



The Flash Paper

July 2023

Celebration Issue

Bob Gehringer, Editor



A Letter from Lindy

Is it just me or have our monthly meetings this year been some of the most fun in recent memory? Take last month's "MYSTERY MAGIC" night for example. The evening started with a panel discussion on routining, using Dan Harlan's excellent work on the subject as a starting point.



Moderator **Roger Reese** guided the informative discussion that gave everyone plenty to think about. The panelist, **Larry Brodahl**, **Jered Schaugaard** and **David Fox** had plenty to offer based on their years of experience. Thanks to all for sharing your insights. Then it was on with the FUN! Each table of members became a team. By luck of the draw, each team selected from several props available (none came with instructions). Everyone had 15 minutes to come up with a magic routine using the props. The results were hilarious!! Peoples' creativity really came through. Thanks everyone for the laughs.



The props and performances



An update on The Magic in the Hospitals project: Both Children’s Hospital and UNMC have subscribed to our videos. They can use them for a year to lift their young patients’ spirits. We plan to have a new video produced for next year. In addition to the magic routines, the next edition will include tricks taught to the patients using common items found in their rooms. Like tongue depressors, gloves, masks, Kleenexes, etc. By offering the magic on video there are no boundaries to the hospitals we can reach. UNMC Child Life Specialist Lisa was pleased with the results of our field testing so it looks like the club will have **both** TEACHING and PERFORMING hospital videos released in late Fall 2023 for use in 2024.



Lastly, it has been a long time coming, but an **Associate Magicians’** program was finally launched in June. This will be a bridge for young members between the time they graduate from the Discover Magic course, and the time they can join the adult club. Using the OMS Showmanship curriculum this is the next logical step. The first class is a small but very talented group. These lessons will take their magic to the next level. **Roger Reese** and I are excited to be part of this exciting venture. Among the obstacles to getting this project off the ground was securing a place to meet. **Christina Rohling** (member Jane’s mother), graciously offered us a meeting place inside her business, BoxiCanyon Company at 120th and Dodge St. Thank you, Christina! If there are any caramel lovers in our group, be sure to check out BoxiCanyon Company. Awesome Candy!! (I can personally attest to that).



In the picture at the top of this column is this month’s featured magician from Tokyo Japan. Among many other awards and accolades he has been named magician of the year by the Magic Castle's Academy of Magical Arts six times. For close up (2003 & 2006) Parlor (2008 & 2009) and for stage (2015 & 2017). Well known for some of his most famous tricks: Ninja Rings, the Muscle Pass and his Laws of Attraction Illusion. I am sure most of you know that is world class performer, **Shoot Ogawa**, who lectured to our club in 2014.

The Omaha Show Wagon has been conducting their talent contests throughout the metro area this summer. The June 29th event at Sum -Tur Amphitheater saw two of our Junior Magicians entered as a duo act. **Connor** and **Callen Lindeman** tied for 1st place with a 4-girl baton troupe. They will now compete in the finals against other 1st place finishers on August 20th at the Gene Leahy Mall. Congratulation and good luck to **Connor the Magnificent** and **Callen the Incredible!**

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



Monday Night
Magic

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MAGIC AND MEMORY

What trick do you perform that you believe people remember the longest?
What's your theory about why that is?

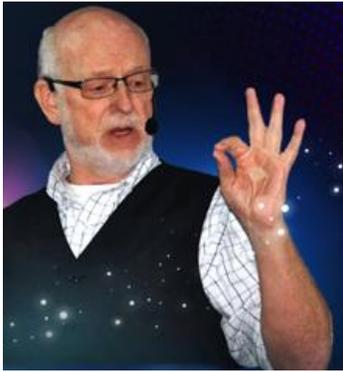
Please bring that trick with you to this month's event so we can all practically brainstorm a list of strategies for making that magic trick even more memorable. We'll use a Jerx magic blog post as our jumping off point with the author reporting on five years of data regarding how frequently someone would mention a trick after it was performed.

