

# Mordecai's Journal



www.ctmagic.org

February 2021



**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)

## February Meeting: Another Blast From The Past

Continuing our connection with living history, **Ann Myrece James** will join us to relate stories of her parents—founding members of SAM #21. Please be sure to join us on **February 8th** at 7PM.

## Minutes of January Meeting

11 January 2021 7:00PM  
No new business this month  
11 members attending virtually, 3 guests

To start off the new year, we used today's technology to Zoom into the past. **Dan Sclare** shared an old video of our club's eponym **Bill Greenough** performing the Chinese Sticks. Later, Bill's son **Robert** joined us to share memories of his father. We looked over some photos he had sent. We all had a wonderful time reminiscing about a truly great man.

## Zoom Meeting Details

Topic: CCMA February (Virtual) Meeting  
Time: Feb 8, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84219414130?pwd=WExQTmJoekoxRmJBTW96ZTV5OEN1dz09>

Meeting ID: 842 1941 4130  
Passcode: ccma  
One tap mobile  
+16465588656,,84219414130#,,,,\*446603# US (New York)  
+13017158592,,84219414130#,,,,\*446603# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

# From The President's (Self-isolated) Change Bag

Hey everyone!

Thanks to everybody who joined our last meeting and a special thanks to Bob Greenough for sharing stories about his father; past National S.A.M. President Bill Greenough. For someone relatively new to the club like me, it's interesting to learn the history of the club and hear how former members interacted and influenced current members. Perhaps we can carry this over into February's meeting if anyone would like to discuss something SAM 21/IBM Ring 278's history.

I recently attended Helder Guimarães's *The Future*, a sort-of sequel to his previous successful virtual show *The Present*. I am a big fan of Helder's work, and I found this show to be one of his best. Not only because it tells a succinct, more focused story, but because it takes advantage of the performing media more than his previous and other shows I've seen. Like *The Present*, we also received a package that we interacted with throughout the show, but a slightly new way. The show is premiering through 3/14 so worth checking out for a fun night in. (FYI: Our show started at 11:00 PM, since it's based out of L.A.)

See everybody at the next meeting!

- Brad



The Assembly #21 picnic



Playing ragtime in the 1990's.

A visit to the Houdini gravesite & Broken-Wand ceremony



## When Last We Met

### Bob Greenough's Photos



The Magigals pin and National Council pendant



Reverse of pendant



Bassett, Bill, and Vynn

## *The Secret Compartment*

by Brad Beady

This is the second article in the Secret Compartment series looking at magic on multiple media platforms. In this issue, I focus on magic showcased on video streaming platforms such as Netflix, Hulu and Disney+.

[In & Of Itself](#) (Hulu): Let me start by saying that I firmly believe that this should be **mandatory** watching for anyone interested in magic. For those of you who do not know what this is, magician Derek Delgaudio explores the illusion of identity in a filmed version of a show which he performed over 500 times in NYC. I saw *In & Of Itself* live on 3 separate occasions and even after watching this movie version of the show it still brings me the same amount of wonder and amazement. This show is a prime example of how we as magicians can use our abilities to tell stories and spark discussions rather than doing magic for magic's sake.

[Magic for Humans](#) (Netflix): Now in its third season, magician Justin Willman (AKA Justin Kredible from way back when) tackles topics such as self-control, time and tradition in this fun episodic magic show. I think Willman does a great job of presenting magic on television. What I like about the show is, unlike a similar TV magic show, *The Carbonaro Effect*, Willman is upfront with his participants, telling them he is a magician performing magic tricks. Otherwise, it feels more like playing pranks on people rather than showing them magic. Also, unlike popular TikTok-reaction-based magic videos, these are genuine, not over-hyped reactions to magic tricks most magicians are familiar with. Worth a watch.

[WandaVision](#) (Disney+): Although not a magic based show, the second episode of the Avengers spin-off show has the two main characters/superheroes, Wanda and Vision, performing a traditional magic show for a fundraiser. When the drunken Vision resorts to using his powers to create impossibilities, Wanda reverts to using her powers to reveal typical magic methods being used. I find it amusing that this is the exact opposite of how most magic effects are performed; a superpower is showcased while the method is hidden.

## More Pictures From Last Month



Bill and Gerrie with Maldo, Dante, and Dorney (Werner Dornfield, 16th president and 6th dean of the Society).

On a cruise ship in the West Indies, 1951



Bill raced outboard motorboats, too.

## CCMA Officers

### President

Brad Beady      [bdbeady@gmail.com](mailto:bdbeady@gmail.com)

### Vice-President

Roger Cisowski      [mrcmagic@hotmail.com](mailto:mrcmagic@hotmail.com)

### Secretary

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### Treasurer

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