



# The Flash Paper

## February 2021

**Bob Gehringer, Editor**



## Prez Sez

I recently received a phone call from a magician in Portland, Oregon who had been a member of the Omaha Magical Society as a teenager in the 1950s. He had read about what is

going on with the OMS in the Assembly News reports in MUM magazine and wanted to reach out and reconnect to the club of his youth.

One of the things he was very intrigued by was our Cross Pollination efforts with other clubs around the country. He was quick to note that he believed his club would be interested in hosting such an event and was eager to bring it up at their next meeting. He also appreciated how fast it sounded like we were able to pivot and adapt to Zoom in the current climate. He is looking forward to being a guest at a coming meeting and I was quick to tell him to schedule some extra time after the official meeting concluded to hang around for the after-meeting where folks swap ideas, brainstorm solutions, and explore new methods and technologies. I have also asked Patrice Fisher to reach out to him and set up an interview for her column. As we move through our 100<sup>th</sup> year it might be interesting to hear what the club was like half a century ago in the eyes of a teenager.

Speaking of Young Magicians, I thought I would share with you some comments from our OMS Junior Magicians. In this month's Discover Magic trick that we taught, the patter had to do with how valuable time is to

us all. I took the opportunity to ask them just why it is that they keep coming back so faithfully week after week. There were a variety of responses and I have included a brief sample, as well as some translations into adult-speak.

*"It's fun and you get to meet people you might not otherwise get to meet."* Two of our members Zoom in from outside Omaha. One is in Kearney, NE and the other is from Sergeant Bluff, IA in the Sioux City area. We see much the same with OMS members who might not otherwise be able to attend.

*"I like to learn the secrets behind the tricks and see the reaction on people's faces when I perform."* Isn't that much like many of us feel when we present effects?

*"It's fun and keeps me busy when I am over at my grandparent's house."* There may be a spouse or two among us who appreciates the break as well.

*"Magic is a way to connect and share with people."* Yep, 'nuff said.

*"It's better than doing homework."* Or housework, or whatever else we should be doing.

*"I like to use it to make other people happy."* Out of the mouths of babes.

Until next time.

P.S. Small bonus in this month's column - leave this newsletter somewhere conspicuous and use your favorite card force to show someone that there is a club member who has a psychic bunny.



## A Case for Strolling Magic

Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

7-8:30 PM



We've learned the importance of being flexible of late. Our February cross-pollination meeting had to be rescheduled for later in the year so we've moved up a future meeting topic and asked a few of our members who are experienced with performing strolling magic to show us their close-up bag, what they typically have in it, and perhaps show a favorite effect. Members should have their close-up cases handy for a little show-and-tell as well.

When ready to join, just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> (which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).

Hope your schedule allows you to attend.

### Cross Pollinating

Flash back to the update from last September, 2020, when our club was entertained by members from the Kansas City club. Their magic show was one of the highlights of the year. They were reciprocating a show performed by our members, **Larry Brodahl**, **David Fox**

and **Jered Schaugaard**, to their club that same month.

Once our OMS members knew of that performance, we wanted to see the show ourselves as well! That happened at our first meeting of the new year, when Larry, David and Jered gave us their time and talents with a show virtually via ZOOM.

**Larry Brodahl** kicked-off the evening with his comedic style that included a rope trick and a "fish tale." Then, volunteer Tom Neddo assisted with a card trick to highlight one of the most powerful tools of a magician--that of honing the skill of lying. Larry is a master at scripting a program, and he did not disappoint.

Next up was **David Fox**. He entertained us with his mentalism skills. Using a volunteer to choose a number from one to ten, David showed his ability to guess that number by using "great concentration." Then, he amazed us when his volunteer guessed the name of a movie that David had predicted. It was a very creative presentation. It was also fun to see David's 3D Printer behind him because he so generously gave a lecture on that technology at one of our previous meetings.

Then came **Jered Schaugaard**, who had a great backdrop that looked like a real stage. His volunteer, **Tim Begley**, helped Jered showcase his expertise at slight-of-hand and mind reading using a "new" deck of cards. Finishing his set, Jered performed a trick using a Rubik's cube and a paper bag. We watched as he placed the cube in the empty bag. Then, skillfully and smoothly he retrieved it fully solved. But that was not the only item in that paper bag. The trick ended by Jered pulling not only the solved Rubik's Cube from the bag, but an unspilled glass of liquid and a miniature Rubik's cube.

