



The Flash Paper

April 2022

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez

On my 40th wedding anniversary last month my wife and I celebrated the milestone by attending my granddaughter's fifth birthday party, which was held a couple of days early

on a weekend so the kids who were invited could more easily attend. Full disclosure, this is not the first time in our marriage that our anniversary included a magic show for someone, just the first time it was for immediate family. Of course, I was thrilled that she asked grandpa to do a magic show, and I would like to pass along an idea I had for the party performance using Mark Wilson's 1234-5 trick taught in our March OMS meeting. Instead of a big number five being written on the reveal card, attach a birthday card with a little double sided removable tape and the card can be peeled off and given to the birthday child. I am sure there are many other ways this can be used, and I would love to hear any ideas you might have. The moves for this effect are like those used by psychics and mediums when managing spirit slates. You can visit our OMS Video Library to learn a whole host of spirit writing handlings that use two blank cards instead of slates.

In other news, I was disappointed that I had to leave this year's AbraCORNdabra Magic Convention in Des Moines early because of a scheduling conflict, but thoroughly enjoyed getting to see and talk to the over one dozen OMS club members who were there. I enjoyed what I was able to experience and am looking forward to next year.

Hope to see you online for this month's **Zoom Only** meeting as we feature three performers from Ring 60, the Austin chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



Family Fun for our March Magic Event



Our March Magic Event with the Omaha Magical Society was a family affair. Five families of our junior magician's group and other guests and club members packed the room along with those on ZOOM. All were there to see our president, Steve Nespor, perform a magic show for kids. Steve may be semi-retired, but his magic skills are still going strong.

His use of a thumb tip was that of a real pro, as he began his show with a bare-handed silk disappearance and production. His banter while pushing a lengthy silk into his palm showcased his talent at storytelling. The silk illusion was perfectly performed, setting us up for a series of other fun illusions.

Steve's experience working with youth was apparent as he deftly guided his young volunteers to maintain control of his act at every step. His first volunteer was one of our junior magicians who loves performing. This youngster always lights up the stage with presentation skills and his facial expressions. So, he was the perfect silent partner for the clown routine known as Banana Bandana. This set the stage for a night of family fun.

The use of an egg bag was the next prop that brought smiles and laughter. Another young volunteer assisted with that illusion and had an added surprise when a rubber chicken was pulled out as a comical ending for that trick.

Before the next few affects, as a precursor to the magic trick to be taught after the show, Steve prepped the group by walking everyone through how to make the prop needed for the Mark Wilson Two Cards/Four Sides trick.

Then, on with the second half of the show! The next two illusions also had the help of our junior magicians. It was the first appearance of Steve's new prop. He introduced his sheepdog puppet Riley to the very vocal delight of the kids. Riley was a real hit, and with the audience reaction, Steve will definitely keep Riley in his act.



A cut and restore rope trick was a perfect finale. Steve proceeded to confuse his young volunteer with a very funny set of instructions causing laughter and some audience interaction as they tried to assist both the volunteer and the befuddled magician. It was all purposely scripted and a superb showing of the use of distraction. Steve's multi-fazed rope illusion was met with a round of applause deserving of the entertaining experience we all enjoyed.

Steve's performance was not concluded, however, as he proceeded to teach one of Mark Wilson's tricks for kids. The evening concluded with several books raffled off to our junior magicians as well as DVDs for our adult members! March Madness is a term used to describe the hoopla associated with the annual college NCAA tournament. Well, our Omaha Magical Society had our own March Madness in the form of March Magic!

Patrice Fisher, O.M.S. Secretary



Larry's Logic

by

Larry Brodahl

What's your personality?

Even though we've heard it a thousand times, YOU are the most important part of your magic.

And why? Simple. ONLY YOU can make YOUR magic succeed.

Can you imagine ME – a pudgy bald-headed guy with a fast mouth – succeeding as a 'tux-and-tails' manipulator? Or me performing a delicate and finicky Zombie ball effect?

