meeting at 7 (ish) and magic to follow.

Continuing the use of Theme Captains, the next magic MC I've designated is...me! The next theme will be My Favorite Magician where you can share who your favorite magician is, why they are noteworthy or even perform some of their tricks or ideas.

See you at the next meeting!

– Brad

Brad Does Some Tricks: A Review

by Brad Beady

In the first week of August I put on my first one man show which I (rather creatively) called "Brad Does Some Tricks." The show was hosted by Sea Tea Comedy Theater in downtown Hartford. I don't typically perform, let alone stage material so I wanted to challenge myself to create an original show highlighting some lesser seen magic and some of my original ideas. I wanted to talk about the show, trick by trick and some of the creative challenges behind each piece.

Before we start, this audience was predominantly people who knew me; through work or magic, friends or family and only a few people actually didn't know me. For a magic show, this isn't the best thing in the world ("And we've never met before, right...Dad?") So to combat this I used the tried and tested method of tossing an object (in this case a stuffed rabbit called The Hopper) to select participants.

First, I first started with changing over the Sea Tea Comedy Theater central sign to a more apropos Sea Tea Magic Theater sign. This is a piece that is not magic but seems very magical; a sign that is present at every Sea Tea show also has a magical side to it. To create this I embedded two magnets facing opposite directions inside so both sides were able to adhere to the wall.

Following that I went into a series of mind readings using a

random audience member's phone and Wikipedia with a



Sea Tea Comedy Theater and changed Sea Tea Magic Theater sign

statistics-based theme. I enjoy this piece because it's a more realistic and interesting presentation as to how you're able to "read minds," which is important when working for an audience that knows you personally—and knows you actually can't read minds. In practice, I learned the dangers of using technology-based methodologies and the importance of having a backup plan for some of the less bulletproof routines.

For the next piece, I wanted a routine that spoke to the stereotype of pulling a rabbit out a hat. Originally, I was going to borrow a hat and napkin and the napkin would change inside the hat to rabbit. I bought [The Hopper](#) thinking this would suffice, but the napkin didn't fold as consistently as I wanted. I eventually settled on a different structure where a borrowed and initialed dollar bill would transform origami-style into a hat in the participants hand and then change again to have a rabbit inside. I decided to perform this with one of the younger audience members which made the routine much cuter.

For the next piece, I performed a cell phone password unlock presented as the use of phone cups; those phones attached by a string which you talked to and heard absolutely nothing on



A signed dollar bill folds itself inside Peter's hands

the other end. This was another case where the presentation is more effective and interesting than just straight mind reading or even subtle nonverbal tells or whatever. First the participant was able to hear me say my pin code and was able to unlock my phone. Then, I removed the string and went “cellular” and was able to hear his pin code from varying distances throughout the theater. This trick worked especially well since the random audience member was someone I *actually* didn’t know.

The next piece is actually one of my favorite and is published by [The Jerx](#). In essence, you get to play your evil twin and prove there were really two entities by the end. I wanted to



Listening for the PIN digits through a cup-phone

perform this trick for 3 reasons: 1. It’s a great trick combining a lot of methodologies on top of being a completely unique presentation; 2. I had the idea to make my evil twin named Darb (Brad backwards) and create shirts with both names on it; and 3. Going backstage to get your twin can be used as a new method for a true one-man confabulation.



Brad’s lesser known twin, Darb

The second-to-last piece was a multiple card selection routine with an interesting method presented as a world record-breaking attempt for “Most Card Selections Found from a Shuffled Deck Blindfolded in Less than 60 seconds”. I created some fake world records Svengali-style, but when I went to print them at Staples, they were flagged as copyrighted and wasn’t able to print them. Instead I had good

results printing through [bestvaluecopy.com](#). Due the method, I am able to force a card for each person which allows me to have some very interesting revelations, including a card to sandwich.



