



The Flash Paper

April 2023

Bob Gehringer, Editor



A Letter from Lindy

It's been another busy month for the Omaha Magical Society. I'll cover some of the

highlights here. You can read in-depth descriptions elsewhere in these pages.

On March 15th the first “**Magic in the Hospitals**” show was presented in Clarkson Tower at Nebraska Medical Center. Newer members **Carl Braun** and **Nathan Roberts** volunteered along with project lead **Steve Osborne** and myself. A little stage show was performed for the kids, parents and staff that were able to attend. Afterwards we made bedside visits to those unable to leave their rooms. It was a fun and rewarding experience. When you see the smiles and know you have brightened these young patients' day. You really do receive much more than you give. Steve is investigating additional opportunities. Contact him if you'd like to be involved in a future event.

Our March OMS meeting lived up to its hype. A huge shout out to **Denny Rourke** for hosting “**Magic in the Corners- Card Sights**”. He gathered some of the best “card guys” in the club who presented to small groups around the room. As time expired the ‘cardicians’ rotated, so you had the opportunity to see of all of these fantastic demonstrations. Thanks to **Larry Brodahl, Jerad Schaugaard, David Fox** and Denny for these captivating presentations. Some provided lecture notes and/or videos and all said they would make

themselves available to anyone wanting further instructions. The comment I heard most was, “It was far too short of time”. This was a quick overview, not intended to be a deep dive into each of these skills. One last highlight of the evening, three lucky members left with a signed copy of Denny's book “**The Everything Card Trick Book**”.

March 24th, after being postponed on three different occasions the U.N.O. Criss Library opened their doors to donors and V.I.P.'s. “**Collections Uncorked**” highlighted the massive OMS **John Keenen Memorial Library** of over 1200 magic books, now under their guardianship. The event covered two floors, included multiple food stations, with wine pairings. Guests were able to peruse the books on display throughout. Several club members attended the event. **Jared Schaugaard** and myself provided strolling magic to the lay audience. Library Dean, **Dave Richard** said it was a successful evening and he heard many positive compliments on the collection. When you get the chance, call Criss Library and reserve a viewing time. Be sure to bring your camera. Although you cannot check the books out you are welcome to take all the pictures you need. I know you will be impressed with the care, in which the collection is stored.

Two days later, Sunday March 26th, **Dave Arch, David Fox, Steve Osborne** and myself drove to Sioux City. We met **Travis Nye** and **Dave Madsen** for lunch. Afterwards we followed **Dave Madsen** to the recording studio, on Morningside University campus, where he teaches. Several of his students were on hand as we filmed an hour-long video to be shown in area hospitals. Multiple segments of kids' stage and close up magic were filmed. One of our junior magicians, from Sioux City, **Easton Boetcher**, stopped by and added a



fun stage routine to the show. Thank you, **Dave Madsen**, for your expertise and direction to make this a great promotional tool and a product we can be proud of.

Finally, be sure to read this month's article entitled "Levels of Competency". At the end you will find the OMS Performance Feedback form. As a club we should be doing a better job of encouraging and mentoring all of our members to become more polished performers. This form will provide a clear, uniformed, way to pass on (and receive) constructive advice.

Stay tuned, there are a lot more exciting projects coming in the months ahead.



What's Your Magic Story by Patrice Fisher

Three Young Magicians and Their Grandfather

Recently, I had the pleasure of interviewing three students attending the *Discover Magic* program taught by three OMS member magicians. These classes are provided weekly over Zoom and in person for junior magicians. One of these dedicated teachers is **Steve Lindeman**, who is also our OMS President and a known professional magician, **The Amazing Lindy**.

Brothers **Connor** and **Callen Lindeman**, and their cousin, **Steven Lindeman**, chatted with me about our classes as well as what it is like to perform with their grandfather.

One of our most senior students is eleven-year-old Connor. He has been learning magic provided through our OMS since we began teaching the Discover Magic program over two years ago. When asked if magic has helped him in school, Connor smiled brightly. Then, with pride, he talked about being a member of his school leadership council called the Cool Cats. Now he had me

smiling brightly, not just at hearing the council's name, but because clearly Connor exhibited confidence when trying to gain a seat on the elite eight-member student council. Confidence is one of the traits of a true magician reinforced as part of the program syllabus. Of course, performing with Lindy probably had a bit to do with cultivating young Connor's confidence, but, according to Steve, his grandson was a natural. Connor's tip for young magicians is also a great tip for life. He said, "Don't be afraid to be yourself and put that into your act."

