



The Flash Paper

April, 2020

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Presidential Ponderings

With fourteen people at our March online monthly meeting, the club moves forward in this unusual time without missing a beat. We're also leveraging the advantages of being online by touring a Sioux Falls magic store and theater as part of our March meeting. Here's the challenge for our April meeting:

If you were invited to do a magic show for a birthday party over the Internet with seven-year old guests, which one magic trick from your current repertoire would you include - considering the constraints of the delivery system?



Bring the trick with you to the meeting ready to talk about it or show it and explain why it would be included in your online show.

Remember in order to join us, you'll need a computer, smart phone or tablet with wi-fi connection, a camera, and a microphone. Then you'll just click on this link (<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>) to join the meeting a little before 7:00 PM on Monday evening, April 20th.



Every Monday Evening until in-person meetings are again allowed, **Steve Nespor, Steve Lindeman, Patrice Fisher, Amjad Alawimari, and Joe Cole** are meeting weekly online with young magicians from 5:30 - 6:30 PM.

Might you know a young person who'd enjoy this? Reach out to Steve Nespor for details (omahamagician@cox.net)?

On Saturday, April 25th, (virus permitting) adults, youth, and parents from The OMS Junior Magicians group will be travelling together to perform at **The Little Red Hen Theatre** in Wakefield Nebraska. Young people will be helping backstage and as assistants for the stage shows.

2020 OMS Officers

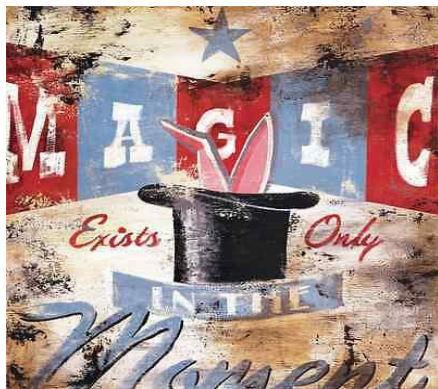
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Magic in the Age of COVID-19 Assembly 7 Omaha, NE

The Omaha Magical Society March gathering was our first foray into the world of online magic meetings in these days of

physical distancing. Club President Dave Arch hosted a Zoom meeting for members and he kicked things off with a brief video of some purposefully bad magic done for comedy effect (Google “barbershop Storm Front Old Black Magic” to watch it on YouTube) which led to some fun discussions in virtual breakout rooms around the topic “what makes you cringe when you see _____ done in a performance?” The discussion was followed by a vote on some updates to our club’s Constitution and then we were treated to a virtual tour of the Spellbound Magic Shop & Theater in Sioux Falls by owner Travis Nye. Travis’ shop caters to both beginners and more seasoned performers, and it has a parlor theater as well. Club members then shared effects they were working on and could ask for feedback on what might help improve their routines. Members from the immediate area attended, as did some like Jonathan Johnson or young Easton and his mom Beth, who live too far away to attend were there, some who had moved out of the area, like Jim Stockton, were also a welcome sight. We may need to look for ways to keep that wonderful connection, like including live-casting of future gathered meetings.



The OMS Junior Magicians have also moved their meetings online for the foreseeable future. If you know a young person who might be interested in learning magic, have them contact us through the club

website or put them in touch with me. We are continuing to fine tune the process, but even for as rough around the edges as we started out, our young people are thoroughly enjoying themselves and requested that we meet every

week for as long as circumstances require that we cannot meet of face-to-face.

Author Ronald Dahl is quoted as having said, “Those who don’t believe in magic will never find it.” But, as we are all discovering these days, those who do believe will always find a way. Stay Safe. - **Steve Nespor**



Meet A Member Nights in April

To take advantage of the downtime some of our members are experiencing, president Dave Arch has arranged for some extra on-line diversions by contacting members of the club who have interesting talents and hobbies. They will share their expertise with a virtual tour of their projects at Zoom gatherings to be held on the four Tuesday nights in April.



