



Centennial Anniversary
1921-2021

The Flash Paper

February 2022

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez

I thoroughly enjoyed our January presenter, Michael Ammar. I have been a fan of his clear teaching style for decades. When I learned his handling of the Bill Switch, the step-by-step approach he used made it possible for me to add it to my developing arsenal (after a good deal of practice) and is something I am proud to use to this day. So, when I heard he was involved in developing the Discover Magic curriculum our Junior Magicians use I knew it would be top drawer.

Thank you to the OMS members who stopped by to watch our Junior Magicians January Magic Recital. The Juniors enjoyed the feeling of support our Club members showed them. They worked hard on their presentations and it really came through during the show. Lots of positive comments from all involved.

Looking forward to February's Monday Night Magic with Joe Cole. I enjoy talking to him whether it's about magic, his pin ball machines, radio-controlled aircraft, his flea circus, or the latest Halloween animatronic creation he has assembled for his yard. This is an evening that will not disappoint.



The Slow-Motion Vanishing Coin

After performing a coin vanish in slow motion where everyone can see where the coin goes, you perform it up to speed and no one has a clue!



All paid up 2022 members will receive the 2022 password to our Online Learning Center. You can pay by logging in to our website.

Check out our website:

<http://TheomahaMagicialSociety.org>



January 2022 Zoom Meeting Discovering the Magic of Michael Ammar

Twenty-three club members welcomed the well-known magician **Michael Ammar** for our January Zoom event. It was a pleasure to host this teacher and founder of the **Discover Magic** program for kids. Our Omaha Magical Society has adopted this curriculum to foster our goal of bringing magic to the community.



For those who are not familiar with our work to cultivate junior magicians, let me describe the platform we are using for this training. Discover Magic provides custom tricks for kids via individual kits with video instruction. The videos support our personalized training because each child can watch and learn at his or her own speed at home. These “top secret” videos not only teach each trick that enhances our training sessions, but they also include bonus tricks of the same theme.

Bonus tricks are not the only bonuses of the curriculum. In addition, there is much value besides the excitement of learning magic. The program also emphasizes eight traits of a true magician. All of these characteristics teach important life skills. Among these virtues, our junior magicians learn the importance of being **respectful** of their audience, **preparedness** through dedicated practice, and **confidence** in public speaking and performing. All build important life skills. As classes progress, our junior magicians graduate each level with a different colored wand and certificate celebrating their success!

So, it was with great pleasure that we welcomed Michael Ammar as our special guest this month. He arrived on Zoom with the same high energy and enthusiasm seen on his YouTube appearances, and he proceeded to teach us several effects. First up was Roth’s Hanging Coins illusion. Ammar walked us through an edge grip,

demonstrating the special dexterity needed to perform coin magic. He also shared a tip for card handling. While showing us a basic card trick, he placed the deck on the empty card case and explained that it is easier to grip and pick up the deck using this technique versus fumbling on an unfamiliar surface.

Paper money tricks are a favorite among our junior magicians. Usually good tricks for beginners, money is a prop that most people carry and can add some fun to any impromptu setting. Michael’s second trick used a dollar bill and a sequence of folds. Magically, George Washington’s face turns from right-side up to upside down just by folding and unfolding the bill. Ammar stepped this basic trick up a notch by using a thumb tip to hide a gimmick bill or one of a different denomination. The same folding routine of left to right, bottom folded up, then left to right and another fold up sets up the effect, but before unfolding it for the reveal, the bill is exchanged for a different one hidden inside the thumb tip. The audience is amazed when, for example, a one-dollar bill changes into a one-hundred-dollar bill!

Michael’s excellent teaching skills were really highlighted as he slowly showed us how to hide the thumb tip behind the small folded packet while slipping the hidden bill out of the tip as he changed hands as part of showing the audience the completed, folded bill. Then, with another transfer of hands, the first bill is slipped into the thumb tip and back onto his thumb as he unfolds the hidden, different bill for the reveal. This technique can be found along with a variety of other instructional videos by visiting his website @ www.store.ammarmagic.com.