"Well, you always should have something in your back pocket" was the wise advice from ten-year-old Callen when I asked him what he would do if a trick went wrong? He went on talking about magic classes, expanding upon each of his answers. This made my job much easier, but it also was a bit challenging to keep up with his enthusiasm about magic with his grandpa and learning through *Discover Magic*. Callen enjoys the structure of classes because of the four different colored wands that are earned after performing each level of magic tricks, while progressing from easier to more challenging illusions. Callen likes Monday magic time because, "class is a good time and place for practicing." In addition, Callen likes watching and replaying the videos for the main tricks and the additional tricks available in the video "vault" only accessed through the correct passcode. His tip for young magicians is "keep practicing, keep trying (at least five times) because you Can Do It."



Connor and Callen

The most recent young magician to join class is the youngest of the three young Lindemans, nine-year-old Steven. He likes the videos and the coaching he gets in class. He thinks it is fun when we ask each young magician what they see when we show



them a doodle at the beginning of class. We do that in order to get everyone's creative juices going before we start the class. Steven's favorite trick is creating popped popcorn in a bag he fills with corn kernels! That is just one of the extra illusions that students are taught during the year.

All three boys have been performing with Steve since they were seven years old. Always very coachable, they have never missed a line or a cue. Practice is the key, and Steve is very consistent in ensuring that everyone is prepared before performing in front of an audience. The boys talked about how they really like drawing people into the show by walking around performing magic in their matching shirts of black and either green, orange, or purple. It was unanimous that it was a proud day for them when they received those matching shirts as a rite of passage.

But there are always unexpected events that keep them on their toes. Steven had to deal with a fake clown nose going rogue, while Connor employed his quick reflexes to grab his paper bag prop from flying away in a gust of wind. But, experiencing applause for the first time will always be indelible for them. Callen described the clapping as one of his best "magical memories." The guys do shows at venues all around the Omaha area. There are Halloween shows at Bellevue Berry Farm, Harry Potter Fest, Taste of Omaha, schools, libraries, and retirement homes. Probably, their largest show is at Sum-Tur of over two hundred people in the amphitheater.

Our one-hour interview seemed so short. Chatting with the boys, it was clear that they love magic. Through both Discover Magic and working with their grandfather, it is clear that there are so many important life skills being built beyond learning mere magic. The joy of giving, success gained through practice, reinforcing respect, and cultivating confidence are some of the key goals taught through the Discover Magic program. It is our hope that these three junior magicians embrace the value of these character traits as they hone the art and science of magic.



By Jered Schaugaard

Collections Uncorked took place March 24, 2023 (Erik Weisz's birthday, but you all knew that). It's hosted by the UNO Library Friends, and is an annual wine/food tasting event, to thank and encourage donors to support great libraries and literature. Each year, the event features a different archive or collection and this year it centered on the Omaha Magical Society's (OMS) recent addition of the society's 1200-volume **John Keenen Memorial Magic Library**.

There was a silent wine auction, and chances to win wine, specialty tours (if you knew the right person to ask). There were more than 40 types of wine and a smorgasbord of tiny French foods (charcuterie, canapés, and petits fours). There were Sommeliers, Archivists, Curators, and Librarians, each an expert in their field. There were around 50 guests, including OMS members **Dave Arch, Roger and Nancy Reese, Bob Gehringer, me,** and the **Amazing Lindy** who provided the magical entertainment.



Upon walking in, I was directed to the "nametag" table (I love nametags) and then given a wine tasting tumbler engraved with the Collections Uncorked logo. The first wine was within arm's reach of the name tags, which made wearing the nametag more bearable.



