



The Flash Paper December 2022

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez

Congratulations to our OMS 2023 President, **Steve Lindeman**. I have enjoyed working with him as part of our Junior Magicians team along with **Patrice Fisher**, and know he will bring the same insightful thinking and experience as a working performer to his new leadership role. The Club is in good hands as he, Vice President **Bruce Jacoby**, Treasurer **Bob Gehringer**, Secretary **Patrice Fisher**, and our Sergeant at Arms **Tim Begley** get ready to guide the OMS into the new year.

Speaking of 2023, this January we begin another Wand Level for our Junior Magicians. If you know of a young person with an interest in magic, please consider having

them join us. We meet in person once a month (which is also Live Streamed) and online the other Mondays, so new students don't even need to live here in the immediate Omaha area to participate. In addition to the Discover Magic effects we also cover classics like Thieves and Sheep, the Slop Shuffle, Coin in Elbow, the Clock Trick, and Tic Tac Know, just to name a few. Students also receive a copy of Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic book. As a magician yourself, you can be a tremendous resource as a mentor for the next generation of magical performers.

I am really looking forward to this month's meeting. We've emptied the club's magic closet and chosen dozens of presents for those who attend December's Monday Night Magic. This is a "closed" event for OMS members and regular attendees, a rare magicians-only event. It is a gift exchange game with magic effects as the prizes. Everyone joining (both in-person or on Zoom) will get a magic trick, book, DVD, or combination for this end-of-the-year party. No need to bring a gift to exchange, the Club is providing all the gifts and there are some real treats included.

See you Monday, December 19, 2022 at The Cross Training Center - 5030 N. 72nd Street Omaha, Nebraska or online.

2023 OMS Officers Elect

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



Road Trip to Adventureland of Magic

Our Omaha Magical Society was pleased to host magician **Ben Ulin** as our November Monday Magic guest. He spent the evening graciously sharing his mastery of magic, while interjecting nuggets of knowledge gained through his many years as a successful magician. Ben's background is worth noting. He sets the bar high for comedy



paired with magical entertainment at his Adventureland Park in Dubuque, Iowa, where he has performed at Sam's Saloon since 1988! This is his thirty-fifth year as a worldwide comedic magician! So, his visit to our stage was very well attended and proved to be very educational because of his creativity and tips.

Clearly, Ben is a sharp storyteller. Each illusion he performed for us was born out of individualized interactions with the audience. His persona was that of a rather nervous magician who provided a relaxed, humorous evening of card tricks; standard, yet creative use of rope illusions; mentalism; and his own multiplying dot flashcard effect.

Interspersed with his sets, Ben gave excellent career advice to the twenty-nine in-house and ZOOM attendee members. Magicians must practice and use every opportunity to perform in public. Repetitive performing is Ben's mantra. One practical piece of advice to achieve performing for folks would be to find a magic shop, and ask the owner if you can show up to explain a trick, answer questions, and perform for visitors and potential shoppers. Obviously, this could be a win-win for both the store owner and the performer. Restaurants, parties, festivals, libraries, and assisted-living venues will also "do the trick." Early on in his career, Ben was a San Francisco street performer. He said it was really invaluable to building his self-confidence and finding his authenticity as a young magician. One venue that was particularly important was when Ben was the host of a Comedy Club. Talk about trial by fire! But, by

observing the comedians and watching how they scripted their acts to draw the audience into their world of comedy, Ben developed his own successful act as a comedian magician.

If you visit the Adventureland Resort website or Ben Ulin's Productions webpage, you will find a wide variety of upcoming events.



We thank Ben Ulin for taking time out of his very busy performing schedule to visit our club. He not only shared his smooth sleights with us, but gave our members invaluable information about magic as a career. Ben is always welcome on our stage! –

Patrice Fisher
Secretary, O.M.S.
Omaha, Nebraska Assembly 7





Monday Night

Magic

2022

HOLIDAY PARTY

In honor of the holidays, we've ransacked the club's magic closet and gathered armloads of holiday presents for those who attend December's Monday Night Magic.