What were the common factors?

You can download the findings by using the QR code at the bottom of this poster. Whether you end up agreeing with the article or not, the night's conversation will no doubt help make your magic stronger.

SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON ZOOM:
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023 | 7-8 PM (CDT)
The Cross Training Center • 5030 N. 72nd Street •
Omaha, Nebraska
No charge for attending this event.



Larry's Logic

Practicing a trick

Hopefully we're all aware that we need to practice tricks. But are

we all aware that there's different types of practice for a trick?

There is the practicing of the physical part of the script. Double lift, tilt, put card to center, etc.

The “mechanics” of the trick. And these need to be done over and over until there's absolutely no thinking about.

You want the physical and/or mental actions of the trick to be as comfortable and effortless as walking. And walking is crazy complicated.

<https://www.livescience.com/1703-walk-amazing-complexity.html>



And if you've ever watched a little kid learn to walk, you can see exactly how long it took him to master it. And now, at whatever age you are, barring any problems, you can run, walk, amble, stroll, strut, saunter, etc. down the street WITHOUT thinking.

I always assume that it will take me at LEAST 50 complete run-throughs of a trick – AFTER I'VE LEARNED THE SLEIGHTS – to begin to feel really comfortable with the routine.

Then, once the trick begins to feel comfortable, I add the script to the rehearsals. And this will surprisingly screw you up.

The trick that you thought you could do without thinking suddenly becomes the trick you “sorta-kinda” know. And remembering the lines of the script throws you off track. Sometimes, the script and the physical actions just don't mesh.

This is to be expected. But if you persevere, you will find – suddenly – that everything just flows.

Now I do want to tell you to pay attention as you rehearse. This is where you will see flaws in the handling. Where you pick up a card, just to put it back down, for no good reason. Or realize you're counting cards onto the table and haven't explained WHY you're doing that.

Also, I'd like to recommend that you actually rehearse the script aloud! I realize this sounds embarrassing, as most of us live with others, and we'll feel like we're being disruptive.

Well, go somewhere they aren't. Rehearse in the basement. Or the computer room, or in the sunroom. I used to rehearse just scripts during the drive to work.

Because when you rehearse with SOUND, your timing changes, you discover lines that are ONLY good on paper and sound stupid when said aloud. Which means you'll rewrite that portion of the script and start rehearsing it all over again.

This is also a lovely way to discover funny lines. After all, if you're going to rehearse it another 50 times, you have 50 times to stumble across a funny bit, voice, move, or situation.



And when you have the routine down pat, I advise you to make 2 videos.



First video is from the spectator's viewpoint. If you decide to start doing the trick again in a few years, this video will allow you to quickly re-learn the trick by LISTENING instead of reading. It will also allow you to hear timing, inflection, and emphasis which is hard to specify in a script.

I tape EVERY show I do. This way I have my most current script and handling always ready.

The second video should be an EXPLANATION of the trick. I can't count the number of times that I've put a trick down for a year or two, and end up having to recreate each and every move.

And at the end of all of this, you'll have a trick.



“Well, it's time for me to put my money where my mouth is.” – Larry Brodahl

In last month's panel, I mentioned how important I thought feedback was. Well, let's try this on a wholesale basis.

The following video is a new item that I just debuted, and I'd like your feedback.

Nothing is off the table. You can critique my clothes, choice of tricks, jokes, blocking and staging, etc. I have a thick skin and a thicker skull.

I will tell you that this is the FIRST public performance, and was nowhere near what I expected to perform. About 3 days before this show, I realized that the method and script I was using was just not working. Script was too long, etc.

So, I rewrote the entire thing using a different methodology, tightened up some spots, changed the number of volunteers, etc.

The audience was about 25 seniors at a luncheon.

