

## 2024 Celebrity Meet & Greet Gaming Education Series.

The *Celebrity Meet & Greet Gaming Education Series* is the personification of the Casino Collectibles Association's objective to foster the preservation and education of gaming history. Each gaming celebrity volunteered their time to greet, meet and mingle with show attendees, answer their questions and satisfy their curiosity about the personality's unique role in the shaping of the gaming industry we know today.



Dr. David Schwartz   Mark Hall-Patton   Geno Munari   Susie Isaacs   Tom  
McEvoy

*Dr. David Schwartz*, author of the book *At the Sands: The History of a Las Vegas Strip Icon*, covering the forty-four-year life span of the Sands, from opening to implosion. 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 13.

*Mark Hall-Patton* is the retired Museum Administrator for the Clark County Museum system in Las Vegas, who played a cameo role verifying historical items in over 200 episodes of the History Channel's reality show *Pawn Stars*. Noon to 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 13.

*Geno Munari* is the past owner of Cowboy Gene's casino in Henderson, NV, and author of *The Dunes Hotel and Casino: The Mob, the connections, the stories*. 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 13.

*Susie Isaacs* is a poker pro who owns two WSOP bracelets, a top ten finish in the WSOP Main Event World Championship, 12-year columnist in *Card Player* magazine and author of two poker books. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, June 14.

*Tom McEvoy* won the 1983 World Series of Poker Main Event and was inducted into the Poker Hall of Fame in 2013. Author of 14 poker books and soon-to-be-released autobiography. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, June 14.

**Four free gaming memorabilia-related seminars offered at 2024 CCA Show**

Registered show attendees could also take in these four free educational seminars that ran concurrently with the show. These seminars were located across the hall from the show in the Joshua Room of the South Point Hotel and Casino:

*History of the Sands—its construction, operation, expansion, highlights, and demise.* From opening to implosion, the forty-four year life span of the celebrated Sands casino is directly linked to the story of the growth of gaming, Las Vegas, and the Strip. No one knows the story better than Schwartz, author of *At the Sands: The History of a Las Vegas Strip*. Seminar: Thursday, June 13 at 8 a.m.



*The Dunes Hotel; the Mob, the Connections, and the Stories*. Author of the only book about the famous Las Vegas landmark, The Dunes Hotel and Casino: *The Mob, the Connections, the Stories*. Geno Munari's seminar featured stories of some of the Dunes Hotel's characters and their connection to the infamous Meyer Lansky and Jimmy Hoffa, as well as the "chip-cup" scam that pilfered millions from the major casinos and led to a high-profile mob killing. Seminar: Thursday, June 13 at 3 p.m..

*New Horizons—Preserving Gaming History with Podcasts.* Rene Contreras is the host of the Side Bet Podcast. He outlined his journey into the hobby of chip collecting and how it led him to focus on a new way and a new platform for new and old collectors to educate, share and preserve gaming history. Seminar: Friday, June 14 at 8 a.m.



*Gambling on a Dream: The Classic Las Vegas Strip 1930 – 1955.*

Lynn M. Zook is a noted Las Vegas historian/author. Lifted from the rich content of her latest book, *Gambling on a Dream: The Classic Las Vegas Strip 1930-1955*, her presentation covered the iconic Strip casinos such as the El Rancho Vegas, Flamingo, Thunderbird, Desert Inn, Sahara, Sands, Riveria, Royal Nevada, and the Dunes. Seminar: Friday, June 15 at 3 p.m.