Because I can't imagine it. And because I can't, I won't even try it. And even if my brain is wrong, I don't want to expend the effort to change.

So, I do smart-mouth lines, very talky tricks, with small props and mainly sleight of hand. And this fits me to a "T". And my audiences like me this way.

I come off as genuine (because I **am** a smart-mouth), funny, and skillful. Which is what I imagined my act should be (See previous article for more information.)



Now, it doesn't hurt that I was influenced heavily by seeing school performers, such as **Dick Oslund**, who performed as a very nice, small props, mainly sleight of hand person. But not a smart-mouth! No, I got that the old-fashioned way. From a smart-mouth family.

But his style made sense to me, pretty much. Add the smart-mouth and I feel that I'm right in my comfort zone.

So I got lucky. My ideal magic show fits me. But if it didn't, is there anything I could do? Actually, yeah, there's quite a bit.

You could learn to be the person the show would fit.

Since magic isn't real anyhow what would it take you to learn to be your ideal performer? Learning to dance like Copperfield?



You have to learn to do manipulations like **Shin Lin** if you're going to do an act like **Shin Lin**...so...why not learn to ALSO do the things that make Shin Lin good?

Study his thinking. Study his ways of moving. His facial expressions, and even the way he dresses.

Notice I'm **NOT** saying "*to copy*". I'm saying to study, learn, and interpret to make it fit YOU.

Of course, if you don't know what you're really like, how can you change?

Well, one of the best ways to find out who and what you are is to ask friends and family. (Fellow magicians too, if you trust their opi

Write out a list of attributes, both pro and con and have them pick the ones that they think describes you best.

Quick witted, impatient, funny, amusing, slow moving, slovenly, nit-picky. Words like this. And use ANONYMOUS online surveys, like SURVEY MONKEY, to help get honest answers.

These selections will NOT DEFINE you...but they will help you see yourself as others do.

And that's the start of knowing yourself...and your act.





Poor Man's Nest of Boxes

For around \$14.00 you can own a no-assistant Nest of Boxes for causing a signed bill or card to appear in the inner most box.

Fold a dollar bill into fourths with the green to the outside and glue it into the corner of the smallest box. Wrap a participant's signed dollar bill in a handkerchief that has a folded dollar bill seen into a pocket in the corner (yes Hobby Lobby sells the perfect bandanas that can be sewn together with a folded dollar bill embedded into the corner).

Cover the signed bill (also folded into fourths) with the prepared handkerchief and bring the dollar bill from the corner up under the center of the handkerchief – simulating the signed bill. Secretly remove the signed bill from the handkerchief in your right-hand finger palm position while a volunteer holds the handkerchief and the corner bill through the handkerchief. The assistant is standing to your left.

Immediately pick up the nest of boxes - setting it on top of the folded bill in your hand using your other hand to whisk the handkerchief out of the volunteer's hand – showing the dollar bill has vanished. Have the volunteer open the largest box and remove the middle box. Hold the middle size box while the volunteer removes the smallest box.

Hold the smallest box and open it – showing the folded

dollar in the box to the audience and the volunteer. Pretend to tip the glued dollar into the right hand that holds the signed dollar bill while the lid on the small box loses. Hand the volunteer the bill to check for his signature on the bill.

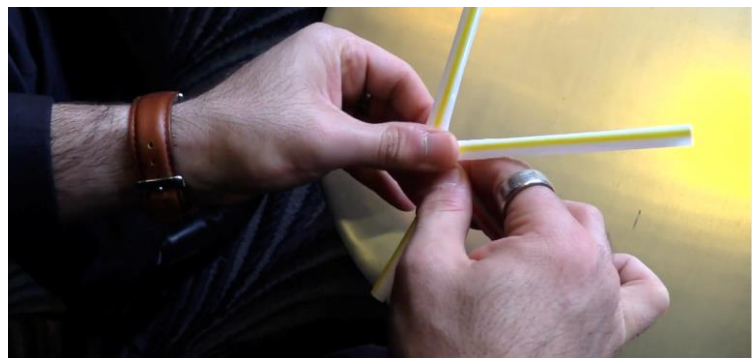
He finds it to be his signed bill and you have performed a classic of magic available at your local magic store Hobby Lobby.

