



Centennial Anniversary
1921-2021

The Flash Paper December 2021

Bob Gehringer, Editor

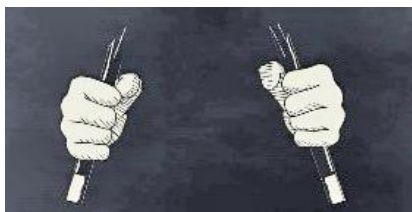


Prez Sez

SHARING
SNEAKRETS

Much to my delight, my 4-year-old granddaughter calls a secret a “sneakret”

and our new meeting location is a great place to gather for Monday Night Magic and share sneakrets with fellow members. While we had a very nice presentation by David Fox, and strong attendance - both in person and online - what caught my attention is what happened afterward as small groups of like-minded individuals popped up around the room. Thanks also to Dave Madsen who hosted those who attended online and helped make folks who could not join us in person feel welcome. Our Junior members were very impressed with our new home and are already looking forward to our next gathering on north 72nd.



Just a brief word about this month’s picture. A year ago, when I started this column, I wanted to change the photo each month, often to reflect the time of year or the changing of seasons. But this month I have to change my usual habit as “Little Guy” died on Thanksgiving. He was the closing act at my family shows for five years and had gotten to perform one last time the week before at a

gathering of a Prime-Timers group at St. Margaret Mary Church. But if we have learned nothing else in the last couple of years, we should realize that things change in unexpected ways and sometimes without much notice.

See you at our next Monday Night Magic, December 20th, when **Larry Brodahl** will be the featured guest. – **Steve Nespor**



**Best Practices
Partner**

The Nonprofit Association of the Midlands gave recognition to The Omaha Magical Society by designating us as one of their Best Practices Partners – giving the club greater legitimacy among the larger philanthropic foundations in the Omaha area. Watch for more details after the first of the year.

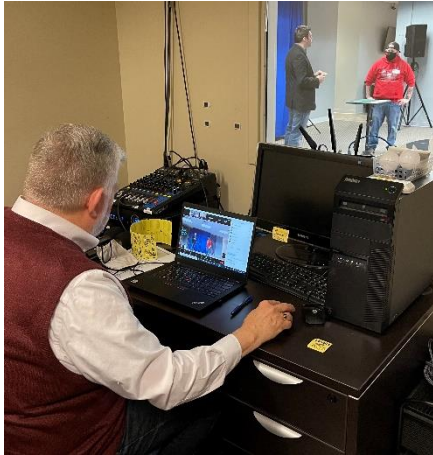
2021 OMS Officers

- President** – Steve Nespor omahamagician55@gmail.com
- Vice President** – Jered Schaugaard...jered.incredible@gmail.com
- Secretary** – Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
- Treasurer** – Bob Gehringer gehringer@cox.net
- Sgt-at-Arms** – Amjad Alawimari mrwho.magic@gmail.com
- Executive Director** - Dave Arch dave@sandler.com



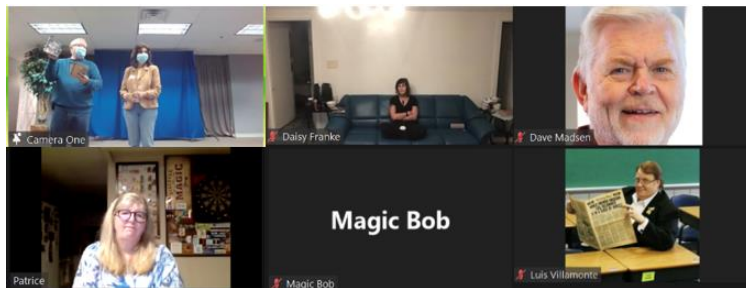
New Location and New Energy

Twenty-two O.M.S. members gathered for our first in-person monthly event in the past twenty months. Energy filled the room as our fellow magicians and friends reconnected in our new location for the first time.



We also extended our ZOOM broadcast run by Dave Madsen. Even the five ZOOM participants could feel an ethernet energy while waiting for the evening to begin. **Dave Arch**, our emcee for the evening, welcomed

everyone back after the long hiatus and when the surprised greetings concluded, introduced the evening's event.



