



The Flash Paper

August 2023

Bob Gehringer, Editor



A Letter from Lindy

Last month I announced that **Roger Reese** and I began teaching an advanced class for our older

Junior Magicians, utilizing the O.M.S. Showmanship for Magicians as the curriculum. We are both very excited that **Larry Brodahl** will be joining us in the endeavor. They will be the beneficiaries of the wealth of knowledge Larry brings to the class. There should be no limits to the heights these youngsters can achieve. Watch for the names of the next generation of magicians coming out of the program.



What makes a trick memorable? It can be many different factors as we discovered at the July meeting.

Members were invited to bring the effect they felt was memorable. 11 members turned out to share their choices. So many good routines. After each performed, the entire assembly got the chance to brainstorm and examine the reasons an audience would remember and even request certain routines. Plenty to think about when putting a show together. Thanks to all who demoed their material.



The last Show Wagon of the year, before the finals, was held at Walnut Grove Park on July 23rd. I have been to a few this year and have to say the competition was as strong as I have seen. So many talented youngsters in the area. If you are wondering how they judged different talents, comparing a singer to a

dancer, to a magician, etc. well, there are 3 criteria the judges use: Talent, Stage Presence, and Audience Engagement. Once again one of our OMS junior magicians was in the competition. Steven the **Great Lindini** performed a Square Circle Routine. He brought home the second-place ribbon. Congratulation to Steven, and all the Junior Magicians who participated. Also, a nod goes out to their teaches and mentors in the club. Your hard work pays off. On a side note, I was scheduled to M.C. this event, which I was really looking forward to. Unfortunately, I had a back injury a couple of days before and was unable to do the show. Thankfully **Larry Brodahl** was able to fill in for me, and did bang up job.



Informal Jam Sessions have been taking place for well over a year now:

- The Lincoln Magic Jam, spearheaded by **David Fox** and **Jonathan Summerland** - They meet the first Saturday of the month at 2pm, at The Mill at Telegraph, 330 South 21 Street, Lincoln NE.
- The Omaha Magic Jam, organized by **Tom Neddo** - This group meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month. It is located at the Inner Rail Food Hall, 1911 So 67th Street. Everyone is welcome at both jams.
- The Monday Night Magic Jam led by **Larry Brodahl** meets after our Monday night events at the Brazen Head, 319 N 78th St.

I personally have not attended any of these jam sessions, but hear nothing but good things from those who have.

The gentleman at the top of this article became interested in magic, when as a youngster, he attended a magic convention in Wisconsin. After that he enrolled at the Chavez School of magic and graduated in 1955. The illusion that became his trademark routine was the floating violin. He performed worldwide and even had a regular engagement at the Crazy Horse Saloon in Paris for 6 years. He learned to make magic props from **Theo Bamberg**, better known as **Okito**. In 1956 he opened a magic shop selling illusions. His line of vanishing bottles, were the finest produced. Later he became the number one source of vintage and rare magic posters. Pictured with his wife and business partner **Lupe**, this famous magician is **Norm Neilsen** 1934-2020.



Notes from Alex Garcia and Kayleigh Rodgers

Tannen's Scholarship Recipients

When I heard I got the scholarship to Tannen's I was more than thrilled. I've heard so many great things about **Tannen's Magic Camp** that I was sorta nervous because it was my first year being there. When I first arrived there it was truly what they say, Magical. For that entire week we learned from magic legends and got to see spectacular shows every night, and even after lights out there were still people discussing magic and hanging out which felt amazing. Every day was jam packed with activities. If we weren't in class we were in workshops;

if not in workshops we had practice time. I've made new friends and still talk to them even if camp is sadly over, but the memories will always be there. I have to say it was the best week of my entire life. If anyone has a chance to go I suggest you take it. It will be an amazing experience. You'll meet new friends and make unforgettable memories. I want to thank **Doug Taylor** for giving me this opportunity to go to camp. Thank you, **Alex Garcia**



Hello, my name is **Kayleigh Rodgers**. I was one of the young magicians that performed at AbraCORNdabra. I had the opportunity to go to Tannen's with the support of a person who watched me that weekend. I had such a great time there! I got to learn so many things and meet so many people. One of the things I learned was Cocktail Cards. My favorite show was the close-up

show where so many magicians did some of their best work. The best activity for me would have to be practice time because I could practice with kids my age and get to show them the new tricks I learned. Thank you so much for helping me go to Tannen's. I can't wait to take my magic to the next level!



Here is a picture of **Patrice Fisher** participating in our club initiative by donating a Mark Wilson *Magic* book to **Amanda Welsh**, Director of Youth Education at the Jewish Community Center. It is for the Friedel Jewish Academy, which is the Jewish Community Center school.