After their sets, each magician walked us through their tricks in precise detail. They also included their lecture notes to download.

It was a real gift they gave to the twenty-seven members who attended the meeting. Our OMS members expressed sincere gratitude for the time and tricks they so kindly shared with us. - **Patrice Fisher**



## Our Duty of Novelty

*"You must have something always new wherewith to dazzle."*

--Harry Kellar

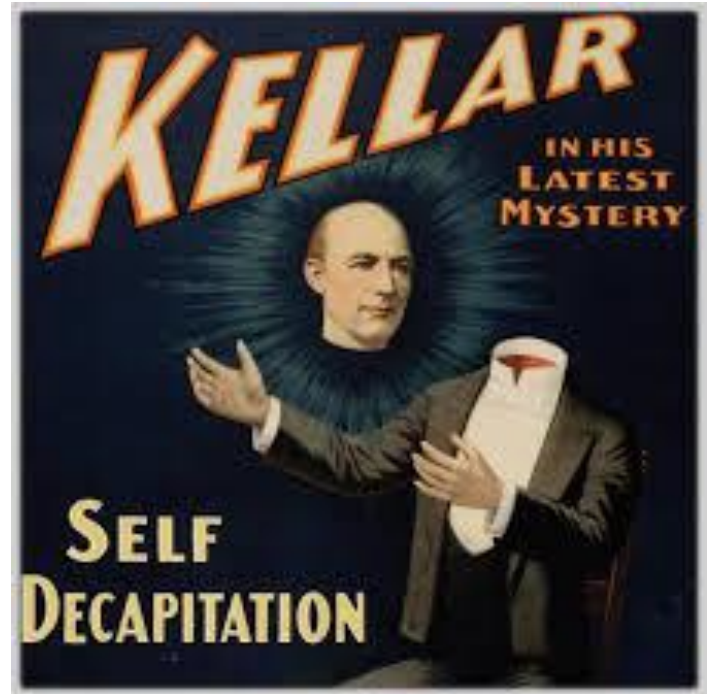
Even Harry Kellar, who was not especially creative or inventive, recognized the overarching importance of novelty in magic. To fuel his

ever-evolving illusion show with new ideas, he relied heavily on creative minds like the Davenport Brothers, de Kolta, Maskelyne and Devant, Valadon, Morrit, Pepper, and Thorn. His self-decapitation and levitating head illusion, which was one of his most unique ideas, grew out of the collaborative atmosphere of Martinka's Magic Shop—where the parent assembly of the Society of American Magicians was formed.

Kellar recognized that, unlike a favorite song you never tire of hearing, a piece of magic tends to lose a major portion of its appeal when the audience is already familiar with it. The difference with magic is that its whole perceived value lies in its promise to accomplish an effect that the audience does not expect to be possible. So, if the audience *does* expect the effect to be possible, the magic becomes less real—less important. Consequently, if all magicians are performing the same wonderful tricks, to the point the effects are becoming predictable, the collective maximum impact of our magic is sacrificed. Put simply, strong magic requires novelty.

The good news is that novelty is relative, which means you do not have to come up with an effect that has never been performed throughout all of history to create strong magic. You need only create magic that is novel to *you*, the memories and

expectations of *your audience*, and the performing repertoires carried by *contemporary magicians*.



Like Kellar, you can collaborate with other magicians—including magicians from the past—to generate ideas for novel magic. Through historical texts, for instance, you can introduce yourself to Jean Hugard, and be inspired by his forgotten effect, *"Fairy Fountains,"* in which a fountain of water appears anywhere the magician touches his magic wand. You can grow an idea out of Bill Stickland's *"Growth of Time,"* in which a pocket watch literally grows into a mantle clock and then into a stately grandmother clock. Or you can resurrect David Abbott's *"Talking Teakettle,"* which whispered astonishing secrets to members of his audience as they held its spout to their ears. In the words of Gene Anderson: "There are literally hundreds of tricks just waiting to be done—tricks that have seldom, if ever been seen . . ." Choose to show them something new. Choose to show them something they have never seen before. Choose to show them strong magic. - **Theron Christensen**





### What's Your Magic Story by Patrice Fisher

#### Bruce Jacoby

Grace and giving came to mind as I interviewed Bruce Jacoby, a member of our OMS for over a decade. His magic story did not begin with a magic kit as a child; instead, it began while searching for an impactful way to best serve his ministry.