Our new spot is better suited to performances and other activities. It is more formal, with better lighting, an actual stage, and much more comfortable seats at round tables instead of in rows. It is the perfect venue for practicing magicians, and the ideal O.M.S. member to break-in our new home was The Midwest Mentalist, **David Fox!**

For the first part of our event, David entertained the group using ESP Cards to show his masterful mentalism routine. Next, he smoothly read the minds of audience volunteers with knowing the exact words on the pages of books that they "chose" on their own. Then, David gave a tutorial of that book illusion, making it seem so easy. Of course, David Fox has honed his script and his

connection with the audience through years of practice and performances of his mentalism. What he made look so basic has much more nuance than simply memorizing the steps of that illusion.



After the show, there were two more highlights of the night. First, there was a fantastic dessert of tiramisu and beverages brought by **Bob Miller** and his wife, **Mary**. A long-time member, Bob provided snacks and beverages before quarantine and without prompting. He hasn't missed a beat. Second, everyone, including those on computer, perused six tables of books and a few props for sale at various prices or for free.



As the evening wound down, and before I signed off of Zoom, soft jazz and conversation could be heard in the background. I could swear that I saw the smiles behind the masks as well as hearing the laughter and music that filled the room. - **Patrice Fisher**





Lest we forget ... one hour prior to November's Monday Night Magic **Steve Nesor**, **Steve Lindeman**, and **Patrice Fisher** met with the Junior Magicians both in person and online. It was a busy and satisfying evening. Thanks for all of the volunteer hours that went into making it successful.



We're Back! In Person! December 20th, 7: 00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

December marks the second month that the club has gathered in person since COVID struck in March of 2020. If November was any indication of the positive energy, we can't hardly wait for December!

The Cross Training Center located at 5030 N. 72nd Street in Omaha has enough space so that we can socially distance while wearing masks throughout the event.

The OMS board respectfully requests that any club member not fully vaccinated please join us via our Zoom simulcast. When you're ready to join, just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> (which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).



FREE magic phone app when you purchase your 2022 OMS Membership on our website under the Membership tab. You can also read more about the club's OMS Thought Thief app in the club's online magic store (also on our website):

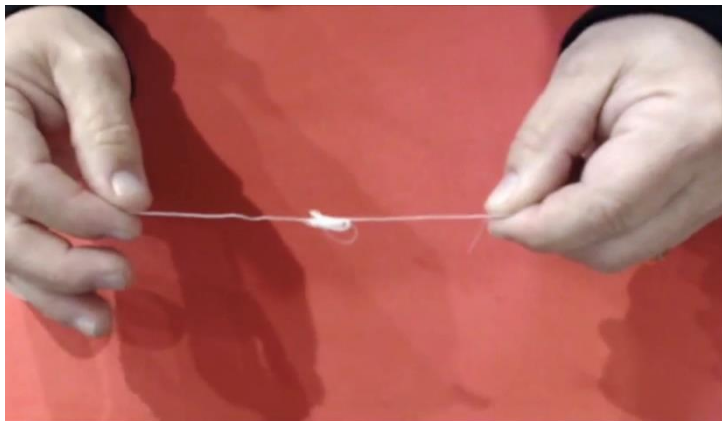


Gypsy Thread

Have you ever considered adding the classic Gypsy Thread to your magic repertoire?

This beautiful illusion makes it appear as though the strands of broken thread fuse back together in slow motion right before the spectator's eyes.

This month the workings of that effect are explained in the new online video added to our club library.



Buried on one of Pavel's older VHS tapes is a rope through body that I have found stunning to an audience.

Rope Through Body

You'll need two pieces of rope slightly longer than your two arms held extended out from your sides. Take a look at the rope you can find at Hobby Lobby in the sewing section. I find it very suitable for magic.

The first piece of rope secretly encircles your waist as though you're going to tie it in back. Instead, you're

going to hide the rope under the waist of your pants with the two ends slightly protruding from the middle of your pants in the back with a gap between the ends.



During performance, the other piece of rope is coiled up and put behind your back as though you were going to tie it in the front. I always do two false starts in which this rope does not pass through my body.

The third time I take the rope around my back – ditching this rope in the middle of and under my pant's waist - bringing the two ends from the other rope around my body from both sides.

When I pull on those two ends, it looks the world as though the piece of rope melted through my body. Very realistic.