And THERE ARE FLAWS. Because I've seen them. So, I'm hoping you guys can give me other ideas on improvements, alternative handlings, etc.

Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/jXpDcVB7C18>

Leave your comments on the club Facebook page or contact me at labrodahl@gmail.com.



What's Your Magic Story by Patrice Fisher

The Great Drewdini

An old magic kit caught the curiosity of **Drew McIntyre**, one of the club's junior magicians, while he and his parents perused the contents of an antique store while on vacation in Chicago. Four years later, now eleven-year-old Drew has mastered that Fischer Price Magic Kit and a whole variety of other illusions.

He was six years old when he learned his first trick and experienced the delight of his friends and family. From there, Drew found the Omaha Magical Society and began participating in our club classes.

Drew found that he loved performing. With high confidence and a taste for audience applause and accolades, at seven years of age, Drew attended the Bellevue Little Theater summer program. Magicians are highly skilled fools, and the theater was just the ticket to learning acting skills to enhance his craft.



The Bellevue Little Theater Talent Show was the highlight of that summer. Drew made his stage debut at seven years old after trying-out and getting a spot in the show! However, when it was showtime, his first stage experience was

almost delayed, due to an emergency visit to the dentist. The night before Drew's debut, his knee collided with his front baby tooth after a hard landing off of a high platform while practicing gymnastics. It was off to the

dentist for an immediate extraction. That night, sore and swollen, Drew went to bed unsure if he could speak clearly enough to perform in his first show. But, by the next morning his enthusiasm and excitement overcame any misgivings. He knew he was prepared, so on with the show! Using the song "Hey Look Ma, I Made It!" for his background music, Drew made a volunteer's twenty-dollar bill disappear, and for his finale, it reappeared inside a lemon! His fine handling of a change bag, as well as The Four Aces card trick, were also part of his performance.

Card magic is his favorite. In particular he likes the Dragon Shuffle and performs it with ease. It is fun to hear his patter when we ask our *Discover Magic* students to perform after learning an effect. During the Covid shutdown, we continued classes via ZOOM. During my interview with Drew, his mom, Becky, mentioned how much she appreciated the continuity, sense of normalcy, and extra activity provided through our on-line classes during the pandemic.

Drew is in fifth grade now, but his former teachers and his peers still mention the three magic shows he performed for different classes when he was in the first grade. His abilities and repertoire continue to expand with the guidance that our Junior Magicians classes provide. In addition to learning magic, there are various good magician traits, and, for that matter, life skills, that students acquire with each trick.

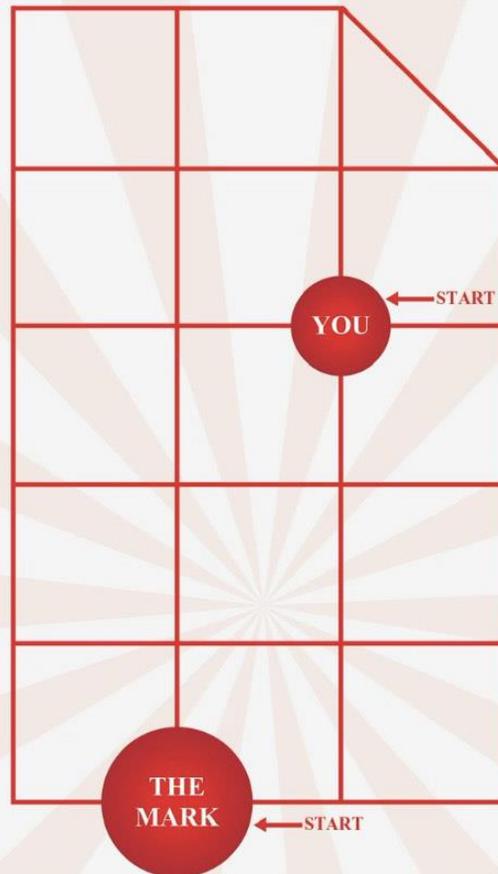


Two important traits we emphasize in *Discover Magic* classes and that Drew employs in his magic, are practice and confidence. Practice builds confidence, and through his dedication to magic, Drew clearly embodies these key attributes. It is gratifying to watch his

wonderment and enthusiasm as he continues learning and performing magic!



