



The Flash Paper

August 2020

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Presidential Ponderings

"What a waste of money!"

What magician hasn't said that as they opened their latest acquisition only to find out the trick wasn't suitable for their skill level, personality or performing conditions? Video trick demos can conveniently edit out key components.

So, in our effort to be smarter magic shoppers, we search YouTube™ and the Magic Cafe for reviews - still never totally sure if the person giving the review isn't a friend of the inventor or is giving a positive review only because they were given the trick for free. And beyond that you can't have a casual back and forth interchange - asking the reviewer the questions that really matter in your buying decisions.

When physical magic stores disappeared, we lost even the hope of having that trusted advisor who would demo and skillfully (without even revealing the secrets) help us understand the pro's and con's of a given trick along with the skill level required for a successful performance. The better the magic dealer knew you the more s/he was able to even begin recommending tricks that fit your style. For that I believe we have found no substitute.

Fortunately, we have a relatively new friend of the club (but not to magic). **Travis Nye**, who owns The Spellbound Magic Shop and Theater in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has taken on a virtual tour of his shop in one of our early online meetings, and I know of at least two times he's driven props down to make delivery of props to club members here in Omaha.

Travis will be back this month in our monthly online meeting Monday, August 17, from 7-8:30 PM when he'll be having a ten-minute dealer demo of some of the tricks that have found their way into his store.



In the meantime, I encourage you to get to know **Travis** through his Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/spellbound605/>.

He just might be the trusted magic consultant you've been looking for.

You can read more about the theme of our meeting elsewhere in this issue of the Flash Paper. To join our meeting at 7 PM on August 17th, just click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

Non-Profit Status Update

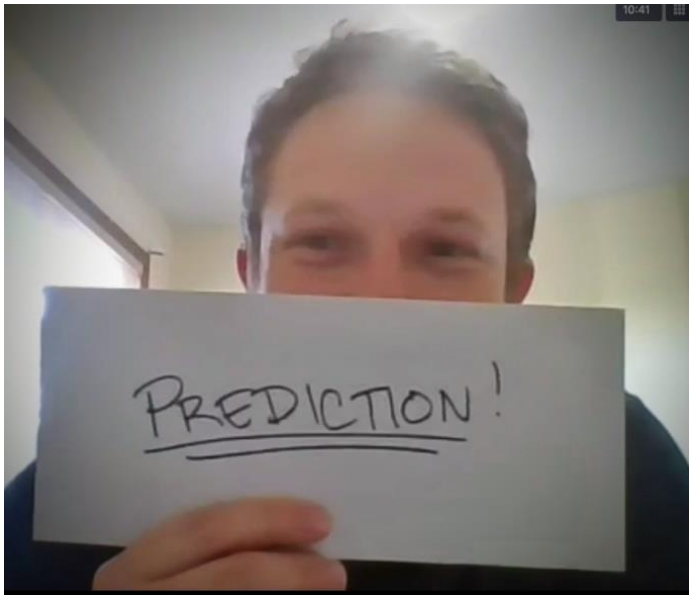


This month the IRS finally assigned (after six months) The Omaha Magical Society our Employee Identification Number. Now our application has been submitted. When approved, all donations to the club will be tax deductible.



Dollar Store Magic Night Assembly 7 Omaha, NE

July's magic meeting theme was "crafty magic." Members were challenged to buy something at a dollar-type store and come up with a trick or routine while spending no more than five dollars. This year we had a bit of an extra challenge in that the trick needed to be able to be performed online.



Jonathan Johnson told us how to make an impression device out of a simple spiral notepad. **Theron Christensen** showed a prediction routine with a DIY multiple-outs envelope that could be shown empty after the prediction. **David Fox** found a nifty little erasable clock for a clock trick plot that allowed him to reveal a thought-of number by eliminating all the numbers one at a time, the revelation being made with the time where the hands pointed. **Scott Klinger** showed how to make small figures shaped out of the melted polymers of a hot glue gun.

Afterward, the group discussed and brainstormed a couple of different scenarios for routines that two members brought to the club for suggestions on methods.

- Steve Nespor

August Meeting



Copy Cats is what we call this meeting where four of our members perform the cut and restored rope trick - giving it their own spin and explaining why they decided to routine it the way they did. We'll be asking each of them at least three questions:

- Why did you choose that particular method?
- Why did you choose that particular routine?
- Where in a show would you place that routine & why?

We'll also have a visit from **Travis Nye**, owner of Spellbound Magic Shop in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, who will demonstrate and review some of the magic that's come into his shop. Come online Monday, August 17, from 7-8:30 PM by clicking on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>



On Saturday morning, August 8, Omaha woke up to an article on the front page of The Living Section in the **Omaha World Herald** detailing the club's establishment of a Magic Research Center in cooperation with the University of Nebraska at Omaha. You can read the article online here: <https://bit.ly/2EZGAcF>. Or check out the PDF above. Thank you to **Larry Brodahl** for his volunteering to help UNO catalog the collection so that club members can access the titles for all 1200 books online by the end of 2021.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



What's Your Magic Story? by Patrice Fisher

2020 OMS Interview with Travis Nye

About a mile or so off the I-29 exit into Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the *Spellbound Magic Shop and Theater* awaits all who enter its doors with fun and entertainment. Magician Travis Nye had been thinking of opening a shop with space for an entertainment venue for several years. So, when a store space and adjacent theater became available in March of this year, he decided to pull the trigger on his dream.