Excerpted from the soon-to-be-released book *Craft Store Conjuring*. Used with permission.



Newly Elected 2022 OMS Officers

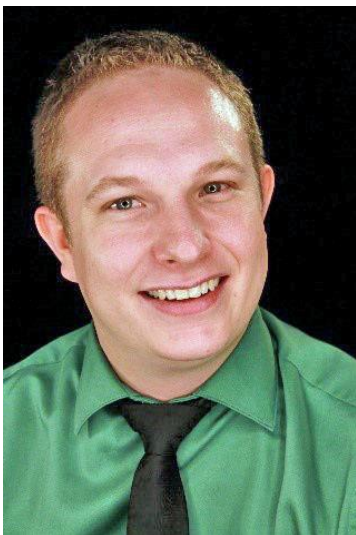
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- Vice President** – Bruce Jacoby..... bruce@colorfulmagic.com
- Secretary** – Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
- Treasurer** – Bob Gehringer gehringerr@cox.net
- Sgt-at-Arms** – Tim Begley tpbegley@cox.net
- Executive Director** - Dave Arch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



What's your Magic Story? by Patrice Fisher

Creating Magic

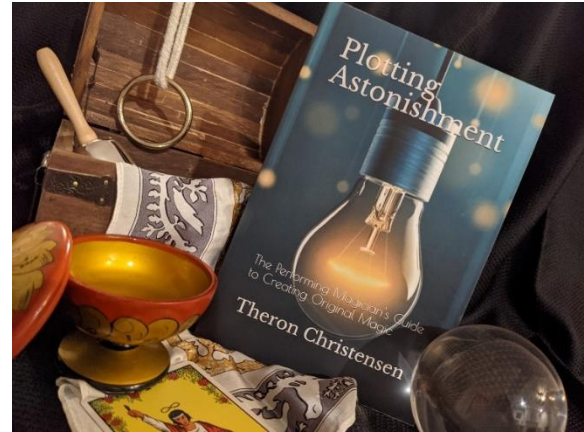
Even at the early age of seven years old, **Theron Christensen** was drawn to the art and science of creating magic. In one of the first magic shows he ever attended, Theron was fascinated by a powerful performance of the Zombie Ball illusion and set out to make one of his own. It must have seemed like an eternity to get home that day, but it did give him time to think: if he took a wiffle ball, attached a wire to it, and covered the whole thing with a dish towel, perhaps the effect could be duplicated. With a little imagination and lots of determination, it worked! This first act of reverse engineering helped cultivate his life-long desire to create his own magic.



Creating new magic is challenging. Creativity is complicated. Some say creativity is a trait that can't be learned but is inherent to the individual; that creativity is more a process of self-discovery for those elect few who were lucky enough to be born with the trait. Others adopt a more optimistic view that creativity is a

skill that can be learned, practiced, and improved by anyone willing to try it, and Theron subscribes to this philosophy. He started with the question, where do magicians get an idea for a new magical effect? Nothing in nature happens magically—magic is not natural. So, where can magicians get inspiration for creating something that doesn't exist? Convinced that there *was*

a methodology, he began reading books written by other magicians who also wanted to better understand the creative process. Maskelyne and Devant, S.H. Sharpe, Dariel Fitzkee, and Darwin Ortiz were just a few of the experts he consulted. This research, along with his own experience as a magician, culminated in Theron writing his own book on the subject.



Plotting Astonishment: The Performing Magician's Guide to Creating Original Magic is his finished attempt to answer the question of what inspires magicians to create what is seemingly impossible. The book provides a framework for creativity by which the reader can develop ideas for novel and meaningful pieces of magic. Among other things, Theron outlines five different exercises to generate ideas for new magic. These exercises utilize strategies such as building on forgotten effects and finding inspiration from interesting objects. He emphasizes the importance of focusing on the spectators before getting immersed in an idea. After all, the main objective of the performance is the entertainment value for the audience.

Clearly, imagination is a key trait for a magician. One commonality among those learning magic is that, before we throw something away, we generally take a close look at it and ask ourselves, "Can I use this in my magic?" Theron's book gives insights and practical exercises to develop that type of mentality and to push your own creativity forward. By attempting to delineate the creative process, Theron's book provides tools to trigger inspiration for those passionate about creating their own unique brand of magic.



