

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT MAGICIANS ASSOCIATION

Mordecai's

Journal

www.ctmagic.org

January 2020



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)

January Meeting: Seeing The Light Of Day

Long ago, you got a trick. Maybe you bought one, maybe you made a prop from an article you read. However you obtained it, you never found the right time or place to perform it, so you put it away somewhere where it languished, unseen. Well, this month, **Jason Abate** captains *Junk Drawer Revival*. Bring that forsaken effect to the club on **January 13 at 7PM**. Join the officers for dinner at 6PM.

Minutes of November Meeting

11 November 2019 7:03 PM

15 members
attending

MI Brad Beady presiding.

Secretary's report accepted as published.

Treasurer's report received.

Old Bus.: We discussed the following month's non-meeting: our Holiday Dinner, complete with gift exchange and member performances. Each paid-up member could bring a +1 and pay only \$15pp. Brad will send out particulars in an e-mail. We also discussed next-next year's FISM contest in July of 2021. Some of our members are looking into getting a bus.

Announ.: Assembly #17 is having their after-the-holidays gathering on February 8th.

Adjourned 7:28 PM.

Tonight's theme: Holiday Magic, led by **Steve Wronker**. Steve told the story of Zippy the Elf, with many picture-silk changes of Zippy trying to dress for the holidays.

Bob Killian thought it was "Envelope Night," so he used envelopes with a color theme.

Speaking of envelopes, Brad had a big red envelope, and a deck of cards which were

When Last We Met



Steve Wronker and Zippy the Elf.

thoroughly shuffled. We took turns drawing, circling around the table according to the number and color of the card drawn, until finally one card was left. The person drawing that card, **Dan Scclare**, was given the red envelope. Inside the envelope was a Veteran's Day card (today being Veteran's Day), along with a personal message for Dan himself.

Tom Gentile had a box with several pieces of leftover Halloween candy complete with accurate predictions of who took what. He followed this with a prediction of Christmas Carols. He also showed us silks that blended into a holiday message.

Soll Levine asked for everyone's trick ideas and used them to assign meanings to various silks. The red, white, green, and blue silks transformed into similarly colored candy canes.

Dan showed a little Christmas lightbulb that lit up in different colors. He also had a Santa Hat that could tell if you were naughty or nice. If you were nice and reached into the hat, you got candy; otherwise you got coal! Lastly, in the spirit of diversity, he showed us how to make an Easter Bunny out of a cocktail napkin.

From The President's Change Bag

Happy holidays everyone!

I hope you're sharing them with friends and families with lots of good cheers and spirits! And by spirits I mean specifically this [Homemade Spiced Egg Nog](#). And if you don't drink alcohol than you can ditch the spiced rum for a still eggs-cellent drink. *Ba dum tss*

[Editor's note: I apologize for not getting this next paragraph out before the event. There normally isn't a newsletter for December, but it really would have helped if I had at least e-mailed this. I get one screw-up per year; this was 2019's.]

We will be back at the restaurant for our 2nd annual Holiday Dinner on December 10th (this a Tuesday) starting at 6pm. All members and a guest are invited to join and the cost will be \$15 per person. There will also be a Magic Grab bag, so if you wish to participate, bring a new or slightly used magic gift valued somewhere between \$10-\$20 to swap. Also, if anyone wants to share some magic after dinner, let me know.

I also wanted to thank all the members of this great club for providing a fun environment to join in on month after month. Even if you aren't able to participate in the meetings, just reading these newsletters contributes to making CCMA the tight knit family of magicians that it is. So I'm grateful for the opportunity to try to make this club better little by little and thankful for all you wonderful people. Cheers!

See you at the meeting,
-Brad



Conjuring And Comedy

— by Brad Beady

At the beginning of November, myself and fellow magician Adam Parisi performed a two-man show that we, rather brilliantly if I do say so myself, called Conjuring & Comedy. The idea would be to showcase two different magic styles: Adam's boisterous, sharp wit and more comedic approach and my more subtle, reserved but impactful style. I wanted to talk about how the show came to be, the planning of it and how it went.

We had the idea for the show about two months prior while driving down to the MAES convention in NJ. Adam expressed that he had always wanted to do a formal close-up show and I expressed similar interests. So rather than have two half-hearted motivations and no show, we figured we'd put forth the effort together and actually do the thing.

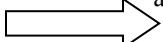
So we played around with what this show should be and what it should be called. This type of collaboration really highlights the difference in thinking in performers. Adam, for example, is much more of a "worker" than I am. Stemming from his stand-up and comedic background, his style is to continuously work a few pieces until they are fine and finished, whereas my approach is to create a completely new repertoire for this one show, making it unique with new pieces of magic. So a different show for the same audience, as opposed to the same show for a different audience in Adam's approach.

Ultimately, we decided to segment the show with Adam and I opening, my set, intermission, Adam's set and then a closing trick with the both of us. This allowed us to collaborate on some things (opening, closing, and each other's introductions) and still have our set to work with within. This structure naturally brought out the separation in character between the two of us which we reflected in the show's title and our advertisements.

As for the location of the show, we searched all over Connecticut for an environment that would be conducive to a close-up show. The problem is that most theaters are not tiered enough so that you could see a table top and that the stage tends to be either raised or some distance away from an audience. We eventually settled on the Carriage House Theater, a tucked away children's theater across from the Mark Twain House that had well-tiered seating and a semi-circle design so everyone would be aligned with the table.

As for the actual execution of the show, I think it went well, but it could have gone much better. Some of my pieces didn't go as planned and I had to improvise around some failed tricks. Adam and I also finished the show off with a cards across-type trick which could have also benefited from several more rehearsals instead of over the phone conversations. Looking back I wish we also had microphones, project the table top surface and hashed out our scripting more.

Overall, this was a fun experience and I think more magicians should strive to work with one another on projects like these. It helps your magic grow, but you also get a



Conjuring And Comedy (continued)

lot of other useful real world skills. (How to market a product, how to build a website and how to work with a large Italian man, to name a few.) We might perform this show again, or some iteration of it, so keep an eye out for Conjuring & Comedy.

Here are some pictures from the show:



The main image that we used for the show highlighting Adam's comedic nature and my more serious demeanor



Adam has my friend Sam on stage to pick a card



I give a Unicorn birthday card to Mary containing something very special



Adam and I perform our version of a classic of magic the only way we know how

Themes for 2019-2020

| | Theme Name | Description |
|-------|---|---|
| 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. |

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

CCMA Officers

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