Larry's Logic Practicing a routine

I thank my lucky stars that I don't do "routines". A routine – to me – is a sequence of moves or tricks strung together back-to-back.

To me, the word "routine" is reserved for manipulation style sequences. But don't think that only manipulators do "routines". If you have a sequence in your act where you produce a scarf, and then produce, 1 after another, coins from the scarf – well, that's a routine.

And because I don't do "routines", I'm probably the worst person in the world to teach you how to practice for one.

And the reason I think routines are difficult to design and practice is because there's no connections between each piece. It's a trick and a trick and you have to provide the glue to make them fit together.

The silk production is a trick in it's own right, as is the coin production, and to merge them together means you have to find common ground as it relates to tempo, timing, style and even methodology.

Perhaps the silk production uses a Stillwell ball, and this ball needs to be ditched. Difficult to do when you need to use the same time to steal a load of coins.

Or perhaps the silk production works by having the silk rolled up and hanging from a loop on the back of your hand. Snapping your hand forward and down causes the silk to suddenly "appear".

But if you're trying to set a tempo and pace of "smooth and languid", the fast jerky motion required by the silk production will seem out of place.

So, this means that when you practice, you first need to have decided how all of these disparate parts fit together.

To see PURE genius in action, look no further than this:

The Red Envelope by David Sousa

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ey6X2f8pMyY>



So, your practicing has to be also focused on the gap between each separate piece. You have to watch for jumps in focus, clarity, tempo and style.

Your thinking and rehearsal really have to be a rehearsal of the ENTIRE routine. If you have a 15-minute routine, you will HAVE to practice all 15 minutes each time you practice, because there isn't a single moment that isn't important to a routine.

If you're doing it to music, you have to actually PLAY the music so that your motions and the music stay in sync. And I don't just mean that the production of the hanky should come during a swell in the music. I mean that if you're shooting for "smooth and languid", perhaps the RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES is the wrong music to use.

Do NOT be afraid of watching other magicians that do manipulation-type acts and analyze what they do that is successful -vs- unsuccessful. Watch their lighting, their sound and music, their tempos. Shin Lim, Richard Ross, Cardini, and many others are available to watch on YouTube.com. Just key "magic manipulation act" into the search bar.

And if you're doing a card manipulation act, DON'T just watch card acts. Watch "bubble" acts, coins, candles, everything. Learning is a constant.



Monday Night

Magic

PLEASE
NOTE NEW
DATE!

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

BOYS TOWN PICNIC AND SHOW

If you'll bring a side dish, the club will supply the chicken as we eat together and entertain residents of Boys Town.

As you can see from the picture, you'll feel transported into a Harry Potter movie as we eat together and enjoy strolling magic in The Great Hall.

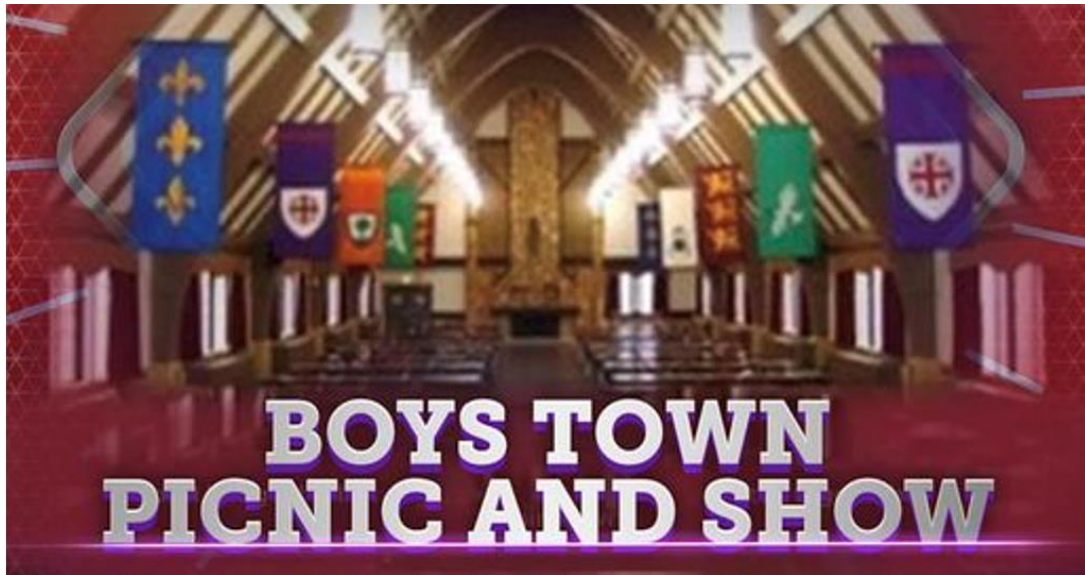
Then we'll walk to the Boys Town Music Hall as many of the club's finest entertainers take to the stage.