From the unpublished book *Craft Store Conjuring*. Used with permission.



With over 100 videos in our club's password protected online library, there is something for every interest and skill level. Here's one to check

PENETRATING STRAWS



Have you mastered this classic impromptu magic trick? Here's your chance to learn it thanks to Rich Ferguson. With only two plastic drinking straws you'll appear to tie them together only to have them apparently melt through each other. You might even fool yourself.



PLANNED SPONTANEITY -Breathing Life into The Room-

You've seen it before.

The late-night talk show host will be sitting behind his desk when suddenly it appears as though he has received an inspiration. He'll talk to his director in a room way up high in the ceiling somewhere with a comment like:



"Hey. . . why don't we just go outside and see what's happening in the street?" His director agrees, and immediately there's an entire camera crew out on the street! Hardly spontaneous. However, certainly spontaneously appearing! And we love it!

Why do people enjoy spontaneity? Why does even planned spontaneity bring energy into a room?

I'm convinced that the principle behind this technique has been experienced by every magician whenever she or he inadvertently drops something during the show, or stumbles, or has the microphone cut out. Audience members are energized, look up and pay attention! Are they just maliciously lying in wait for the magician to mess up? I don't think so.

I believe that at the heart of the issue is the fact that our audiences are far more interested in who we are than they are in our magic. I believe that people are infinitely more interested in other people than they are in things.

When all goes well, and I'm smoothly moving through my show, the audience may get a chance to experience my tricks but usually doesn't get a chance to know me.

However, when I stumble, drop something, or have my audio go south, my participants intuitively know they will now have a chance to see more of the real me! What am I going to say? What am I going to do? How am I going to react? Inquiring minds want to know.

If this common experience gives us a glimpse into the power of the spontaneous, the next most natural question is how can we utilize that power throughout our shows even when things do go according to plan?

Through the use of spontaneously appearing events, that power can be tapped when we really need it -- anytime!

You know the trick. A piece of Kleenex is torn and restored. Based on what we've just seen, I suggest that the magician enters the room before the audience arrives and throws that piece of Kleenex on the floor or maybe better yet drop it into a waste basket.



Later when it comes time for the trick, the magician merely acts as though she or he has been hit with a sudden inspiration. Seeing the Kleenex out of the corner of their eye, they pick it up and go into the trick.

They have just increased the effectiveness of that trick tenfold - assuming the rest of the trick is done well. They have given it the feeling of spontaneity! They have given it the feeling of life itself! After all life is very spontaneous.

Certainly, the magician could remove the piece of tissue from their table, briefcase or pocket. But it wouldn't carry nearly the power that it does when framed as a spontaneously appearing event.

Where might you try something like this?

From the book *Showmanship for Presenters*. Used with permission.



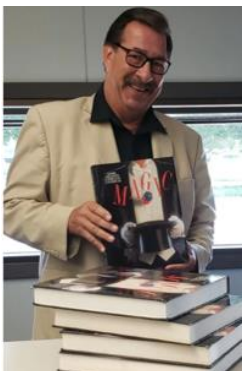
Magic That Matures

AFTER SCHOOL MAGIC CLASSES

Some more good news . . .

As members of the Omaha Magical Society, we recognize that involvement with the art of magic enriches our lives. That understanding in turn motivates the club to share that joy with others. Having provided magic classes for children and youth for the past ten years through programs such as the Society of Young Magicians (SYM) and Omaha Junior Magicians (OJM), we decided to start looking for opportunities to provide magic classes to children outside of the magic club. So, for the past two years we have been working on a program to do just that!