Travis and his wife, Heidi, decided to put down roots in Sioux Falls several years back, and with determination, drive and some added support from the local Magic Club, he became pretty well known in the area. With a passion for entertaining and teaching, opening his own theater and shop were perfect next steps in his career.

Now, Travis can spend his days showing patrons the tricks he has in stock and practice his trade while staying knowledgeable about new items on the market. Visit his [Facebook](#) page and you will not only see various magic



kits and tricks, common to a magic shop, but you'll discover other interesting and fun things. If you visit the shop, there is a spinner rack filled with novelty jokes and gags. My favorite is a good whoopy cushion, especially rewarding to give to a child with prudish parents. (My niece and nephew loved theirs, but my sister was incensed.) Travis has cool shirts, puzzles, books and videos suitable for all ages. He has found that a favorite category for customers is themed playing cards, such as Star Wars or Super Heroes, that they enjoy collecting. In addition, young magicians between the ages of 8 - 13 years old have had the opportunity to learn the art and skills of magic with summer classes that Travis has started with much success.



The theater is set in the Victorian era, which Travis designed with all the vintage charm of that period. You enter from the shop via a thick red velvet curtain parted



by golden ropes, always open for customers to explore. The **Dovan Theater** marquee is painted on a faux brick wall, with a very London-esque oil street lamp flickering next to a park bench welcoming patrons to sit before entering into the 25-30 seat parlor-type theater. Travis has automated the stage with lights and sounds to complete an atmosphere of magic and mystery in an era gone by. He has already created four types of shows: a kids show, a family show, a more intellectually challenging adult show and an annual October Houdini Tribute show that plays each weekend of that month.

In 1924, Houdini wrote a book entitled **Magician Among the Spirits**. Harry Houdini wanted to debunk the so-called clairvoyants (charlatans) who bilked money from unsuspecting clients wishing to reconnect with their deceased, loved ones in the after-life. It provides the premise for his psychic-themed show. Travis begins with various magic tricks before he shifts into the realm of mentalism by connecting his audience to the past through his storytelling and mind reading. The dim lighting and eerie music create just the right atmosphere to be transported into the 1920's. His goal is not to deceive, but to have his audience sit back, be amazed and enjoy the show rather than focusing on trying to figure out how things are done. This will be the first year performing his October shows in his new theater. The Omaha Magic Society wishes Travis every success!

In closing...ROAD TRIP...well, when travel is safe again. In the meantime, visit **The Spellbound Magic Shop and Theater** on Facebook. Travis may be chatting with one of your favorite magicians! Lance Burton has already joined the conversation while being homebound and who knows who will pop in next!



Added to our club's online video library in August is a three-phase string and finger ring routine that has stood the test of time. Although this one will take a little practice, if you visit the library and view the effect, you just might decide it would be worth the effort to add it to your repertoire.

To view a video that might spark ideas for using this new resource to grow in your own magic interest area visit <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/videos>



Walter Graham Performance (Cards T...
Dave Arch
Here former Dean of the Omaha Magical Society performs one of his signature routines The Cards To Pocket at one of the club's



Walter Graham Performance (His Toa...
Dave Arch
Former Dean of the Omaha Magical Society, Walter Graham, delivers his signature toasts as George Huffaker plays the



Fastest Card Trick (Easy/Close-Up/Pl...



Thieves and Sheep (Easy/Close-Up)

2020 OMS Officers

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



The Pete Petrashek Scholarship Fund

is now awarding four twelve-month scholarships to homeschool students ages 8-14 who would like to pursue the learning and performing of magic through our OMS Junior Magicians online program. Deadline for submissions is September 15, 2020. Students can apply on the club's website:

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/homeschool>

Here are some applications that have already come in:

Why should you be awarded one of the scholarships?:

I personally have loved magic for a long time. I practice in my free time, learning from YouTube. I spend hours learning new card tricks and I create tricks myself.

I would love this opportunity to learn from your school because it would help grow my skills in discretion, entertainment, distraction, flow and card handling. I don't get any help with my magic.

I can do a good amount of card tricks and magic tricks. I would like to improve on slide of hand and learn more card tricks and magic tricks in general. I love watching magicians on A.G.T or Penn and Teller Fool Us. My favorite magician is Shin Lim.

Why should you be awarded one of the scholarships?:

I would really enjoy this.



Scholarships cost \$63.35 per student. We already have four donated but if early submissions are any indication, it looks like we might have a significant number. **Might you consider donating a scholarship?** Just let us know through our website or by emailing any board member.

Why should you be awarded one of the scholarships?:

Sully is fascinated by optical illusions and slight of hand tricks. He watches Penn & Teller's Fool Us and Netflix's Magic for Humans. I purchased a small set of magic tricks for him at Christmas, and he loved performing for his grandparents. I think he would benefit greatly from a little direction and mentoring. As a single parent who is homeschooling this year, I also appreciate any positive adult role models in his life. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Why should you be awarded one of the scholarships?:

Rebecca has had a love for magic for the past year. It all started with working on a badge for Cub Scouts, Magic and curiosity for her Tiger Rank. She loves learning tricks and is always putting on magic shows for friends and family. The opportunity to learn more about magic would send her over the moon.