COSTUMING

-Communicating Character-

Try this experiment the next time you watch a late-night talk show!

Turn off the sound for at least half the show!

With no sound, you'll be able to focus your attention on the host's selection of clothing. Check below all that you can learn about him from his clothes.

- _____ Introverted?
- _____ Extroverted?
- _____ Wealthy?
- _____ Detail oriented?
- _____ Stylish?
- _____ Aloof?
- _____ Pretentious?
- _____ Flashy?
- _____ Folksy?
- _____ Other?



Once you start making that list, it's amazing how much we do learn about a person's personality from the way they dress.

Now repeat this same experiment for several different evenings to observe how much s/he varies his/her attire.

You'll probably discover a definite pattern to his clothing choices!

Like an actor wears a costume to enhance the character they play, the talk show host wears his clothing to strengthen the persona he has decided to project.

His/her costuming serves as an extension of his character development.

What do you think the following combinations communicate about the personality of the one wearing them?

Suit or no suit?

Double breasted suit or single-breasted suit? Long skirt, mid-length or short skirt?

Skirt or pants?

Skirt and blouse, dress, or suit?

Bright color, dark color or earth tone? Sports coat or suit?

Tie or open shirt?

Short sleeve shirt or long-sleeved shirt? White shirt or colored shirt?

Plain shirt or patterned shirt?

This chapter assumes you have already defined the character you wish to portray.

If people could turn the sound off on you as a magician, what would just your clothes reveal about yourself?



Is it the image you want?

Excerpted from the book *Showmanship for Presenters* and used with permission



December Centennial Magic Trick

All OMS 2021 members and Life Members will receive with their hard copy of this month's Flash Paper a custom printed deck of cards.

With the same allure as opening a fortune cookie, this deck of cards from the 1930's re-created in honor of the club's centennial year has four fortunes on every card. Have your spectator select a card and have that card give them a fun glimpse into their future or an answer to a wish that might be on their mind. The online video instructions contain a couple suggested routines from other OMS members as well as a bonus video entitled *7 Esoterically Obscure Card Forces* - helping you find the best ceremonial procedure for guiding the spectator to ultimately and imperceptibly select the most appropriate card(s) for their life situation.

As a thank you for your membership in The Omaha Magical Society this past year, you'll receive along with your December Flash Paper a replica of a 1930's fortune telling deck of cards along with the deck's online introductory video and three routines contributed by **Larry Brodahl, Theron Christensen, and Jered Blake**. Please note that the following videos will not be uploaded into the club's video library but will only be provided to current members and Life time Members.

Thank you to each of the contributors for sharing their creativity - inspiring our own in the use of this unique deck of cards - celebrating the end of our club's centennial year.

Dave Arch (OMS Executive Director)

OMS Online Magic Store GRAND OPENING!



Just in time for the holidays ...

You'll find some inexpensive stocking stuffers for any magic enthusiast among your family and friends. You can come in and look around here:

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/store>

A Magic Deck for the Visually Impaired. \$15.00



Inspired by and in honor of our oldest member and Dean, Pete Petrashek, (who is losing his eyesight as he ages) we now sell an item in our club store for the visually impaired.

We already had an order from a lady in Tennessee. Full disclosure: it is a well-made Svengali deck with a multi-phase routine for the blind performer explained in a thirty-minute streaming online audio file.



The Year in Review - 2021

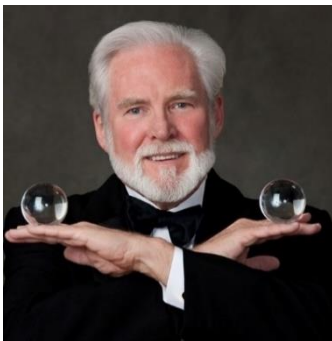
January - David Fox, Larry Brodahl and Jered



Schaugaard gave us their time and talents with this show virtually via ZOOM.

February - What's in your Case?

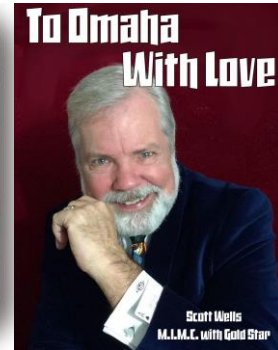
THANK YOU to *Joe Cole, Steve Lindeman, Denny Rourke, Jered Schaugaard, David Fox, and Ryan Chandler* for sharing what they carry in their Close-up Bags and their go-to effects when working strolling magic gigs.