In 2005, while attending a Children's Ministry convention, Bruce decided to attend a workshop entitled Using Illusions for a Message. Immediately, he realized the power that magic gives when teaching children the Gospel. At that moment, creative ideas started ruminating, and his magic journey began.

After the convention, Bruce started looking into ways he could utilize this newfound love in his ministry and teaching. Magicians **David** and **Teasha Laflin** were the instructors at the workshop. He started using the illusions he learned from them to assist in storytelling and illustrating Bible studies with the children at his church. After word got around that Bruce was using these fun and exciting ways of teaching, he was asked to be a closer for a church outreach program. That was the first big stage event that he performed, and led to so many more.

Living in Lincoln, Bruce began to get to know the magic community there and in Omaha. In 2008, he was a founding member of the Lincoln Magic Club for S.A.M. 293. That same year, Bruce earned his Bachelor's Degree in Christian Ministry from Grace University in Omaha. His studies were a success, but the Lincoln Magic Club never could hold together over the years. Bruce was also a member in the Omaha Magical Society before the Lincoln club.

This led Bruce to meet **Jeff Quinn**, who became a good friend. Jeff not only taught him various routines but also

helped him to expand his stage performances for child care centers and other family-based venues.

Also, around this time, while listening to the radio, Bruce tuned into an interview with a Los Angeles comedian, **Michael Jr.** While taking a break outside of the downtown club where he performed, **Michael Jr.** saw a homeless man sitting against a wall across the street. Michael simply walked across that street where he felt God's nudging to perform for him. That day, that man, for those moments, laughed and became an audience, not just a person other walked past on the street. Bruce knew there was a reason he tuned into that station. He wanted to further dedicate himself to make magic for people in need of humor and happiness.



With that goal, Bruce started his non-profit **Make a Difference Magic**. He began entertaining the patients at the children's wards of CHI St. Elizabeth and Madonna Rehabilitation hospitals in Lincoln twice a week before the pandemic hit. He is hoping to resume that volunteer work once cases start to decline and restrictions lift.



Bruce's skills include silks, sponge balls and small stage illusions, some mentalism tricks, and balloon twisting. Bruce's favorite shows are family shows. Bruce first learned balloon twisting from **Teresa Forst** whose alias is **Shades the Clown**. Bruce considers her one of his strongest mentors.



The art of balloon twisting, along with his magic, has gained him many shows and has enhanced his work with children at birthdays, churches, schools and hospitals. In fact, Bruce does three different shows for schools--Read to Succeed, You've Got The Power, an anti-bullying program, and a Discover Science program. In the past he has also taught magic at the Bright Lights summer classes for kids.

Colorful Magic by Bruce comprises much of his time when he is not working in his full-time maintenance position at The College of Hair Design in Lincoln. That long-term position has allowed him the flexibility to practice his magic. Along with building his skills and building various illusions for his stage acts, Bruce has

also succeeded in building a career as a magician in southeast Nebraska and the surrounding areas.

If you see Bruce's name pop-up at our monthly OMS Zoom meetings, please say hello and know that his association with us just might be fate caused by a greater good.



### 2021 OMS Officers

**President –**

Steve Nespor ..... [omahamagician55@gmail.com](mailto:omahamagician55@gmail.com)

**Vice President –**

Jered Schaugaard ..... [jered.incredible@gmail.com](mailto:jered.incredible@gmail.com)

**Treasurer –**

Bob Gehringer ..... [gehringerr@cox.net](mailto:gehringerr@cox.net)

**Sgt-at-Arms –**

Amjad Alawimari ..... [mrwho.magic@gmail.com](mailto:mrwho.magic@gmail.com)

**Patrice Fisher**

**has been nominated for**

**Secretary of the Omaha Magician Society**

As you may know, any vacancies in office shall be filled by the majority vote of those members in attendance at any regular meeting. At our February meeting we will be voting on **Patrice Fisher** to fill the vacancy for OMS Club Secretary.





