

Mordecai's Journal



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May 2021



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Meetings:

Second Monday of every month except December

Rockledge Grille

289 South Main Street
West Hartford.

(I-84 exit 41)

May Meeting: Eileen McFalls

This month's guest speaker is Eileen McFalls, author and former street performer. See her bio on page two. Join us on Zoom on **May 10th** at 7PM.

Zoom Meeting Details

Topic: CCMA May (Virtual) Meeting
Time: May 10, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83606435152?pwd=V0Q0emlBZE4ySkhhZzZGV1lvTkpQdz09>

Meeting ID: 836 0643 5152

Passcode: ccma

One tap mobile

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Passcode: 573953

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

Minutes of April Meeting

8 March 2021 7:00PM

10 members
attending
virtually,
7 guests

The Treasurer's report was received.

Our April Zoom meeting featured the Society's Dean, **George Schindler**. He spoke on many topics including ramen noodles, magicians he has known over the years, and How He Met Nina. We saw videos of George performing a color-changing hank, and his Magic Castle act. He even performed live for us, doing a version of Any Card At Any Number. This was our most well-attended meeting of the year.

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

Hey everyone!

Thanks to everybody who joined our May meeting and a special thanks to **Dean George Schindler** for sharing some stories and videos from his career.

With increasing vaccinations and state regulations easing up we will soon be looking to meet again in public. As of May 1st, the 8 persons limit per table will be lifted for outdoor dining only. If we were to return to Rockledge Grille, we would need to have a couple of tables for indoor dining, but for an outdoor venue we would be able to meet in a large group. I set up a survey to gather your thoughts which you can take [here](#):

In the last Change Bag, I mentioned I had tickets to [The Magician Online](#) with magician **Dan White**. Of the 3 virtual magic shows I have seen over this year, I thought this one of the best. Without spoiling too much for those who want to see it, I thought the interactions with the “mystery box” were really clever and fresh. I also felt like Dan took advantage of the virtual platform in ways that other shows didn't, incorporating the Zoom setup itself in several tricks. Definitely worth a watch!

See you at the next meeting!
– Brad

About This Month's Speaker

—submitted by Dan Sclare

Eileen McFalls has lived and traveled extensively as a busker, club owner, medical technologist, and graphic designer. Currently, she is working on writing projects and as a guest speaker for podcasts, magic groups, and book clubs. She resides in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Her book: *No Ordinary Magic*. A summary:
At twenty-five, Eileen McFalls embarked on an unconventional journey after meeting an amazing street magician. While never a household name, **Jim Cellini** was a legend in the magic world, renowned for his wit and skill when performing the impossible. During the eighties the two trekked across the US, Canada, Great Britain, and Europe, encountering free spirits, misfits, and royalty.

Eileen will give a brief history of how she and Jim Cellini met, her debut on the street, and read an excerpt from the book. She will present a slideshow of photos taken during the eighties of street performing, and will tell stories about places and people they met along the way. Time toward the end of the presentation is allotted for questions.

Here are some links
<https://www.noordinarymagic.com/about>
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/S30146>
<https://www.themagicwordpodcast.com/scottwellsmagic/587-eileen-mcfalls>

Jim Cellini grew up in Hartford

Kozmo from Reel Magic gave me permission to show a clip of Jim if there is time.

When Last We Met



George Schindler, ninth Dean of the Society of American Magicians

The Secret Compartment

by Brad Beady

This is the fifth installment of the Secret Compartment series in which we will take a rather esoteric dive into my favorite posts from my favorite magic blog, [The Jerx](#). I have been following this blog for about 3-4 years now and look forward to reading every single post by the eponymous author, Andy Jerxman. If you're not familiar with it at all, here's the [So You're New Here](#) page. With that, let's look at my Top 3 Jerx posts:

[I'll Be My Mirror \(7/23/2016\)](#) – A majority of Jerx posts surround the rather groundbreaking idea of amateur magic; that is, magic for friends and family that is both immersive and non-magician centric. In this post he introduces a fabulous trick that encompasses all these aspects. He and his evil twin (which he himself plays) do a trick together. As mentioned in the writeup, this trick can even be adapted for the stage which is something I did for one of my shows. Definitely one of my favorite Jerxian tricks.

[New Look \(4/1/2020\)](#) – A staple of The Jerx is that he simply does not care what others think about him and his thoughts. With that creative liberty he constantly is joking about magicians Joshua Jay and Andi Gladwin, making numerous sexual innuendos and making fun of all aspects of magic. In the early posts and in his previous blog, Andy took a particular interest in making fun of the [Magic Café](#), an online magic blog created by Steve Brooks, (who he also makes fun of quite often). On April Fool's day of 2020, the blog website transformed into the style of the Magic Café with the green background, but with the same silly content. If you like this prank, check out this year's prank: [The New Jerx](#).

[Field Report: The Talent Swap \(8/14/2015\)](#) – One of the first posts I read on this site was this post and it got me hooked. It showed me not just how devoted Andy is to his craft but to how much more can be achieved with an amateur style of performance. In this post, he describes how he managed to swap the talents of two people. (A banjo player and a dancer.) And this is one of the many tricks out there where the methodology is almost as crazy as the trick itself. Imagine being in that crowd, seeing someone who you know can't dance starts doing a full hip-hop dance routine out of nowhere. That would be insane and that's exactly the type of magic I want to share with my friends and family.



A still from **George Schindler's** Magic Castle "Sealed Deck" act.

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