



The Flash Paper

December 2020

Bob Gehringer, Editor

Presidential Ponderings



With the Holidays upon us and COVID still very much an issue, there's probably a better than even chance you're already doing some online shopping with Amazon. I don't suppose you'd be willing to help The Omaha Magical Society

by designating a portion of your purchase towards helping fund the club programming? It's a one-time sign-up, and the money comes to the club from Amazon.

Later in this issue, you can read about some exciting 2021 plans under the leadership of new President, **Steve Nespor** and a special project to be partially funded by this Amazon initiative with **Steve Lindeman**.

However, for now here's what I'm hoping you'd be willing to do. When you shop on Amazon, The Omaha Magical Society could be receiving a portion of your purchase as a donation from Amazon if you:

1. Go to the following link in your browser and sign into your Amazon account - designating the Omaha Magical Society as your charity of choice:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-2689855>

2. **Please Note:** Unless you want to sign in every time, be sure and mark the "Keep Me Signed In" checkbox.

3. When shopping Amazon, go in through the above link (not the Amazon app or the main Amazon site) by bookmarking the site on your computer browser and/or putting a shortcut to the website on the home screen of your phone.



That's it. Thank you.

And thank you personally for your support over these past two years as your President. Now as Executive Director of our club, I look forward to working with our new 2021 President, **Steve Nespor**, as the club continues to move forward under his leadership in the club's 100th anniversary year!

Happy Holidays and New Year!

2020 OMS Officers

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

Thank you to the officers of 2020!

- Dave Arch



SHOW AND SELL

November is the traditional month for our club's annual used magic garage sale, and COVID being what it is, we decided to host an Online Garage Sale for our monthly club meeting and launch the new members-only magic

exchange site that will be open to members of the OMS and our Junior Magicians group as well. It was our largest online meeting to date with over 2 dozen members Zooming in from Omaha, the surrounding and nearby states.

The offerings during the evening covered a wide range of magic that included escape paraphernalia, mentalism props, magic for children's shows, juggling equipment, sponge production items, and stage illusions, just to name a few. We toured the new site and afterwards a number of the products moved very quickly and have been replaced by even more items.

In addition to sharing props and books to sell, we were treated to a demonstration of five holiday themed magic tricks to do and teach using candy canes, wrapping paper, gift ribbon, and a few other common items.

We also voted on our **2021 Club Officers** who look forward to continuing to serve our members in the coming months. They are:

- President – **Steve Nespor,**
- Vice President – **Jered Schaugaard,**
- Treasurer – **Bob Gehringer,**
- Sgt-at-Arms – **Amjad Alawimari**

OMS On Line Garage Sale

Did you know that as an Omaha Magical Society member you have access to a private buy, sell, trade Facebook site that lets you buy other member's magic at significant discounts and sell any of your extra gently used books and magic tricks with delivery as simple as designating on your post "porch pick up only?"

If you're a member and haven't yet been given entrance to the Facebook page, please reach out through the yellow button off to the right and we'll correct the situation. If you aren't a member, you can remedy that yourself by clicking on this link: <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/membership> and paying your \$20 dues for 2021 online now.



Tax Deductible Magic Tricks Donation

Did you know that you could also donate gently used magic books and tricks to the club and deduct the fair market value of that donation on your income tax?

You just might save yourself some hassle and be helping the club financially at the same time.

Just contact us through our website if you're a member and having a challenge coming into the Facebook garage sale site or you have any magic tricks or books you might wish to donate to the club.

More information may also be found here: <https://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org/used-magic>

- Steve Nespor





What's Your Magic Story by Patrice Fisher

Steve Nespor

Twenty years ago, **Steve Nespor** started the new millennium as President of our Omaha Magical Society. Now he will again take the reins in 2021, our club's Centennial year!

As we welcome in our club's 100th, I am happy to welcome Steve once again as a leader for our group. He has served in various roles throughout his thirty years of membership in our Magical Society.

Steve attributes his beginning in the realm of magic to a shop on 84th street, in the Westgate Mall, named Mangelsen's. You see, back-in-the-day, it was not just a crafts store, but also a destination to acquire magic tricks, props, etc. That shop provided Steve with magic tricks and our club members supported his goals of learning and using magic to spice up his training programs for employees at The Oriental Trading Company. One OMS member in particular, **Charlie Gross**, became his friend and mentor.

Steve knows our past and plans to grow our future and realizes we are on a good path with our new non-profit status. He wants to build upon our current strengths while never losing sight of his first priority: our members.

He has led our OMS Junior Magicians using the Discover Magic curriculum and has been involved in other youth training. He did not miss a beat in spite of the hurdle we faced with Covid by creatively using Zoom since we could no longer continue in-person classes. Not only has he succeeded in maintaining youth enthusiasm for learning magic; Steve has grown membership for our junior magician training programs. One of his hopes is to cultivate the excitement of new magicians through various avenues of learning while also serving the needs of our longer-term members.