I had never been to the UNO Criss Library and outside of books, I didn't know what to expect. The library is beautifully laid out with all of the standard library accoutrements e.g. book shelves filled with books, cabinets filled with microfiche (I know right), and old card catalogs filled with wine bottles. Okay so that last one isn't standard, but it was a fun part of the fundraiser. I took a quick walk about the upper floor (more on that later), then made my way downstairs. The bottom floor housed the OMS books and IMO, the best Sommelier at the event. He displayed an otherworldly knowledge of wines and with his steampunk-ish attire would have made an excellent retro-futurist magician (is this a genre magicians are exploring?). The OMS display consisted of carefully chosen and thoughtfully organized magic books. I watched attendees stop, captivated by the interesting titles and creative covers.



We met the Archivist in charge of the OMS books, **Ms. Amy Schindler** and after an extensive history lesson, we were able to get into the vault of secrets, a climate controlled, special badge-access only area where the archived books are kept. Thousands of books lined mechanical book shelves that opened with the touch of a button; it had a James Bond meets Harry Potter feel to it.

After the tour, I made my way back upstairs, stuffed myself with petits plats français and more wine. I found the resident magician wowing tables of onlookers. If you've never seen the **Amazing Lindy** (OMS President) work a table, you've never seen amazing. There was no shortage of praise, in between the gasps of surprise.

The evening began to wind down and it was time for me to get my name engraved in my complimentary wine glass. Did I mention the library has a state-of-the-art 3D printing and engraving workshop?



As I was getting ready to wrap things up, I caught one of the librarians and asked her what she thought about reading versus video. What she had to say is relevant to one of our recent OMS conversations, so I'll leave you with this. She picked up a book and held it flat on her hand. Then she looked me in the eyes and said, "Reading is active. Video is passive. This simple action of turning a page," she turned the page slowly, "creates an opportunity for you to pause and reflect on what you just read. When something is described in a book, the reader has to create their own image of what they just read. Video takes all the imagination away."

Just being in the presence of so much knowledge is, for me, a little intoxicating (that could be the wine talking). I love to read. When I was a younger person, I fell in love with books and could spend hours in the library. As a young person interested in magic, 793.8 meant the world to me. If you haven't been to a library since they used an IRL card catalog, or if you knew Melvil personally, than you need to get to a library. Libraries have been the curators of truth and secrets for thousands of years and for that matter, so have magicians.



Try pasting these links into your browser:

<https://www.unomaha.edu/criss-library/about-us/support-the-library/library-friends.php>

<https://www.unomaha.edu/criss-library/news/2020/07/omaha-magical-society-donates-library.php>



Monday Night

Magix

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

WIZARD WARS

First there was the formation of the teams; then they purchased their Dollar Store props; and finally they designed and rehearsed the magic routine they would enter in the contest.

Now it's time for the actual competition! Only one of the teams will go home from this event as the 2023 Wizard Wars champion.

Hope you can join the fun in person or on Zoom.

SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON ZOOM:
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023 | 7-8 PM (CST)

The Cross Training Center • 5030 N. 72nd Street • Omaha, Nebraska

No charge for attending this event.



Sneaky Sleights for March

I was so engaged in viewing our supplementary videos posted on our OMS Website, that I lost all track of time and missed the start of the Gonzaga vs. UCLA, March Madness,

NCAA game! That was a first for sure! The videos and pdf. files are available to our members who want to review the talented card manipulations that were featured at our March Magic event. Those materials are just a few of the many magical topics to entertain and instruct any member who wants to peruse.

Anyway, we had a full house for our night of card sleights. In person and Zoom attendance broke a record with thirty-one members!

The evening began as **Denny Rourke** introduced himself (as a life-time member, he needs no introduction.) and welcomed the three other instructors; **Jered Schaugaard**, **Larry Brodahl**, and **David Fox**.

Denny amazed us once again with his card fanning techniques. He slowed down each movement to teach the skills he has honed through years of practice and performing. At the end of the evening his book, *The Everything Card Tricks Book* was raffled off. Thank you, Denny.

Next, Jered walked us through the peaks and glimpses for the card effects he uses when performing close-up magic in restaurants. I took copious notes, and was pleasantly surprised to see the You Tube video of his instruction posted for our members. Jered is always a pleasure to watch.

Larry Brodahl, our resident Wizard of Wise Cracks, presented his mechanics for false shuffles, cuts, and forces. That title is my term of endearment for you., Larry.

