



The Flash Paper

February, 2019

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Presidential Ponderings

My experience has been that when the “what” an organization does gets separated from the “why” an organization does what it does, that organization begins to die.

The following mission statement for the Omaha Magical Society only begins to scratch the surface, but it is a beginning:

The Omaha Magical Society exists to facilitate the growth of its members within the Art of Magic in the areas of their own interests and passions through the providing of resources and the facilitating of networking with other members having similar interests and passions.

Passing quickly over the obvious that this member-centric mission statement has a sub-text that the club exists for the benefit of the members rather than the other way around, buried in the above paragraph are the words “facilitating of networking.” The common interest in magic provides a vehicle for creating significant relationships between human beings.

Granted, I can only speak from the perspective of a male. However, given that fact I do know that if I want significant relationships with others, those relationships will be forged around us *doing things together*. During that process, we will also discuss our children, grandchildren, and the health of our spouses. However, we probably won't just be going out for coffee to discuss those things.

I also know that without connecting with other people in significant ways, the quality in my life greatly diminishes. Did you know that when a prisoner of war is captured, one of the first steps in breaking that person is to put them into solitary confinement for a week or more? Oftentimes, I have been known to do that to myself if I'm not intentional about staying out of that emotional trap of isolation. A common passion (like magic) serves as a vehicle for meeting this foundational human requirement for good mental and physical health. - **Dave Arch**

2019 OMS Board

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Last Month's Meeting

The January Wizard's Banquet was a resounding success!

Over 100 people attending our annual gathering of magic and fun. The newly-remodeled Scott Center was a wonderful

setting for a magical night. After a wonderful dinner, the show started with the **David P. Abbott Award** being presented to **Ryan Chandler**, who represented us well last year with his appearance on *Penn & Teller's Fool Us*. After that, emcee **Dave Arch** kicked things off with a wonderful Cards Across routine using some young volunteers from the audience and a great optical illusion using Past National President, Harry Houdini.

Theron Christiansen took the stage next with his helper, Mortimer the mouse. He finished his act with a volunteer from the audience who helped him with a "do as I do" water trick. Fortunately for the volunteer, the water vanished at the last minute before he got soaked. Before the next act, Dave enlisted volunteers from the audience to perform a fun, interactive card routine. **Larry Brodahl** was next. His incredible magic was only overshadowed by his remarkable sense of humor. He started with a fun handkerchief transposition followed by a rope-through-neck routine that used volunteers from the audience. **Jeff Sikora** was next on stage. His set kicked off with a Walking Through Steel illusion followed by a rope routine that ended with the rope transforming into five rope loops. Next was an homage to **Walt Graham** as he performed the Checkers, Rice & Orange trick. His set ended with a comedy vanishing bottle routine and a vanishing water routine. Before the next act, Dave did an interactive trick with the audience that involved a very cool app on their phone. **Denny and Ann Rourke** were next. The set started with the classic manipulation that Denny is so well known for and ended with a volunteer from the audience on the receiving end of a 6-foot-tall guillotine. **Ryan Chandler** was our final act, and he lived up to his reputation. Only he could pull off a card prediction that involved using a bow & arrow. His signature dry wit kept the entire audience entertained throughout his act.

It was a pleasant surprise to have S.A.M. Past National President **Christopher Bontjes** and his wife, **Julie** come visit us from Illinois for the banquet. Many of the National S.A.M. Officers have said that our banquet is among the best, and we owe a great deal of thank to our Banquet Committee for maintaining the high standards all these years.

There is BIG news from the Society of American Magicians! First of all, there's going to be a Celebration in Chicago this summer to honor Assembly #3 as they reach their 100-year anniversary! From June 27th-29th there will be lots of fun; two great shows; four lectures, a magic flea market and a chance to visit the Chicago Magic Lounge. But that's not all...the S.A.M. has also contracted with a NEW insurance provider that can offer you great liability insurance at a VERY low rate. I'm very excited about this. It's just another example of how the S.A.M. is working for YOU. (but you must be a member of the S.A.M. to apply for coverage.) For more information on either of these topics, visit www.magicsam.com.