Michael Ammar is not only a well-trained performer of magic but also an excellent lecturer and teacher as well. Those of us familiar with his Discover Magic program videos knew this already and were excited to host him as our opening act for 2022.

Thank you to all who joined the event and participated in the Q & A session. The discussion of various effects and techniques topped off a fun performance. It was a great way to begin a magical new year. See you all next month!

By **Patrice Fisher**, OMS Secretary





Monday Night
Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY
Presented by
JOE COLE

Award winning professional magician Joe Cole has been performing his table side restaurant magic for over 30 years - receiving "Best Close-up Magician" and "Most Original Act" recognition from the Society of American Magicians in years past. Joe has also been a performer at the prestigious Magic Castle in Hollywood, proud recipient of the David P Abbott Award, and previous president of The Omaha Magical Society.

With his numerous hours of performing real world magic, he's sharing with us a few of his gems that have been part of his proven repertoire for the last 20 years.

He will also be sharing his thoughts on approaching tables, reading the crowd and also being sensitive to the world in which we now live.

Simultaneously Broadcast on Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>
No charge for attending this event.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022 | FROM 7-8:30 PM (CST)
The Cross Training Center, 5030 N. 72nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska

All in person attendees will be wearing masks and practicing social distancing throughout the evening.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING](https://zoom.us/j/4028718108)

So ... I'm looking at Joe Cole's 36 pages of lecture notes for his presentation at Monday Night Magic (this coming Monday night September 21) when I began to count the number of photos explaining the routines ... 67!

Then I read in one routine the easiest to understand explanations I've ever seen of these work horses for card magicians - Elmsley Count; Hammond Count; Flushstration Count; Riffle Force; and Braue Reversal.

Thank you for your work on these Joe. And thank you too for giving a set AT NO CHARGE to everyone who attends your lecture either in person or over Zoom this coming Monday night. – **Dave Arch**



Larry's Logic

by

Larry Brodahl

Sporadically, I'm going to be writing some articles for the FlashPaper that will cover a variety of topics.

And the topics are going to be "different" at best, and I'm hoping that we'll kick up some thoughts, ideas, and concepts that we call all use and learn from.

And not only will I write about these topics, but I'll also talk on any topic you might have.

Because I want these articles to spark a conversation, if not a debate. I want to make you think....and I want YOU to make ME think!

And while I don't believe that I know everything, I DO have an OPINION on everything....and I'm not shy about sharing my opinions!

And I'm also VERY aware that what I know is what applies to ME, to my choices, and to my experiences. But I believe a lot of my experiences are universal, and every magician has many of the same questions, the same quandaries, the same problems I had.



And I have blind spots. And I'm aware of some of them, but not all. Which means I'll be wrong sometimes, I'll be short-sighted sometimes, and I'll be an idiot sometimes.

And I hope all of you short-sighted, wrong, idiots will join in and make this useful to us all.



Now, some of the topics I plan to cover are:

- Should I buy a trick?
- (Sleight/book/DVD/Streaming lesson?)
- How do I fit a trick into my show?
- Do I have a show?
- Does the trick fit into my show?
- What's my taste?
- What's my character?
- How do I alter material to fit me?
- How do I rehearse -vs- how do I practice?
- Should I change the way a trick works? And if so, how do I do that?
- Can everyone see the trick?
- Can everyone see the CLIMAX?
- Does everyone understand what made the trick happen?

And many more...including, hopefully, any topics you guys might find interesting.



But let's start by talking about **YOU!** Why do you do magic? What do you think your magic should be? What's your personality? What's your sense of humor? What's your style - your taste?

