



# Ledger-Demain

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

October  
2008

Editor – *Henry Holava*

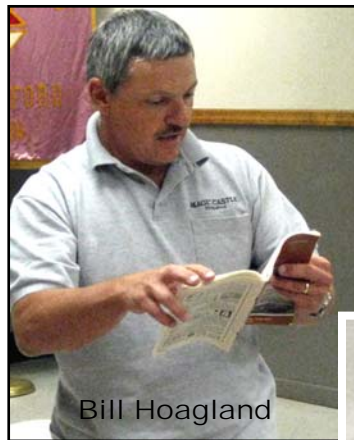
President *Bill Hoagland* \* Vice President *Henry Holava* \* Treasurer *Mike Gagne* \* Secretary *Dick Hodes*

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 279 Quinnipiac 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.

## September Meeting Highlights



Dick Hodes



Bill Hoagland



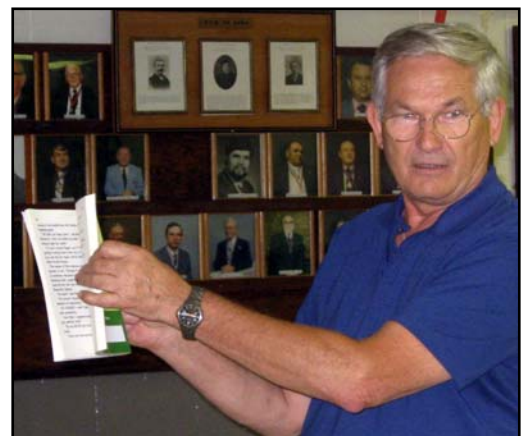
Brian Walendziak



Kevin Comerford



Henry Holava



## Notes from the President



Well I just got back from vacation, and even all the way over in Maui we found an outstanding magic show. My friend Kayla suggested we go see Warren Gibson's show, "Warren and Annabelle's Magic Show". It has a similarity to Magic Castle where you go in and have cocktails and appetizers before the show and listen to a piano played by a ghost. The Ghost, Annabelle seems to know any song you shout out to her.

We then go into the theater for the magic show; it is laid out perfectly with tiered seating and holds about 120 people. It is basically a parlor show, no illusions, no animals. Warren was funny, entertaining, magical, and had everyone laughing and amazed for two hours. This is one of the best shows I have seen and would suggest to anyone who goes to Hawaii go check it out.

We have been gearing up for NEMCON 2009 and are already having meetings, assigning tasks and have all the entertainers set. We even have a new website just for NEMCON. Check out the site; it is getting bigger everyday, it is <HTTP://www.ctnemcon.com>.

Come down and check out a meeting; we are having lots of fun lately, and remember this year's motto, "Get Involved".

-Bill Hoagland

## October Meetings

**Tuesday October 7, 2008**

**Rick Maue Lecture**

7:00 pm at the Knight of Columbus Hall

**Assembly 127 members free ~ non-members \$15**

**Tuesday, October 21, 2008**

**Regular Meeting at the Knight of Columbus Hall**

7:00 pm – Watch a Magic Video

7:30 pm – Business Meeting

8:00 pm – Let the Magic Begin

**Everyone perform a trick**

## Interview with Marlene Clark by Henry Holava

Marlene Clark has been a member of Assembly 127 for the past 22 years and recently elected as Secretary for the National S.A.M. at the 2008 SAM/IBM Convention. A professional writer and editor since 1976, Marlene also conducts classes in theater arts, humor, ventriloquism and writing. She has trained and performed with the Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit and Starlight Children's Foundation of New York.



Henry: What is your main vocation other than magic?

Marlene: *I've been a professional writer and editor since I graduated from college in 1976.*

Henry: How did you get interested in magic and when?

Marlene: *I started performing as a clown in 1982. I bought a couple Adams tricks at Spencer's Gifts and joined a clown club in Meriden, where I met Neal Prete. He told me about his father's store, Magic Arts, in Wallingford, where I bought my first real tricks: Neal's "Two Faced" and "Shakespeare," and sponge balls.*

Henry: How did you get into ventriloquism and when?

Marlene: *I've wanted to be a ventriloquist since I was a child and my mother took me to a live performance of Edgar Bergen & Charlie McCarthy. But I couldn't master the technique because I didn't understand the books, and I stuttered. I forgot about ventriloquism until 1986, when I attended a Laff-Makers conference at Wellesley College in Aurora NY. I took Mark Wade's course, and began venting immediately – not well, but it rekindled my desire. I can honestly say that Mark Wade changed my performing life.*

Henry: What was the first trick you learned to do?

Marlene: *A one-ahead sponge ball routine.*

Henry: When did you become a member of Assembly 127?

Marlene: *1986 or 1987.*

Henry: What magician or individual most influenced you?

Marlene: *Chick Kelman. I met him when I was working at Mountainside resort in Wallingford – we were both clowns. He convinced me to go to Stamford to see David Ginn lecture. David was among few magicians at that time who specialized in kid and family entertainment and who lectured on it. He carried a lot of Supreme Magic, and I was like a kid in a candy store. Then Chick convinced me to attend a meeting of Assembly #127. The club met at a church in Wallingford. I still belonged to a clown club, but I enjoyed magic more, so I joined. In 1995, my husband died, and I started an entertainment agency – A Fun Time Productions (Chick thought of the name). I was hiring him and other magicians for magic shows, but he convinced me to take off my clown nose and book myself for those gigs; so, I did. Chick got fewer gigs from me, but taking off the nose was best thing I had done (next to ventriloquism). Chick didn't influence my style, but he was always there when I needed a boost or shove. I am eternally grateful to him.*

Henry: What was the first magic book you ever read?

