



The Flash Paper

April 2024

“Enjoying magic...with others...for others.”

Bob Gehringer, Editor



A Letter From Lindy

The care group made their first visit to the Rose Blumkin Home. The team led by **Patrice Fisher** did an amazing job. I understand the appreciative audience had a great time. A big thank you to Patrice and her team of **Neil Bable, Tim Begley, John Baker, Carl Braun, Joyce Becwar, Denny Rourke, Tom Neddo, Ruth Bitter, and Nathan Roberts**. Patrice will continue to coordinate and manage the team, as this will be a monthly event. An upcoming performance at Florence Home will take place on April 18, at 5:30. If anyone is interested in participating, feel free to contact **Steve Osborn**. He has room for more volunteers, and it will be greatly appreciated.



Super Saturday's will kick off on May 11th at St. Robert's school. Junior Magician instructors **Steve Nesor, Patrice Fisher**, and myself will periodically present Super Saturdays at area schools. For 3 hours 1:00-4:00 Saturday afternoons

elementary children will learn rehearse, and present several magic tricks. At the end of class, parents and friends will be able to get around the room to see their children perform magic. The show will end with students and teachers on stage for a grand finale.

OMS has been sharing some of our successful programs with other clubs through a new blog <https://magicclubleaders.com>. Is it successful? Over 30 different magic clubs in 7 different countries are taking advantage of this resource to find ways to improve their own clubs. Normally we'll see about 500 visits to our website, this past month we saw over 800 visits. People are curious to see what we're doing in Omaha!

Once again **Taylor Made Home Solutions** has provided scholarships for two lucky young magicians to attend Tannen's Magic Camp. This year one of our own students **Easton Boetcher** will attend, along with another youngster chosen from 1/2 dozen applications we have received. An unbelievable opportunity for these kids. Thank you, **Doug Taylor**.

Nick Diffatte is everywhere these days. A comedian/magician, he is a protégé of **Mac King**. At 24 years of age Nick has been entertaining crowds on cruise ships, college campuses, and Tannen's Magic Camp. He's been seen up and down the Las Vegas strip, Chicago's Magic Lounge, on CBS' the Late Late show, and of course the Magic Castle. Currently he is starring in the Cirque du Soleil's Mad Apple at New York, New York hotel and casino. Don't pass up a chance to see this hilarious act if you get the opportunity. Until next time, keep spreading the magic!

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



March Re-Cap

by
Matt Spielman

Sleightless card magic was the focus at last month's OMS meeting, several table leaders were chosen and were tasked with performing and teaching their favorite sleightless card trick to the group. Leading up to the meeting I went back through some of my *Trost and Fulves* books to find a memorable trick that could be taught in 5 minutes or less. Ultimately, I decided on Trost's 8 card brainwave, one of the first tricks I learned and sleightless. Or is it? One of the first discussions at many of the tables was "what constitutes a sleight". Double lifting was off the table, which constitutes for a great deal of tricks right off the bat. **Oloram** subtlety was in even though it has a funky name and a certain wrist turn to make the trick work. Gaffs certainly fit the bill for the evening's requirements but interestingly enough the majority of the tricks performed used a normal deck of cards that were provided at each table. Stacked decks and mathematical cards tricks were a popular choice for those sharing at the meeting, a few Hummer principle tricks and triumphs were displayed as well. Eventually rules were bent and a second deal poker trick was taught and we went back to talking about how many cool tricks utilize a double lift or Elmsley count. Watching some of the more experienced performers throughout the night was a great reminder of how a backstory or interesting patter can take a 5-30 second simple card trick into a 1 to 2-minute performance that sticks with the audience.



Dan O'Connell demonstrating his sleightless trick

CARE Team's Outing

Our Omaha Magical Society has a new subgroup of member magicians! It is a team of our volunteers who are performing magic in various facilities for the elderly. Members, **Steve Wengel** and **Steve Osborne**, created the idea and have established



CARE teams for this endeavor. This is part of our club Mission Statement, to bring magic into our community. Our first outing was on Saint Patrick's Day. Five magicians came together to entertain the residents of the Rose Blumkin Home, here in Omaha. **Denny Rourke, Tim Begley, Neil Bable, Thomas Gray, and Nathan Roberts** rotated among four tables of residents for one hour to start the day with lots of laughter and smiles. **Patrice Fisher** helped to keep things on track by being timekeeper to make sure we kept to the scheduled lunch time for those who attended.

