



# Ledger-Demain

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



Editor - *Henry Holava*  
President *Bill Hoagland* \* Vice President *Brian Walendziak*  
Treasurer *Mike Gagne* \* Secretary *Kevin Comerford*

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the First United Methodist Church, 941 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford, CT 06473. Meetings start at 7:00 pm with a magic video, a 7:30pm business meeting followed by the members performing magic. [Click here for directions](#)

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## Highlights of January dinner & show



LEFT - David Wyskiel, Kevin Comerford and Henry Holava received awards of appreciation from Assembly President Bill Hoagland.

Henry for publishing the assembly newsletter, chairing the 2009 NEMCON; the most successful in history and spearheading the incorporation of NEMCON.

David for working on the legal side of the NEMCON incorporation by drawing up and filing the necessary papers, drawing up the NEMCON bylaws and explaining it to the members in simple language that everyone can understand.



Kevin is currently our secretary and has done an excellent job in just his first year. He takes minutes at assembly meetings, writes up and submits meeting articles for MUM; incorporating pictures from either Henry Holava or Bill Hoagland

RIGHT - Chick Kelman, David Wyskiel, & Neal Prete (absent) were presented awards on behalf of the S.A.M. for volunteering their time to teach magic to veterans at the VA Hospital in West Haven. The goal was to have the veterans perform the magic they learned at a party held at the hospital on October 27<sup>th</sup>.



Comedy Magic of Steve Kradolfer entertained



Dick Hodes and Mike Nabel



The real Mr. & Mrs. Smith



Pat Guida Adam Parisi



Steve Kradolfer & Lisa Gagne



Madeline Rotella Rosa & Henry Holava Joe Cabral

## The next Assembly meeting

**Tuesday February 16, 2010**

7:30 pm – Business Meeting

Election of Assembly 127 officers

After meeting magic theme is Rope Magic with MC Dave Wyskiel

## Assembly 127 President ~ Bill Hoagland



Well.....I am winding down my last year as your president. We accomplished a lot in 2009 and I'm feeling good that it was a great year.

First, thanks to Lisa and Mike Gagne we found a new home at the First United Methodist Church in Wallingford that is a nice place to meet and have our lectures.

Under Chairman Henry Holava, we had the most successful NEMCON ever and even had local celebrity Al Terzi from TV Channel 3 News out of Hartford attend the evening show. Mr. Terzi said he really enjoyed the show and looks forward to the next NEMCON. Speaking of NEMCON, we also incorporated the convention which will protect Assembly 127 from any liability

when running future conventions.

We had two lectures this year; the amazing Alain Nu who was great and funny man Keith Fielding who was very entertaining. Our lectures were well attended by assembly 127 members and even drew some outsiders.

A big event personally for me and my wife Kim was hosting the annual assembly picnic at our home in Milford; which took a lot of preparation. We ended the day with lots and lots and lots of desserts, and a great show in my garage.

The best part of 2009 was we added four new members to our Assembly. If we can repeat that again next year, it will be great!!

And finally; I heard of a collection of playing cards at the Hagan Memorial Library in East Haven. It is a small collection and it's pretty cool. The cards are really old but unfortunately they don't have much information about them. Maybe someone from our club could take a look at the collection and provide the library with some information. If you have the time, check out the Hagan Memorial Library at 227 Main Street in East Haven. Call first 203-468-3890 or visit their web site at <http://www.hagamanlibrary.info/>

**Bill Hoagland**

President, Assembly #127

## Web site of the month

The following web site <http://magicology.net/index.html> is an online scientific magazine dedicated to the study of the art and psychology of performance magic.

If you have a web site you would like to share, send the link to [hholava@cox.net](mailto:hholava@cox.net)

## Mark Your Calendar

### **Tuesday February 2, 2010 ~ NEMCON BOD Meeting**

13 Meadow Way in Meriden

7:00 P.M. – Business meeting



### **Friday March 12, 2010 ~ NEMCON**

Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell

7:00 P.M. Hospitality suite opens

8:00 P.M. Bob Fitch lecture



### **Saturday March 13, 2010 ~ NEMCON**

Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell

9:00 A.M. till Midnight

Close-up show, lectures & Gala Evening Show



### **Sunday March 14, 2010 ~ NEMCON**

Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell

12 noon to 4 P.M.

Bob Fitch coin seminar (\$50 fee)



### **Tuesday March 16, 2010 ~ Regular meeting**

7:30 P.M. Installation of new assembly officers

New officers perform magic – Bill Hoagland MC



## Tuesday April 20, 2010 – Regular Meeting

7:30 P.M. Business meeting

After meeting magic theme is “One Way Gaff Decks” with MC Tom Smith

### Basic rules of Misdirection

(Paraphrased in part from an article written by Jonathan Cooke)

One of the most important magic trick secrets is all about the art of distraction and misdirection. Once you have learned the essentials of a trick you need to start contemplating how you are going to use misdirection so that you can control the outcome of the audience. Not only does misdirection keep an audience on their toes, but it also helps you complete your tricks without revealing them. It is also important that you figure out what your performing style is. Not only should your tricks be entertaining and interesting, but also the words and gestures.

**Eyes:** The audience will look where you look.

**Motion:** Movement of any kind instantly attracts the eyes.

**Voice:** If you speak, they look at you, and at your mouth. Say something funny and they will look at your face. Say something silly; they will look at you and at each other. If you speak to someone they will look at him or her. If you have any audience member on stage, when they speak, the attention will be on them; especially if you are looking at them as well. Of course, if you are working with an assistant, any direct performance on their part will draw the audience's attention directly onto them.

**Patter:** If you tell a small untruth they will tend to believe you. If you tell an obvious big lie, a “spoof”, they will look at each other to show they understood, they “got it”.

**Sound:** A sudden unexpected noise will make them look away. A loud noise will make them blink and look away.

**Think about these rules and find ways to adopt them to do the tricks you already do or the new one you are learning. Watch your audience and notice what makes them react in various ways.** Think about what attracts your own attention, even if it's just for a moment. Then try to recreate that in your own performance, be especially self-evaluating when you get “caught” and your supposed “slight” tips off your spectator. When they say, “Oh, I saw how you did that...” LEARN FROM IT ~ Turn it into a great self-improvement lesson. Try the trick again, as soon as possible, but be sure to try to change your technique so that you won't get “caught”.

“Combine two or more of the rules and you will become formidable and unbeatable”!

Go to web site <http://allmagic.com/magic/coins.html> to learn a coin routine and focus on using misdirection.

### A Magic Tip from SAMTalk

If you need a reel, you can purchase key chains and ID badges with reels attached from Wal-Mart. SAMTalk is an online News group for SAM members. You can join the group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAMtalk/>

### Proposed Changes to Assembly 127 By-laws

Attached are proposed revisions to Assembly 127 By-Laws for discussion at the February assembly meeting. The proposed changes reflect changing the calendar year of the Assembly from March-March to January-January and changing the section on NEMCON to reflect that NEMCON has been incorporated. Also attached is a copy of the current By-laws.

*This space is available*

*Let us know where you will be performing*