Although cancelled for several years due to COVID, this annual not-to-be-missed event has returned!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023 | 12-2 PM (CDT)

Boys Town Great Hall • 13747 Flanagan Blvd
Boys Town, Nebraska

No charge for attending this event.



Our August meeting will be held at the Boys Town Great Hall on Saturday, August 19th

STROLLING MAGICIANS NEEDED!

The club needs magicians to welcome the Boys Town residents with strolling magic as they enter the dining hall on Saturday, August 19th at 12 PM and from table to table as they eat lunch (before the stage show at 1 PM). Would you help out? Please let OMS member **Matt Spielman** mspiels@gmail.com know of your availability. He's assembling the list of volunteers now, or let him know via our Face Book page.

FOOD AND HEAD COUNT by **Tuesday, August 15th**

We hope you can join us for the Boys Town Picnic and we ask that each OMS family bring a dessert, side dish, and/or chips to share with the group. The club will provide the chicken. To RSVP, please enter your information into the shared Google spreadsheet at the link below or contact **Roger Reese** at [402-490-8326](tel:402-490-8326) or rreese3@hotmail.com so we know how much chicken to purchase. We need this information no later than **Tuesday, August 15.**

Here is the link to the spreadsheet: <https://docs.google.com/.../1knVETmPNHHUKfIAyKKtR.../edit...>

The Google Spreadsheet can be accessed via a web browser and/or phone. It has the OMS member names pre-entered as well as some popular sides and deserts you might considering bringing. If your name is not in the spreadsheet, please enter it in one of the spots that has 'Enter Name'. Your changes are automatically saved and you just need to exit the tab/browser/app window when finished. If accessing the spreadsheet via your phone, you will be required to use the Google Sheets mobile app to update it. You will be asked if you want to use the app and you need to select yes before you can update the spreadsheet. If you encounter any issues with the spreadsheet, please let **Roger Reese** know.

THE FLU REVUE



Keep this one in your back pocket when you have an opportunity to enlist the help of a friend in the group at your performance. NEVER in over twenty years of using this have I been caught. I often repeated it multiple times. And my secret assistant has fun too.

Assuming we're at dinner, I tell them I will turn my back while they silently decide as a group which random item on the table to select as the "target item." One from the group who isn't your secret assistant is asked to stand and serve as a silent facilitator during the selection process. I turn my back while the group quietly selects one item from those on the table.

When I turn around, I ask participants to mentally think "stop" whenever my index finger touches the content item they selected.

As I move my index finger over each of the items, I suddenly stop and confidently state that I'm now touching their selected content area. If they can't figure out how I do it, I might even do it several times throughout the evening. I never miss, and it does drive them crazy.

The secret is that I ask my secret accomplice to simply sniff when my finger touches the item the group selects. This sniff doesn't need to be loud at all. Sniff When you're listening for it, you'll hear it every time.

Of course, don't stop as soon as your secret assistant sniffs. Instead go on once you know the item and continue touching other items - inserting a little time misdirection before coming back and triumphantly holding up the selected item.

Impossible Object

At last month's Monday Night Magic, we talked about how the creation of an impossible object and then giving that as a souvenir increased the memorability of a routine.

Here's an impossible object in search of a routine.

Nearly everyone knows the difficulty of threading a needle on the first try. So, when you show them your skill in doing it behind your back, they will surely marvel.