For the first half hour, our guys made their magic through all the challenges posed when performing for the elderly. Being timekeeper, Patrice watched as Nathan moved his magic in close for one gentleman with very poor eyesight and Denny Rourke made impromptu accommodations while performing his wonderful card manipulations.

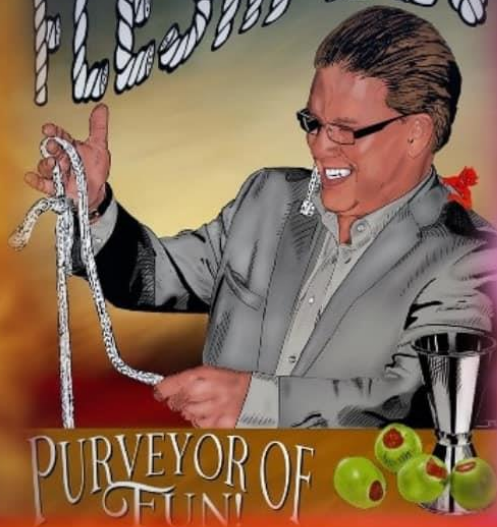
At mid-stream, we took time for **Thomas Gray** to play his guitar while singing an Irish Drinking song! Now, Rose Blumkin is a Jewish facility, and doesn't really decorate for St. Patrick's Day, so the Irish ditty was a bit of a risk, but the guests loved it! We ended with *A Fish Story* which is an optical illusion using two fish placed strategically to appear to be two different lengths, but when repositioned are actually the same size. Along with creative patter, this is a good trick. We showed each person how to position the fish and gave everyone their own fishes to show their families or whomever, once they returned to their wards. The children of one grandparent were so excited to get their own props to show their friends! You can go to our website to see a video that **Dave Arch** created that shows this effect. - **Patrice Fisher**



Monday Night

Magis

Dan FLESHMAN



PURVEYOR OF FUN!

DAN FLESHMAN

Enjoy the skillful mastery of well-respected magician Dan Fleshman as he both performs and also teaches us strategies to make our own magic more engaging.

Use the QR code on this poster to get a sense of his style as you experience his Magic Castle performance of The Cups and Balls.



**SIMULTANEOUSLY
BROADCAST ON ZOOM**

<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024
7:00–9:00 PM (CST)

THE CROSS TRAINING CENTER
5030 N. 72ND STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA



There is no charge for this event thanks to the sponsorship of OMS member Doug Taylor and his company Taylor Made Home Solutions.





Larry's Logic

How do I fit a trick into my show?

Opener - This is a very good question. Most of us, at least at first, just shoved new material in at whatever spot seemed convenient.

For me, I basically removed my oldest or “least liked by me” trick and stuck the new trick in.

This is NOT the way to do it. This would be like shoving an extra heart into someone and removing their kidney. It'll work – sorta – but boy howdy, it's not optimal.

Now my act has basically 5 parts: Opener, Closer, follow opener, middle, wrap up. And each one of these parts has a reason to exist.

My opener is just that...the trick I open with. This trick AND script – per my internal tenets has the following characteristics:

- Has a joke within 10 seconds.
- Has a magical event within 20 seconds.
- Is OBVIOUS!
- Is entirely self-contained.

So, let's discuss this. I want my audience to see that I have a sense of humor as fast as possible. I prefer a joke that reflects on me. And preferably a play on words. This way, they'll know within seconds that I have a sense of humor, I don't take myself too seriously, and I'll tell ANY joke, no matter how stupid.

Here are my opening line(s). “Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is **Larry Brodahl** – and I'm a magician. And I thought I'd start by showing you the BARF trick.....sorry, SCARF trick. Oh, you'll barf, it'll just be later.”

As you can see, the joke BARF/SCARF is a pretty small joke. But it's showing that I can screw up by mispronouncing a word, correct myself, and even turn the slip up into a joke. In under 10 seconds.

