



# The Flash Paper

## March 2023

**Bob Gehringer, Editor**



### A Letter from Lindy

Everywhere Gina and I travel, we try to catch a magic performance. Having spent half the

month of February in Florida, we were unable to locate a show anywhere near us. I was asked to perform at a 50's+ community we were visiting. I did a little strolling at their nightly happy hour. It was a very fun group to perform for.

Being gone from home for so long, we certainly missed a lot. I wasn't disappointed with some of the things we missed. Like the spring snowstorm that came through. Over 7" I heard. Fortunately, I didn't have to break out the snow shovel. Most all traces of the white stuff had disappeared by the time we landed in Omaha.



Photo by Mike Bitter

Some other things I missed I was very disappointed in. First of all, there was the *Reza Illusion* show at the Lied Center in Lincoln. The club was contacted by Reza's team and offered 20 tickets to the show. They also arranged a private meet and greet session with Reza

beforehand. 26 members attended, most of who met for dinner at Lazlo's ahead of time. The show received mostly great reviews from our members. Sorry I missed this fun event.

Then, there was the February meeting. "Bring a Trick", and a new feature "It's Debatable". There was a total of 26 in attendance, live and on zoom. Several people brought a trick to get feedback from the group. After one round, the middle section of the meeting had lively discussions on some thought-provoking subjects. Then, back to the tricks in small groups. From all accounts, it was a very high-energy evening that continued well past the formal end of the meeting.

One last item, the announcement was made for the "OMS 2023 WIZARD WARS COMPETITION". **David Fox** has lined up a fun competition with a few surprises. The rules were spelled out to all those in attendance. It will be limited to six teams of 2-6 competitors. The teams will receive their props at the March meeting and have a full month to prepare. A three-judge panel will decide the winners. Who, among other things, will have bragging rights for a full year.

You can sure miss a lot in two weeks. I'm looking forward to this month's meeting. **Denny Rourke** will be hosting "TABLE TOP TEACHINGS". You'll have a choice of which slights you want to learn/improve on. There will be four stations around the room.

The lineup looks like this:

**Larry Brodahl** - False shuffles, cuts, and forces

**David Fox** - controls

**Jered Schaugaard** - peeks

**Denny Rourke** - flourishes

It's going to be another can't miss evening!

Until next month.



### Review of *REZA The Edge of Illusion*

Saturday February 18th **Reza** brought *The Edge of Illusion* show to the Lied Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. Omaha Magic Society members, attended the Meet and



Greet before Reza's show that evening, where he talked about how he started in magic. Reza spoke of how Covid benefited him, and his show, because while Las Vegas was closed – Branson was open with distancing and masking. People that wanted entertainment came to his show. People remembered his billboards and Branson advertising so when he tours different towns he would sell out. A question was asked about how magicians can protect their proprietary show content. He candidly told of a time when **David Copperfield** called him about some of his performance and suggested it may have been too close to what David was doing on stage. After cordial conversation together, they were able to resolve the issue. He stated that it is very difficult to patent or copywrite material regarding magic and the best process is to just have a conversation and work out the similarities in the performance.

On to REZA evening show- It started with videos highlighting his performances and his ascending popularity. I loved the video with the little boy driving by the marquee showing SOLD OUT and the little boy so disappointed he was not going to be able to attend the Reza show. The mother surprised the boy saying I already bought tickets. The excitement the young boy expressed is probably what all magicians hope to convey to all the young boys and girls watching their shows. The video went on with great promotions so we all knew we were going to witness something great. (Great Marketing)

He started his show Appearing on a motorcycle. Went on to have a ball chosen & initialed and shot across the stage and the ball ended up in the assistant's mouth. He had a girl float thru the air, then went on to do a version of the

trick he did on Penn and Tellers Fool us. Reza showed pictures of **Harry Houdini** and then did the trick walking thru a brick wall. Reza picked a young helper. Poured pop in 2 Styrofoam cups and they put them over their heads. Reza was behind the helper and drank his pop showing when he turned the cup over it was empty. Nothing is Impossible from Reza he had the volunteer turn his over and it too was empty. Great intro to talking about what he was selling along with a Magic coloring book of pictures of his show, and back stage passes. Intermission gave everyone an opportunity to buy whatever they wanted.



He continued with story how he started Magic and the Linking Rings. Then 2 volunteers guessing what was in the box- something that would scare them and a Snake appeared. He had a large illusion of him being squeezed together. He shared Oreos and had the cream inside double in size. He had a prediction box, revealing a person's name, word she chose, candy bar no longer made and a chosen card. He ended with a production of a helicopter. The lighting, fog, and loud music all enhanced the performance.

As I stood outside the theatre after the show had ended, I listened to the comments of the audience as they discussed what they had just witnessed. Comments ranged from incredible, amazing, unbelievable, and of course, "how did he do that!". The audience seemed to love what they had just seen.

My question is what makes a Great Magic Show to a Magician – One with illusions/tricks they cannot figure out or ones that they can??? It is a question, great for a discussion that I would love to hear what you think.