Looking for 10 selections blindfolded

The final trick is the one of a my favorites; a confabulation finale where a lunch box handed out at the beginning of the show contains a note from my Mom who has finally had it with her deadbeat, leeching son. In addition to some less-than-motherly words, the note contains several things that happened throughout the show including, thought of words, an Eight of Clubs sandwich and a thanks to the randomly selected lunchbox holder.



Exploring my mom’s packed lunch and note to her beloved son

Overall, this was a great learning experience in how to create a presentationally-rich show with a variety of stand-up material I’m not too familiar with. I enjoyed the creative process in both finding additions to existing routines and researching solutions to my ideas for some tricks. I look forward to creating similar shows in the future so keep an eye out for the sequel: “Brad Does Some *More* Tricks.”

Minutes, continued

bag. Jon gave one stone back to Brad. The color of his stone matched Marlene's prediction. Marlene asked for comments and the group came up with some good suggestions.

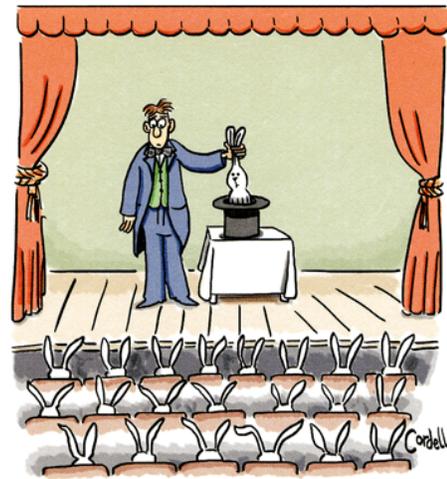
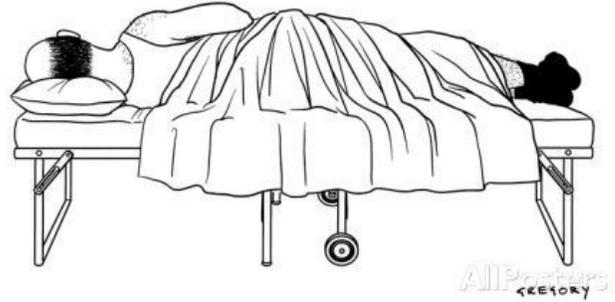
Eric Wolfe, having five shapes drawn on a notepad, asked Rick to write the initials of former girlfriends, putting "his first love" in the heart shape. The page was ripped up and placed in a coin envelope which was sealed, then burnt. Eric rubbed some ashes on Rick's arm which revealed the initials of Rick's first!

Brad Beady attempted to produce a lit match at his fingertips without results. He had better success getting a match to light twice! He lit another match, extinguished it, and touched it to his hand—then blew smoke out of his mouth.

Lastly, **Jon Cap** peeled the "warning label" off a lighter, set in on fire, and it immediately reappeared on the lighter.

Magi-Toons

DAVID BLAINE, AGE 60
ONE WEEKEND ON A LUMPY GUEST COT



TOUGH GIG

Themes for 2019-2020

	Theme Name	Description
2019		
Oct.	Sunny with a chance of shadows Capt.: Eric Wolfe	Perform something with a bizarre theme
Nov.	Holiday Magic Capt.: Steve Wronker	Perform a trick with the appropriate holiday theme.
2020		
Jan.	Junk drawer revival Capt.: Jason Abate	Perform a trick that you bought but have never performed for anyone.
Feb.	Mail Call Capt.: Rick St. Pierre	Magic with an envelope, box, or other kind of package.
March	Shop Notes Capt.: Jon Cap	Perform an effect in which you made some or all of the props.
April	Mental Miracle Capt.: Roger Cisowski	Mentalism effects
May	Works in Progress Capt.: Marlene Clark	Perform something you are working on—ask questions or advice.

CCMA Officers

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Secretary

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Treasurer

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Thanks to Rick St. Pierre for compiling the table.