Now, as I'm saying this line, I'm fully prepped to do the first step of the COLOR CHANGING SILKS using a hand dye-tube. Now, my entire routine is about 2:40 long, which looks like it exceeds the 20 second rule. But actually, it doesn't. The first magical event is the yellow hanky turning red. This happens quickly. The routine's *not over*, but the FIRST piece of magic.... which is so obvious (yellow-to-red) has happened.



Notice that I've also not picked up any props (as far as they know) other than a hanky...and yet magic has happened.

This has been the opener for my show for over 30 years. Before that, it was the Cut and Restored Rope.

Now, I continue with the rest of the trick. Anyone that was dismissing me because I'm a “magician”and we all know that this happens....is now sitting up and taking notice. And why? Because the PHYSICAL part of the routine calls for showing both hands empty, and the silk changes color.

So, mistake made, joke made at my expense, and magic happens with no visible props, moves, etc.

This was what I set out to do with an opener. And it's why it's so hard to replace it.

But, if I'm being honest, I should also admit that there is ANOTHER reason I use this trick as an opener. The silks get really wrinkly if you leave them in the dye tube for very long. And I don't like wrinkly silks.





Using Microsoft's AI – Copilot, here is a creation of images used to help remember the alphabet backwards.

To learn to say the alphabet backwards, take a look at this old Viking Warrior whose name is **ZY** with a coupon in one hand and cute baby alligators in the other. He is asking a question and the answer is given. - **Bob Gehringer**



ZY an **X-W**arrior asks in his Viking accent,

VUTS R QPON for?

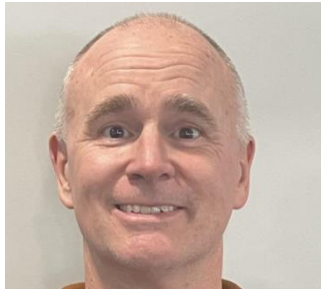


A **MLK JING**

(MILK JUG in Viking lingo)

to **FED** (Feed) our

Cute Baby Alligators.



Improvement to the “Imp Bottle” Effect By Tom Gray

I’m a newbie magician and recently bought a sack full of second-hand effects and equipment at a fundraiser hosted by my local Society of American Magician’s club. I do love a bargain and it’s a great way to get exposed to, and puzzle out, a variety of effects.

Among the treasures were two small plastic “imp bottles”. A quick search online showed that these are not at all a new effect – I found a review of it in *Inside Magic* from 1907. The article reports that it was “The hottest trick on the market” and that “**Houdini, Kellar** and **Thurston** have testified to its endearing qualities and profound affect on audiences.” I wonder how much of that description was hyperbole and how much was because those were simpler times?

<https://insidemagic.com/2020/12/02/inside-magic-review-the-imp-bottle/>



The bottles available in 1907 were turned from wood and polished. The most common versions today are of course made of plastic and look a lot like fishing bobbers. They cost about \$2. This is what the two I received looked like.

The story used during presentation is that the bottle contains an imp that, when upset, will cause the bottle to stand upright no matter how it’s placed on a table. Forcing it to lay on its side results in it springing upright again. Only the magician, by praising the imp, can put the imp to sleep and lay the bottle on its side. The effect is accomplished by slipping a metal rod into the bottle to raise the center of gravity.

I spent a few minutes playing with the imp bottle and found several problems with how it worked.

- The metal rod is clearly visible when inside the bottle. The instructions say to always lay the neck of the bottle away from the audience.
- The rod makes a clicking noise when dropped into the bottle.

- The rod is difficult for a newbie to conceal and to insert into the bottle without alerting the audience.
- Removing the rod requires turning the bottle upside down, which suggests to the audience that there is something in the bottle.

Over the course of an afternoon, I made improvements to the effect which solved these problems and added features that expand the potential for routines.

- Through trial and error, I found that that the rod provided was much longer and heavier than it needed to be. By stuffing a length of black muslin cloth into the bottle to prevent the rod from slipping all of the way to the bottom I was able to cut the rod down from over an inch in length to less than ¼ inch. The black cloth also kept the rod from clicking when dropped in the bottle.
- I super glued a very thin neodymium magnet to the top of the ¼ inch rod and used a Dremel tool with a stone grinding wheel to shape it to match the diameter of the rod. I also took the sharp edges off the rod where I’d cut it. That ensured that it would slip through the neck of the bottle smoothly.
- I glued a piece of the same black muslin cloth to the top of the magnet. This makes the rod almost undetectable when it’s in the bottle, as the black cloth matches the cloth in the bottle and because the rod is short and does not rise far up the neck.



