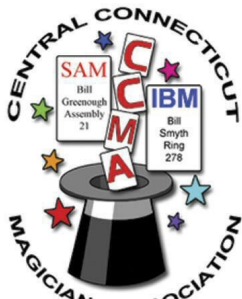


Mordecai's Journal



www.ctmagic.org

August 2023



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President: Brad Beady
Vice President: Dan Sclare
Secretary: Dana Ring
Treasurer: Eric Wolfe



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Vice President: Dan Sclare
Secretary: Dana Ring
Treasurer: Eric Wolfe



IBM Ring 278 Officers
President: Roger Cisowski
Vice President: Jason Abate
Secretary: Rick St. Pierre
Treasurer: (currently open)

Meetings:

Second Monday of every month except December

French Social Circle

341 Kelly Rd.

Vernon, CT 06066

August Meeting: Patio at the Sclare Mansion, *take two*

We're going to try this again. In an example of hope over experience, August's meeting will be at **Dan Sclare's** patio, 13 Farmstead Lane, Ellington, on **August 14th**. Festivities start at 6PM, with magic to follow. If storms **do** come, our backup plan is to meet at the French Social Circle.

Report of July Meeting

10 July 2023 7:03 PM

We were going to have July's meeting in a backyard patio, but the weather forecasts were still threatening doom so we switched back to the French Social Circle for a relatively informal meeting and pizza party. (The predicted storm never did happen that night. Go figure.)

We started the meeting on a somber note. **Dan Sclare** read us the obituary of **Walter Umberfield**, who died June 25. Walt was a member of our assembly for half a century.

It was announced that Neighboring Assembly #17 will have a gathering on August 19th in Ludlow, MA.

On to the magic done tonight!

Dan had Karen Gibson (a guest of **Tom Gentile**) select a card. After failing to find her card, he pulled out his phone and had "Siri" reveal the chosen card. (Dan credits **Bruce Kalver**.)

MI Brad Beady had **Dave Garrity** and **Dana Ring** cut a deck. The top card was pushed off to Tom who kept it face down. Brad dealt down several cards to a King and proclaimed "your card is a

When Last We Met



Tom Gentile puts torn cards into a paper bag, as **Karen Gibson** watches.

King." He dealt more cards ending in a diamond. "It's a diamond--or maybe the Eight of Clubs." More dealing, more possibilities, all wrong. The card was the Six of Spades, so Brad spread out the deck. There were three cards face up. It would be nice to say they were the other three sixes, but alas, one of them wasn't. Brad apologized and there was great merriment.

Steve Wronker demonstrated a prop of 16 interconnected blocks that look scrambled. However, when manipulated, shows a caricature of the Queen of Hearts (in 4x4 form).

Norm St. Laurent spread out five one-dollar bills face down in front of Karen. She selected one and initialed it on the front, then mixed the bills. Norm, on quick inspection, identified the selected bill without seeing Karen's "mark." Norm let us know that the trick involves being able to see tiny numbers on the bills.

Dana demonstrated a trick he recently obtained called "Lux." Brad drew an "X" on the back of his hand with a UV-ink pen. We could see the X thanks to a small UV keychain penlight. (Would

(Continued on page 2)

From The President's Change Bag

Happy August!

The plan is to have our August meeting at Dan Sclare's patio, weather pending. I will be on vacation so you will be spared from at least one, half-heartedly performed card trick. You're welcome.

There are some exciting magic books that have hit the shelves recently and I wanted to touch on a few that I have picked up or will plan on getting.

[Notes from a Fellow Traveller](#) – Derren Brown

I have been a fan of Derren Brown for quite some time. I was fortunate enough to catch his off-Broadway show in New York a few years ago which turned out to be "best-of", highlights of some of his best material from several of his shows. Derren doesn't often write for magicians, with his last book, *Absolute Magic*, written 20 years ago in 2003, so I am looking forward to reading this one. Also, if you haven't already, I encourage you to watch one of his full-length shows, many of which are on YouTube.

[Sleightly Absurd](#) – Charlie Frye

I remember first seeing Charlie Frye's name appear in the torn-and-restored card trick "Ripped and Fried" in Paul Harris's True Astonishment DVDs. I had never heard of this Frye guy before, so when I Googled him I was expecting a card magician guru and instead I found... a bug-eyed juggler. But as I would come to find out when I followed him, he is one of magic's great thinkers and performers. I'm excited for this book. Also if you haven't already, follow Charlie Frye on Facebook where he drops some great performances that are really enjoyable.

[Card Tricks \(Rainy Days\)](#) – Vanessa Bailey

Ok, this one doesn't count, but my sketch writing teacher who knows I'm into magic gave me this book. It's pretty awful. It's as if an author with no magic knowledge whatsoever was tasked with writing a magic book. This is the first trick in the book, "Sticky magic", where you put a piece of tape on a paper tube, hit the face card of a double and it looks like it changes. I hear you ask, "But Brad, how do you hide the other card that's now sticky taped to the tube?" Easy! Step 3: "...put it out of sight behind you, so that the audience can't see the card attached to it. Out of sight, out of mind! Now that's magic!

Have fun at Dan's,
Brad



A Word From Our Next Meeting's Host

Dan asks: **RSVP August 12th**

Club pays for: Dogs and burgers

Members pay for:

Buns, Condiments, Drinks, Sides, and Desserts.

Minutes, continued

that make it a keylight?) Under the light, the X slowly vanished from Brad's hand and appeared on Dana's arm. Tom had Norm choose one of three cards and tear it in fourths. Tom did the same to the other three. All the pieces were placed in a paper bag, and the bag was shaken. Tom, without looking, reached into the bag and withdrew four pieces. They were the pieces of Norm's card!

New Orleans Convention Photos



Honoree **Tina Lenert**, with her panel of friends—**Mike Caveney**, **Christopher Hart**, **Jorge Blass**, and **Arden James**.



PNP **Bruce Kalver** interviews **David Charvet**, editor of the new history-of-the-SAM book.

At a burlesque show (!), bubble magician **Meadow Perry** does the act she SHOULD have done at the stage competition.



The Stars of Tomorrow cast. **Vincent Zhou**, **Yunzhe Hong**, **James Chan**, **Sebastian Penley**, **Megan Waryk** (and her little brother to the left), **Anthony Wilkins**, and **Xuehui Wu**. (I may have gotten some names wrong; if so, I apologize.)

Contest Winners

Dr. Henry Tom won the Originality Award for his “tooth-fairy” routine. (That’s not the award—when given, the OA is custom-made for the winner, so Dr. Tom will get the real one NEXT year.) He also won second place overall.



Rod Chow presenting the People’s Choice Award to **Jeffrey Wang**, who had also won the Silver Award of Merit and first place.



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- Secretary**
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- Treasurer**
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