



The Flash Paper

April, 2019

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Presidential Ponderings

Yes. It's happening. Every month we're seeing two or three new visitors coming to the club meetings. Quite exciting. I see no end in sight.

We started the club directory with 49 families listed, and the last time I looked we had 57!

However, this success begs an important question "How easy do we make it for visitors to find their way into the core group of our club (assuming they want to)?" Without intentionality around this, oftentimes at the monthly meetings, cliques understandably form (after all most of us haven't seen each other for a whole month, and we want to catch up) with the results that visitors can be ignored.

We now have a member specifically charged with seeing that visitors are welcomed, given a one-page synopsis of who we are, and meaningfully connected with others at the meeting having similar magic interests, personalities, and/or skill levels.

Thank you for humoring me by wearing name tags as yet another way for people to know and remember other people's names both new and veterans.

We now have a pictorial club directory that you can carry on your phone so you too can get better at associating

faces with names - keeping up with our growth and identifying others with similar interests in our increasingly diverse club membership. On our website (<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>),

you can watch how to download this to your phone.

Thank you for completing the online survey **Ron Gerard** has been encouraging you to submit so we can not only enter into our club directory your name, picture, contact information, and interests but also hear of your willingness to serve the club in some capacity.

In this Flash Paper, **Steve Nespor** continues his column giving the backstory of some member's magic journey too. Thank you, Steve, for helping us learn more about those that contribute to making the Omaha Magical Society what it is.

Finally, attendance at the one-hour monthly Q & A Orientation Meeting (joining me over at Goldberg's prior to every monthly meeting) certainly helps the visitor (and any other current member who wishes to come) get all their questions answered and helps us get to know into which direction we might encourage them to move for more significant involvement in the club's offerings.

Thank you for intentionally seeking out our club's visitors, introducing yourself, and hearing their magic story. I'm amazed at what's happening with the Omaha Magical Society as we continue to mature as an organization - serving as a gathering place for those who have a love for the art of magic.



Last Month's Meeting

Our March meeting showed just how creative our members are. Four teams of two were given four items and challenged to create an act using those items.

Larry Brodahl and

Roger Reese used a plunger, silly string, tinfoil and dice to create an act themed around an internet conspiracy theory. A number generated by the audience was discovered to be hidden inside a tinfoil headband.



George Huffaker and **Granville Sharp** had a hat-themed routine that combined a large pair of dice, party hat, plastic flowers and a bread roll. In the end, a spectator's card was found inside a bread roll. **Dave Arch** and **Steve Nespore** teamed up and used animal playing cards, a toy dart gun, a small dry erase board and a cloth box in their routine. A volunteer from the audience was blindfolded...well, had a cloth box put over his head and shot a dart that hit a previously chosen animal card. No animals were hurt in the trick. Finally, **Amjad Alawimari** and **Shayden Olson** were two F.B.M.I. (Federal Bureau of Magical Investigation) officers who used a map of the United States, balloons, clothes hangers and number spinners to magically produce clues to solve a crime. They made it to the semi-finals along with **Larry** and **Roger**.



The contest was won by **Shayden** and **Amjad**.

Two weeks later, we got another dose of magic from **Thom Peterson**. Thom's lecture was fun, funny and taught some very practical stuff. Thom's lecture covered a variety of different types of magic. There was something for everyone. Of course, he sold several of the routines he demonstrated, but he also showed how you could make them on your own.



Thom Peterson assisted by **Penelope Fratelli**

AbraCORNdabra. Check out the great line-up of entertainers and lecturers at www.abracorndabra.com. And, if you need new promo shots (I know I do) Josh Chaikin will be offering 20-minute photo shoots for just \$30. So, bring some special props and outfits and get some photos taken!



I'm thrilled to be doing our next lecture on April 15th! I've been doing magic for children and family audiences for over 25 years and I'm anxious to share something with you. You'll learn a few tricks AND I'll talk about my thoughts on the psychology of performing for kids and families. I'll have a ton of tips that you can incorporate in your shows right away and some thoughts on marketing, too. Even if you don't perform for kids or families, you'll still be able to get some great ideas from this lecture. We'll also do a Q & A session, so get ready to ask questions. It's going to be a fun meeting!

Check out the Flyer on our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

S.Y.M

This month our S.Y.M. members are focusing on sponge magic. We're working on basic sponge ball routines as well as other types of magic with sponge props. We also took a walk to a "safe area" in the church so that we know where to go in case bad weather hits during one of our meetings.

-Jeff Sikora

Secretary

Omaha Magical Society

Scott Alexander Lecture



Friday, April 19th 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

at the

Southwest Church of Christ

Check out **Scott Alexander's** website to see a video of his performing style, a bio of his performing experiences, and a catalog of his products:

<https://scottalexandermagic.com>

Search for **Scott** on YouTube, and you'll find his performances in **Season Six of America's Got Talent** - strong enough to move him into the quarterfinals. Here's a chance to learn from a man of extraordinary experience in a wide breadth of magic genres. **...Hip, laid-back and refreshing...** (*Los Angeles Times*)

Scott was invited for a quest appearance by **Oprah Winfrey** on her show. He headlined at **Cesars Palace** for over seven years. His magic was featured on **Penn and Teller's "Fool Us"**, on the CW, The Sify Channel, Discovery Channel, and NBC. Scott has also appeared in Paris on the world class and prestigious **Le Grande Plus Caberet Du Monde**.

