



Centennial Anniversary
1921-2021

The Flash Paper

November 2021

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez

Halloween is behind us, and Thanksgiving looms large on the horizon officially kicking off what many call the *HallowThanksMas* season. With a quick search of interwebs you will find over 500 ideas on Pinterest, a huge

selection of printed t-shirts, hoodies, phone cases, stickers, posters, mugs, and more on the web or on Amazon. There is no end to the characters you can choose from including gnomes, Squid Game characters, and Jack Skellington, just to name a few.

But I am hoping that this year begins a new tradition to celebrate the season, an annual road trip by members of the OMS and OMS Junior Magicians groups to the **Spellbound Magic Shop and Theater** in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

On Saturday, November 6th ten magicians made the trek to visit **Travis Nye** and enjoy some shopping, learning, a magic jam session, and comradery. While several of the older members shared some table magic with one another, Travis was kind enough to take the time to teach some of our Junior Magicians the finer points of Card Throwing - an activity they spent a good amount of time practicing. One of the highlights for the young magicians was when **Larry Brodahl** let each of them choose a deck of cards with various colored back designs to

commemorate the occasion. This one small act of kindness made a big impression on them and helped make real one of the eight traits that we teach in the Discover Magic program, namely that a true magician is **giving**.

After a couple of hours, we headed for home, magic purchases in hand. A huge thank you to **David Michael Fox** for taking point on organizing this trip for what I personally hope is an annual *HallowThanksMas* tradition for our club.



See you online or in person for our November 15th meeting at the Cross Training Center. I'm looking forward to the presentation by David Michael Fox and the opportunity to purchase a new-to-me magic book at the sale.



Jered Blake - Truly is Incredible! Our October meeting



While practicing my double and triple lifts, I thought of the many thousand times that Jered Blake must have practiced these in order to master just these basic skills. His slight-of-hand is so smooth and rhythmic that it is like watching a finely choreographed dance with the cards.

Even though October is a very active time for performing and Jered was headlining the Halloween show at the 40th Street Theater just days away, he spared some time to entertain our OMS members for our monthly Monday Magic event.

Via ZOOM, Jered performed nine card tricks while also educating us with a series of credits given to those magicians who perfected them. He began with **Four Ace Production** from Louis Lam's 1939 book, *Be Deceived*. This was followed by **Twisting the Aces** by Dai Vernon, and **Gambling Routines** from *The Art of Magic*, published in 1909 and in The Jinx Issue 21, 1936, by Adrian Plate and Audley Walsh respectively. Of course, Edward Marlo's **Open Prediction** from *The Cardician* published in 1953 was among his choices as well. Another of the many highlights was the very popular

New Deck Order where all the suits are in order for which he gave credit to David Carre and James Swain. Other card illusions were **Triumph (Slop Shuffle)** Ralph Hull - *Eye Openers*, 1939 and **Dream Card** from an Unknown Author of *The Dream Card* in 1937 and in an 1896 German publication. Finishing strong, Jered used an effect called **Collectors** from Bill Simon's 1952 book, *Effective Card Magic*, and (**stick Squancho 2.0 person tricks**) in David Acer's *More Power to You*. These were all seemingly effortless effects that Jered delighted us with as our spotlighted talent for the evening.



But the evening wasn't to end there, we were treated to a David Blaine video of a two-card switch that Jered went on to teach us while adding his own twist! That was followed by the **Gemini Count** and the **Elmsly Count** that he proceeded to show us in slow, easy motions with the expertise that has truly earned him his reputation as a maestro with a deck of cards. - **Patrice Fisher**



Junior Magicians Treated with October Tricks



Wide eyes filled each Zoom window in the gallery view of Junior Magician trainees. The looks of amazement were for **Steve Lindeman's** rendition of the **Floating Cup** illusion. Instead of placing his thumb through a whole made in the back of a paper cup, he went a step further by using a straw punched into the back of the cup to make the effect much better by lengthening the distance between his hands and the mysteriously "floating" cup.



Holding the straw between his thumb and forefinger and showing his opened hands behind the airborne cup while switching his grip on the unseen straw between each

hand, the **Amazing Lindy** delighted our students while also reinforcing this month's lesson in creativity. Our emphasis all month has been for the junior magicians to use their own imagination to perform the tricks we have taught using a Halloween-type theme.

As one can imagine, October is an important month for magicians. One reason is that Harry Houdini died on October 31, 1926 which lends a special magical mystique to Halloween. That master escape artist also has a link to the origin of our club. You see, in 1921 Harry Houdini was the President of the Society of American Magicians, and as such, he signed our charter creating the Omaha Magical Society! One hundred years later, our young magicians are still fascinated by our link to Houdini which makes this month extra fun for everyone.