Denny Rourke and his case
Ryan Chandler and his case



March - The **Houston IBM Ring #39** presented a Cross Pollination Lecture and Performance for us on our OMS Zoom meeting in March. A huge thank you to **Scott Hollingsworth, Scott Wells, and Jamie Salinas.**



April - Attending our April OMS monthly meeting via ZOOM, were **Lady Sarah and Keith Fields.**



May - "What's in your pockets?"



Dave Arch, Jared Schaugaard, John Sheibal, and Dave Madsen shared. **Travis Nye** from his **Spellbound Magic Shop** also stopped by this Zoom session.



June - Our Zoom Cross Pollination on Monday, June 21 featured **Bronson Chadwick, Nikko Alignay, and Jack McCoy** from Fort Worth SAM #138.



July - OMS Members **Rate-A-Trick** tool. The highlight of the meeting were performances by **Jered Schaugaard, Larry Brodahl, Steve Lindeman and Dave Madsen**. Each showed their go-to and favorite tricks. Here is Steve's Husker doll prediction.

August - For this **SHOW and TELL** Zoom our members shared their favorite books about magic. Here are books enjoyed by David Fox and Bob Gehringer



The evening concluded with several members sharing their oldest props or their favorite magic tricks. **Steve Nespor** had his Egg Bag handy, which has been a mainstay for his stage performances. **Bruce Jacoby** showed us his first hand-made prop, an eight-sided "Duck Bucket." **John Scheibal** performed a ball and vase trick and **Tim Bagley** brought his prized 1967 English Pennies that he still uses! **Bob Gehringer** entertained us with a Blackstone card trick and a French Drop that were his first magic tricks

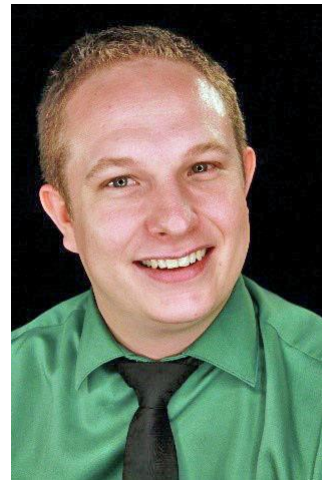


September - **Lance Burton** was our featured guest magician and lecturer for our OMS Monthly Monday Night Magic Zoom event!



October - **Jered Blake** Via ZOOM: Jered performed nine card tricks while also educating us with a series of credits given to those magicians who perfected them.

Thank you to all of the featured articles written by our members.



Theron Christensen's articles on Creativity



Bruce Jacoby's review of the Mike Super Show at the Lied Center



More Contributors



David Michael Fox's review of MagiFest 2021



Steve Nespor and his Prez Sez columns along with the OMS Junior Magicians updates.



Dave Arch and his articles on performance skills as well as his many tricks that he shared.



Patrice Fisher and her monthly secretary reports and the many What's Your Magic Story columns.



Bob Miller for bringing treats to our meetings



Dave Madsen for hosting the Zoom sessions at our new location

And of course, all who showed up and shared their knowledge and skills enthusiastically with other members to make 2021 a memorable year.