Putting a needle and piece of thread behind your back

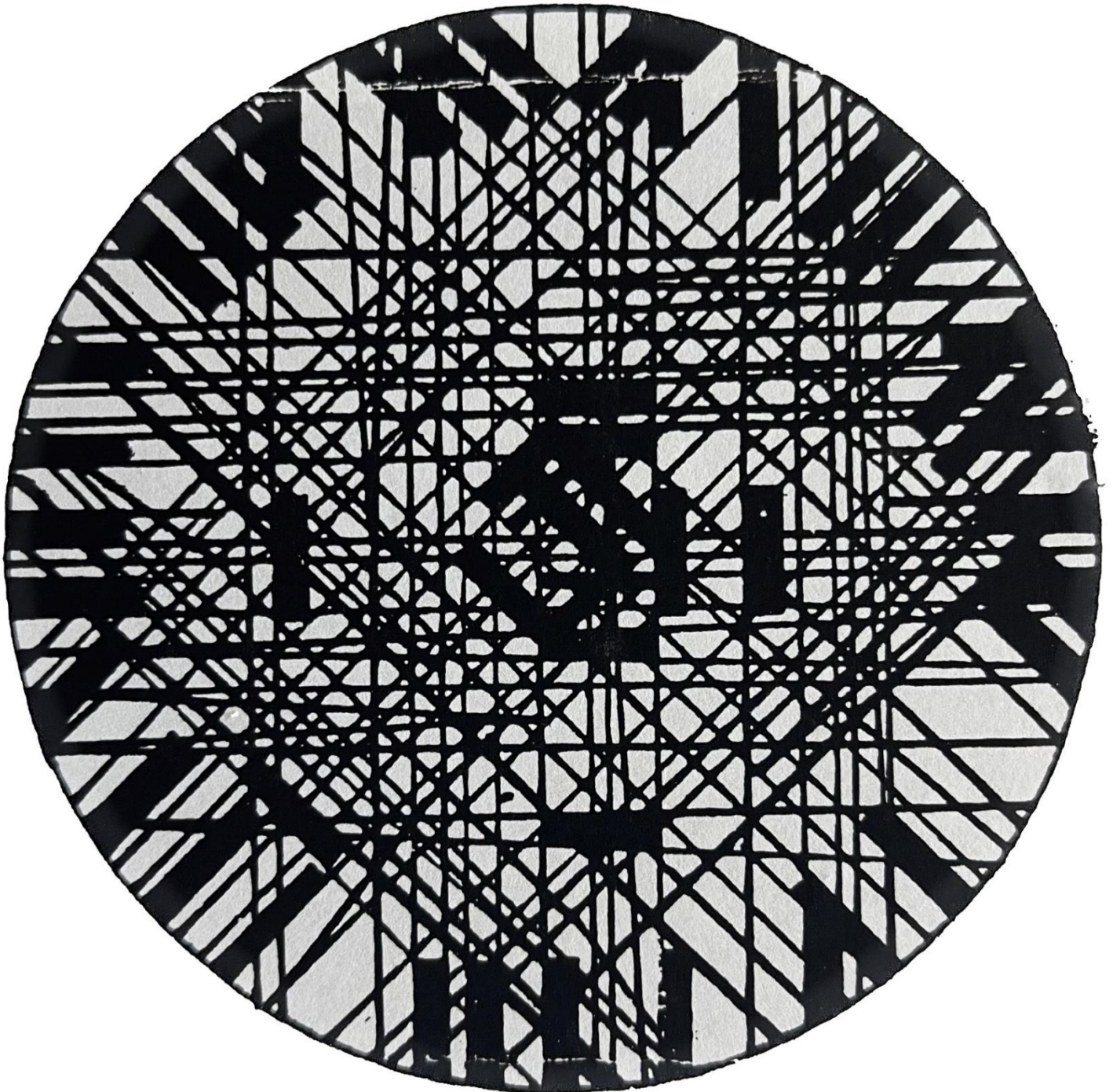


and coming out with a needle threaded multiple times will surely amaze. Particularly when a person can't imagine how to even build the object in the first place.

To prepare this unusual exhibit, thread a sewing needle with a one-yard length of thread. The larger the eye of the needle, the easier the following task. Pull the thread through until the two ends are even and the needle is in the middle of the thread. The needle is held by its point with its eye closest to the floor.

Then tie the right side of the thread around the left side of the thread (use a double knot) at a point about four inches below the needle's eye (Diagram #2). If you pull on the right side of the thread at a point above the knot, you will find the thread pulled up and through the eye of needle many, many times with each pull. Eventually the entire eye of the needle will be packed full with thread. Then simply cut the threads as shown in Diagram #4 so that the result will be a needle with many, many threads through a single eye.

Hide this impossible object where you can easily find it behind your back and CAREFULLY ditch the original needle and thread in a back pocket - bringing the impossibly threaded needle triumphantly out at the end. Struggle to make it look as hard as it would be.



Can you find the THIRTEEN words hidden in this piece of modern art??? It's an entire sentence very applicable to performing magic. (Solution elsewhere in this issue.)



2023 OMS Officers

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

Note that the August 19th picnic and show will not be a Zoom opportunity.



Solution to Modern Art Sentence: Hold the design flat on the palm of your hand, close one eye and look across the design. You might need to raise and lower the design before the words come into view. The letters are very tall and thin. Rotate the bottom of the design to your left and other words will come into view.

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