When you're a full-time professional magician like OMS member, **Joe Cole**, you're oftentimes working while the rest of us are meeting on Monday nights. He agreed to be the first up as part of our **MEET A MEMBER** series.

On April 7th. Joe shared with us his love of **ROBOTICS**, and how he combines it with his passion for magic. During the course of our one hour meeting he showed us a cute little robot that finds a selected playing card (with a little help from Joe and a toe switch), A Jumbo Sidekick trick that he built himself, a wonderful multi-act Flea Circus, a raccoon with a mind of its own, and a huge favorite with youngsters, a rabbit that comes up out of a hat, wiggles it’s ears, has



animated sunglasses, talks to the audience, and fills the stage with confetti to start the show off with a bang.

Sixteen people gathered online to hear **Joe Cole** help us understand his fascination with robotics and how he uses that passion in his magic to the enjoyment of a very appreciative group.

everything from small close-up props to large stage illusions. He demonstrated the techniques for working with this material in the second of our Meet A Member Series.



Some of Scott's excellent miniature work

During this session we found out how to build many of our own magic props armed with the information received including precision cutting, texturing, painting; and gluing.



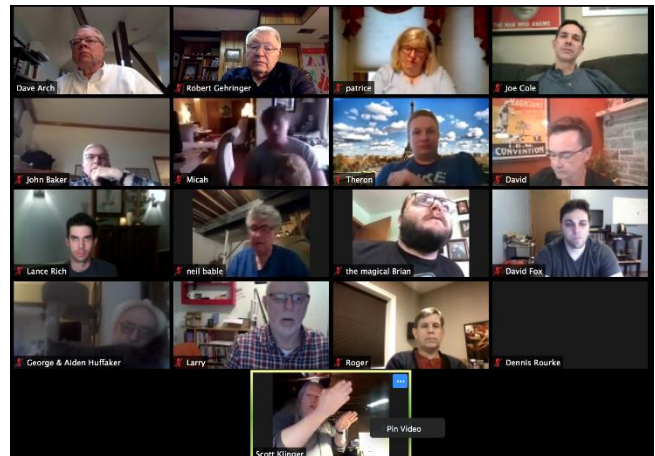
Joe Cole's next online meeting

As part of our OMS Meet A Member series of online meetings, OMS member and full-time professional magician **Joe Cole** invites us into his home for a tour of his pinball collection on **Tuesday evening, April 28**, from 7-8 PM through our OMS Online Magic Learning Center. Can you tell we're trying to leverage Joe's availability before he gets busy again? He'll also have as his guest, **David Sandy**, IBM Ring President in Kansas City, who'll show us two of his magic themed pinball machines.

Scott Klinger's Online Meeting



According to OMS member and Bellevue Berry Farm Haunted House entrepreneur, **Scott Klinger**, there is no material quite like Owens-Corning Foamular Insulation sheets for constructing



Screen shot of the virtual meeting.

THANKS goes out to OMS member [Scott Klinger](#) from the sixteen participants who got together with him online on Tuesday evening, April 14th, to learn about using the Owens-Corning pink foam to create magic props from close-up to illusions. Great fun and very informative. Enjoyable to see the very intricate pieces he's created too. Guests came from Iowa, South Dakota, and Kansas to join us for the evening. Thank you for the time you spent Scott in getting ready for us to drop into your place and learn from you.



What's Your Magic?

by

Patrice Fisher

Steve Lindeman

Steve Lindeman was born and raised in Omaha and pursued magic as a youngster. He spent hours learning tricks from books in the library until he finally was confident enough to put on magic shows for the neighborhood.

Magic continued to be his main hobby even as he became a young married man who had a challenging career in the restaurant industry. After several years, those long, demanding working hours became a real grind. They were taking a toll on his family life, but, fortunately, Steve had a very supportive wife, Gina. She knew of his love for magic and persuaded him to take a chance and develop his goal of a full-time career as a magician.