We have been busy developing a twelve-week curriculum entitled "**Magic That Matures**". This program has been structured around three (3) four-week increments with the ability to have each four-week segment stand alone. Currently there are 27 different magic tricks with a different colored cup being awarded to a student upon successful completion of the tricks in each 4-week module until each student owns their own set of the classic Cups and Balls. We even have online videos that support what is happening in the classroom. More details regarding the curriculum and the structuring of each class can be found on our website at: <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/schools>.



We are thankful to have Steven Lindeman serve as the director of this initiative. Steve has recently been field testing this curriculum at the NorthStar Foundation. NorthStar is a non-profit corporation located in North Omaha dedicated to changing the lives of young men through programming that supports, challenges, inspires and instills a life

rooted in education, self-discipline and service to the community.

We believe magic can go a long way to challenge, inspire and foster self-discipline in the lives of these young men. Thank you, Steve, for working on this project with us!

Christopher Moore, a prolific American author of comic fantasy novels, said that "Children see magic because they look for it." The Omaha Magical Society wants to open up that world of wonderment for children, so they need look no further.



Our next **Flash Paper** newsletter will further detail our journey with development and deployment of this challenging endeavor. So, stay tuned to read more about our magical momentum.
Patrice Fisher - Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS to OMS members Jerry and Betty Golmanavich on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary!





Magic is Alive!

Live magic returned the weekend of April 1-3 in West Des Moines at The Midwest's Premier Magic Convention, **AbraCorndabra**. This great convention was virtual the past two years. So, coming back live this year for its 12th year was very welcome! With the convention starting on April Fool's Day the theme was appropriately themed Comedy Magic.

Steve Daly and Mikayla Oz, the co-producers of the convention do an amazing job each year to bring in great lecturers and vendors to make for a memorable weekend. The convention took on a new format this year with the lecturers. They were to do a short performance and then lecture and explain their performance. This was changed since there would not be a large magic show at the theater this year. The weekend kicked off with a flea market allowing convention attendees to sell some magic and accessories.

The first lecture happened right after the flea market. Cousin Otis (Glen Micheletti) brought his street performance to the stage followed by his lecture. Glen's highlight was his tablecloth pull and a pool triangle and



water glass. His character was very true to Glen, while also allowing him to bring in his comedy in his magic.

The MagiMasters magic contest finished up the afternoon. This is advertised as the only magic contest for magicians over the age of 50 in the United States. There

were 4 entrants this year. There were tricks that used money, baseballs, silk and egg, and mind reading. Bruce Jacoby competed in the contest. He did a routine that had a theme of baseball. The contest was judged by the convention attendees and their votes were cast with

kernels of corn. The senior magicians would have to wait till Saturday evening for the results.



Magician Stephen Bargatze followed dinner with his hilarious performance and lecture. Stephen really brought the comedy to his time on the stage. Some of his highlights were a mind reading trick done with a couple of toilet plungers; and sharing some great advice on how to use comedy in magic. He really did get a lot of laughs from everyone attending his lecture.

The Midwest Championship of Comedy Magic Contest was next on the schedule. The contest consisted of 9 competitors while 2 were OMS members, **Jeff Quinn**, and **Theron Christensen**. Jeff did his three-rope routine that does not disappoint. Theron did an effect that was based around a trial and a murder using magic. There was a huge variety of effects done by all the magicians. Everyone was divided after the contest so that everyone could fit into the smaller rooms for some more amazing entertainers.



Half of the group went to the pizza and pop party and were totally entertained by Nathaniel Segal. His character was the Magic Pizza Guy, and he brought his own form of magic to the convention. He also has performed on Penn and Tellers "Fool Us". While this was happening the other half of the group attended the Top Secret Comedy Club Show. Oscar Munoz and Geoff Williams did some awesome parlor magic for each group that came to their area. Both magicians did a great job of using comedy with their magic.

Friday evening closed around midnight as Alex Romero brought his magic to AbraCorndabra to kick-off his "37 in 37" tour. Alex is going to a show in 37 different cities in 37 days. AbraCorndabra was show number one in Des Moines. Alex opened making his blonde assistant appear from a cardboard box. His assistant's name was MJ. MJ is his adorable dog. MJ is part dachshund and golden retriever. He helped Alex during his whole show. Alex is also a magician who has



appeared on “Fool Us”. Alex did an amazing rising card trick during his act. As with many magic conventions so stay up late jamming while others headed to their rooms to rest for the next day.