-Jeff Sikora, Secretary - S.A.M. Assembly #7



Our stage performers, **Larry Brodahl, Denny and Ann Rourke**, David P. Abbott Award winner, **Ryan Chandler, Jeff Quinn, Theron Christensen**, and our MC **Dave Arch**

Photo by Tom Zepf



This Month's Meeting

Our February meeting is fast approaching and the topic will be Mentalism and Mental Magic. This is a wildly popular subgenre of magic that is constantly growing in popularity around the world. According to Phil Goldstein in his popular "PRISM" series, there are only 4 powers a mentalist could potentially have: Telekinesis, Psychokinetic, Precognition, and Clairvoyance. He also states that no mentalist should have all of these abilities, a performer/character should pick only one or maybe two to portray. I have spent several years studying the art of mentalism devouring every book on the subject that I can get my hands on, so forgive me if the above terminology isn't common knowledge amongst my fellow magicians. Here is a breakdown of the terminology:

Telekinesis: The ability to read minds.

Psychokinetic: The ability to move objects with your mind (spoon bending and Banachek's PK touch fit into this category).

Precognition: The ability to glimpse into or predict future events.

Clairvoyance: The ability to sense "things" from intimate objects. (Psychometry routines usually revolve around this ability and some Q and A routines).

These terms are specific to Mentalism, but the term Mental Magic broadens the type of effects that can be done under this genre. Mental magic can be anything from amazing feats of memory to complex mathematical calculations being done in someone's mind to apparent body language reading and Hellstromism (muscle reading).

If you are thinking to yourself "I don't know any mentalism effects", you are in luck. I will be teaching a very useful bit of mentalism that can be used on stage, in a walk around environment, or really anywhere as it is fairly impromptu. I have had great success with this 3-phase routine and now I want to give it to you guys. As a follow up, I will be teaching an additional piece of

mentalism for the OMS Video Library that works well with the routine I will be teaching at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing what everyone brings to share with our group, see you Monday February 18th! - **David Michael Fox - Vice President**



We're doing something new and exciting in our S.Y.M. meetings this year. We've given all of our members a copy of "Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic" to use as a

workbook throughout the next year. Our plan is to cover tricks from that wonderful book at our meetings. This gives our members the benefit of having the instructions right there on their bookshelves. **Denny Rourke, Steve Nespore** and I are so proud of how our members are progressing. – **Jeff Sikora**



This has proven itself to be one of the closest, finest, and most cost-effective conventions around with magic dealers, shows, lectures, and always a special guest of national or international prominence.

Held in Des Moines, Iowa from May 17-19, you can read more about it and register by going to its website: <http://abracorndabra.com/>

Many OMS members attend, and we encourage you to seriously consider it for this year.

The Omaha Magical Society website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

Video Library Additions



This month we've added a video by full-time professional OMS member, **Joe Cole**, as he gives tips on one of his proven sponge ball routines. Thank you, Joe.

All OMS members have access to this ever-growing resource with teaching videos for Easy, Intermediate, and Advanced.

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.

If you have yet to renew your membership for 2019, you can do also do that on our website.



Interest Groups

Would you want to get together with others in the club and pursue a specific interest area in magic (i.e. magic history, collecting, card flourishes, mentalism, etc.) outside of the regular monthly meetings? If so, please let us know of your desire through contacting us through the homepage of our website.



School Sorcery

Might you be interested in volunteering to teach a four-week magic class in an elementary, middle school or high school? Just let us know through the website.

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

Some photos from the 2019 Wizard's Banquet.



Banquet Photo by Tom Zepf



Lacey, Ryan, & Rex Chandler and the Wizard



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Photogaoher Tom Zepf and our Wizard



Donna Roth - Decorations



Shaydn Olsen at the Social Hour

Donna Roth and **Roger Reese** did an excellent job on our decorations. **Dick Sanders** was able to have the Wizard attend this year. **Neil Bable**, **Shayden Olsen**, **Johnny Thompson** and **Denny Rourke** were among those performing during the Social Hour. Many thanks to the many who made this year's banquet such an enjoyable time.

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