



# Ledger-Demain

A newsletter of the  
Tom Prete Assembly No. 127  
The Society of American Magicians

February 2008

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 279 Quinipiac St. in Wallingford. Meetings start at 7:00 pm with a magic video, a 7:30pm business meeting followed by the members performing theme magic.

## NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday February 19, 2008**

6:30 pm – NEMCON Meeting

7:30 pm – Business Meeting

Election of new officers

8:00 pm – Mini lecture by Neal Prete

## January meeting highlights



Chick assets Bill Hoagland



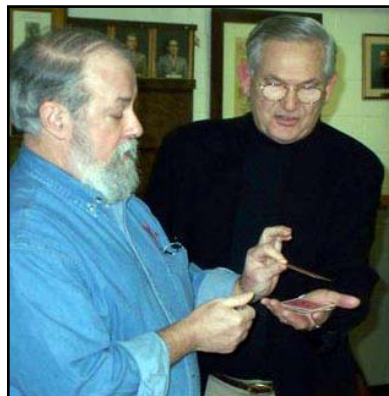
Adam Parisi gets Chick to pick a card



Bill Rotella & his mummy



Mike Gagne confused everyone



Henry Holava gets Tom Smith & Chick to help with his Card Metamorphosis



## Report of Nominating Committee

At the January 15th Assembly meeting, the chairman of the nominating committee Dick Hodes reported the following slate of officers for 2008.

**President – Bill Hoagland**

**Vice President – Henry Holava**

**Secretary – Dick Hodes**

**Treasurer – Mike Gagne**

If the slate looks familiar, it's because the members want to keep a winning team. Your new officers will be installed at the February 19th Assembly meeting.

## ASSEMBLY 127 UNVEILS SCHOLARSHIP

Tom Prete Assembly #127 is accepting contributions to its newly-formed Thomas R. Prete Memorial Scholarship for the Arts.

Tom died in 2007. He was a teacher, artist, entertainer and poet whose impact on his community was far-reaching. When he retired from teaching in the North Haven Connecticut school system, he opened a magic shop in Wallingford. He was a founder of Assembly #127 and achieved honorary membership in the S.A.M. in 2005.

Assembly #127 will award a \$300 scholarship to a deserving graduating high school student living or attending school in the Wallingford-North Haven area who plans to attend an institution of higher learning and major in performing, visual, or graphic arts; or performing, visual or graphic arts education. The first scholarship will be awarded in June 2008.

Checks should be made out to the *Thomas R. Prete Memorial Scholarship for the Arts* and mailed to Chairman Michael Gagne, 59 East Side Drive, Wallingford CT 06492.

## Notes from the President



Well, I just finished my first year as president of SAM127 and I think we had a pretty good year. It started out with a very successful NEMCON; hard to beat a show with Max Maven in it.

We have concise meeting reports with pictures being submitted to MUM and they look great! Dick Hodes has them ready and Emails them to the National SAM two days after our meetings.

One of the best things to happen was that we voted in a few new members. We also had a few guests come check us out. Maybe they will join too.

On a sad point we lost Tom Prete, our name sake; the originator of our group. He will be missed by all of us. Mike Gagne suggested we start a scholarship fund in Tom's name. What a great idea. It was voted on unanimously and money is already coming in.

The news letter is looking really good now that I am president; and it has nothing to do with me! Henry Holava is doing a tremendous job with the newsletter and we are going to work on getting him some help in 2008. More people need to write articles for the news letter. Come to a meeting to see how you can help.

Speaking of Henry; we also had the Annual picnic at his house again. What a great host he and his wife Rosa are. Thanks again Henry.

The year ended with some great lectures; one from Eric Jones and one from Boris Wild. Everyone is still practicing the "kiss count".

And finally we held our Annual Dinner at JJ's Raw Bar and Grill in Wallingford. The food was excellent and we had more than normal attendance. After everyone arrived the room seemed a little small but we had Jim Spinnato from SAM63 as our entertainment and he was very funny and made the evening a complete night out.

Please feel free to email me, call me, or talk to me after a meeting if there are suggestions you think can help the assembly, because we always want to improve. Let's hope 2008 is even better for our Assembly and our new motto should be "Get Involved".

*Bill Hoagland*

## NEMCON XXVII HONOREE



NEMCON chairman Henry Holava will be this year's honoree. Henry has been entertaining with his unique style of magic for over 50 years. He is a writer, lecturer and inventor of magic having won several awards for his creativity and originality in the art of magic.

Henry became interested in magic at the age of 16 and was one of the founders and the youngest member of Syracuse IBM Ring 74. At an early age, he was a frequent contributor to the Linking Ring and TOPS magazine. One of Henry's original effects from TOPS can be found in Rice's Encyclopedia of Silk Magic and the Tarbell Course in Magic.

In 1957, Henry won the "Linking Ring Parade Award" for his "Cups & Cubes" and in 2005 re-worked the routine and a new version was published in the July issue of the Linking Ring. In 1963, Henry won the IBM "Open Book Award" for his "Rabbit from Hat" trick as the best original effect presented at the IBM Convention in Knoxville Tennessee.