Jeff Williams opened Saturday morning with his lecture. Jeff lectured in Omaha many years ago. Jeff discussed several things that he did in his performance the night before. One of the highlights was his take on Slydini’s newspaper tear. He also shared his card trick Devastation that he did not perform on Friday. It blew away several card magicians!

There is a silent auction Saturday morning through the afternoon. There are always many tables of magic nuggets that can be purchased for some great prices. All the proceeds go to support the young magicians that attend the convention. Steve Daly has always had a huge heart of helping young and aspiring magicians. He makes a way so that they can attend the convention at no cost. One of the other highlights that has to do with the young magicians is the Kernels Showcase Show. The youth who attend get a chance to take the stage and perform for all the older magicians at the convention. It is a great opportunity for them to show off their talents! There are no prizes for the youth during the showcase, but they do get to go have lunch with some awesome input from some of the professional lecturers at the convention. The showcase is always a big hit!

Following lunch Mandy Muden was to lecture but she could not get out of the UK due to getting Covid. So, Steve pulled some strings and got his buddy Ben Ulin to interview David Anthony Higgins (from Malcolm in the Middle and Ellen) about getting into comedy, magic, and his TV life. It had some great information and some fun stories also!

Magician Chad Long brought the afternoon to a close. Chad shared some great magic from his performance as well as some fun tricks that can be used in some everyday situations. Priority was one of his tricks that was a hit. It doesn’t cost anything to make except a trick to your local Post Office. It has a variety of different applications. Your creativity can go crazy with it.



The OscEARS Awards Wrap Up Party closed out Saturday night. The OscEARS is a play-off of the Oscars. (Without Will Smith!) Everyone was handed a pair of beaglepuss or Groucho glasses and had a picture taken as they entered the room for the celebration. Inside there was a great surprise of entertainment by Charlie Chaplin. Charlie was played by Billy Scadlock. It was so cool to relive what it might have been like to see Charlie. The staff also got to do some magic for all the hard work they do during the convention. Then came time to give out the awards for the two different contests and other special recognitions. Steve and MiKayla were assisted in giving out awards by a surprise guest, Physic Tanya. She was the Amazing Johnathan’s assistant for many years before his passing. Jeff, Theron, and Bruce did well in their competitions but did not win their contests.





The mystery magician was revealed following the awards. Every year Steve likes to have one surprise magician that hopefully won't be exposed until time at the convention. This year's magician was a great addition to all the ones from the past. **Jeff Hobson** is one of the funniest comedy magicians around. Jeff did an amazing short show that ended the OscEARS. The next part of the evening is something that everyone looks forward to each year. Steve created a poster with all the performers and lecturers on it so that everyone can get one signed for their collection. There is an opportunity during this time to purchase a collectable custom coin of the mystery magician. Jeff Hobson's coin could possibly be the coolest one yet.



While all these wonderful things happening in the large room next door there was a great vendor room. There was a great variety of magic tricks, accessories, matts, large illusions, custom cards, and magic books for sale. But the coolest part of the vendor room for OMS members was seeing our own **Denny and Ann Rourke**.



They were there selling Denny's custom-made wooden magic wands. Denny is very creative and detailed. So, if you need a new wand contact Denny! The vendor room was open

most of the day on Friday and Saturday until dinner time. Believe it or not there was more convention on Sunday! Everyone who attended the OscEARS received a free gift on Sunday morning. The picture that was taken by Josh Chaikin was put into a frame for a keepsake of the convention. Josh also takes hundreds of pictures during the convention and offers a great deal of getting some promotional pictures taken for a great price. Sunday morning started with a short Q&A time with Billy Scadlock and Penny Wiggins (Physic Tanya) about developing a character and using comedy in that. The convention was brought to an end with a lecture by Jeff Hobson. Jeff shared a couple of effects that he is currently working on and developing.