CAPTURE THE COIN



1. Two people compete. Put a large coin on The Mark's starting circle and a small coin on your (The Operator's) starting circle.
2. As the Operator, you always move first.
3. Each move is one block in any direction.
4. You try to move your smaller coin so that it ultimately lands on top of The Mark's larger coin. The Mark attempts to keep their coin away from yours.
5. If the mark's coin isn't captured in 50 moves, The Mark wins the game.



Omaha Magic Jam

By Tom Neddo

As many of you know, **David Fox** and **Jonathan Summerland** have been leading the Lincoln Magic Jam on the 1st Saturday of every month for over a year now and it has been quite the success. Great things happen when Magicians get together to talk magic, show off a new trick or sleight, or just solve the world's problems. I have enjoyed it so much that I thought it would be cool to get something going in Omaha. So, without further adieu, I introduce to you, the **Omaha Magic Jam!** The meetings are located at the Inner Rail Food Hall. The Inner Rail is spacious with plenty of options for food and drinks. It's located in Aksarben Village (behind the HDR building) with free garage parking and easy access to the food hall. This is an unstructured, loosely planned event so bring your magic and get ready to jam! If you have any questions, let me know.



Inner Rail Food Hall in Aksarben Village

<https://www.innerrailfoodhall.com/>

Please note, you do not have to be an OMS member to attend. Details are below.

Hope to see you there!

Omaha Magic Jam

Location: Inner Rail Food Hall

Address: 1911 S 67th St. Omaha, NE 68106

Date: July 15th (3rd Saturday of each month)

Time: 2:00pm until...

Puzzlers

(Answers appear elsewhere in this issue.)

Ten parts of the human body can be spelled with only three letters. Can you name them?



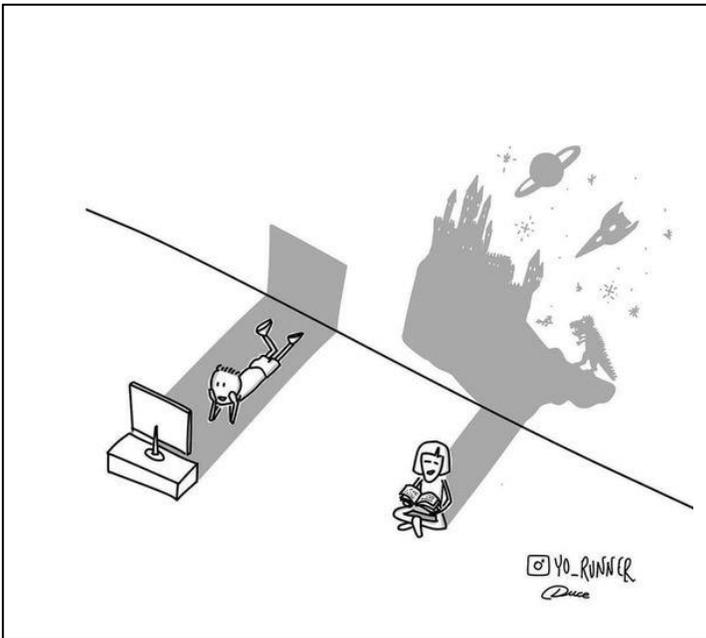
What is it that was given to you, still belongs to you, that you've never lent to anyone, but is used by everyone you know?



Save the Date!
Magic Club Picnic is back at
the Boys Town Great Hall.
Saturday, August 19th
Watch for more information.