Everyone joining (both in-person or on Zoom) will go home with at least one magic book or DVD plus another magic trick designed just for this end-of-the-year party.

Plus . . . it'll not only be fun when we first open our gifts but also when we successfully swipe a gift from another.

Simultaneously broadcast on Zoom:

zoom.us/j/4028718108

No charge for attending this event.

Monday, December 19, 2022 | 7-8 PM (CST)

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





What's Your Magic Story? by Patrice Fisher

Rekindling a Past Love

Retirement opens up all sorts of new adventures and often a reunion with old passions long replaced by the happenings of daily life. After retiring from his practice as a physician, Steve Osborn decided to revive his practice of magic.



So, while pulling the boxes of magic props, books and memories from his attic, Steve was anxious to reconnect with his love of magic and hopefully the wonders of some muscle memory. His interest in magic began with simple magic tricks that his father taught him at the dinner

table, like using a napkin and a toothpick that was broken and then magically restored! Then, a family trip to Las Vegas and his first visit to a magic shop really sparked Steve's curiosity. This young twelve-year-old was energized and, along with a friend, decided to learn more by reading whatever books about coins and cards that the library could offer. Then, at sixteen, magic exploration was greatly enhanced by gaining the keys to the car, once he and his buddy earned their driver's licenses.

It was the era of Doug Henning, The Amazing Kreskin, Blackstone and the new television show, *The Magician*, starring Bill Bixby. Johnny Carson, a former OMS member, invited the magicians of the day onto his late-night television show, the most watched program in the country. The *Tonight Show with Johnny Carson* was a vehicle of huge support for magicians during this revival period. The popularity of magic skyrocketed! Magic shops were found in even the smallest of towns back then.

One of these was a fabulous store, *The Wizard Magic Shop*, owned by Sam "the Hat" Kent. It was probably the most popular store on Pearl Street in Boulder, Colorado, and was known not only in nearby cities, but also, in surrounding states. The store had a fantastic

collection of books, props and magic effects for close-up or stage illusions. The staff had an energy that was like electricity creating a safe, friendly space for lovers of magic. Once discovered by the boys, it became a destination event whenever they had a free day and a car to take them the three hours from their hometown of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Steve loved watching the coin and card effects performed by one of the store's employees, Lamont Ream. Lamont practiced his sleight-of hand in the store by day and became a very well-known magician doing close-up restaurant magic in Boulder and Denver by night. Ream shared nuggets of knowledge to Steve each time he visited the shop.

Back home, Steve befriended a stage magician. Soon he was learning illusions such as Zig Zag, the Zombie Ball, and Linking Rings. Stage production opened up a new world and he gladly assisted with whatever was needed for the show. But, Steve preferred close-up sleight-of-hand. With the confidence earned through observation and practice, Steve often entertained friends, fellow classmates, and workmates by performing the magic he was learning. Word got around, and he soon was asked to do birthday and other shows around the town!

Magic continued to be his hobby while he attended college at the University of Nebraska -- Lincoln. On campus, he met another magician who performed close-up magic at restaurants and soon would fill-in when his friend needed him. But, his magic craft was set aside while Steve studied medicine and moved to Omaha to practice and start a family. Both of those were fulltime endeavors and produced a thirty-year gap in his magic making.



Which brings us up to today and retirement. While rediscovering another of his hobbies, plastic modeling, Steve met Neil Bable, who is one of our members! Through this connection, Steve found our Omaha Magical Society. Now that Steve has time to rekindle his love and curiosity for the art and science of magic. He is finding the support, talent, enthusiasm, and friendliness of our members very motivating. So, when you see Steve at our monthly magic events, please introduce yourself. Who knows, he might even be so kind as to listen to your latest ailment as well as talking magic!