Steve giving a demonstration

Our OMS is more diverse than ever before and we welcome the strength that diversity brings to our club. Through capturing the "magic" found in the various skills and life experiences of our members, we can explore new ideas, promote our club, and expand our activities.

Steve's aspirations for our club are high but solidly grounded. It is with pride and friendship that I wish Steve success. Please join me in welcoming our 2021 Centennial Year President, Steve Nespor!



Steve at our Boys Town picnic



Denny, Jeff and Steve with the SYM performers



Meaning in Magic

“There is no point in working on something . . . that your audience has no need or desire to see.” – Guy Hollingworth

Magicians frequently preach naturalness – that all your movements (including the secret ones) should be justified.

“Don’t put your hand in your pocket,” for instance, “unless you have some obvious reason to do so.”

As I wrote in *Plotting Astonishment*, however, it is just as important to make your *magic* natural and justified as it is to make your *movements* natural and justified.

How can magic be natural and justified? The same way movement can: by having a purpose. That is, for every effect you choose to perform, you should be able to answer two questions about it: (1) why should *you* care to perform it; and (2) why should your *audience* care to see it? These questions quickly reveal that some effects in magic are simply more meaningful than others. For example, changing a white handkerchief to an audience member’s favorite color means more than changing it to some arbitrary color.

Because many of us will be performing for our families instead of our usual audiences over the holidays, here are some ideas for meaningful magic you may like to try at home:

- (1) Have your spouse or children mail a secret wish to Santa which magically comes true on Christmas morning (don’t tell them they wrote their wish on an impression pad).
- (2) If you are gifting any pets this Christmas – a puppy or kitten for instance – consider

wrapping a large nest of boxes (minus the load-in box) and placing it under the tree several weeks in advance. After your family realizes what was apparently in the box for so long, you can expect some difficult questions and a few concerned looks.

- (3) Predict how much snow will fall during the next snow storm (the method for Joshua Jay’s “*Heightened Senses*” should make this manageable).
- (4) Predict the next ten Christmas songs to play on the radio (Jeff Kaylor’s “*Unbelievealope*” makes this a cinch).
- (5) Repair a favorite toy or piece of jewelry by magic (you might have to purchase a duplicate of the thing and find your old devil’s hank to pull this one off).

May your holidays be meaningful and magical.

- Theron Christensen



Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

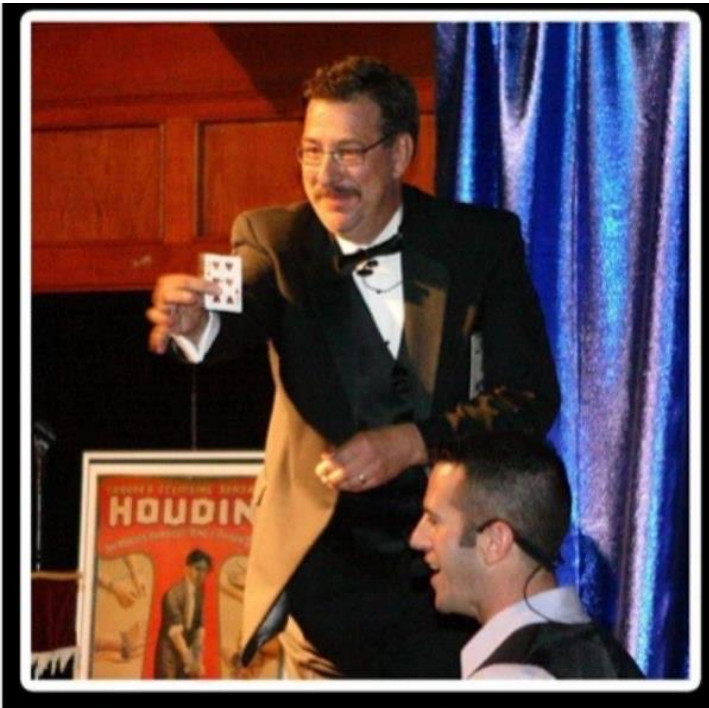


Magic That Matures

AFTER SCHOOL MAGIC CLASSES

STEVE LINDEMAN ACCEPTS DIRECTORSHIP

OMS member **Steve Lindeman** has agreed to serve as Director of the after-school onsite classes sponsored by The Omaha Magical Society.



As a full-time performing professional magician, Steve's focus has increasingly been directed towards passing on the art that has become his passion.

Every week he teaches magic classes as part of the team in the club's **Junior Magicians' program**. However, he understands that for many new students the magic classes will need to be brought to them.

As Director of our after-school programming, Steve will work with a staff of teachers and grant writers to continue securing the funding for providing this resource for an increasing number of our area schools.