Marlene: *"Abbott's Encyclopedia of Rope Tricks for Magicians"*

Henry: What was the most recent magic book you've read?

Marlene: *"Devil of a Bar & Pub"*

Henry: What is your favorite routine or trick to perform?

Marlene: *I enjoy story-telling magic, and most of my routines are original. One of my favorites is a stage-sized Rope and Ring routine based on a close-up version by Max Howard. I also like Mentalism. My current favorite is one by Charles Gauci - a card setup that allows you to name seemingly random cards in someone's hand.*

Henry: What kind of magic do you enjoy watching other magicians' perform?

Marlene: *It's hard to describe what makes a performance magical for me. Losander and Jay Scott Berry are magical. I never thought I'd say I enjoy cards, but I saw the most phenomenal card manipulator at the 2008 combined IBM/SAM Convention in Louisville, An Ha-Lim, who took the \$10,000 prize for stage*

Henry: What other interest or hobbies do you have beside magic?

Marlene: *I read tarot cards. Learning the cards was like learning a new language; plus, there's a lot less equipment to bring to a gig.*

Henry: How and when did you get involved in the national SAM?

Marlene: *In the late 1990s, Bruce Kalver asked me to run for Regional Vice President when his term was up. But I felt I couldn't do justice to the position because I was busy running my own entertainment business. I accepted an appointment as Connecticut Deputy in 2000 and was elected RVP in 2005. I also serve on the national Membership Strategy Committee and the board of the Society of Young Magicians. This year, I was elected National Secretary and to the board of the S.A.M. Magic Center Foundation, where I also was elected secretary. Magic has been good to me, and it's time to give back.*

Henry: What are your goals for the national SAM?

Marlene: *I would like to help grow membership by spreading the word that the S.A.M. is a worthwhile organization to belong to.*

Henry: What was the most memorable or enjoyable performance you ever gave and why?

Marlene: *In 1993, I did a show for Annie, a nine-year-old girl who was dying of cystic fibrosis. She was so weak, I had to hold her hand closed when I did the Sponge Bunny trick, but when she opened it and it was full of baby bunnies, for one moment, her eyes sparkled with pure enjoyment – no pain, no illness. That moment validated what I did as a performer. It was humbling. Annie died 2 ½ weeks later.*

Henry: If you had one real magic power, what would it be?

Marlene: *I would like to fly. If nothing else, it would be cheaper than boarding a plane.*

Henry: Would you like to relate a little known fact about yourself?

Marlene: *I contributed a few routines and was editor for "Devil of a Bar & Pub."*

## Inner Circle of Bizarre Magick's

17th Annual Gathering of the Magi

**Will take place November 6, 7, 8, 2008**

**Crown Plaza Hotel – Cromwell CT**

**For registration information go to:**

**[http://www.icbmmagick.com/pages/Registration2008\\_1.pdf](http://www.icbmmagick.com/pages/Registration2008_1.pdf)**

## RICK MAUE LECTURE



**Tuesday October 7, 2008**

**7:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall**

**Lecture is free for Assembly 127 members ~ \$15 for non-members**

Rick Maue presents an outstanding lecture. He is the rare combination of a great artist and a successful businessman, and this is reflected in his material. Rick is also an excellent teacher. Everyone attending his lecture will walk away with some great original ideas and concepts. More importantly, people will leave with the confidence and motivation to improve what they already do. An evening with Rick Maue is a delight, and time well spent.

“Rick Maue's lecture absolutely blew me away. The material was strong, the theory was solid, and it is obvious from the first minute of the lecture that Rick CARES about his craft. I can't wait to see it again.”

...Joshua Jay

“Rick is an outstanding thinker and creator. His inventiveness transforms mere tricks into true miracles. And most importantly, he is one sick puppy.”

...Harley Newman



Meet the new Editor of Ledger-Demain

Brian Walendziak

**Brian has volunteered to take over as editor of Assembly 127 newsletter starting with the November issue. Help Brian by sending him articles, your comments, where you will be performing, etc.**

## Mark Your Calendar

Regular Assembly 127 meeting ~ Tuesday, Nov. 18th

**Hosted by Bill Rotella**

**7:00 pm at his home in Waterbury ~ for directions go to:**

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?form=directions&2a=76%20Norton%20St&2c=Waterbury&2s=CT&2z=06708-4727&2y=US&2l=41.534064&2g=-73.047394>

**Mental Magic Night**

Assembly 127 Holiday Dinner & Show ~ Tuesday Dec 16th

**Time & place to be announced**

Bob Sheets Lecture ~ Wednesday, November 12th

**New London SAM Assembly 63**

**For details go to [www.magicsam63.com](http://www.magicsam63.com)**

Aldo Columbini Lecture ~ Monday, November 10th

**SAM Assembly 21 in Hartford**

**For details go to [www.sam21.org/](http://www.sam21.org/)**

**It's been fun being your editor ~ Henry**