### By Dave Arch

In this game, the volunteer is given the choice of three envelopes in an attempt to win a prize. No matter which envelope is selected, they miss the best prizes and end up with a consolation prize!

In preparing for this routine, take three number ten business security (opaque) envelopes and either number them 1, 2, and 3 or use a word on the outside of each envelope that fits the theme of your performing environment. You are not limited to only three envelopes either. Take three 8.5" X 11" sheets of paper and print on each one a different truly great prize that anyone would enjoy winning (i.e., an all-expense paid trip, a car, a flat screen TV, etc.). Fold these into thirds and place one into each of the envelopes. After placing the paper in the envelope, tuck in the envelope's flap as though you were getting ready to mail the envelope – trapping the piece of paper under the flap. Now take three more 8.5" X 11" pieces of paper and print on each one the same prize (one that you're really willing to give away). The prize can be anything from a keychain, to a pen, to a lottery ticket or to a heartfelt round of applause. In fact, in relation to the prizes you use, most companies or associations have a closet full of advertising premiums

with their logo in them that you just might be able to incorporate into this routine with just a little bit of forethought. Fold these sheets into thirds and insert them into the envelopes but on the outside of the inserted flaps (not underneath the flaps). You are now ready to begin.

Invite a volunteer on stage to play a game for a potentially great prize. Show her the envelopes and invite her to choose either envelope number 1, 2, or 3. Of course at this point, she can be invited to change her mind. After she settles on the envelope, reach in and slightly withdraw her prize paper (of course it's the one on the outside of the inserted flap) – having her remove it fully. Please note: You never let go of the selected envelope.

Before having her open her paper, suggest that you look to see what she didn't win. Take the other two envelopes and one at a time open the flap and withdraw the innermost paper – reading and showing her the prize she didn't win. Finally, have her open and read the prize she did win. Congratulate her on her winnings.

Please Note: To take the sting out of not winning the greatest prizes here are four suggestions:

1. Do **NOT** build the anticipation of this prize giveaway – announcing it throughout the show. This needs to be done spur-of-the-moment. In my experience, the payoff will not sustain a big build-up.
2. Include a lottery ticket if you're worried about the sting. At least it *COULD* be worth a million dollars!
3. Have the prize giveaway almost as an after-thought for someone who has helped you in another routine.
4. As the volunteer leaves the stage, use the line "And that's how we save on the budget around here." This line plays particularly strong when you're performing for a corporate organization or association group where they know each other and there's a common culture understood by all.





## Ten Weary Travelers

Although hardly an earth-shattering mystery, this pleasant interlude is the reenactment of a poem first published in Harper's Young Weekly in 1883. As the story unfolds, the magician physically demonstrates the mystery as ten weary travelers successfully fit into only nine bedrooms at the inn without any needing to share a room.



Please remember that on February 1, all club passwords were changed. If you're a current OMS member and didn't get the new password, please let us know through the contact form on our homepage. If you have not renewed your membership, you may also do that on our club website.

Check out our website:  
<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



## Mike Super Magic and Illusion Show Coming to Lincoln

Remember when you used to be able to attend a LIVE magic show? Well, you can again with two performances on Saturday, February 20th at the Lied Center for The Performing Arts in Lincoln when Mike Super comes to town. Ticket and show information can be found at: <https://www.liedcenter.org/event/mike-super>



## Joe Cole's Schedule

- Sunday:** 6 to 8pm **Good Life Bar & Grill**  
20231 Manderson St, Elkhorn, NE
- Monday:** 6 to 8pm **Good Life Bar & Grill**  
180th and Pacific
- Wednesday:** 6 to 8pm **Good Life Bar & Grill**  
96th & Highway 370
- Thursday:** 7 to 9pm **Upstream Brewery Downtown**  
You can also see my schedule here:

<http://omahamagic.com/weekly-shows/>



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13405 Marinda ST.  
Omaha, NE 68144