Not knowing what persona he should develop or how to get gigs, Steve sought out guidance. He joined the Society of American Magicians, to which our Omaha Magical Society belongs, in order to gain insight into the process of building his career. That was about twenty years ago, when **Jeff Quinn** was the president.

Immediately, Steve experienced encouragement from Jeff and other members of the club. He met **Jered Schaurgaard**, who became one of Steve's

mentors. Gerard helped him gain work doing close-up magic in restaurants. That is when Steve became **The Amazing Lindy!**



As Steve expanded his skills, he gained more gigs through another Omaha magician and friend, **Arthur Fratelli**. Through support from Arthur and other fellow magicians, Steve could finally develop what was once his part-time

hobby into full-time work as a magician. He honed his close-up tricks and created more elaborate stage shows, and word-of-mouth spread.



Today, **The Amazing Lindy** entertains at festivals, corporate venues, retirement facilities, restaurants, private parties and clubs. He has been employed at the Texas Roadhouse in Council Bluffs for 13 years performing magic tricks sprinkled with his comedy for the lucky diners.

In addition, Steve is paying it forward by training young magicians enrolled in the OMS Junior Magicians program. I am sure while working with these enthusiastic young students and watching them practice and perform it is like deja vu for Steve as he remembers entertaining his neighbors at the same ages as these potential future magicians.



OMS member, **Jeff Sikora**, will be presenting a virtual family magic show for the Minden Opera House - streaming live online at their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MindenOperaHouse/>

From 7-7:30 PM on Tuesday, April 21, here's a chance to enjoy one of the club's full-time working pros in this exciting performing venue. Congratulations Jeff on being selected for this opportunity.



All Meet A Member sessions are held from 7-8 PM online.

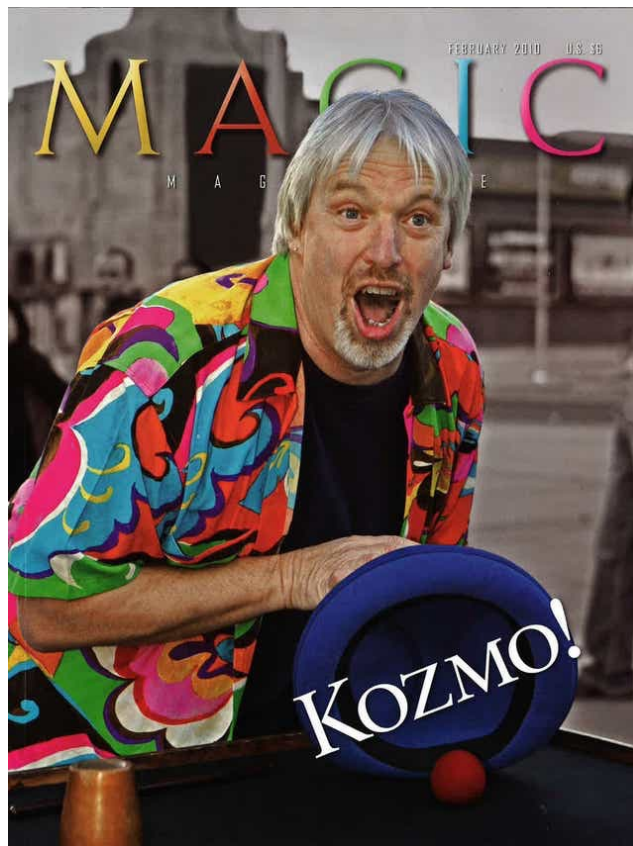
Go to <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> when you're ready to come into the room and enjoy the meeting.

Tuesday, April 28 - Joe Cole - A Passion for Pinball Machines

Tuesday, May 5 - Guest Lecturer - Kozmo

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



Coming Online Just For Us May 5!