For those unfamiliar with our Junior Magician Training, every Monday night, we have been teaching the **Discover Magic** course via ZOOM. It is designed with four modules of eight tricks in each. Starting with earning a **purple** wand, the program progresses with students earning **orange**, **green** and, finally, the **blue** wand after performing all of the effects in the program.

In addition to teaching magic, there are eight traits of "A True Magician" that we emphasize as well. The students, ranging in age from seven to thirteen, are taught the meanings of being Respectful, Prepared, Enthusiastic, Confident, Humble, Creative, Authentic, and Giving.

There is never a lack of content between teaching the core curriculum, using Mark Wilson's book, *Complete Course in Magic*, solving various puzzles, and, of course, incorporating illusions used by our magician instructors, **Steve Lindeman**, **Steve Nesor** and myself. In fact, many weeks, the class may go a bit longer than the one-hour scheduled because of the enthusiastic participation by the kids and the sheer enjoyment being had by all. In spite of the challenges created by "virtual" classes, we have continued to grow, and currently we have eighteen, very engaged, young magicians in training! - **Patrice**



November 15th Monday Night Magic



November marks the first month that the club will gather in person since COVID struck in March of 2020. We can't hardly wait! The Cross Training Center located at 5030 N. 72nd Street in Omaha has

enough space so that we can socially distance while wearing masks throughout the event.



The OMS board respectfully requests that any club member not fully vaccinated please join us via our Zoom simulcast. Here's hoping that you can attend what should be an interesting evening. 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).



As part of this month's November Monday Night Magic event on Monday, November 15, we are going to have a used magic book sale with bargains galore! The club will have a \$1, \$5, \$10, and \$20 table of books from the Hardiman Collection. Might you have some books to sell? Please feel free to bring them along and put them out on a table.

Some others we've collected will even be FREE (with the encouragement to make a donation to the club).

David Michael Fox

IN PERSON

Monday Night Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY
Presented by
DAVID MICHAEL FOX

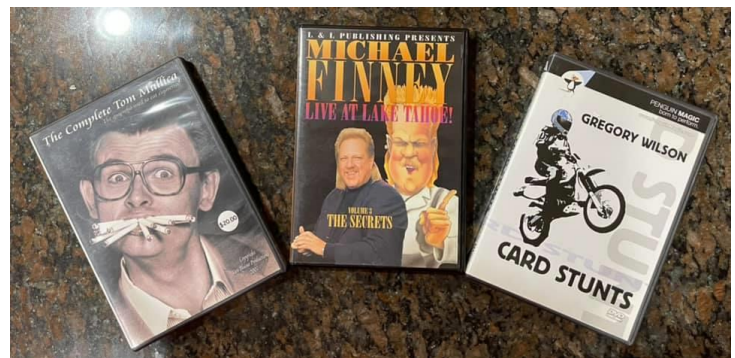
David Fox, also known as The Midwest Mentalist, has been amazing audiences with his jaw-dropping mentalism for years.

David graduated college with degrees in Theater Performance and Chemistry. He also spent 4 years in NYC attending the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts and working as a professional actor, dancer, and voiceover artist.

In addition to his twenty-minute performance of mentalism, David will also be teaching a tested and proven impromptu mind reading book test that just might have a good chance of going into your own performing repertoire.

Simultaneously Broadcast On Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>
No charge for this event
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021 | FROM 7-8 PM
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.

Since we forgot our prize drawing at our October's Monday Night Magic event, there's still a chance to win one of these DVD's next Monday night. Both those participating in-person and those joining the fun over Zoom have an equal chance of winning.





The Circle of Mystery

All 2021 OMS members and life members receive *The Circle of Mystery* with the hard copy of their Flash Paper club newsletter. Looking like a replica of a trick created in the year of our club's charter (1921), it actually is an ideal trick to perform over Zoom or even over the phone. After a series of apparently free choices from playing cards in the circle, when the circle is turned over, it immediately becomes apparent that the magician was exerting some subtle influence over those choices made by the participant. Video instructions have been uploaded into our club's online video library.

Bare Handed Ring Vanish



This month a video with a bare-handed ring vanish has been uploaded into our club's online video library. Next time you need to vanish any small item only to retrieve it later you might consider the approach in this video where ultimately the audience believes they hear their ring sail across the room and crash into a far wall. Filled with energy this set of moves just might replace your handkerchief with a ring sewn into the corner.

Craft Store Mental Epic

These light-weight dry erase boards available at your local hobby store make for an engaging Mental Epic effect.



You'll need four of these blank boards and a dry erase marker.

Fitting my performance style, I attempt to mentally send to audience members four different components of my ideal date.

I pick an older lady and pretend we are going on a date:

1. Where will we go?
2. What will she wear?
3. What will we do?
4. What time will the date be over?

Of course working one ahead, I'll write 7:00 PM on the first board as though I were writing where we were going.

Then I put the first board facedown – writing one ahead as I learn of each answer from the audience to each of the above questions.

