

# Mordecai's Journal



www.ctmagic.org

September 2023



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President: Brad Beady  
Vice President: Dan Sclare  
Secretary: Dana Ring  
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Secretary: Rick St. Pierre  
Treasurer: (currently open)

### Meetings:

Second Monday of every month except December

French Social Circle

341 Kelly Rd.

Vernon, CT 06066

## September Meeting: Marlene's Place

The last summer meeting will be at **Marlene Clark's** place, 274 Church St. #6B, in Guilford. She will provide pulled pork, and we provide sides and drinks. After the eating portion, we move inside for the meeting portion—where there's plenty of light. The festivities start at **6:30 PM on September 11.**

## Report of August Meeting

14 August 2023 7 PM or so

We met at **Dan Sclare's** backyard patio, and the weather cooperated beautifully. Franks and burgers were thoroughly enjoyed.

Dan had **Norm St. Laurent** choose a card which was put in the middle of the deck. Dan took a little ladybug from his pocket and placed in on the deck and fanned through the deck with the ladybug running along them. Where the bug stopped, Dan split the deck, revealing Norm's card. Dan also showed us a robot parrot that could dance and do magic.

**Bob Hale** showed us a deck with three-digit numbers for faces. He gave five of us a small pile each to shuffle. He took the top card off each pile and had Norm use a calculator to add them up. Bob gave the correct answer before Norm entered the first number. He passed out random cards to a few of us and accepted one back from each of us. He again knew their total before the calculator did. Lastly, he used two 11-card piles. Norm had his choice of piles to shuffle. Bob proceeded to call for each of the cards individually by their number. Bob said it was "Totality" marketed by Paul Richards.

Dan presented **Dana Ring** with his 50-year membership card and certificate. Dana was taken

## When Last We Met



**Dan Sclare and Tom Gentile**—masters of the grill.

by complete surprise.

Bob returned to show us some "flash cards" that had pictures on them. Some of us took packets and held them to our chests. Bob was able to name the picture on the bottom of each packet. Bob said it was another Paul Richards product, but he did not remember its name.

**Eric Wolfe** had **Tony Stabile** whittle a deck down to one suit then name a card in that suit. Tony then spread out the cards and the deck proved to be completely blank--except for Tony's card! (He then showed us how to do it!)

**Tom Gentile** showed us some stuff he had bought at Magic Live!, including a lot of books by David Charvet.

Bob, in honor of the recently-late Dan Garrett, performed his Multiplying Banana trick.

**Tom Piekos** showed four quarters on a pad and called on four of us to initial them with a Sharpie. He put the coins in a tiny metal container and put that container under a Solo cup. Norm put his hands over the container. When the hands were removed and the cup lifted, the coins had moved to

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From The President's Change Bag

Happy September!

I hope everyone enjoyed last month's meeting at Dan's place. I look forward to hearing about all the magic that happened. We will be continuing our patio-meeting series this month at Marlene's place.

Around this time last year, I was finishing my show *Yes, And... Magic!* which was a half-magic, half-improv comedy show. I wanted to reflect on some things that I learned that may be helpful for any of you out there putting on your own show.

*Scripting* – There are few magic books out there about how scripting your show is important (namely *Scripting Magic 1 & 2*), and I wanted to script this show entirely since there was a lot of moving parts. For this show, I used a Microsoft Word template to script the entire show, but I found it cumbersome adding characters, actions, and parentheticals quickly. I have since been using an online screenplay tool, [writersolo.com](http://writersolo.com) which is a free version of the pro-version, [writerduet.com](http://writerduet.com). It has a lot of shortcuts and outline tools that make scripting much easier.

*Rehearsal* – Up until the day of the show, a routine in the show featured a Baywatch style slo-mo run of me in a wig. As fun as that sounds, during a dress rehearsal with the theater's tech person, Nate, suggested an even funnier gag of twerking to [Pony by Ginuwine](#) Magic Mike-style. This suggestion made the whole routine so much better not only to watch but to perform. Rehearsing the full show top to bottom allows you and whatever team you're working with to make the show as good as it can be. This leads me to...

*Teamwork* – This show in particular featured a team of great improvisers that made the show really shine. But I also had 3 behind-the-scenes assistants responsible for changing posters, secret backstage writing, and prop management. By working with the team, you not only take some of the workload off you as the performer, but you also open the door to more methodologies and tricks overall.

See you at Marlene's,  
Brad

## How To Get To Marlene's

The address is:  
274 Church St. #6B  
Guilford, CT 06437 ... phone: 203-598-4958

It's about 400 feet south from exit 58 on I-95. Visitor parking is usually plentiful. There's a small sign at the entrance to the small complex: West River Village. Once in the complex, there is visitor parking after the mailboxes, on the right, and another visitor parking area near the pool, a little farther down.

After the visitor parking at the entrance, there is a small driveway to the left. Her unit is at the bottom of the drive. The building # (6) is on her garage, and her unit is to the right of the garage.

If you park at the pool, you can walk on the large expanse of grass to get to her back yard. Building will be on the left. You can't miss the patio—it's the only one. Or you can walk up the driveway and take a right at the driveway.

A school is diagonally across the street and would be an alternative parking spot.



Dan presents **Dana Ring** with a certificate celebrating his 50-year membership in the S.A.M. (*Fifty years, gee, it seems like only yesterday...wait, no it doesn't!*)

## Minutes, continued

under the cup. Tom also did a quick Helicopter Card.



Dan, Dana, and **Norm St. Laurent** get packets of number cards from **Bob Hale**.



Selections from the packets are placed on the table. Norm has a calculator to calculate their sum, but Bob already knows it.



Bob offers more quick-calc wizardry to **Tom Piekos** and **Eric Wolfe**.



Eric shows a prediction effect to Norm and **Tony Stabile**.

### CCMA Officers

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