



# The Flash Paper

## November 2020

Bob Gehringer, Editor



### Presidential Ponderings

*"What's the big deal?"*

In one way or another, I've received multiple times the above question regarding the club's recent 501c3 designation from the government as a non-profit organization. From one person's perspective, here's what it means to me.

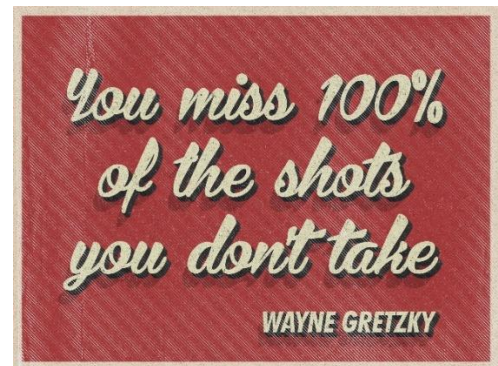
If you're reading this, you already know something about the fulfillment and satisfaction that learning (and sometimes performing) magic has contributed to your life. Maybe it would be difficult to put into words, but you do know that it does significantly contribute.

That having been said . . . I then think about what magic could contribute to others possibly in less fortunate circumstances than ourselves. What could learning a few magic tricks contribute to those in low income after-school programs, hospitals, care centers, and even as Patrice wrote in her Flash Paper column last month, prisons.

However in most cases, those who could benefit the most won't be coming to us. We'll have to go to them. Therein lies the rub. As a club, we don't have enough membership with enough discretionary time to make a dent in the need if we depend only on volunteers. There's where being a 501c3 makes all the difference in the world.

Within the Omaha area, there are multiple financial donors who give grants exclusively to 501c3 non-profit organizations for the pursuit of worthy programs - providing funding for paid administrative staff and paid

teachers. The club has now successfully completed that vetting process, and we are now one of those qualified organizations to apply for and receive donations!



*So . . . let's dream!*

Where's your passion for taking, teaching, and performing magic for those who might not get a chance to experience what each of us has discovered and enjoyed? That dream might be the beginning of something great.

Since being designated a non-profit, the Omaha Magical Society has become a member of the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands and now has access to a database of private and government funding sources at the local, state, and national level.

Will we get all the grants for which we apply? Certainly not.

Legendary hockey player Wayne Gretzky said it well when he said, "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." In 2021, thanks to our 501c3 designation, we'll be taking some shots. Pretty exciting stuff from this man's perspective.



## Sideshow Magic Assembly 7 Omaha, NE

Through the magic of Zoom, Jon Marshall joined us from the UK this month to share with us through pictures and video his collection of magic illusions once popular circus sideshows.

Jon Marshall has had a long and varied career in magic performing, consulting, and bringing classic sideshow illusions back to life. His fascinating slideshow of his sideshow collection of such wonders as the Girl in the Fishbowl, The Electric Lady, the Headless Woman and much, much more was a trip down memory lane for those of us who got to witness the old Ten in Ones at County Fairs of old and an introduction to a world gone by for younger members.

Nancy Anderson, our SAM Regional Vice President popped in to introduce herself and stayed for our meeting. Travis Nye dropped in to demonstrate some new magic from his Sioux Falls magic store, and a special thanks to Larry Brodahl taught one of his time-tested routines from his Lybrary.com collection.

- Steve Nespor



## A Virtual Garage Sale?

With November being the traditional month for our club's annual used magic garage sale, and COVID being what it is, we're having an online Garage Sale for our monthly club meeting on the evening of **Monday, November 16th, from 7-8 PM.**



This will be a member-only meeting.

In addition to sharing with each other magic tricks we're hoping to sell, we'll also be:

- Touring the club's NEW Facebook Garage Sale site;
- Demonstrating five Holiday themed magic tricks you can do and teach others too; and
- Voting on our 2021 club officers.

Hope you can be there.

**Dave Arch** (2020 OMS President)





### What's Your Magic Story by Patrice Fisher

“Paying it forward.”

That phrase kept entering my mind as I interviewed Dave Arch for this month's newsletter. I wanted a broader understanding of the context of Dave's life. After all, he is a huge part of the OMS, and I wondered how it all began.

Born in Sioux City, Iowa, Dave was only 8 years old when he was introduced to magic with a vanishing coin trick by a friend of his father. Through the mentorship of Bud Tracy, a neighborhood friend and magician, Dave gained entry into the local Sioux City magic club (IBM Ring 24). The club's encouraging environment stimulated his enthusiasm, and magic became a life-long passion.

By the 8th grade, Dave gave his first magic show, earning himself \$15! That success reinforced his self-confidence, which helped to build an entrepreneurial spirit that has been foundational in his life.