Larry's Logic

Processes

A process is defined as: “a series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end.”

Every trick has a process to follow, even if it's a simple as “pick a card”.

Often the processes required by the trick prevent you from correctly learning the trick.

For example, self-working tricks, such as the 21-card trick, the vanishing beer bottle (rubber), and even nearly self-working tricks, such as most thumb tip tricks are, to me, so difficult to learn.

And I don't mean that they're hard to learn how they work, but rather they are hard to rehearse over and over and over, as it's *boring*.

And it's only by doing a trick dozens of times that you begin to get a true feel of how the script and trick mesh.

It's also the way you discover little interesting things that can make the trick more deceptive, harder to deconstruct, and more confounding to both laymen and magicians.

There's also an issue where you have to decide if the process requirements of a trick **OVERRIDE** its ability to mystify.

For example, there's a self-working trick that requires the magicians to take 4 cards from the top of the deck and put the cards on the bottom of the deck.

It's up to **YOU** to decide if that hurts the trick. [Yes! The answer is Yes!]

Because there's nothing inherent to the trick that would explain **WHY** you're moving 4 cards around. But yet, for the trick to work, you have to.

Luckily, the trick has a dealing process later on where you deal 2 piles, 1 face up and 1 face down. This means that there's a very easy way to disguise the process so it appears unimportant and understandable.

You simply deal 4 cards to the table top, one at a time, into 2 piles, 1 face up and 1 face down. And you say, “This is how I'm going to split the deck in two”.

And as you say this, you turn the face up cards face down, put them on top of the face down cards, and set the deck atop those 4 cards.

The cards have been moved from top to bottom! But not obviously. Actually, the audience will not remember you even doing this.

Now this “dealing” cards may not work for **YOUR** trick, because maybe **YOUR** trick doesn't have any dealing in it. But the principle of changing the process to be something **OTHER** than a process (i.e.: demonstration) is a good one.

And there's plenty of other ways to hide/alter processes...all of which depend on how the required process needs to look and what it needs to accomplish.

Now, the odd thing about process heavy tricks – such as the 21-card trick – is that you need to **ADD** a process.



This process does nothing except tells the audience that **THIS** is when the magic happened. It might be you snapping your fingers, blowing on the hanky, whatever. It's a process that tells (usually erroneously) the audience that the magic is about to start.

Another thing to watch for is that process driven tricks affect your scripting immensely, since you have to account for when and why you do any given process.



And process driven tricks – again, like the 21-card trick – require the audience to pay a certain amount of attention that other tricks don't require.

For example, the Miser's Dream has a process of picking up the bucket, showing the bucket empty, and producing a coin. But these processes take, in total, about 3 seconds.

Compare it to the card trick above where you deal the deck into 2 piles, 1 face up, 1 face down. This can be **TEDIOUS** if you're not careful!

And lastly, we've all experienced processes that the **VOLUNTEER** has to do. (**TOSSED OUT DECK, OUT OF THIS WORLD, CUT & RESTORED ROPE**, etc.) This really requires attention to detail, and that the volunteer be able to follow sometimes vague instructions.

This type of trick is **NOT** a good fit for a loud and crazy bar, as half the instructions will be immediately lost or forgotten.

So, look at the processes, both in what they do and what they “appear” to do and change/fix/remove what you can.



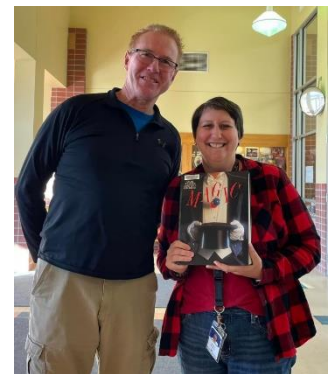
Incidentally - **David Michael Fox** has one of the best set of instructions for the **TOSSED OUT DECK** that I've seen.



Bruce Jacoby delivers more Mark Wilson books to Lincoln school libraries.