Modified rod (left) and two magnets for behind the wedding ring (right)

- I broke two small pieces of magnet and shaped them to fit behind my wedding ring. Neodymium magnets are very brittle which prevented me from bending them to match the inside curve of



my ring. By using two pieces, with the small piece against the inside of the ring and the larger against my finger, I was able to fit them securely.

- I painted the two bottles using black and white paint with a clear protective coat on top. For variety one has a black bottom and white neck and the other a white bottom and black neck.
- I made a presentation case for them from a faux leather glasses case.



The technique for inserting the rod is now much improved. The magnet on the top of the rod causes it to attach securely to the wedding ring at an angle which causes it to touch the base of my “pinky”. The crease in the base of my pinky makes a channel that I can slide the opening of the imp bottle along, guiding the bottle opening to the rod. Pushing the bottle against the wedding ring and continuing to slide it across my palm pulls it away from the magnets under my ring.



There is now another option for removing the rod. While I can still turn the bottle over and let it slide out into either hand, I can also hold the bottle upright with the opening touching the ring and the rod will be lifted out by the magnets. If I use the “tip out” option, the magnets quickly position the rod against the wedding ring in the desired position, ready to re-insert.

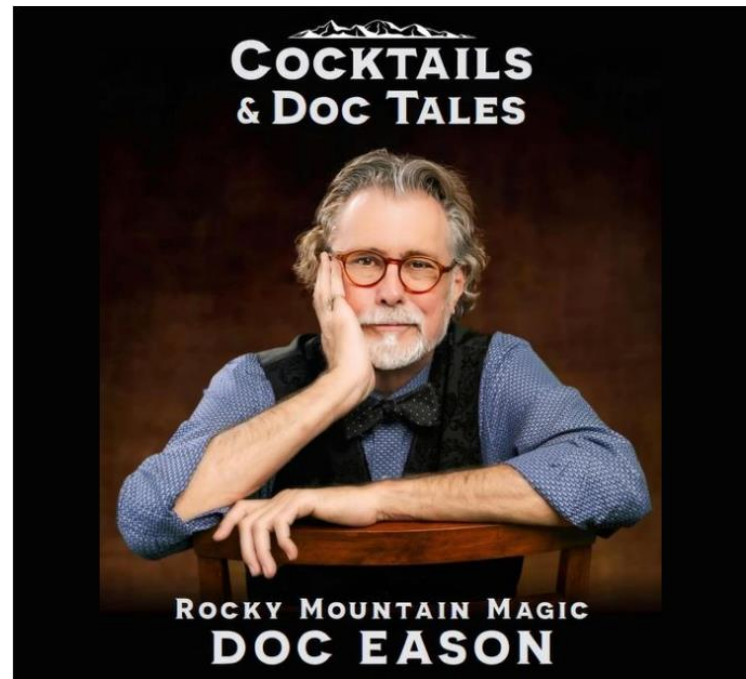
I’ve had a great deal of fun improving this effect but there is much work left to be done in the presentation. Let’s see...are “Topsy” and “Topsy” good names for imps?

Good News / Bad News



The bad news is that due to lack of interest we will not be having our Midwest Magic Competition (with semi-finals scheduled for Monday, June 17th).

The good news is that thanks to OMS member **Doug Taylor** and his company **Taylor Made Home Solutions** the club will be hosting on the evening of June 17th the legendary bar magician **Doc Eason** for a lecture with material from his newly released book entitled *Cocktails & Doc Tales*.



