

# Mordecai's Journal



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October 2023



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### Meetings:

Second Monday of every month except December

French Social Circle

341 Kelly Rd.

Vernon, CT 06066

## October Meeting: Scary/Haunted/Halloween Tricks

Autumn is here. The days grow shorter, the nights grow cooler—and eerier. We'll meet at the French Social Circle to share something chilling. The odd machinations start at 7:00 PM on **October 9**. Join the brave souls who come in early for food and other sustenance at 6:00 PM.

## Report of September Meeting

11 September 2023 6 PM onward

We met at **Marlene Clark's** condo. The unstable weather forced us to enjoy our pulled pork in her dining nook before moving to the living room for more talk and plenty of magic.

The next monthly meeting will be back at the French Social Circle.

We have not heard from **Walt Umberfields's** family if there is going to be a public burial.

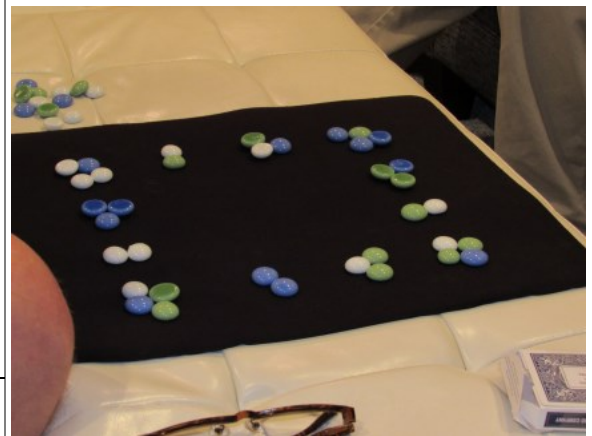
Marlene passed around her copy of *The History of Magic in America*. It is a great book with a tremendous amount of information.

**Dan Sclare** noted that there is a deck of cards in the handout at Magic Live (which he recently attended). **Bob Hale** said the program mentions several tricks that can be done with those cards.

Dan tried to get his "parrot" Crackers to do a card trick, but the bird was apparently in sympathy with the Hollywood writers and actors, and refused to cooperate.

Bob Hale dealt down some cards until Marlene said stop. He put another card face up on the choice. He did this twice. When the deck was spread, the cards paired with the face-up cards were mates!

## When Last We Met



The site of mysterious disappearances.

Marlene passed around straws and we all took a pair. We twisted the straws around each other per instructions and the straws magically came apart.

**Bob Bader** showed us "Bermuda Triangle"--a fine little mystery, in which "planes" (represented by coins or pebbles or what-have-you) are added to the side of the triangle (or square), but the sum of the markers on the sides never change! (The effect is, in my opinion, better when there are four sides instead of three but whoever heard of "The Bermuda Square"?)

Dan repeated his "ladybug" trick for those who didn't see it last month.

Bob H. brought out a die and an opaque shot cup. Marlene chose a number and put it on the table and covered it with the cup. Bob predicted that the sum of her number and the number on the bottom would be seven. This is, of course, no trick to us magi--the joke is that previous to Marlene's choice, Bob was showing that the "top" and "bottom" faces added up to different numbers, using a variation of the Paddle Move! However, he then took the top off a small box, showing six dice displaying the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From The President's Change Bag

Happy October!

We will be back at the Vernon French Social Club for our October meeting starting at 7pm. Since it is Spooky Season, the theme will be **Scary/Haunted/Halloween Tricks**.

Our last meeting was an intimate evening at Marlene's place in Guilford. There was great pulled pork, sides, and magic that was shared. As is so often after these meetings, I often reflect on all the magic that was shared and think about how I would do it different. I thought I'd share my thoughts on some of the tricks that were shared:

*Ladybug Card Trick* – Dan shared a trick that I believe he received from a magic convention that involved a small ladybug finding a chosen card. (If you weren't there, first off, shame on you. But you can find a video of it [here](#) called the *Ladybird Magic Trick* for some reason.) This type of trick where an inanimate object finds cards has become more popular in recent years with tricks like Jon Armstrong's [Tiny Plunger](#) or Denis Behr's [Herbert, The Trained Rubber Band](#). Much like those tricks, employing a memorized deck can really elevate the effect from finding a "chosen" card to a "named" card. By moving the key card below the named card's position in the stack, you can highlight another talent of your talented ladybug.

*Bermuda Triangle* – Bob shared a great counting type trick where the number of pebbles on each side of a square remained the same even when several more pebbles were added. When I want to understand the history of a trick through published literature, I turn to Denis Behr's great website [Conjuring Archive](#) (he's not a sponsor of these articles). I found this trick in the [Counting Sides in Square or Triangle](#) category with publications back to 1959. There are some variations in here mostly involve eating the objects themselves rather than adding them in the version Bob presented. I've also heard stories of stories of this trick being done with people; adding and rearranging them and having them count themselves.

*Word Mind Reading* – I also presented a trick that involves reading someone's mind by using information about a word. This is a marketed effect called [Enigma](#). When I performed it with Marlene, she immediately thought it was Bob Hale signaling me in some fashion. Although she never says the word out loud, I think using an assistant would be a great improvement to the method. If they were inputting the data into the system rather than the performer and then relay that information through either a text to a watch or coding, no digital apparatus could be present at all.

I look forward to seeing some magic to think about at the next meeting.

See you then,  
*Brad*

## Minutes, continued

numbers from one to six. He replaced the lid, had Marlene shake the original die in the cup and flip the cup and die onto the box. When the cup was removed, Marlene's new number this time was a four. Bob lifted the box's lid: all the dice were now showing fours!

**Brad Beady** and Marlene played a word game. Marlene thought of a word--something that could be found in the room. A lot of finger-touching (to receive vibes) followed and Brad actually came up Marlene's word. Brad says the name of the effect is "Enigma."

## Friendly Reminder

**D**ues are due at the next meeting. \$25 cash or check (to CCMA) for the coming year. Or send a check to Eric Wolfe at 349 Firetown Road, Simsbury, CT 06070.





Marlene with The Book.



Dan with the on-strike Crackers.



Bob B. setting up a *real* magic square.



Bob, completing the square ... wait, am I suddenly back in algebra class??

### CCMA Officers

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