As a break in the prestidigitations, Larry summarized some of the rich magic history here in the heartland. His speech is worth a read as you will learn about the mysterious magic and historical Omaha home of our legendary magician, **David P. Abbott**. This local loan shark (legal profession until 1938) and entrepreneurial

spirit, influenced a very famous magician. Teller, of Penn and Teller, is an expert on Abbott's life and effects and still performs Abbott's fantastical Floating Ball routine.

David Fox was the closer. Many of our newer members learned for the first time, that in addition to being a master mentalist, he is also an expert at card illusions. He picked up his first deck of cards at around eight-years-old. He reminded me of most people you see with a phone glued to their palms, only his palm habitually holds a deck of cards.



After his time at the table, David announced our club's 2023 Wizard Wars. He walked us through the rules and format for the competition. Teams were asked for final submissions, as pictures, props, and team names are due March 27th. This OMS event will be the highlight of our April 17th Monday Magic Event!

Another Magical March meeting was enjoyed by all. The Omaha Magical Society thanks the four member magicians who so graciously gave of their time and expertise to present a master class in card sleights. We also, want to acknowledge the enthusiasm and comradery that our members show in support of our club. See you in April, when the battle begins!

Patrice Fisher - OMS Secretary



Larry's Logic

Adding processes

Alright, now we're going to talk about adding one or more processes to our process-heavy 21 Card Trick.

And why you ask would anyone want to add MORE process?

Simple. Adding a move, subtlety, or gimmick, to a script can make a trick even more of a fooler than it already is.

This adding a process can lead the spectators away from the solution to the trick, can add details to make backtracking more difficult, as well as making a trick appear as if sleight-of-hand "might" have had something to do with the trick.

But most importantly, adding a process makes it possible to add a "moment of magic" to the trick.

Probably the biggest mistake that I've seen magicians make while doing a process-heavy trick like the 21 Card Trick is that they NEVER show me when the magic happens.

But let's get back to the 21 Card Trick. The spectator was handed some cards to mix. They were dealt onto the table and he mentally selected 1. More cards were added and he shuffled again.

The cards were dropped by clumps into 3 face-down piles. The spectator put a coin in front of each pile. The piles were then displayed to him so he could see how well he psychically did.

Then the piles were gathered up. So, let's throw in something weird.

Let's do a false cut. The *Jay Ose cut* is my favorite. If you don't know it, you can find it about 6 minutes into this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEFXbgisJE8>

So now, we're going to deal out the cards like the 21-card trick does. 1 at a time, left to right – into piles.

Again, the spectator places his coins, you display the packets until he finds his cards, etc.

Regather the cards like you did before. Then stop! Tell the spectator that we're going to try a variation of the test to see if it changes the results. Remember, we're gathering data on the "norm".

This time, you do the WINNEPEG false cut. Again, found on that same video at the very front.

Now you deal the cards totally wacky! Right, Left, Middle. The trick doesn't care. You then go through the checking of results, gathering of packets, etc. The fun part is that you tell them you're going to deal them out of sequence. Anybody that knows this trick will be totally lost by now.

For the final time, you're going to do the HARDEST test imaginable, and wouldn't this be a good time to do whatever you're going to do to INCREASE his psychic powers!

You've regathered the cards, so you KNOW the chosen card is in position #11 from the top OR the bottom.

Spread the cards face down, explaining that this time you're going towhat? I dunno. What do you want to do? IF as you spread the cards, you took a break beneath or above the 11th card, you can easily cut it to the bottom to top respectively.



You know it's at the 11th position. Maybe a card at any number? Or maybe you find the card using a pendulum?

The possibilities are endless. Which is what makes magic fun.

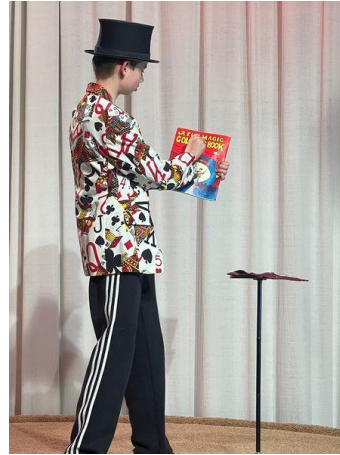
And let's face it. Even someone intimately familiar with the 21-card trick isn't going to think that's what you just did. Which is also fun!



