



# The Flash Paper

## February 2023

**Bob Gehringer, Editor**



### A Letter from Lindy

WE'RE SETTING RECORDS! As of now, 2023 membership has surpassed an all-time high. With the addition

of 3 new people joining at the January meeting. This has pushed us past the 50-member mark. Lots of new faces, so be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club when you get the chance.

The O.M.S. was well represented at Magifest this year. With 10 members making their way to Columbus Ohio. (Including some attending their first ever convention.) You can read more about it in **Jered Schaugaard's** article elsewhere in this issue. I will say what struck me was everyone, from the biggest names in magic to hobbyists, from adults to kids, all sitting together showing moves and taking magic. I understand this went on until 3:00am. (Right David?)

I want to thank **Steve Osborn** for agreeing to head up "Magic in the Hospitals." He has already contacted Children's Hospital and the Med Center gathering information on their protocols to get this program off the ground. If you'd like to get involved contact Steve, I know he'd appreciate the help.

For our first lecture of the year, we had not 1, but 2 world class performers. An excellent lecture, heavy on mentalism. You could see the excitement in the eyes of all those who attended. Circumstances beyond our

control prevented us from live streaming on zoom. If you did miss it, be sure to read **Roger Reece's** report.

Check out our February meeting poster. It is **Bring a Trick Night**. And a new feature: **It's Debatable!** Also note the **UNO Library Event Notice** featuring the OMS collection in March. Scan the QR code for more info. **Larry Brodahl** and I will be performing. Until next month, spread the magic!

### Our January Lecture



The Omaha Magical Society had a special lecture for its monthly meeting in January that featured performers **Guy Bavli** and **Haim Goldenberg**. Two very creative and imaginative magicians who specialize in mentalism. The 25 people who attended were both engaged and amazed during their 2-hour lecture. Guy and Haim would each take turns showing an effect and then explaining it. They shared tips throughout the evening on how to make your magic better.

Haim began with a drawing duplication routine where he was able to duplicate a drawing by **Adam Schacht** although he was not looking at what Adam drew. He definitely surprised the audience with the clever gimmick that makes this possible. He then went on to



perform an effect, with **Joyce Becwar Chleboun** as his assistant, where he attempted to make her forget a page number in a book. And, he also showed a forcing device using a plastic bag.



His big finish was a Rubik's Cube routine, named *Cubism*, that involved four un-gimmicked cubes and his attempt to solve them all within one minute. He began the routine with one cube but decided to up the difficulty by adding three more cubes. He then put on a blindfold and declared he would finish all four cubes in one minute. As an

audience member was counting to 60, Haim twisted and turned the cubes resulting in all 4 continuing to have random patterns. At the 34 second mark he declared he was done and removed the blindfold. As the audience could plainly see, the cubes were not solved. Haim then surprised the audience with a special reveal on the cubes when they were turned around.

Guy's first routine began by asking **Bruce Jacoby** to think of any number from 1 – 100. Guy wrote down a number on a pad and paper and then asked Bruce what number he was thinking of. Guy turned his pad around to show the correct number. Guy went on to show the method and discussed "nail writing". Both Guy and Haim talked about the different "nail writing" gimmicks than can be used to accomplish this effect as well as many other similar type effects. They then showed the "thumb writer" gimmick that they prefer to use that can be reshaped to fit each person using it. Guy created a special notepad board, he calls the "*Wami Board*", to allow you to better write with one hand.

Once again Adam was called upon to assist Guy while he performed his version of 'PK Touches', called "*My Touch*". This is an effect where the assistant closes their eyes and the magician can make them feel that they are being touched even though the audience does not see them being touched by the magician. A Spoon bending routine was later shown as well as a routine where a

signed selected key was threaded on a string and placed in **Tim Begley's** hand. With Tim's fist closed around the key, Guy used his mental powers to try and bend the key. Tim opened his hand, and sure enough, the key was clearly bent.

A Double Reality Routine with a *Tel's Bell* prop where the spectator's hearing goes on the fritz but not the audiences was another fun routine from Guy. He made the spectator think that his hearing was being altered while not affecting the audience. Guy would use a hand bell to prove he could make the spectator unable to hear it while the audience could. What the spectator didn't know was that the magician could control when the bell would ring or not ring and the audience was in on the gag and played along with the magician.