Numberger MS & Bryan Community HS have the same librarian so one visit delivered two books.



East High School and Lux Middle School



Goodrich Middle School



The Year in Review - 2022



Magician **Michael Ammar** lectured for our January Zoom event. It was a pleasure to host this teacher and founder of the Discover Magic program for kids.



Our April monthly evening of magic was brought to us by the Austin, Texas magic club. O.M.S. enjoyed hosting **JD Stewart** and **Kent Cummings**, both of whom shared their magic, followed-up with teaching sessions via Zoom.



Joe Cole lecturing in February with volunteer Adam Schacht



Our March Magic Event with the Omaha Magical Society was a family affair with Steve Nespor lecturing about family shows.



Two themes were the subjects for our May meeting. First it was **Bring a Trick** to show and teach.



Secondly at the May gathering, **Larry Brodahl** moderated a panel of four to discuss an article written by **Joshua Jay**, entitled *What do Audiences Really Think?* **Jered Schaugaard** and **David Fox** were joined by two young magicians new to our club, **Adam Schacht** and **Aleister Knight** on the panel.

Spellbound Magic with Travis Nye



Travis Nye brought a Pop-Up version of his Sioux Falls, SD magic shop to our O.M.S. stage for our July magic event. The Omaha Magical Society thanks Travis for making the trip to Omaha to perform, teach, and share his magic shop with our club!



Ryan Chandler, the **Old Market Magician**, was our spotlighted lecturer for our June Magic Event. Knowing he would be the evening's talent, the room was filled, along with a respectable viewing by Zoom attendees.



Our August event featuring **The Amazing Lindy**, **Steve Lindeman**, filled the room with an audience of twenty-eight and seven on ZOOM! We also held a book sale from the duplicate copies from our library.



Dan Harlan performed for our September Monthly Magic event! Yes, the man who fooled **Penn and Teller** performed in person for us and then taught a master class for a full house of OMS members!



Our Omaha Magical Society was pleased to host magician **Ben Ulin** as our November Monday Magic guest.

Here are a some more of the many Lincoln school libraries to which **Bruce Jacoby** has donated a *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic* book from OMS.



Lefler MS

Pound MS



Northstar HS

Southwest HS



Lincoln HS

Schoo MS

Park MS

Pizza and Prestidigitation

Our first pizza party and magic round-robin rotation made for a lively evening at our October meeting. Four magicians rotated between four tables after fifteen-minute sets at each. **Trevor Groenje**, **Denny Rourke**, **Aleister Knight**, and **Adam Schacht** were so kind to share their magic in each of the small groups.



Irving MS

Mickle MS

Moore MS



A few members of our club have shared some of their public performances with the rest of us.



[Ryan Chandler](#) performed at Mahoney State Park. It was for a delightful Saturday afternoon watching a true professional work his routines ... and the room.

<https://www.oldmarketmagician.com/shows> **Theron**



Milo Christensen shared a link.

If you didn't get a chance to see it yet, here is my set! Thanks everyone for your support!

[Theron Christensen, Penn & Teller Fool Us - YouTube](#)



Joe Cole performed 3 to 4 times per day at the Wild Kingdom Pavilion at the Henry Doorley Zoo during their Ghouls and Glow Event.



OMS Member [Steve Lindeman](#) and his grandsons (**The Amazing Little Lindys**) dazzled folks with their magic at The Taste Of Omaha. Congratulations!



Check Facebook for **Travis Nye's** incredible tricks on *Late Night Blooming*.

MAGIC OF THE NIGHT
HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

7:30PM
Saturday, October 29th
40th Street Theater
Omaha, Nebraska



And an October favorite at the 40th Street theater – Featuring **Ryan Chandler, Ann and Denny Rourke, Steve Lindeman, Theron Christensen** and **David Fox**.