Magic in the Hospitals update. By Steve Osborn



We presented our first show of this initiative in the pediatric ward of Nebraska Med. **Steve Osborn, Steve Lindeman, Carl Braun** and **Nathan Roberts** did a 25-minute show for a small group and we then did close-up in-patient rooms for children who were unable to leave their beds for the show. Overall, a very rewarding experience for patients and performers alike. Currently we are in a standby position for further shows. **Joe Cole** does regular monthly shows there but at times he is unavailable. At those times we may be called back to fill in for a show.



At this point Children's Hospital still isn't having live shows but we were given the opportunity to tape a show for them to broadcast to patient rooms. We have gone to Morningside College recording studio (many thanks to **Dave Madsen**) and have recorded enough material for an hour-long show. The program is still in the post-production phase. Terrific magic performances by **Steve Lindeman, David Fox, Travis Nye** and up and comer **Easton Boettcher**.

Nebraska Med also expressed an interest in the video as well to broadcast to their rooms via their iPads.

Further possible opportunities include QRI Rehab, Madonna rehab, possibly other regional hospitals although nothing is currently planned.

This initiative will, by necessity, rely on the interest, willingness and ability of OMS members to participate. If anyone wants included in updates, please feel free to inform myself or **Dave Arch**.



MAGIC COMPETENCIES By Dave Arch

More than a few members of The Omaha Magical Society perform their favorite version of the classic plot *The Ambitious Card Trick* where a signed playing card returns to the top of the deck through a series of apparently increasingly difficult phases.

Unconscious Incompetence. OMS member Stan* performs his version all the while awkwardly exposing his multiple lifts, tilt move, and pass – totally oblivious to how poorly he’s performing the trick. Stan doesn’t know what Stan doesn’t know. Unfortunately, while in this stage Stan might order some business cards and obtain paying jobs. Most of us have been there at some point along our magic journey. Hopefully we didn’t stay there.

Conscious Incompetence If Stan accepts personal responsibility and doesn’t make excuses, maybe by comparing himself to others in the club or through accepting feedback from people he respects, or possibly by not getting invited back to perform at events he booked only one time, he finally concludes that he’s not performing the trick particularly well.

Conscious Competence Through receiving additional instruction from a Mentor, a DVD, online video, or a book – while increasing his practice time, Stan starts to improve his performance. Research tells us that it takes a minimum of 10,000 hours of practice to receive full

mastery in any skill. Stan’s on his way towards greater mastery of this trick.

Unconscious Competence Fortunately, Stan has others in the club who have achieved mastery in both the mechanics and the presentation of *The Ambitious Card Trick*. When Stan watches them, he realizes they have put in the time to achieve Unconscious Competence. They’ve performed the trick so many times (with feedback from both audiences and other magicians) that the routine looks effortless as the performer also interacts entertainingly with his/her audience.

The Performance Feedback Form

The Omaha Magical Society has published **The Performance Feedback Form** as a tool to remind those who have achieved Unconscious Competency exactly what contributes to their mastery of a trick so they can help the rest of us grow towards mastery. It is located at this link: <https://bit.ly/40k2YT1>

*Any resemblance of Stan to anyone in the club is purely coincidental.

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2023 OMS Officers

President – Steve Lindeman..... amazinglindy@gmail.com
Vice President – Bruce Jacoby..... bruce@colorfulmagic.com
Secretary – Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
Treasurer – Bob Gehringerr gehringerr@cox.net
Sgt-at-Arms – Tim Begley tpbegley@cox.net
Executive Director - Dave Arch dave@sandler.com

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

Around The Table Card Trick



Here's an enjoyable card trick particularly appropriate when sitting around a table with a group of people following a meal. No need for any memorization as you can merely read the instructions as your friends at the table do all the work.

Instruct participants to shuffle their cards. One person at each table then collects the stacks, shuffles the entire deck, and passes the deck to the person at their immediate left. (The person with the cards at this point becomes the first "volunteer" and continues with the steps that follow, until instructed to let another group member take charge.)