These are all critically important questions which are really difficult to answer, especially if you've only been in magic a short time. But they ALL affect your magic! So, let's start with the first question – **why do you do magic?**

Tons of answers here, and none of them are wrong. You could like magic because it gives you the chance to be the center of attention. Maybe you like owning precision props and knowing their history? Maybe you enjoy the mental exercise of figuring out a trick. All good answers.

But I'll be honest. Being the center of attention is nice, and it was certainly a large factor in why I started doing magic when I was 5. The dream of being the next Houdini was more likely in my mind than being the next Einstein or the next Babe Ruth or Picasso, as I'm neither that smart, that athletic, or that artistic.

And liking the attention means that I like to do shows, which colors my outlook on magic.

But if you're someone that doesn't really perform, then these topics may seem useless to you.

BUT ---- even if you only show your cousin a single card trick at a family gathering...well, you HAVE a show too! Sure, it's an amazingly short show...only one trick.

But it's no different than a one-act play or a vignette. It's no different than writing a short story instead of a novel. And doing any trick for anyone - makes you a magician.

And if you want to be good...or at least thought of as being good, you need to think of yourself as a real, full-fledged magician. Maybe with a limited repertoire, but you're still a magician!

And you need to think about all of those topics above...which we'll do in the future. But we have more to talk about regarding YOU and how YOU affect magic! Which we'll get to next time. - **Larry Brodahl**

Hypno Gum



Buy a pack of Big Red Cinnamon gum. Remove the foil wrapper and wet it so it will stick to someone's forehead with the paper (not the foil) closest to his forehead.

Suggest that the wrapper is getting hotter and hotter and the person will eventually reach up and rip the foil from their forehead. It will become that warm.

My only suggestion to preserve the mystery is to hide the type of gum you're using.

Hypno Paper



Cut a 36" piece of wrapping paper and then roll it into a 36" long tube - taping it so not to unroll. Get three adults to help you from the audience.

Have each clasp their hands – extending their index fingers onto which you rest the paper tube. The tube must always rest on top of the fingers and no thumbs are allowed to grab it. The tube must stay in contact on top of the fingers at all times.

All three adults are now to try and lower the paper tube to the ground with you giving them the hypnotic suggestion that the tube will rise, and they will find it impossible to lower it.

They will. That's all there is to it. It will rise!

Excerpted from the unpublished book *Craft Store Conjuring*. Used with permission.



CABELLA'S AND MAGIC -Giving The Unexpected-



A national sporting supply outlet began at a kitchen table in my home state of Nebraska with a husband-and-wife hand - making fishing flies and selling them through ads in sports magazines.

Their first ad read:

12 Fishing Flies
\$1.00
Postage/Handling
Included

This ad then included their name and post office box for mailing in the orders. Unfortunately, the orders did not come. The couple grew more discouraged with each passing month. However, before quitting they tried one change to their ad.

Here's the change:

Free!
12 Fishing Flies!
\$1.00
Postage/Handling

The rest is history! This company now mails hundreds of thousands of sporting good catalogs each year literally around the world!

We love to receive anything FREE!

Talk shows use t-shirts, caps, dinner coupons, even canned hams. They create great audience energy with their distribution. The giveaways were genuine added value, since no one expected to get anything free when they came to the show.

However, two guidelines seem to be consistently applied by the talk shows in making giveaways most effective.

First, it must be noted that seldom does everyone in the audience get one. This limiting of the number of giveaways seems to increase the value of each giveaway. If you do want everyone in your show to receive something extra, this principle would indicate that it's better to use a variety of giveaways than to give everyone the same thing.

Secondly, the person receiving the giveaway typically does something to get it. On a talk show the person might need to participate in a stunt, answer a question correctly or play in a game.



Even a drawing increases the value of the giveaway.

Test these guidelines with your own giveaways and experience the difference!

From the book Showmanship for Presenters. Used with permission.



February's meeting RAFFLE PRIZES!