Tannen's Magic Camp Scholarships

Thanks to OMS member **Doug Taylor**, the club selects and awards two \$1895 scholarships to Tannen's Magic Camp. **Jane Rohling** and **Matthew Bartlett** were the lucky recipients of O.M.S. scholarships.



David Sandy and Mathew talking to David Copperfield on the cell phone.



Visit the LIBRARY tab in our club's website to learn more about how you can now access The OMS Research Library.

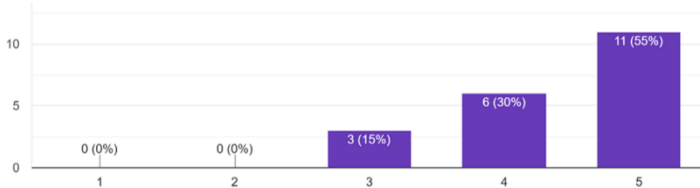
<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/library>

Club Video Library

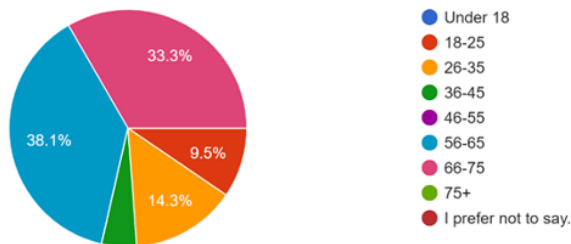
The full library of 100+ videos has routines at all skill levels and is available to all club members.

We conducted club surveys and the Board discussed a number of tweaks we can make going forward

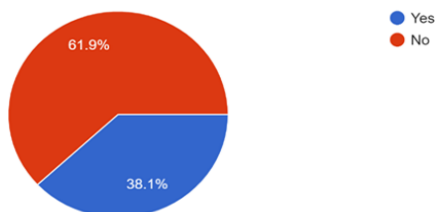
How satisfied are you with the programming provided by the Omaha Magic Society?



What's your age?
21 responses



Are you a current paid member of The Society Of American Magicians?
21 responses



Best Practices Partner



Steve Nespor, Steve Lindeman and Patrice Fisher lead our team of instructors teaching magic classes for our **Junior Magicians** beginning at age 7.



Magic That Matures

AFTER SCHOOL MAGIC CLASSES

This program has been structured around three (3) four-week increments with the ability to have each four-week segment stand alone. The OMS curriculum for after-school magic classes (along with 24 online instructional videos) was ready for roll out in 2022! **Steve Lindeman** is the Director of the program. Read more about it here: <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/schools>



Thank you to all who have donated to our 15 X 15 Program this year!



amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



As of 11/22/2022 we have been awarded **\$311.18** for the current year.

For more information, or to reexperience previous Flash Papers

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



[Omaha Magical Society -](http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org)
[S.A.M. Assembly #7](http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org)



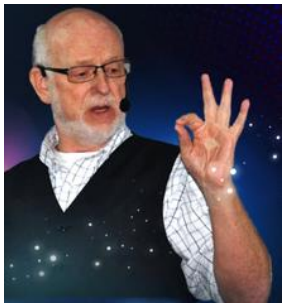
Featured Columnists



**Steve Nespor
Prez Sez**
Thanks for an excellent
two-year stint!



Patrice Fisher
What's Your
Magic Story



Larry Brodahl
Larry's Logic

Guest Columnists

(You might consider submitting an article next year.)



**Jered
Schaugaard**



David Michael Fox



Dave Madsen



Bob Miller



Bruce Jacoby



Steve Osborn



Larry Brodahl, Dave Arch and Bob Gehringer

Special Features



Side Show Spoofery



Craft Store Magic

Volunteer Workforce



Tim Begley, Roger Reese, Steve Osborn



Monday Night Magic

**Monday December 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).

**IN NEXT MONTH'S FLASH PAPER: From your OMS board ...
an overview of the club's 2023 Projects and Initiatives.**

13405 Marinda St.
Omaha, NE 68144