Lastly, I would like to thank Reza for bringing his show to Nebraska so that many more young people can be inspired like he was and maybe make magic part of their life. - **Joyce Chleboun**





### February's Bring a Trick

Despite the cold February night, twenty-four of our Omaha Magical Society members met for our monthly meeting of magic and discussion.



The first part of the evening's event was table magic by those wanting to gain performance feedback. With six tables of four magicians at each, there proved to be a lot of moving parts. Fortunately, new member **Adam Schacht** played the role of MC for welcoming everyone, organizing the tables of four, and providing time management for the first twenty-minute block of the agenda. Each table had ten minutes for any two people who wanted to perform and receive presentational tips and ideas from the group at their table.

Next, **Steve Nespor** presented a topic of discussion regarding the merit of YouTube in helping or hurting the art of magic. Two debatable questions were chosen to spur group conversation. This led to a spirited discussion for the sake of conversation, not to gain consensus, but to generate and communicate different opinions.

After the group discussion, table magic resumed for those who had not yet had the opportunity to perform. Tables were encouraged to switch around, if desired, and then, another round of ten-minute routines began, followed by constructive feedback from the table. It was entertaining to see senior and new members sharing their

magic and creating a supportive, respectful, and fun atmosphere. By the way, those are all traits of a truly fine magician. So, I would like to recognize that this is yet another indicator of the high quality club we are cultivating together.



Nathen Roberts, Mike and Ruth Bitter and Roger Reece

Before ending the night, a raffle was held to win a set of three Marc DeSouza DVDs and also a "World's Best Magician" coffee mug.

Thanks to everyone who braved the frosty temperatures, brought a trick to show and discuss, and participated in creating a lively night of camaraderie and magic! You are making the new year a good year! - **Patrice Fisher**, with kind contributing from **Dave Arch** and **Adam Schacht**



### Get your team together.

The 2023 Wizard Wars competition is scheduled for our APRIL's Monday Night Magic.

Click <https://bit.ly/3xAeGvZ> to download the full information to get a team ready for the fun.

After teams have been submitted, they will be announced by the end of the March OMS meeting.





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## CARD SLEIGHTS

With the leadership of host Denny Rourke, author of *The Everything Card Tricks Book* and his team of OMS member card enthusiasts, come and spend time at tables of your choice - learning and finessing such card sleights as forces, peeks, double lifts, flourishes, false shuffles, and controls.

In addition, three copies of Denny's book will be given away in our event raffle to three lucky participants. Those meeting in-person as well as those joining via Zoom have equal chances of winning.

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023 | 7-8 PM (CST)**

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

No charge for attending this event.



## Larry's Logic WHY 3 TIMES

Ok – we're doing good. We've changed the selection process rather easily, and we've given the spectator a reason to look for his card in the face down piles.

So why are we doing tests?

We've decided that our premise is that we are going to see how psychic someone is. But why 3 tests?

This is an EXCELLENT question. And even though it may never come up in our script, it still needs to be answered. Which probably seems weird, but it's a way to flesh out a concept in your mind to make it seem more real. Which makes scripting easier.

So, we left ourselves with the question as to “why 3 times.”

If you remember, I said that this was starting to feel like a test of his psychic ability. So, I Googled the word “test”.

And arrived at my second favorite plot-fixer-upper tool – Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Test\\_\(assessment\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Test_(assessment))

Wherein I found the phrase, “A test score may be interpreted with regards to a norm or criterion, or occasionally both”.

Now, this phrase may not mean much to you, but it told me that I could try to legitimately determine a “norm” by giving multiple tests. In this case, THREE and then a test after increasing their psychic ability!

Now, if I'm going to give multiple tests, there should be something different about each test to imply that I'm testing different things about the spectator. In my case, I consider the testing to be of “boundaries” of his psychic abilities.



So, look at the premise of our version of the 21-card trick. “We'll find out how psychic you are, and we'll try to INCREASE that ability.”

That's a premise! Good emotional hook, something that onlookers will find interesting, and something easily provable.

Now, I'm not going to discuss “what” you'll do to make the volunteer more psychic. Could be anything, and it's irrelevant to “fixing holes”.

So, test 1 will be dealt differently than the other tests. Remember, the spectator memorized 1 card among many and then shuffled. So, I can deal the piles (NOT rows) anyway I want for the first test.

I choose to deal them in a sequence of 3 cards, 1 card, 3 cards. Yeah, in clumps! 3 left, 3 right, 3 middle, 1 middle, 1 left, 1 right, 3 left, 3 middle, 3 right.

No obvious pattern. Then the spectator lays out the coins indicating (DEFINITE, MAYBE, NOT) and I pick up the DEFINITE pile and spread then – faces toward him) to see if he was right.

If he was right, I go to the *assembly process*. If he wasn't right, I drop that pile on the table and pick up the MAYBE pile and spread them to he can find out if he was right. Regardless of the outcome, I go to the *assembly process*.