Scott Alexander's delivery is always lighthearted, somewhat irreverent, amazing, quick-witted and sure to leave you filled with wonder and laughter.

What's Your Magic Story?

by Steve Nespor

This month it was my pleasure to sit down to lunch at Petrow's with **Tom Zepf** for what I hope will be the first of many such opportunities. He caught the magic bug as a young boy of 10 in Cincinnati, OH and would go on to join the IBM's Cincinnati Ring 71 in 1954 at the age of 19. He is a member of the Order of Merlin Excelsior.

Tom did his undergraduate studies at Xavier University in Cincinnati and his graduate studies at Saint Louis University and moved to Omaha to take a position with Creighton University. Before retiring at the end of the 2001-2002 academic year he gave 40 years of service to their physics department. During that time, he chaired



**Professor Emeritus Tom Zepf,
Department Head**

the physics department from 1963 to 1973, served as the chief health professions advisor for the College of Arts and Sciences in 1975 to 1981 and again chaired the department from 1981 to 1993, receiving Creighton's Distinguished Faculty Service Award in 1987 and the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1997. His research focused on condensed matter physics and laser optics (I hear the theme from the Big Bang Theory each time I read that sentence.)

When he moved to Omaha, he became a member of the Omaha Magical Society, SAM Assembly 7 in 1962, and served at President of the OMS in 1963-64 and 2014, receiving the Omaha Magical Society's David P. Abbott Award in 2010. It is safe to say he strives for excellence in everything he does. In talking to him about the various presentations he has done over the years, there were two in particular that stood out. The first was one of his favorite programs to present, "The Mind's Eye: A

Lighthearted Look at Extra Sensory Perception" in which he guides participants through various ESP-like experiences where the spectator is the one to accomplish seemingly impossible feats. His favorite closer was an effect so astonishing that it elicited a very strong reaction from the participant, often a startled scream of utter disbelief. You'll want to ask him about that one when you next see him.



The second is the 40+ year tradition of the **Haunted Physics Lab** at Creighton presented every year for the Halloween season. Many of our OMS members have witnessed first-hand this testament to Tom's passion for physics combined with magic principles. The four decades old tradition consists of 30 stations which showcase different physics phenomena. Zepf puts it best himself in an article published in the Physics Teachers Journal early in 2000, "Halloween celebrates a frightful, irrational confrontation with mystery, whereas in physics we approach the mysteries of the universe rationally." But words cannot describe the Haunted Lab sufficiently. As an added feature this month, if you go to our website <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org> you will find a link to a short video WOWT TV did on the lab some years back and an abbreviated video tour of the lab.



Tom performing at a 1956 Dance Party

A regular attendee of monthly meetings and lectures, Tom is a wonderful example of how magic can transcend any one discipline and delight both the young and young at heart.



Video Library Additions

You can let your club members know that now there's a new video in their club's video library. I've uploaded what I simply call **Bill Bet** in which I recount a bet I once lost to a fellow who made it sound so simple. Its skill level is **EASY**. It's one of those nearly perfect tricks for carrying with you for those anytime magic moments. I hope your members enjoy it. - **Dave Arch**

All OMS members have access to these ever-growing resources with teaching videos for Easy, Intermediate, and Advanced performer.

If you have yet to renew your membership for 2019, you can do also do that on our website. If you are a member and don't yet have your credentials, please let us know by contacting us through the homepage of the website.

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Some new faces at our meeting.



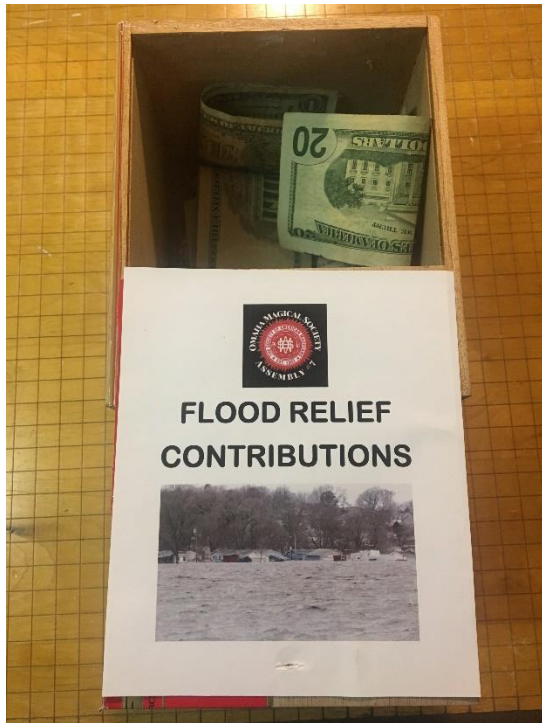
Dave Williams



Jason Dulberg



Another attentive gathering



Nebraska Flood Relief Contributions

Our club raised \$203.00 at our March meeting for Nebraska Flood Relief. We mailed a check for \$203.00 to the American

Red Cross as our club's donation.

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

| 2019 | OMS | Officers |
|--|----------------------|--|
| President | – Dave Arch |(dave@sandlers.com) |
| Vice President | – David Fox... | (hotsy@windstream.net) |
| Treasurer | – Bob Gehringer..... | (gehringerr@cox.net) |
| Secretary | – Jeff Sikora..... | (jqmagic@cox.net) |
| Sgt.-at-Arms | – Neil Bable..... | (rutiger@hotmail.com) |
| Flash Paper photographer – Neil Bable | | |

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