He attended Grace College here in Omaha, studying to be a pastor, and at 22 years of age started a church in Papillion, Nebraska. The church began with two families attending a Bible study in a converted garage/chapel and then moved to the local junior high school building. At 27 years old, Dave was able to relocate his church to a brand new building.

A pattern was emerging as it seemed as though, with every ten years, Dave changed things up to keep his love of lifelong giving, learning, and magic alive.

When he turned 32, Dave had the opportunity to help a friend sell a franchise known as W.C. Franks across the U.S. Those restaurants became the jumping-off point for his life as a professional magician. Dave packed his wife and two children into a motor home and traveled across

the U.S., performing magic shows in the parking lots for new restaurant openings and inside to assist those new franchise owners. He honed his magic skills for two years doing those venues before his oldest child turned school age. Then he decided to dip his toe into the educational world and settle back into life in Papillion.

Dave became a motivational speaker for children and performed his I Can Factory assembly programs and evening family magic shows in every elementary school in the Omaha area.

This led to teacher seminars and then into after-dinner and conference speaking. One of his keynote motivational addresses using magic is worth watching and can be found at: <https://vimeo.com/86912003>.

Soon word traveled and he was called and asked to come on board as a fulltime train-the-trainer consultant for The Bob Pike Group out of Minneapolis. For the next 10 years, Dave incorporated his magic into a series of two-day workshops to help speakers redesign their seminar content to stay relevant and current while also performing his magic at tradeshow to draw folks into a booth – sharing the message of his sponsor through magic.



Ten years later, at the age of 52, after working with another client, Sandler Training, Dave decided to buy the Nebraska franchise for that company! (It should be noted that, by this time, he had written 13 books and four videos about using magic in corporate training. Let that number sink in--13 books! You can go to <http://DaveArch.com/ebooks> to download at no charge many of his books. I would highly recommend that.

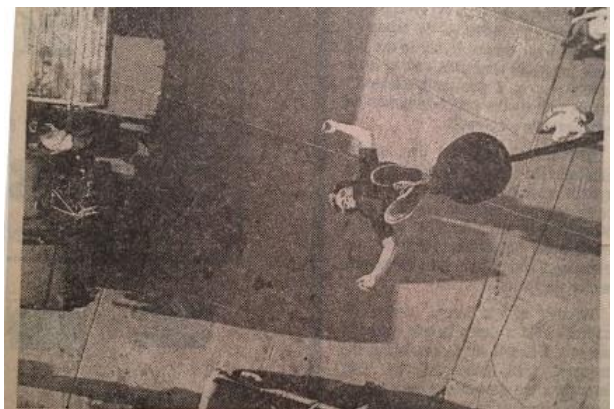
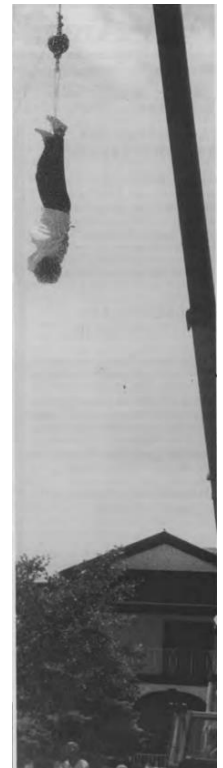


While managing his new company, Dave wrote a book entitled *Transforming Leaders: The Sander Way*. This guide to 52 principles for effective leadership and career success is sold worldwide. There is an accompanying deck of cards that reinforces the concepts in this book. I wish I had known of this dynamic tool during my career as a corporate leader who often was charged with motivating teams to perform effectively on whatever project I was managing. It also is a perfect companion for self-realization in successfully handling life's challenges. I plan to send copies to my niece and nephew, who are just beginning careers in the medical and scientific fields, respectively.

After another 10 years rolled around, Dave's career took another turn. He decided to sell his franchise. This gave him even more time to give back to the Omaha Magical Society, of which he has been a member for 35 years and named President twice before. Currently, Dave is again our esteemed President. During this latest term, which ends this year, he has been instrumental in gaining our club new nonprofit status. This allows our club to gain grants for further training classes and other opportunities for current members and to support the growth of new membership. You can read more about this in Dave's column earlier in this issue of the Flash Paper. When Dave's term ends this year, he will assume the role of Executive Director of the Omaha Magical Society.

Despite or maybe because of the isolation caused by Covid-19, our OMS membership has actually grown this year. Our membership is also quite diverse, with new magic hobbyists as well as experienced magicians. This

increased membership can pose new challenges. How can we maintain the leadership that our long-term members and career magicians offer while encouraging their mentoring of new members in order to motivate those new members to transition into leadership roles for the club even while learning magic as a hobby? As Dave expressed to me, "The challenge of our club is to accommodate all the diversity in both interests and skills so everyone finds their place within the organization."



