

# NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT MAGICIANS ASSOCIATION

# Mordecai's Journal



www.ctmagic.org

April 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)

## April Meeting: Sayeth The Dean

Our guest speaker this month will be the Dean of the Society of American Magicians, **George Schindler**. Please Zoom in with us on **April 12th** at 7PM.

## Minutes of March Meeting

8 March 2021 7:00PM

8 members attending virtually,  
2 guests

The Treasurer's report was received.

Tonight's Program:

**Joyce Zachary**, one of the major influences of Assembly 21 in the 70s and 80s, shared some personal stories about our club including how she came to share her life with her husband, Jim, spending a scary night in a sketchy hotel in Chicago, and welcoming convention-goers when the National Convention was held in Hartford in 1979. Also featured were photos from that era, provided by **Dan Sclare** with commentary by Joyce.



STEVE COHEN  
BOB HALE  
CHARLIE HAYDEN  
JOEL KAGAN  
KEN MILLMAN  
BARRY MORAN  
MILT NICHOLS  
RICK ST. PIERRE  
JIM 'ZEE' ZACHARY

WELCOME YOU TO HARTFORD

Present this Coupon to any Member and receive a Free 'Invisible Pass'

A promo card from the group which was quite active back in the day.

## Zoom Meeting Details

Topic: CCMA April (Virtual) Meeting  
Time: Apr 12, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85949677218?pwd=cUdLTHpESXdleDBMK1l1amNmMEFFUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 4967 7218

Passcode: ccma

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,85949677218#,,,,\*086700# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,85949677218#,,,,\*086700# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

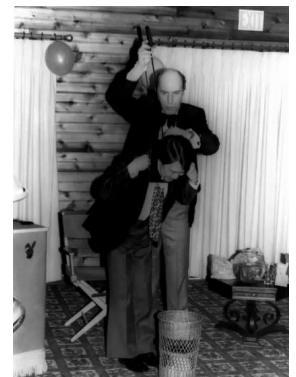
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 859 4967 7218

Passcode: 086700

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kjPY3dA9z>

At an unknown restaurant, **Dick Matt** pushes a sword into the neck of **Rudy Bulong**.



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

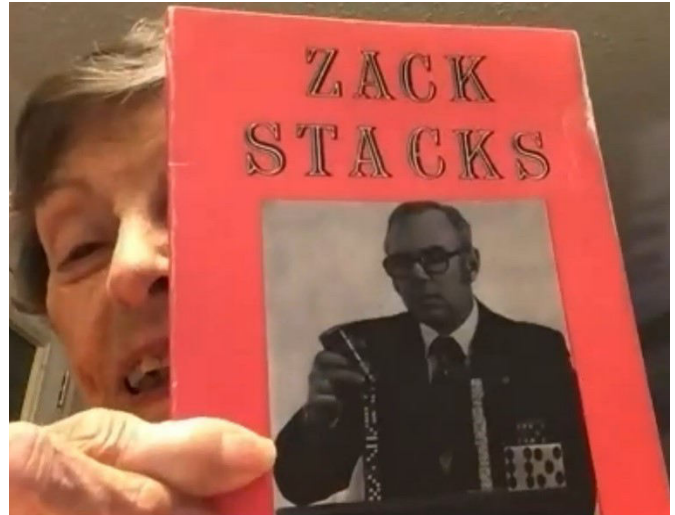
Hey everyone!

Thanks to everybody who joined our April meeting and a special thanks to Joyce Zachary for sharing more information about the past of S.A.M. 21.

I got a chance to watch the virtual conference that NEMCON put on the last weekend of March. It had lectures and performance by Ken Scott, Kayla Drescher, Harrison Lampert and an interview with Mat Franco conducted by member Jon Cap. [NEMCON 39.5 Online](#) is still up on YouTube for at least a couple of more weeks. Check it out!

I'm looking forward to seeing [The Magician Online](#) featuring Dan White. I heard from one of our members, Eric Wolfe, that the show was quite good. At this point I've seen 3 professional online magic shows; two by Helder Guimarães and one by Justin Wilman. Both of the shows were quite good in terms of the trick selection, presentation and audience participation through the virtual media. We will see how this show stacks up.

See you at the meeting! — Brad



Joyce holds up a copy of **Jim Zachary's** dice-stacking book with the "horrible pink cover."



Covers of the M-U-M magazine from the 1980's featuring Jim and Joyce who held office in the "international years."

## When Last We Met



**Joyce** Zachary, first female member of Assembly 21, and first female National Secretary.

## *The Secret Compartment* by Brad Beady

This is the fourth installment of the Secret Compartment series we will look at a handful of my favorite full-length recorded magic shows available on digital platforms. A lot of live shows at this time are being performed live over Zoom, but it's a much different feeling than a show that has been performed for a live audience and recorded unobtrusively. Here are some videos that I love and have watched multiple times over.

[Ricky Jay and his 52 Assistants](#) (YouTube) A 1 hour recording of the late Ricky Jay's show filmed for HBO is available on several sources including this link. Ricky Jay is such a unique and captivating performer and this show highlights some of his best routines and bits from card throwing to the cups and balls.

*The Secret Compartment, continued*

In this one-man show, he performs for a rather intimate audience using a delivery and language that is rarely seen in magic today. His scripting in this show drifts between eloquent and dead-pan absurd, from retelling the history of the classic Everywhere and Nowhere to throwing cards to wound a plastic duck. If you haven't seen Ricky Jay before, I highly recommend this show.

[Any Derren Brown Show](#) (YouTube) I think in terms of formal theater shows, especially mentalist-based shows, a Derren Brown show is the gold standard. Derren is just becoming a name in the States but he easily as big as David Blaine or Criss Angel in the UK. Several of his theater shows have been recorded like [Infamous](#), [Svengali](#), and [Something Wicked This Way Comes](#). The last one has one of my favorite tricks: [The Button Trick](#) which I think is as close to that [toothpick scene](#) from Rain Man as a trick can get. I had the chance to see his off-Broadway show *Secret* which was like the best hits from all his theater shows in a single show.

[Helder Guimarães – A Magical Search for a Coincidence](#) (TED) Although not a full show, this TED talk by one of my favorite magicians, Helder Guimarães, has a central theme and several interesting tricks. I enjoy his presentational style and the stories that accompany most of his tricks. His take of the Any Card at Any Number plot in this talk I find very innovative.

Gamarjabot (YouTube) – I love watching this Japanese mime duo perform. They aren't really doing magic tricks, but a lot of their gags and mannerisms seem magical from their escalator simulation to their ball in mouth bits. A lot of their shows are the same, but I really enjoy the audience participation in [this performance](#); they convey so much all just by grunting and their physicality. Really fun group.

More Meeting Pictures



Joyce's husband Jim actually had a hand in the creation of the Life Membership program. Above is **John Marenholtz** between Joyce and **MI Cesareo Pelaez**. At right is John's Life Membership card.



An old photo from (possibly) the 70's. **Ben Cohen** doing an effect for (we think) **Bill Andrews**'s wife.

CCMA Officers

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Flashback photo:  
**Bill Smyth** and his wife Jennifer, with "**Port**" **Portonova** and his wife Audrey