1. Deal one card face-down onto the table for each letter of the phrase "pick me."
2. Look at the **last card you deal**, and show it to the others. Remember that card.
3. Put the card back down **on the table pile**, and drop the rest of the deck **face-down** on top of that pile. The person to the left now takes over.
4. Pick up the deck from the table, holding it **face-down** in your hand. Spell your full name onto the table, dealing one card with each letter.
5. Turn the portion of the deck still in your hand **face-up** and drop it on the pile of cards that now lie on the table. The person to the left takes over.
6. **Without turning it over**, pick up the deck from the table and spell your mother's full maiden name, dealing one card onto a table pile for each letter.

7. **Without turning it over**, drop the deck from your hand onto the pile on the table. The person to the left takes over.
8. **Without turning it over**, pick up the deck from the table and spell the name of the street on which you live - dealing one card onto a table pile for each letter.
9. **Turn the deck in your hand face-down** and drop it onto the table pile. The person to the left now takes over.
10. Volunteer number one identifies the card that was selected at the beginning of the trick. It's now the job of the most recent volunteer to find that card. (Pause momentarily to create suspense.)
11. **Without turning it over**, pick up the deck from the table and spell the word "magic," placing one card on the table for each letter.
12. The card that is now **on top of the deck in the spectator's hand** is the selected card. The volunteer holds it up for confirmation.

The participants, now members of an accomplished magic troupe, each take a bow.





Ann Marie Rourke passed away on the evening of April 7th, 2023. She was an active member of the **Omaha Magic Society**.

Celebration of Life Services will be held at Good Shepherd: 4712 S 82nd street. Sunday, April 16th from 2-4pm.

Ann and Denny worked so closely together over the years, and Ann was instrumental in spearheading our yearly Wizard's Banquets. She encouraged the creativity of club members to produce quality programs along with her attention to details to ensure a wonderful experience for all attendees. She valued you as who you are over your accomplishments. Ann and Denny were such a great team and modeled true professionalism for us all. As this word got out there were many comments of great memories shared with Ann and Denny.

Here are some excerpts:

- Ann was such an extraordinary person. She and Denny were early supporters of mine and she did amazing work for the community. A blessing on the heads and hearts of Denny and her kids.

- I am so sorry to hear this news Ann was a beautiful person.
- I am sitting here in tears – Ann was such a sweet & kind lady. I am heartbroken...
- Sending Denny and his family condolence hugs.
- Sincere condolences to the OMS club members for the loss of one of your great members.
- Prayers for Denny and the rest of his family! May God grant you some comfort and peace in this difficult time.
- Ann was truly a lady, beautiful inside and out. Grateful for the time we spent chatting about being a magician's wife. She will be missed.
- She was a very kind person.
- What a wonderful person and a sad loss.
- I am absolutely crushed. I've known Ann for – it seems like forever, and she was always just the most amazing person. She lit up the room with her smile, her mind, and her delightful sense of humor.
- Ann was a delightful, talented, and supportive person. She will be missed by many.
- Heartbreaking news. Ann was such a wonderful person.
- Her smile was always there to light up a room.
- Prayers for Denny and his family.
- We will miss the great conversations while drinking coffee as we played chess with Denny.
- Ann was a Gracious Lady and True Friend.
- So sorry to hear.
- Ann was such a good person.
- The world will miss her radiance.
- What a Sweetheart.
- May Ann's incredible life be a reminder to us all that **ONE person CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!**
- We were all truly lucky to have had Ann bless our lives with her presence. She certainly lived her love for all.
- This is devastating news. What a wonderful gal she was. She is with God now.
- My prayers go out to her family. I am so sorry. She really did hold our class together. I could never thank her enough.

Ann Rourke, we will truly miss you!



In this short (six minute) edited interview, we discussed the Backstory of Wizard Wars, Our Process for Getting Involved, The Prizes, and the Judging Criteria.

We have at least three teams already committed.

Learn more by listening in to David's and Dave's conversation. <https://vimeo.com/808722453/f16707c2df>

Monday Night Magic

Monday April 17th 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Cross Training Center
5030 N. 72nd Street
Omaha, NE

Or just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> (which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).



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Omaha, NE 68144