With four boards stacked, I pick up the top three boards and walk away – realizing I forgot to pick up one board. I go back up and pick up the last board – putting it on top of the others.

Now if I turn the boards face up, they are in the order of the above questions. I'm ready to compare my boards with the audience's answers – making light of my 7:00 PM answer. So, what if the date won't be exactly perfect. Close enough.

Some will want to read the 7:00 PM answer first to get the wrong answer out of the way. I save it for the end for a strong comedic ending – fitting to my age.

Excerpt from the soon to be released eBook entitled *Craft Store Conjuring*. Used with permission.



CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT -Emphasizing Your Strengths-



What's your favorite television sitcom? Try to list below the leading character's personality qualities. Are they extroverted or introverted? A people person? Into details? Usually in a sitcom, characters are well defined even to the point of exaggeration.

Now try and write below a description of your favorite late night talk show host's personality. What's he like? Who's he most like in terms of other people you know?

In both the case of the sitcom character and the talk show host, you are certainly not trying to describe the actual person playing the character. Instead, you're merely trying to describe the character that the performer is playing on television. You are attempting to describe their "persona."

Although the best talk show hosts are playing themselves, none of them are playing ALL of themselves. They have chosen and accentuated those qualities from their personality that they have found audiences respond to the best and accentuated those qualities while hiding the others less attractive parts.

A classic example was one gameshow host whose sense of humor and feedback tended towards the sarcastic. This could have been merely an extension of who he was. However, when the audience responded negatively to that part of his personality, he began to hide it. His feedback lost that negative cutting edge and became much more enjoyable. The audience could finally quit feeling sorry for the contestants. Although he may still be as sarcastic and cutting in his private

life, he no longer shows this part of himself to the audience.

Whenever we as magicians perform for our audiences, we also are "in character."

Although most of us aren't presenting a character completely different from ourselves, we are utilizing vulnerability with certain aspects of who we are while hiding other qualities.

Which ones should we emphasize? Which ones should we hide? By using our past experiences as a mirror, we will know the answer! Which parts of your personality have people responded to best? This list can help get you started.

- Outgoing
- Caring
- Friendly
- Detailed
- Creative
- Positive
- Technical
- Smart
- Warm
- Productive
- Team Player
- Action Oriented
- Risk Taker
- Organized
- Spontaneous
- Stable

Just as you previously listed personality qualities of your favorite sitcom star or talk show host, you will eventually be able to list the traits of your own "performing persona." By identifying the strengths of your own personality, you will discover a combination unique to you. Soon you will be a one-of-a-kind magician -- delivering magic with your own unique style in an increasingly interesting and consequently memorable manner.

Who are you as a magician? You may choose to use the space below to describe your own unique "performing character."

Excerpted from the book *Showmanship for Presenters*. Used with permission.

Check out our website:
<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



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



CONGRATULATIONS

goes out to OMS member **Bruce Jacoby** for successfully securing permission to place 25 Mark Wilson's Magic books in all of the Lincoln Public Schools' middle and high schools as part of our club's Magic in the Libraries



initiative. Way to go Bruce!

Here are the nominees for next year's officers so far:



- President - **Steve Nespor**
- Vice-President - **Bruce Jacoby**
- Treasurer - **Bob Gehringer**
- Secretary - **Patrice Fisher**
- Sgt. At Arms - **Tim Begley**

*Nominations for any office may also be made from the floor at the November meeting. Election of officers will be held during the November meeting and installation of officers will be done at the December meeting.

To be placed on the nomination list contact either Joyce Becwar Chleboun at jddiamondmagic@gmail.com or Ryan Chandler at oldmarketmagician@gmail.com

The club submitted a grant proposal (our first) to the Facebook Sarpy County Data Center. If we receive the \$10,000 grant, it will enable us (**Steve Lindeman**) to deliver four-week magic classes in all 25 Sarpy County elementary schools. Grant recipients will be announced in March 2022. I'll keep you posted. – **Dave Arch**

Steve Nespor, Steve Lindeman, and myself just finished our 3:00 PM show at the Little Red Hen in Wakefield, Nebraska as a fund raiser for the Omaha Magical Society. **Easton Boettcher** one of our junior magicians also came over from Sgt. Bluff to perform in the care center show before our 7:00 PM show. Great fun! – **Dave Arch**



OMS member **Doug Taylor** has been quietly buying up copies of the *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic* book. Thanks to his work and generous donation we can now open our offer of donating a Wilson book to Lincoln area libraries too.

OMS member **Ryan Chandler** is on a roll with Elkhorn Middle School and Elkhorn North Ridge Middle School both getting donations from the club of *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic* book! Way to go Ryan!



Here's hoping that you can attend what should be an interesting evening on Monday, November 15th at The Cross Training Center located at 5030 N. 72nd Street in Omaha which has enough space so that we can socially distance while wearing masks throughout the event.

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