### ASSEMBLY PROCESS:

There are 2 possible outcomes when you enter the assembly process. Either you're holding a pile that HAS the chosen card in it, or the REMAINING pile has the chosen card. So, let's break that down.

### YOU HAVE THE CHOSEN CARD:

Drop the packet in your hand onto EITHER of the piles on the table. Pick up the remaining pile and drop it onto the “combined” pile.

### REMAINING PILE HAS THE CARD:

Drop the packet in your hand onto the REMAINING





**PILE.** Pick up this “combined” pile and drop it onto whichever pile remains on the table.

**RECAP:** So, with a little thinking and playing with cards, we have given the spectator a **VALID** and **INTELLIGENT** reason for doing the test more than once.

We've introduced the concept of piles rather than rows, and we're dealing with face down piles that we **NEVER** see the face of.



We've also introduced coins into the trick, as well as an initial dealing process that looks **NOTHING** like the original 21 Card trick.

**NEXT TIME:** Let's throw on a little more confusion into this.



### NEW Video in the OMS Online Vault

**Larry Brodahl** calls his handling of **John Cornelus'** sliding knot **SMIMMING**, and this month he contributes both a live performance and a step-by-step explanation of it to our online video library.



All paid OMS members have access with the link and password.

Thank you Larry.



## COLLECTIONS UNCORKED

*A Magical Evening*



### COLLECTIONS UNCORKED: A MAGICAL EVENING

**March 24, 2023**

**6:00 P.M.**

*Criss Library*  
University of Nebraska at Omaha



This magical evening includes multiple food stations with exceptional wine pairings. During the event, guests will have the opportunity to experience live magic, and interact with the recently acquired Omaha Magical Society book collection!

Tickets are \$100 per person. The proceeds will go to the UNO Library Friends, who in turn, provide scholarships for UNO students.

Scan the QR code or visit the URL to learn more about this event and purchase tickets.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
402.554.2640 | [library.unomaha.edu/cu](http://library.unomaha.edu/cu)

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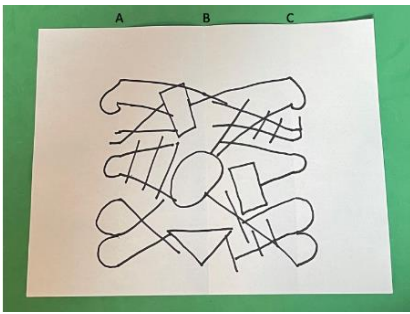
### 2023 OMS Officers

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

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

## Hieroglyphical Prediction

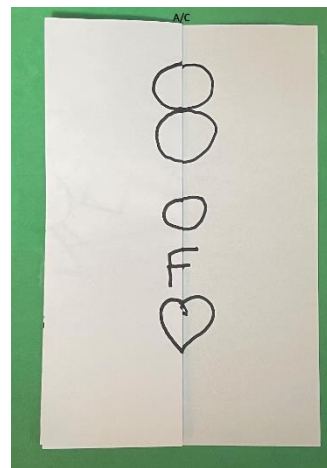


The magician has an odd sheet of what looks like hieroglyphics hanging in full display throughout his show. Several times during the show, the magician has referenced it as something she or he will be using later.

At the conclusion of a prediction trick, the magician does, indeed, take the weird sheet off the wall and (after making several quick folds) reveals that the puzzling hieroglyphics spell out a prediction made obviously before the show began! Audience members usually react in astonishment as the message comes into view.

1. To prepare for this fun revelation, take an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper and fold it vertically into four equal columns. (The creases will be 8.5" long.) As you look down at the paper, we will call from left to right the first crease A, then crease B, and finally C. You might wish to use an antiqued color paper stock to give it the appearance of a hieroglyphic wall.
2. Fold the paper so that Crease C comes over and meets crease A. (This will happen thanks to crease B.)
3. On the paper folded as above, use a felt marker to print your prediction words. Position the words vertically (one letter under the other) - writing on the creases so that about half of every letter or design is to the left of crease A and some of each letter is to the right of crease C.
4. Now unfold the paper and use your marker to disguise what you've just done by filling the paper between what now looks like random marks with other truly random marks.

5. Eventually, your unfolded paper will look like a sheet of indiscernible hieroglyphics. For further deception display the sheet upside down on stage.
6. Hang this up in your performing area to draw curious inquiries from your participants. (To be even more deceptive, make a copy and hang that in the room. Then your creases won't even be present.)
7. At the conclusion of the prediction trick, take the sheet of hieroglyphics and claim that this is your prediction in hieroglyphics (ha! ha!) - finally folding it so that crease C again touches crease A, and it will reveal your prediction.



As you'll notice in folding the paper, you have the entire backside unexposed to the audience - waiting for your imagination to use it for yet another kicker. – **Dave Arch**









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## Monday Night Magic

**Monday March 20th 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Cross Training Center  
5030 N. 72<sup>nd</sup> 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