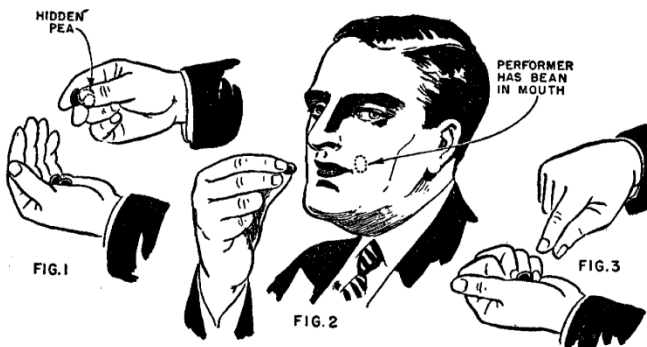
2024 OMS Officers

- President** - Steve Lindeman amazinglindy@gmail.com
Vice President - Adam Schacht schacht2222@gmail.com
Treasurer - Bob Gehring gehringerr@cox.net
Secretary - Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
Executive Director - Dave Arch dave@sandler.com

The Four Bean Trick

EFFECT: The performer shows four small beans in the palm of his left hand. Pencil erasers cut from the top of pencils may also suitably substitute for “beans.” He picks them up, one at a time, with his right hand, and apparently places one in each ear and one in his nostril. He places the last one in his mouth. He opens his mouth over the table and out drop the four beans.

PRESENTATION: Drop four small beans into the palm of the left hand. Openly show them there. Cup the left hand slightly, and with the right hand pretend to remove one bean, but actually take two (Fig. 1). Immediately close your left hand. Hold up your right hand and show one bean, hiding the other between the fingers. Tell the spectators that it is necessary to lubricate the bean slightly. Bring your right hand up to your mouth, as if to wet the bean with saliva, and as you do this, drop one bean into the mouth, while wetting the other (Fig. 2). This should be done smoothly, and should look only as if you just wet the bean with your lips and tongue. Holding the closed left fist with the fingers upward, drop this bean into the palm near the tips of the fingers, and show it in this position (Fig. 3). Make a motion, with the right hand, as if to remove the bean with the fingers, instead, open the fist of the left hand slightly, and allow the bean to drop into the palm.



Immediately bring the right hand (presumably holding the bean) to the right ear and go through the motions of inserting the bean into the ear. Practice this move a bit, so that your timing is perfect and it looks as if you really are following through with this action.

Open your left fist and show the three beans. Now repeat the above actions, starting with the removal of a bean (actually two) and ending by placing the "bean" into your left ear. Open your left fist again and show two beans. At

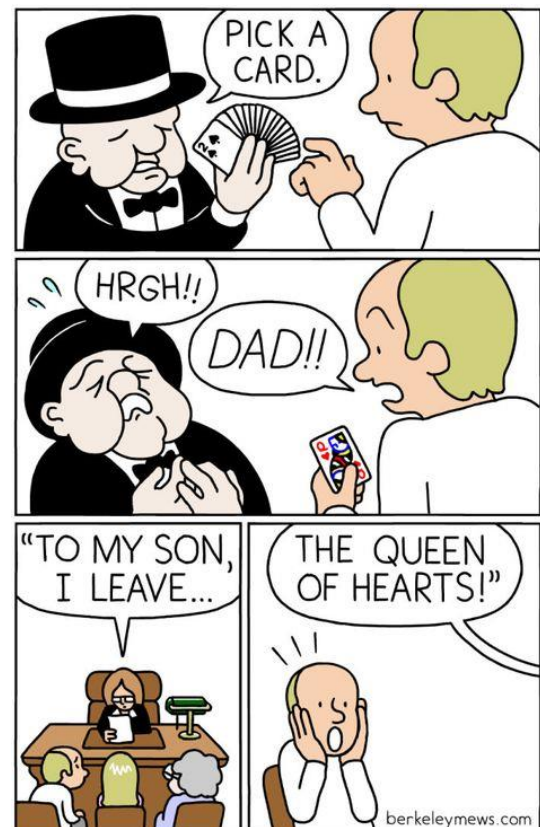
this time, you have two beans secreted in your mouth. Repeat the routine again, picking up the two beans as one and ending up by placing the "bean" in your nostril. When you open your left fist this time, there is only one bean. Pick this bean up and actually place it in your mouth. Hesitate a few moments and then, bending your head forward, open your mouth and allow the four beans to drop out slowly.

By the way our own Flash Paper columnist **Larry Brodahl** has his own twist on this classic - also calling it *The Four Bean Trick* and available for download at [Lybrary.com](https://www.lybrary.com).

<https://www.lybrary.com/scripted-26-four-beans-p-923051.html>

And this trick has its own cult following with a T shirt available for purchase at The Dumb Houdini Shop here: <https://dumbhoudini.threadless.com/designs/bean-1>

From the book Scarne's Magic Tricks. Used with permission.





Omaha Magical Society - S.A.M. Assembly #7 Facebook Features

Some snippets for those who don't visit Facebook

As announced in March's Flash Paper, we have begun sharing with other magic clubs the resources we've developed for use in our club. A club leader who obtained a copy of our Magic That Matures youth magic curriculum shared this.

Reviewed by **James Capobianco** [Write your own review](#)
(confirmed purchase)

★★★★★ Date Added: Wednesday 20 March, 2024

This book is fabulous! IBM Ring 6 meets at the Community Arts Center (CAC) in Wallingford (a suburb of Philadelphia) PA. Each year, the CAC hosts a Summer Camp for children. Students from kindergarten through high school attend; the classes are divided according to age brackets. The curriculum includes dance, music, sculpting, painting, acting, etc. Basically, the various art forms are taught. Last year, the CAC hired our Ring to teach magic as part of the course offerings. It was a huge success, and we have been invited back again this Summer. This book will be invaluable in structuring a curriculum for our upcoming Summer Camp.

Thanks so much to Lybrary and the author for making this available for free. This book will prove most beneficial as we pass on our beloved art form to the future generations of magicians. If just one child out of the many whom we taught takes up the art and goes on to become a good magician, then our effort was worthwhile.



[Write your own review](#)



25 folks came together for March's Monday Night Magic - swapping sleightless card trick ideas. Lots of routines got tossed around. **Mike Bitter** posted "It was a great night with some pretty cool tricks! My repertoire was expanded."



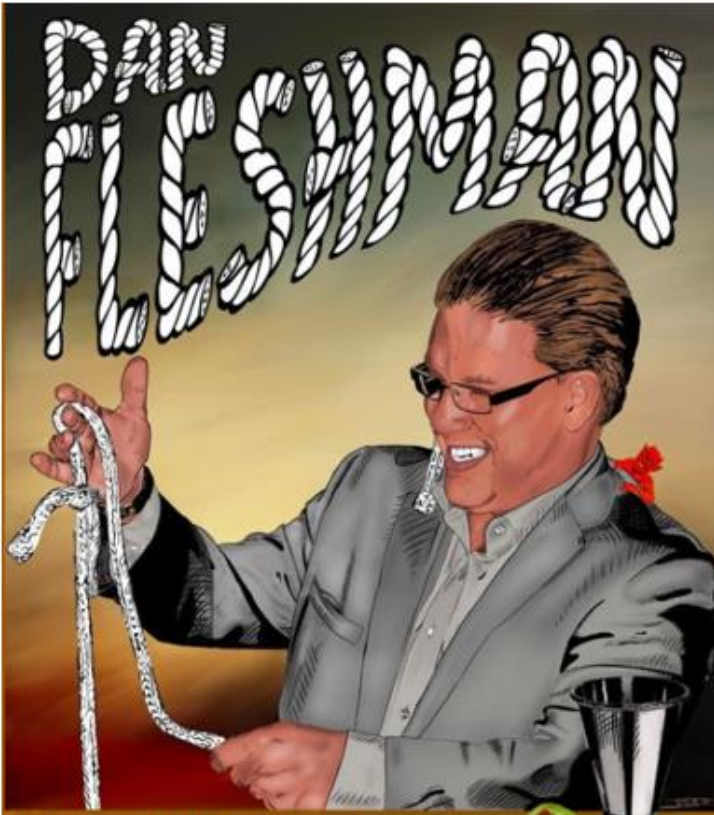
In keeping with the theme of SLEIGHTLESS CARD TRICKS, here's a collection of TEN additional ones selected from our own club's online video library. All are easy to learn, but some are obscure enough to bring something new to even the club veterans.

THANK YOU OMS member **Joe Cole** for allowing us to include two of yours too.

Web Link: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11047201>
Password: cards (all lower case.)



Also, Dave Arch said, "I have it on good authority (**Robert Baxt**) that this is Slush Powder! Available at your local Home Depot!"



Monday Night Magic

Monday April 15th

7:00 – 9:00 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).

13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