Henry worked his way through collage as a performing magician; working birthday parties, social clubs, cub scouts and school assembly shows. After graduation from Syracuse University, Henry expanded his magic act to include assistants, music and illusions and for several years performed at corporate events.

Henry utilized his leadership skills by serving for three years as New York State Territorial Vice President for the IBM, several years as President of IBM Ring 74 and co-chairman of the New York State & Canada Conclave of Magicians (NYCAN), a three-day convention held in Syracuse New York during the years 1974, 1978 & 1982.

In 1982 Henry partnered with the State of New York to design, build and manage a "Haunted House" and "House of Illusion" attractions at the NY State Fair. During the seven-day run of the fair from 1982 to 1986, over one million people paid to go through Henry's two attractions with proceeds going to local charities.

Henry was employed by Bristol-Myers Squibb as a research scientist and in 1986 relocated to Connecticut to take on new responsibilities at Bristol-Myers new research facility. After 38 years with Bristol-Myers, Henry retired in March of 2000 as a Director in Drug Discovery.

In 2001, Henry joined SAM Assembly 127 and in short time served as assembly President from 2004 to 2006. Devoting his time and talent he established the Assembly web site, club directory, trading pin, a TV to watch magic videos prior to meetings and was the driving force behind getting Tom Prete an honorary membership in the SAM.

For several years, Henry served as co-chairman of NEMCON with the late Tom Prete and continues as Chairman. Henry has brought new life to NEMCON. He introduced the video system for close-up shows and lectures and has motivated Assembly 127 members to be more involved NEMCON.

Tom Prete S.A.M. Assembly #127 is proud to honor Henry Holava for his contributions to the art of magic and his dedication to Assembly 127 and to NEMCON.

## RVP Marlene Clark - MC's Council show

New England Regional Vice President and Assembly #127 member Marlene Clark produced and served as MC for the S.A.M. National Council dinner show in Wakefield MA in November. Magicians from assemblies in Massachusetts and Maine performed. Connecticut Deputy Dana Ring took the photos.



Human "puppets" are Eddie Gardner and Ron Christiansen



Marlene's two favorite vent dummies

## Final schedule of events for NEMCON 27'

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Registration

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Dealer Room open

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.: Close-up Show

***Dave London, Tom Craven, Bob White, John Thompson***

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: ***Lecture #1 - Tom Craven***

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Lunch (on your own)

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.: ***Lecture #2 - Bob White***

3:00 p.m.: Free time (coffee & cookies)

3:50 p.m.: **“Remembering Tom Prete” video**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.: ***Lecture #3 - John Thompson***

5:30 p.m.: Dealer room closed until after the evening show

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.: Dinner (on your own)

7:00 p.m.: Doors open for evening show

7:30 p.m.: Introductions & Honoree presentation

7:45 p.m.: Stars of Magic Evening Show

***MC Charlie Hayden with Dave Garrity, David London, Tom Craven, Bob White and The Great Tomsoni & Co.***

**Dealer's room opens immediately after the evening show**

## NEMCON WORK ASSIGNMENTS

**Setting up & breaking down the stage:** Joe Cabral, Henry Holava, Bob Plaut, John Bencivengo & Bill Hoagland

**Security:** Bill Hoagland, Bob Plaut, Chick Kelman, John Bencivengo, Adam Parisi & Harry Hines

**Registration:** Marlene Clark, Mike Gagne, Phyllis Drescher, Mike Nabel & Dick Hodes

**Seating arrangements:** Mike Nabel & Adam Parisi

**Video system:** Tom Smith, Mary Smith & Fernando Tiago

**Close-up Show & Lectures:** Bill Rotella, Tony Lenti & Adam Parisi

**Evening Show Stage Manager:** Chick Kelman

**Stage Crew:** Kevin Kelman, Bob Plaut, John Bencivengo, Adam Parisi, Bob Plaut, Jim Roady, Tom Smith, Kayla & John Drescher

**Lighting & sound board:** Joe Cabral & Dan Terelmes

**Back stage microphones:** Bill Hoagland & Brian Walendziak

## The Fielding West lecture



Save the date!

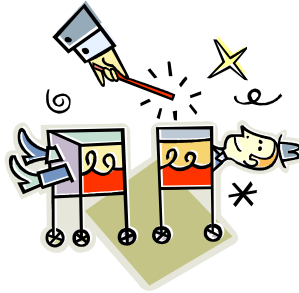
Saturday March 8.....NEMCON  
Holiday Inn

North Haven, CT

Tuesday March 18.....Regular meeting  
MC Marlene Clark                   Installation of officers  
(*SAM NP Bruce Kalver -Who Wants To Be a Magical Genius*)

Tuesday April 15.....Regular meeting  
MC John Bencivengo               *Scam magic night*  
(3 shell game, 3 Card Monte, etc.)

Tuesday May 20.....Regular meeting  
MC Tom Smith                       *Mnimalism Magic*  
(*Do a trick with nothing*)



## **PERFORM A TRICK AT MEETINGS**