The Curriculum

The Red Cup, The Blue Cup, and The Yellow Cup level of the Magic That Matures™ curriculum each contains eight magic tricks taught in four forty-minute classes (with follow-up online videos made available to each student at the conclusion of every class).



Upon successful performance of the tricks at each level, one of the colored cups is awarded to the student along with a bonus magic trick that can be done with that cup. Upon successful completion of all three stages, the student owns his/her own set of what is historically believed to be the oldest magic trick in the history of the art *The Cups and Balls*.

You can read more about this 2021 project on our website at: <https://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org/after-school>

Thank You and Congratulations Steve.





Two new videos were added to the OMS online video library for the month of December. Both of these are available to all current members of the Omaha Magical Society. If you are a paid member but don't remember your log-in credentials for the video library, please use our website to reach out, and we'll send you a reminder. If you haven't purchased your membership yet, you can do so online at <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/membership> or wait until January 1 when you can pay your 2021 dues at the same link. The OMS board has recommended that the dues stay at \$20 for the 2021 year.

The Mystery Of The Bells



This is a two-phase routine in which the magician without the use of sight is able to keep track of the only bell that makes any sound as the volunteer mixes the four bells . . . and then five bells. The use of the jingle bells makes it ideal for the Holidays. However, the presentation makes it suitable for year-round.

Sleighty Advanced, Part 3



This has the club's incoming 2021 Vice-President **Jered Schaugard** share with us the third segment of his multi-phased routine for those magicians wanting to advance their card handling skills.



Presidential Recognition Dinner

Although we don't have a regular monthly meeting in December, OMS members who have significantly volunteered time and/or financial resources in 2020 received invitations from Dave Arch to an online dinner to celebrate club achievements and receive the recognition they deserve. There was a video retrospective of 2019-20 years, recognitions of those who significantly contributed to those achievements, and performances by some of our Junior Magicians.

January 18, 2021 Meeting

Last September, the Kansas City Magic club presented a zoom lecture for us. This was made possible because earlier that month **Jared Schaugard**, **Larry Brodahl**, and **David Fox** did a Zoom show for them. It was very well received by the Kansas City Club and we had several of our members say they would be interested in seeing the show our three members had performed. We are happy to say that our **January meeting** will make that happen. Each will perform 10 to 15 minutes of magic followed by detailed instruction of the acts they perform. Please plan to join us at 7:00 pm on January 18, 2021 for an enjoyable evening of magic. At 7:00 PM that night just click on the following link to join us via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>



Kansas City IBM Ring 129 – Zoom magic show/lecture 09/03/2020



Flash Paper Highlights of 2020

The Flash Paper averaged 2,170 words per issue in 2020. This is because of the dedicated writing by some of our talented members. Here is a sample.

Steve Nespor and **David Fox** told us what to expect each month and then wrote about it.



Great articles on **David Stone**,
Theron's Book meeting,
Kozmo,
Dollar Tree night,
Books we would like to have on a desert island,
Copy Kats,
The KC Zoom meet with **David, Jered**, and **Larry**,
Our **Zoom Meet a Member** nights featuring **Scott**,
David, Joe, Neil and **Travis**,
and Our video library updates.

Then there are our Special Columns.



What's Your Magic Story

by

Patrice Fisher

Patrice wrote insightful and engaging articles featuring:

Jeff Quinn,
Mr. Who – Amjad Alawimari,
Poppin Penelope Fratelli,
Steve Lindeman,
Joe Cole,
Dave Madsen – Bingo the Clown,
Jered Schaugaard,
Travis Nye,
Larry Brodahl,
Joshua Jay's experiences helping the prisoners,
Dave Arch,
and **Steve Nespor**.

We also had interesting articles including:



David Fox and **Clint Runge's** excursion to New York to see **Derren Brown & Andy Nieman**



Joe Cole's recommendation of **Jon Friedman's** book *Magic for Cool Kats*,



And of course, **Theron Christensen's** monthly intriguing discussions expanding concepts from his book *Planning Astonishment*.



And finally, **Dave Arch's** Presidential Ponderings leading our club with direction and guidance on our Youth clubs and Home Schooling with the Discover Magic curriculum, updates on the work securing the UNO library, and our 501-(c) (3) Nonprofit status. And who can forget our **Clue Clubhouse** layout.

We should be proud of and thankful for what we have accomplished during this challenging COVID – 19 Zoom handicapped year. - **Bob Gehringer** - Editor



LETTERS OF MYSTERY

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THESE LETTERS HAVE A SPECIAL MESSAGE JUST FOR YOU!

- Close your eyes and place your fingertip on any letter.
- Open your eyes and write down that letter. Then count five letters to the right writing down that letter. Continue writing down every fifth letter until you get back to the first letter you touched. When you come to the end of a line, continue counting at the left end of the next line. When you reach the bottom of the board, continue counting at the top.

YOUR MESSAGE IS FOUND IN THE LETTERS YOU GET!

A Magic Message for 2021

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