Mentalism, Comedy Magic, and Thread Work DVDs are up for grabs at our Monday Night Magic event coming up Monday night February 21st. Both in-person and Zoom participants have an equal chance of winning.





Magifest 2022 - David Fox



Neils Dunker One Man Juggling Show

Magifest 2022 was back on their normal January schedule this year. The convention was, once again, at a reduced capacity as attendance was limited to 500 people. **Andi Gladwin** and **Joshua Jay** took over duties of producing this convention several years ago and they have done some amazing things with it. This year was no exception. They took advantage of having fewer people in attendance and started “Magifest University”. This year all of the attendees got to select their top picks from a list of 8 one-hour sessions held over two days. You could only attend 4 sessions (2 a day) and each was put on by one of guest lecturers. I can only talk about the lectures I attended, but here is a quick summary.

Friday Sessions: **Pete McCabe**, a Hollywood writer, magician, and author of “Scripting Magic” put on a workshop where you learned to hone in on a scrip that fits your character and the effect that you are working on. This is one of the most beneficial parts of the weekend for me.

Garrett Thomas did a session on creativity in magic. This was more a talk on the philosophy on what makes something truly magical to your audience. The greatest thing I got out of this talk was how in depth some of the “greats” think about their performances and justify everything they do. The thorough line of the discussion really hit home when we later watch Garrett Thomas do his 5 minutes during the Gala Show on the last night. I haven’t felt so entertained and so fooled at the same time in a long time. Truly magical.

I did not attend: Impromptu Card Magic with **Caleb Wiles** or Maximum Entertainment with **Ken Weber**.

Saturday Sessions: **Jason England** put on a talk revolving around Gambling and Cheating. This was a Q and A session with one of the world’s leading experts on scams and casino cheating. It really is a fascinating subject to learn about and the talk was fun to be a part of.

Marketing Magic with **David Gerrard**. Unfortunately, David was unable to attend due to quarantining from Covid exposure but had another magician, named **Michael Kent**, stand in and give his views on marketing in magic and how to book more shows. I did not attend Designing Miracles with **Darwin Ortiz** or Thoughtful Card Magic with **Bernardo Sedlacek**.

Over the two and half days there were a total of 12 lectures and shows (not including the MagiFest University sessions). Lectures, talks, and shows were given by the following: **Jason England**, **Garrett Thomas**, **Matt Holtzclaw**, **Mike Pisciotta**, **Denis Behr** (my absolute favorite), **Jason Ladanye**, **Darwin Ortiz**, **Apollo Robbins**, **Jeki Yoo**, **Neils Dunker** (Juggling Show), and a final Gala Show featuring **Stuart McDonald**, **Jeki Yoo**, **Garrett Thomas**, and **Amanda Nepo**.



Mike Pisciotta’s Bar Magic

Going to these conventions always inspires me to get better and spend more time honing my routines. It is great to see world class magical talent hit the stage and do their thing, but what makes these conventions worthwhile is getting to spend time with other magic friends between the sessions talking, laughing, sharing ideas, and just having a good time. I hope each one of you can make it to one of these conventions at some point, they truly are a blast!



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



Might you (or someone you know who lives ANYWHERE in the United States) have a car, trailer, boat or motorcycle that may or may not even be in working condition?

The OMS Board now has The Omaha Magical Society working with a trusted partnering organization who picks up the vehicle and donates a portion of the sale proceeds to the club (and a fair market value tax deduction to the donor) - supporting our continued programming expansions.

You may visit :

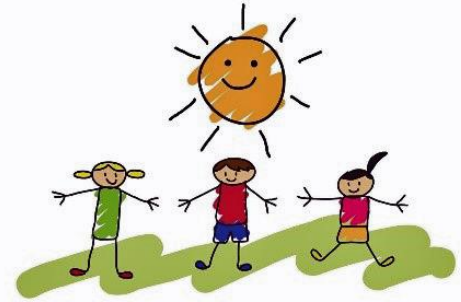
<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/donate> for more information.