He then finished the evening with his clever version of *Confabulation* that he will release at the Blackpool, England Magic Convention this month. My explanation does not do this effect justice, but here goes. He began by asking six spectators different questions which he then wrote down on a piece of paper so we wouldn't forget. He then pointed to a big red balloon that had been stuck to the wall all evening. He said that earlier in the evening he placed a prediction inside the balloon. He held the balloon up to the light and shook the balloon so that we could all see something within it. He had **Bob Gehringer** come up front, sit down in a chair and he proceeded to place sun glasses on Bob's eyes and a red pillow on his lap for protection. The big balloon was



placed on the pillow and Bob's hands were placed on top to hold it down. Bob proceeded to pop the balloon and he picked up the prediction from the balloon that fell on the pillow. The prediction was read and it matched the items the six spectators provided.

After the lecture, Guy and Haim went on to sell their effects they had shown the club, as well as others they did not have time to perform. Based on the crowd around their table, and what I observed, I would say that their sales were very good. - **Roger Reese**





## Monday Night

## Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

# BRING-A-TRICK

It may be a trick you don't know how to work.  
Or a trick that looked good on a demo video but has never lived up to your expectations.  
Tap into an awesome 300+ years of magic knowledge in the room and on Zoom by  
brainstorming ideas with others at your table (or in a breakout room). Get ideas for  
taking your magic performance up to a higher level.

In addition . . . there will be a NEW feature entitled "It's Debatable!"  
in which three hot magic topics will be tossed to the group for  
energizing discussion and debate.

**SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON ZOOM:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023 | 7-8 PM (CST)**

The Cross Training Center • 5030 N. 72nd Street • Omaha, Nebraska

No charge for attending this event.



## Larry's Logic

### Face up

When we last talked, we were trying to answer WHY we deal the cards face up for the 21 Card Trick? And the only answer I could think of was that dealing them face up is **only** needed to make it easy for the spectator to find his card easily.

So, I tried doing the trick with the cards face down. No other changes. And the trick still works. You just have to pick up each pile and look for your chosen card.

So why do I want him to pick up each pile and look for his card? Answer: So **MY** trick will work. And honestly, this motivation doesn't interest the spectator at all.

But let me start by stating a non-obvious fact. IF a trick has a process that is **NON-MODIFIABLE AND IS REQUIRED TO MAKE THE TRICK WORK**, the **only fix is through scripting**.

And knowing which pile contains his card is **EXACTLY** this problem.

So, let's turn to scripting, and one of my favorite tricks. [This works in real life too!]

I'm going to make **MY** problem turn into **HIS** problem. See, this is how bosses work. And in my magic, I'm the boss!

So, how do I make **HIM** want to know which pile his card is in? We need him to have skin in the game. So, let's find a plot for this trick.

Why would he want to know which pile contains his card? Well, there's really only 1 reason.

He needs to **GAIN SOMETHING** by knowing. But what can he gain?

Money, knowledge, proof, fame, glory ... the list is endless. So instead of trying to guess which one will fit best, I set up the theme of the script and allow common sense to tell me the solution.

We could make this into a 3 card Monte type of approach, where he bets money and .... well, tossing 21 cards seems excessively stupid.

How about instead we let him **GUESS** which pile contains his card? So the question **NOW** becomes "why does he want to guess the pile".

Even worse, if he guesses incorrectly, we need him to look at another pile. (If the chosen card isn't in pile 1 or 2, we can assume it's in pile 3.)

Now for brevity, I'm going to skip all of the iterations of these questions I went through and give my answer.

He needs to guess which pile contains his card to confirm how close he was to being right.

So it's now sort of a test feeling. Multiple choice with ranked answers. And it's at this point I decided that there were 2 logical premises to this trick. 1. Testing his luck/intuition 2. testing his psychic powers.



Guess which one I decided to use. And if you didn't say "psychic", then your intuition sucks!

Yeah, psychic powers! Something that I think





everyone would love to have, which means I have an automatic level of interest.

So, we lay out the 3 piles of cards and the spectator indicates which pile he is POSITIVE contains his card. He also indicates which pile MIGHT contain his card. And of course, the final pile is the pile that he is sure DOES NOT contain his card.

So, we deal out the cards face down, and he makes THREE guesses. Does, might, does NOT. And then HE checks by picking up the DOES pile and looking for his card. If he succeeds, cheers all around.

If he misses, he looks in the pile that MIGHT have his card. If it's there, again, good job.... just a little off.

And if both miss, awww. Poor guy. Not very psychic. So I now have developed a way to do the entire trick with face-down cards and the magician will NEVER see the faces except during the selection process.

Of course, it might get hard to keep track of which pile he thinks is DOES, etc. So we'll use markers. Again, for brevity we'll skip some thinking and decide to use money.

Quarter = pile DOES contain. Nickle = pile MIGHT contain. