



The Flash Paper

August 2022

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez

As I write this I am in Colon, Michigan the Magic Capital of the World. After driving nine hours from Omaha, upon walking in to register for Abbott's 84th Magic Get Together at their historic

building on St. Joseph Street, I was immediately greeted by headshots and posters of magicians past and present including our very own **Pete** and **Babe Petrashek**! So satisfying to see a familiar face from home. It makes me truly appreciate the members of our club looking backward and into the future as well.



Hope to see you at the next meeting where we'll introduce the 2 young Magicians the OMS sponsored for Tannen's Magic Camp this summer, I know they are thankful for the opportunity and we appreciate Doug Taylor for making it possible.

August's Monday Night Magic will feature the Amazing Lindy whom I have had the pleasure of getting to know as we worked with Patrice Fisher teaching our Junior Magicians over the last couple of years.

Lastly, I will introduce you all to Elmwood Parker next month, but for now there are lectures to attend and a Dealer's Room to explore. See you at the next meeting.

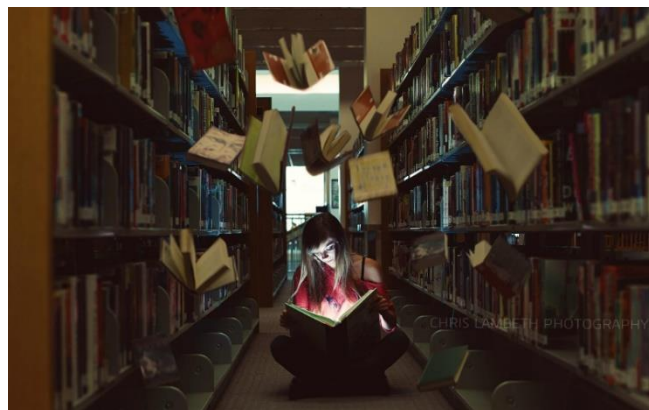


Used Book Sale at our August Meeting



In the cataloging of the books for our magic research library at UNO, we discovered three boxes of unneeded duplicates. With proceeds benefiting the club, we're putting them up for sale as part of this

month's Monday Night Magic. There'll be a \$15 table, a \$10, \$5, and even a \$1 table. Bargains galore!



July OMS Meeting

Spellbound Magic with Travis Nye



Travis Nye brought a Pop-Up version of his Sioux Falls, SD magic shop to our O.M.S. stage for our July magic event. His magic shop and theater, *Spellbound*, is a destination venue for many of our Omaha members and a place to experience for anyone visiting Sioux Falls.

Instead of our group doing a road trip this month, he brought his shop and his talent to our meeting room and stage. He was the featured act with his Teach-a-Trick session and performance. Twenty-two of our members attended and four others watched via ZOOM.



Travis began with a standard rope illusion performed with well-practiced ease. This was followed by a disappearing coin effect with volunteer member, **Larry Brodahl**, who seemed honestly surprised to see the coin reappear, perched on his shoulder. Travis also performed a mentalism act using a book and his sharp 'mind-reading' abilities with a nice personal twist of drawing a picture to reveal the spectator's chosen "random" word.

The evening would not have been complete without a card trick. You can visit our Facebook page to watch Travis teach the card illusion called *Somebody Stop Me* from Asi Winds. Making that video was a gracious and thoughtful addition to his performance.



Aleister Kight assisting Travis

A real highlight of the night was a card trick that Travis performed for us using a Smartphone application. *The Stranger* app. was developed by Jonathan Levit in 2019. This effect supports making a seemingly random call an unknown person. The audience calls out numbers that are then dialed by the magician. The phone is answered by a "stranger" who is asked to assist with revealing a card chosen by a volunteer. This illusion makes the volunteer the star of the effect because it is his concentration that allows the random person on the phone to guess the right card! For more details to purchase and perhaps a demonstration, it is well worth contacting Travis Nye at his Spellbound magic shop or Email: jlevit@me.com directly.

The Omaha Magical Society thanks Travis for making the trip to Omaha to perform, teach, and share his magic shop with our club! We appreciate his expertise and support! - Patrice Fisher, Secretary, O.M.S.



**BOOK
SALE
TOO!**

SPONSORED BY
THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY
FEATURING

STEVE LINDEMAN

For the past eighteen years Steve has made his living performing his magic in venues as diverse as restaurants, schools, fairs, and corporate events.

Recently Steve has also devoted his time to passing the art onto the younger generation. As both an instructor for the OMS Junior Magicians and as Director of the club's after-school programming, he is particularly proud to have his grandchildren now opening many of his shows.

Steve will not only perform excerpts from his Family Shows but also teach one of his routines in the DIY section of the evening program.

He hopes you can think of a child you might invite to come with you to this event.
Parents welcome too.

Simultaneously broadcast on Zoom:

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

No charge for attending this event.

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022 | FROM 7-8 PM (CDT)

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



Larry's Logic

Analyzing Tricks

This particular topic is going to take SEVERAL articles to even begin to explain. But for now, let's pretend you've just bought a new trick. Analyzing a trick is NOT about figuring out how it works. Since you've just purchased/learned the trick, you know HOW it works.

Analyzing a trick is about figuring out how it can work FOR YOU! It's about figuring out how to make a trick the most effective piece of magic it needs to be.

Step 1 for me has always been trying to decide what makes the trick magical. Every sleight, every process, every equivoque is irrelevant. Because those things are the HIDDEN things that make the trick work, not what makes it magical.

A good example of this is the 21-card trick. Probably the first trick a lot of us learned. Was it a puzzler? Yeah, it was. Was it magical? Yeah, not so much.

So, let's take a trick and try to figure out what makes a trick magical.

Let's take a classic trick, THE CARDS ACROSS.

First let's write out what the actual effect is. And this is tough because not everyone agrees on the effect. Here is the ad copy of the L&L DVD for the Cards Across.

You'll find basic but strong handlings from Bill Malone and Michael Skinner to more involved routines with the cards visibly vanishing and traveling twice, such as in Dan Harlan's routine.



Bruce Cervon causes two signed cards to travel while



in Juan Tamariz's version, cards that were merely thought of move from one spectator's hand to another's. You'll also discover Michael Ammar's routine with sealed envelopes, with two selected cards traveling from one impossible place to another, and Michael Close's hilarious take, where the cards travel from one really impossible place to another.

In some of these versions, SELECTED cards travel, in others versions the cards are sealed in envelopes, cards can be signed, and can even travel more than once. So, what's the effect?

The base effect is this: *A card or cards travel from one spot to another and there's no explanation of how.*

Signing the cards, in my humble opinion, doesn't make it more magical. It just removes a possible explanation of how the trick is done (duplicates).

Sealing the cards in envelopes also just removes possible explanations. (Palming, switching cards)

Now removing possible explanations is a good thing, as it makes the trick appear more impossible. But impossible isn't the same thing as magical.

Ascanio and Ortiz both believe that magic occurs when "Condition A" turns into "Condition B" without anything happening that could have caused "Condition B" to occur.

In other words: An indifferent card turns into a chosen card, and the magician did nothing to cause this to happen.

So, the "Conditions" in the CARDS ACROSS are this:

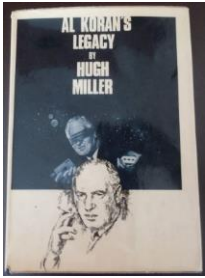
- Spectator 1 believes that they have 10 cards.
- Spectator 2 believes they have 10 cards also.
- When the spectators recount their cards, they have 7 and 13 cards respectively - AND the magician did NOTHING that would account for this change.

If you can achieve this, you will have mastered (technically) the CARDS ACROSS.

Next, we'll discuss how to get the spectators to believe they have 10 cards, regardless of methods used.



The Tender Touch



Built upon *The Eye of The Beholder* from *Al Koran's Legacy* by Hugh Miller, this old chestnut now has a new reason to continue living! It's a wonderful piece for establishing the credibility necessary for stronger mental miracles.

The Mentalist begins, "I'm often asked the question, 'How does one heighten senses to the point where it's possible to read people so well that it seems as though one is actually reading minds?' It begins with sharpening the five physical senses."

The performer brings out a deck of cards and places them, face down, on the table in front of a participant. "I'll show you how I practiced to develop an enhanced sense of touch," mentions the mind reader. "Please lift off a block of cards and place them aside for a moment. The exact number doesn't matter for now, but be sure to leave plenty for me."



The participant cuts a packet of cards from the top of the face down deck and puts them to one side on the table.

"Would you please give me approximately half the deck," asks the Mentalist, "In fact, just count out twenty-six cards for me to hold." The participant counts twenty-six cards from the top of the face down deck onto the performer's outstretched hand, one card at a time.

"Now place your block of cards on my other hand, please," asks the mind reader. After the participant complies, the performer holds the original uncounted stack in one hand and the group of 26 in the other, moving his hands lightly up and down as if judging the weight of each packet.

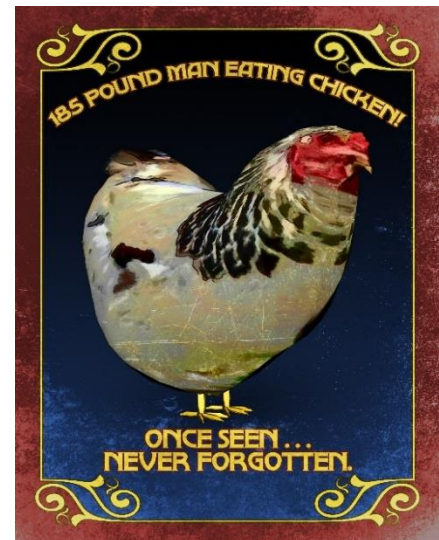
One by one, the Mentalist thumbs off and drops cards from the set of 26 until he suddenly stops. "That's it! The number of cards in each group should be the same. Let's count." The remaining cards are dropped to the table in pairs, simultaneously one from each hand, as the performer counts aloud, "...seventeen, eighteen, and – the final card from each group – nineteen!"

You need only: 1) Know the twenty-sixth card down from the top of the deck; 2) Make sure that the participant takes less than half the deck (26) in his first uncounted packet, and; 3) Drop cards from the face of the counted stack until you've dropped all cards up to and including your previously memorized twenty-sixth card.

The rest is showmanship! Originally published in *SYZYG*. Used with permission.

Sideshow Spoofery

The old sideshows used large colorful banners to advertise what was inside the tent. After paying your entrance fee, only then you realized that the banner was never actually false, it just wasn't exactly what you saw when you entered the tent.



Here's a poster that seems to advertise a 185 lb. chicken! However, you might be disappointed when you go in and see a 185-pound man sitting inside the tent eating a bucket of chicken. Then again maybe not. You might go get one of your friends to come over so you can watch them get pranked too. The sideshow operators counted on that very thing.



**OMS RESEARCH LIBRARY
NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS**



Visit the LIBRARY tab in our club's website to learn more about how you can now access The OMS Research Library. <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/library>



Cups and Balls by a Seven-Year-Old



Sometimes you just need to smile. Added to the club's **video library** this month is **Rebecca Villamonte**, daughter of **Luis Villamonte**, when she was only seven years old performing the cups and balls.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

Maybe you heard the rumors?



Well, it's true! We've secured **Dan Harlan** to lecture in person at our **Monday Night Magic** event on **Tuesday, September 6th** (7-8:30 PM). Please note the difference from our normal day and date.



What's Your Magic Story by Patrice Fisher

Learning Magic in a Hogwarts Setting

Last month we highlighted two young magic students attending the Tannen's Magic Camp. **Jane Rohling** and **Matthew Bartlett** were the lucky recipients of O.M.S. scholarships. This *Flash* edition features their experiences at camp.



Jane described the Bryn Mawr campus and the theater where lectures and shows were held as "a mini version of Hogwarts." Imagine being a young person with a fascination for magic getting the opportunity to learn in such an enchanting environment.

Juggling scarves, balls, and spinning plates were among the skills that Jane delighted in learning. This was evident by her description of being able to juggle with one hand! She was able to handle six catches while juggling three balls. One student brought a straight-jacket to camp and Jane was able to extract herself from it successfully! I can just imagine her proud posture and glow of confidence after that feat.

Both Matthew and Jane noted the amazing magicians who taught them, notably Kalyla Drescher, Ian Flinn, Asi Wind, Danny Garcia, and Adam Ruben. Jane really enjoyed a card switching move that Danny Garcia

taught. Tricks with rubber bands and other common household items were among the favorite features of the week for Jane.



Matthew sent me a description of his time at Tannen's that I also want to share. He has a passion and talent for magic but is equally skilled at writing. It is clear that the patter he will write to accompany his illusions will be entertaining if he decides to continue pursuing the magical arts. Following is

his essay about his adventures:

Camp was awesome. There's no other way to describe it. The average day was, wake up, eat breakfast, learn magic, eat lunch, learn more magic, dorm time, learn even more magic, more dorm time, eat dinner, watch magic, decompress, sleep. In that order (I'd say dorm time is really hang out with friends and show them what you learned time). First part of the day when we learned magic was classes. Each class had different guests each day. Some of mine were, Nick Diffatte, Adam "The Reuben" Reuben, and Danny Garcia. The classes were really just classes, not too many other ways to describe them.



Then was the lecture, they had EVERYONE, Adam Blumenthal, Adam "The Reuben" Reuben, Danny Garcia, John Reid, and even Asi Wind. The lecture was different each day. Not just because of the lecturers, but how the lecture was done. One day you're learning magic and the next day there are 6 chairs in a row for a bunch of horror stories about falafel, kids (a magician's



worst nightmare), and not being able to change clothes in the right amount of time because the zipper is stuck... and not everyone speaks English (she was a magician's assistant).

Next was workshops, we got to choose the workshops while we were there. There were 5 different options but my age could only pick from 3 of them. The options my age could enter were, sleight of hand, strolling, and magic 101. The 2 that I couldn't enter were business and behind the scenes. I chose strolling. I chose strolling because sleight of hand was my class and magic 101 just wasn't as appealing as strolling.

Our workshops had different guests each day too. Some of my guests were, Danny Garcia, Zoe Reiches, and Kayla Drescher. Each guest said about the same thing, which isn't bad unless you want a lot of notes. The first day at workshop I got 3 pages of notes, the second day I barely got 1/3 of a page of notes and by the last day, I was only getting about 1 to 2 lines of notes per workshop. Now, before I tell you this next thing, you should know, only the campers in my workshop know what you're about to read. Ok, on the 4th day the "leader" of my workshop (Ian Flinn) said (out of nowhere) at the end of workshop, "I need 3 volunteers for a strolling 'gig'". Almost perfectly only 3 people raised their hands. They had a talk with Ian. That was my 2nd clue.

My 1st clue was that on the 5th day was formal night. Then on formal night everyone was standing around watching the strolling magicians and sipping strawberry mango soda (which was AMAZING). Then, the camp director (Terri Cook) gets up on one of the stone walls with a microphone, and says "Everyone, quiet down please." Silence. "So, you all probably didn't know but before camp I had a birthday" People clapped a bit, then she continued "I didn't have time before camp to have a party." She waited.

That was the next hint. "In my birthday parties I like my guests to be dressed up, It's formal night." Hint, "I also like to have some form of entertainment, there are strolling magicians." Hint, "I also like to have a surprise for my guests." Final hint, because then she let us have it, "The surprise that I booked is pulling up now". She pointed, everyone turned around. Rounding the corner was an ice cream truck! Best (and biggest) ice cream cone I'd ever had.

Finally, was showtime, and they really had everyone. Not counting the ones that also did a lecture there was, Nick Diffatte, Marcus Monroe, and even The

Evasons. Personally, I think showtime may have been the best part of the day, and if it wasn't, it would have to be a close 2nd following lecture. You know that lecture time is better at camp than when you have to pay \$25 if it comes in the top 3 best things at camp. At showtime everyone was on the edge of their seats (which honestly made it pretty hard to see) and I hope that you were on the edge of your seat reading this report. Awesome, wasn't it? By Matthew Bartlett



Mathew performing. Wow!

2022 OMS Officers

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Omaha Magical Society - S.A.M. Assembly #7 Facebook Features Some snippets for those who don't visit Facebook

Travis Nye
5d · 🌐

Just finished up our summer magic camp. The look on this little girl's face learning her first magic trick is absolutely priceless.🤩



David Michael Fox
Admin · July 30 at 11:46 PM · 🌐

FISM Day 6: last day of FISM. Made a few friends, saw all the top performers perform, attended lectures by Eric Jones, Luis Piedranita, Julia Eng, and a talk about the magic castle by the daughter of the Larsons and the new owner!!! Finished the night off with the winners gala, an awards show, and one last stroll through the dealers room. Now off to the airport at 8am!!! See you all soon!



Dave Arch
Admin · Yesterday at 11:13 AM · 🌐

Visited The American Museum of Magic in Marshall, Michigan today where taking a break from scholarly research famous magicians Steve Nespor floated Larry Brodahl.



David Michael Fox
Admin · July 25 at 5:02 PM · 🌐

Day 1 FISM: made it to Quebec City and took a walking tour of Old Quebec. Absolutely amazing and beautiful! You can see the European (British and French) influence everywhere. Opening ceremony is at 730 tonight, but am torn between seeing a ton of magic or seeing more of this historically rich city! But magic will probably win, lol... Oh, and the Pope along with British royalty will be here on Wednesday...





Monday Night Magic

Monday, August 15th - 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).

13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