HARALD DREIMANIS/LINCOLN JOURNAL  
**Dave Arch** of Omaha frees himself Wednesday from a straight-jacket while hanging upside down 40 feet in the air from a crane at 43rd and O streets Wednesday. This picture was taken by a camera attached to the crane's hoist and controlled remotely by a photographer on the ground.



## What is Magic?

*“What is magic? What is it that we do? What is it that we pretend to do? Can we define it? Do we need to be able to define it? Maybe not, but it would be odd to just leave it at that, content with not knowing what we are doing.”* –Robert E. Neale

Most magicians struggle to recognize a great idea even though it is staring them in the face. Why? Because they simply do not know what they are looking for. As a rule, you cannot create magic without some individualized understanding of what it means for something to qualify as magic. On the other hand, once you have thought it out for yourself and have some idea of what it is you are looking for, you begin to find ideas for novel and meaningful magic everywhere.

In *Plotting Astonishment*, I shared my personal definition of magic: to apparently affect an impossible change. Like a compass, this definition directs and informs my imagination. Simply by paying attention to changes that happen around me and asking myself how those changes can be made impossible, I have collected far more ideas than I will ever have time to work into actual performance pieces.

Just recently, for example, I encountered the photograph to the right while scrolling through Pinterest, and a wonderful idea began to take form.

My first question, of course, was what the person who arranged the flowers this way intended to communicate. It feels ambiguous, foreboding, and beautiful—just like a message from the spirit world. It reminded me of Lee Earle’s wonderful knotted candle from his long-running séance, *Manifestations*: after the blackout, a candle, which has stood tall in the center of the table throughout

the show, is seen to have mysteriously knotted itself in the shape of a pretzel.



How much more noticeable and meaningful would it be if, instead of a candle knotting itself, an arrangement of roses in a glass vase mysteriously upended itself? What could the spirit be trying to say? What story could the spirit be trying to tell?

Of course, this idea may never travel beyond the pages of my notebook of ideas, but at least I recognized it for what it was, and I caught it before it could flit away into obscurity.

If you know what you are looking for, chances are good that you will find it.

**Theron Christensen** - November, 202



## Two NEW Videos

Two videos have been added to our club's online video library:



### Laser Cards

When a toy laser gun appears to cause a chosen playing card to fly out of the deck and burns a hole in the card too, you will have created a fun experience for an audience of kids and a memorable souvenir for one lucky child.

### Slightly Advanced, Part 2

OMS member Jered Blake takes us through Part 2 of the sleights used in his card routine Slightly Advanced.



The club supplies the Zoom room for the meetings as well as the desired videos to be used as tutorials.



### Card Magic

The focus of this group is to work on card sleights and routines. As with all of our special interest groups, differing levels of skill can oftentimes work together using different tutorial videos.

### Coin Magic



On the other hand, if you'd rather work with other members on coin sleights and routines, here's a group for you.



## Winter Special Interest Groups Forming

With winter coming (Brrrrrrrrrr!!), there's talk among club members of beginning two special online interest groups.

As with all of our special interest groups:

- Group members decide the size of the group, frequency of meeting and length of meetings.
- Members also decide the level of mastery required to be in the group or whether a diversity of skill levels will be accommodated.

### 2020 OMS Officers

**President** – Dave Arch .....([dave@sandler.com](mailto:dave@sandler.com))  
**Vice President** – David Fox.....([Dfox1902@gmail.com](mailto:Dfox1902@gmail.com))  
**Treasurer** – Bob Gehringer.....([gehringerr@cox.net](mailto:gehringerr@cox.net))  
**Secretary** – Steve Nespor .....([omahamagician55@gmail.com](mailto:omahamagician55@gmail.com))  
**Sgt.-at-Arms** – Amjad Alawimari .....([mrwho.magic@gmail.com](mailto:mrwho.magic@gmail.com))

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



**Joe Cole**

- Sunday:** 6 to 8pm **Good Life Bar & Grill**  
20231 Manderson St, Elkhorn, NE
- Monday:** 6 to 8pm **Good Life Bar & Grill**  
180th and Pacific
- Tuesday:** 7 to 9pm **Upstream Brewery Downtown**
- Wednesday:** 6 to 8pm **Fernando's** 114th and Dodge
- Thursday:** 7 to 9pm **Upstream Brewery Downtown**
- Saturday:** 6 to 8pm **Fernando's** 76th and Pacific

You can also see my schedule here:

<http://omahamagic.com/weekly-shows/>



We have room to publish your schedules or upcoming events you wish to share with others.

Contact **Bob Gehringer** at: [gehringerr@cox.net](mailto:gehringerr@cox.net)



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