Flashback to the UNO Library Friends event and **David Fox** saw this photo on Facebook and thought that it also relates to magic and how magic books inspire creativity far **more than video downloads.**

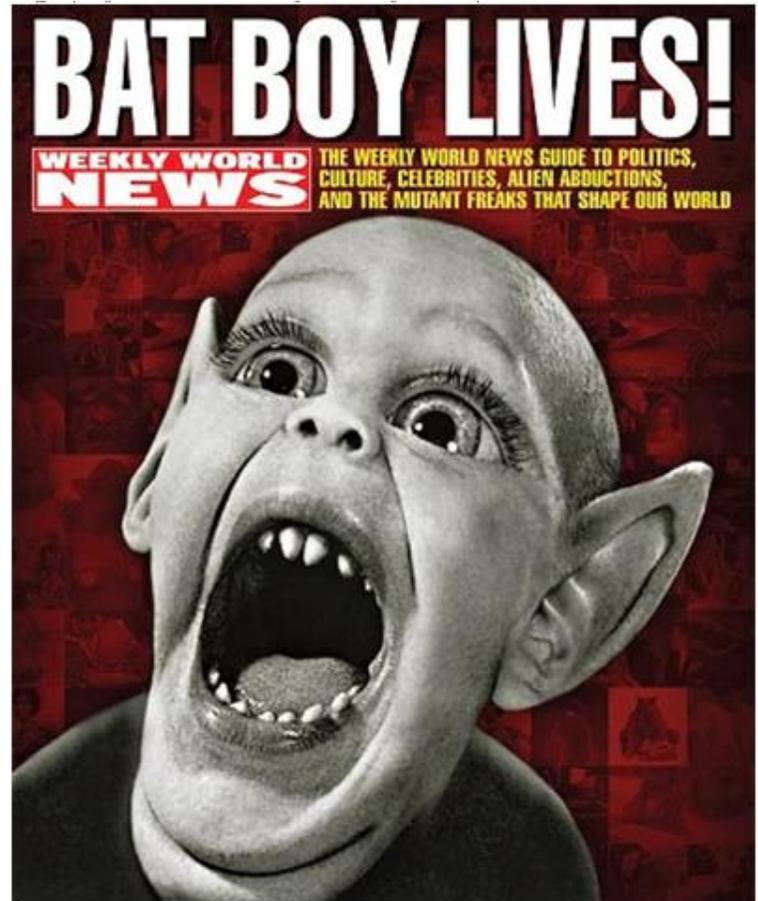


Jered Schaugaard wrote in our April edition about the library event: As I was getting ready to wrap things up, I caught one of the librarians and asked her what she thought about reading versus video. What she had to say is relevant to one of our recent OMS conversations, so I'll leave you with this. She picked up a book and held it flat on her hand. Then she looked me in the eyes and said, "Reading is active. Video is passive. This simple action of turning a page," she turned the page slowly, "creates an opportunity for you to pause and reflect on what you just read. When something is described in a book, the reader has to create their own image of what they just read. Video takes all the imagination away."



Eye Catching Headlines

(Explanations elsewhere in this issue.)



**Gioacchino
Antonio Rossini
Composed 50
Operas before his
11th Birthday!**



5 RAFFLE WINNERS winning at our Monday Night Magic! 5 different Reel Magic DVDs with interviews and tricks from different performers. Both in-person and Zoom participants have an equal chance of winning.

Monday Night Magic

Monday June 19th 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).

Headline Explanation: Gioacchino Antonio Rossini Composed 50 Operas before his 11th Birthday! This is actually true. However, what isn't in the headline is that the composer was born on February 29th of a leap year, and actually was 44 years old by the time he celebrated his 11th "birthday."

Solution to CAPTURE THE COIN: As the Operator you move your coin around the triangle in the upper right-hand corner first. If you do that, you will always win. If you don't, you won't.

#2. Your name.

#1. Arm, toe, eye, jaw, gum, hip, leg, ear, and rib.

Solution and Explanations

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

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