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

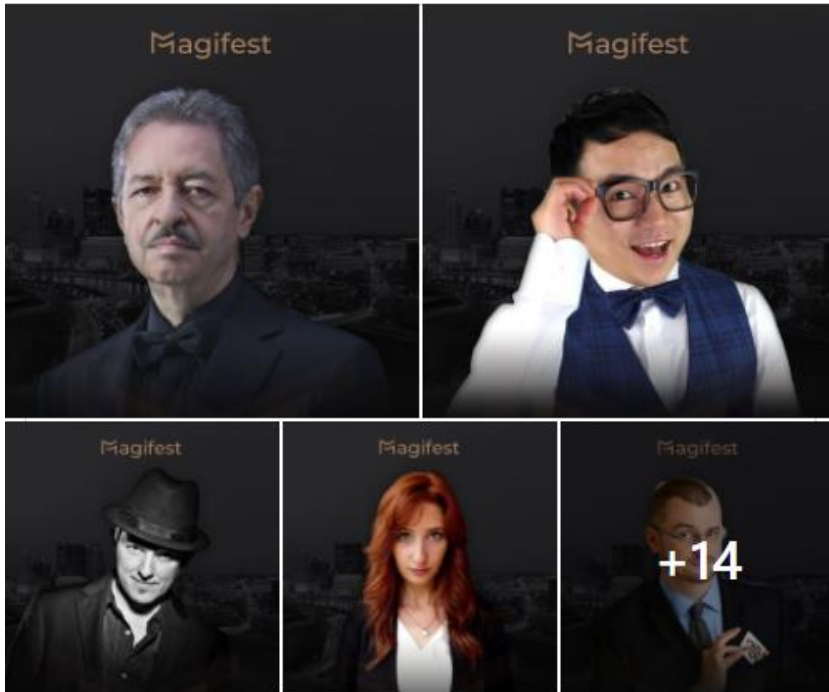


David Michael Fox shared a post.

Admin · November 8 · 🌐

Check out the line up for magifest in a few months... WOW! Hope some of you can make it!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/100045308613876/posts/430615471792070/>

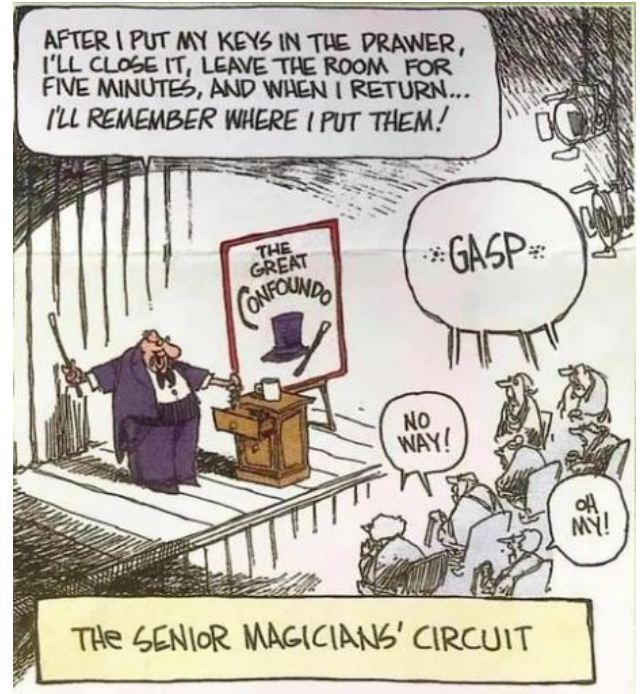


Vanishing Inc. Magic

November 8 · 🌐

Aaaaand here's the line up for Magifest. Can I get a woop woop? We're limiting attendance to just 500 again. So book now to avoid disappointment:

<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/magic.../magifest/>



Travis Nye

November 21 at 11:38 AM · 🌐

For those who are not signed up for my newsletter... Spellbound online store now has everything listed at 35% off. The discount is automatically applied at checkout. Because of high volume and difficulty tracking live inventory I went with only digital content on the website this year. Don't be fooled though there is some really good lectures and classic collections like the Ammar Easy to Master Sets.

If you are looking for a physical trick message me and I am sure I can work the same deal pending inventory.

SBMagicShop.com



Last Friday the club submitted a grant proposal (our first) to the Facebook Sarpy County Data Center. If we receive the \$10,000 grant, it will enable us (**Steve Lindeman**) to deliver four-week magic classes in all 25 Sarpy County elementary schools. Grant recipients will be announced in March 2022. I'll keep you posted.



SME approved SD 211201

AbraCORNdabra

The Midwest's PREMIER Magic Convention

April 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 2022 April Fools Day Weekend!

TODAY IS THE DAY!

Limited to 200 registrations

REGISTRATION	MAGICIANS
December 2nd, 2021 thru January 31st, 2022	\$190 IF AVAILABLE
February 1st, 2022 thru February 28th, 2022	\$200 IF AVAILABLE
March 1st thru March 31st, 2022	\$215 IF AVAILABLE
April 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 2022	\$225 (at the Door) IF AVAILABLE

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Here is the website:
<https://abracorndabra.com>

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