Pete's daughter writes that her Dad, Pete Petrashek, has two of these Charlie McCarthy ventriloquist cutouts he would like to sell. Do you know anyone who may be interested?

Looks like the mouth moves.

Since the board agreed to close our Buy-Sell-Trade Facebook page, I told her I'd post it here. Let me know, and I'll pass it on.



Magic That Matures

AFTER SCHOOL MAGIC CLASSES

After two and a half years of design work and testing, I'm pleased to announce the completion of the OMS curriculum for after-school magic classes (along with 24 online instructional videos) ready for roll out in the first quarter of 2022!

You can read more about it here:

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/schools>

More details to come.



A PESSIMIST, AN OPTIMIST,
AND A MAGICIAN.



As we entered the final days of the club's one hundredth birthday year, a short video was developed for Lincoln's Lied Center for the Performing Arts - providing a glimpse into some little-known facts about the role of Omaha in the evolution of magic into the recognized performing art that it is today.

Might you know someone interested in magic who you think would enjoy seeing this link?



[VIMEO.COM](https://vimeo.com/665417352/76ad5bcf97)

100th Anniversary Club Video

Here are some little-known secrets of our Omaha's magic club's one-hundred-year history.



Although most of the club's 2021 meetings were on Zoom, we continued to move forward as seen in this end-of-year video look back:

<https://vimeo.com/665417352/76ad5bcf97>

Thanks to our Flash Paper editor **Bob Gehringer** here's a link to a short, printed overview of the year:

<https://bit.ly/3AekmMK> Much to celebrate!



FISM™

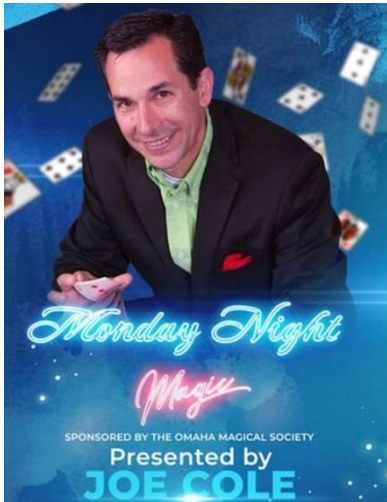
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques
International Federation of Magic Societies

Hey everyone! Hope you had a great Holiday! I don't know how many of you have heard of FISM, but it is held once every 3 years and is considered the Olympics of Magic. The top magic acts from around the world come to compete in several categories like: manipulation, close up, card magic, invention, comedy, parlor, mentalism, and stage illusions.

FISM 2022 is being held in Quebec Canada July 25 to 31, 2022. It is a full week of the best magic in the world! It is the first time since 1948 that it has been held in North America. It is quite a trip, but truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity to join in on something so amazing. I have registered and reserved my hotel room for the week! Let me know if you end up planning to attend as well! – **David Michael Fox**



Happy 80th Birthday Donna Roth
(a.k.a. Bubblegum T. Clown)!

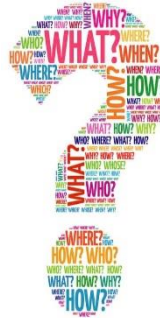


Monday Night Magic

Monday, February 21st
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Cross Training Center
5030 N. 72nd Street
Omaha, NE

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).

All in person attendees will be wearing masks and practicing social distancing throughout the evening.



If you could interview someone who has performed magic professionally in restaurants for over thirty years, what questions might you ask him/her?

“What have you found the best way for you to initially approach a table? What signs do you look for to indicate receptivity to seeing magic? How do you handle a difficult person at a table?” Others?

PM or email Joe (TrickNYou@cox.net) with your questions ahead of his lecture for us at our Monday Night Event on Monday, February 21, and he will attempt to answer as many of the questions as time allows.

2022 OMS Officers

- President** – Steve Nespor omahamagician55@gmail.com
- 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

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