If you have never attended AbraCorndabra you don't know what you are missing! It is not that far away! It is very reasonably priced! It has some amazing big name magicians lecture and perform! It has great vendors! It has great help that helps put on a great convention! It has two awesome co-producers in Steve Daly and MiKayla Oz! Thanks Steve and MiKayla! And if this can't help you decide maybe you should talk to any of these OMS members that attended this year: **Jeff Quinn, John Sheibal, Tim Begley, Adam Schact, Denny Rourke, Ann Rourke, Steve Nespor, Theron Christensen, George Huffaker, Joyce Chleboun, Travis Nye, Ryan Chandler, Dave Arch, Bruce Jacoby and Bob Charleston**. I think any one of these persons would tell you to not miss it in the future!

By **Bruce Jacoby**. OMS Vice President

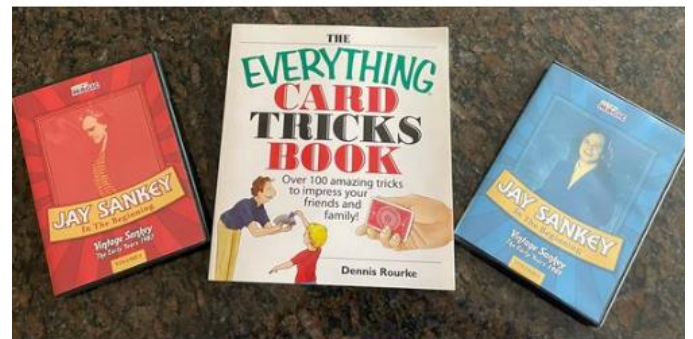


Omaha Magical Society - S.A.M. Assembly #7

PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!

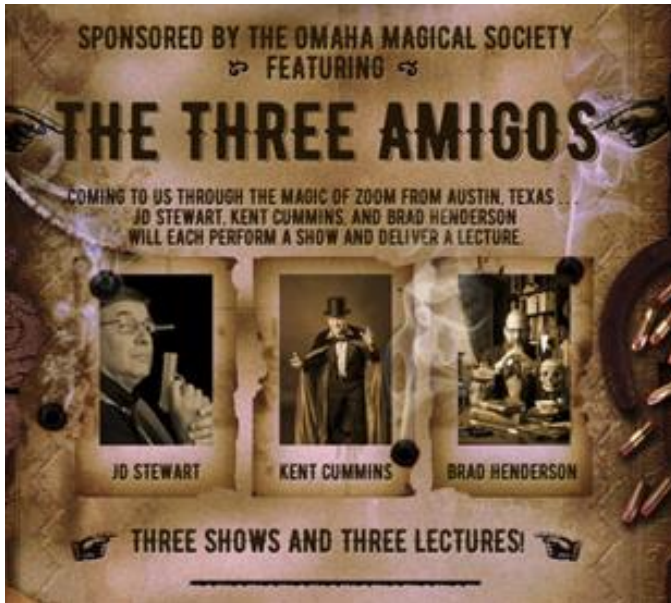
As part of this month's Zoom only Monday Night Magic (April 18th) three prizes will be awarded - including a book on card tricks authored by our own OMS Lifetime member Denny Rourke.

We'll also be introducing our online Wheel of Wonder for selecting the winners. If you're in attendance and want to play, your name will be on the spinning wheel.



2022 OMS Officers

- President** – Steve Nespor omahamagician55@gmail.com
- Vice President** – Bruce Jacoby..... bruce@colorfulmagic.com
- Secretary** – Patrice Fisher patricefisher@yahoo.com
- Treasurer** – Bob Gehringer gehringerr@cox.net
- Sgt-at-Arms** – Tim Begley tpbegley@cox.net
- Executive Director** - Dave Arch dave@sandler.com



Monday Night Magic

Monday, March 21st

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

ZOOM ONLY MEETING

When you're ready to join via **ZOOM**, 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

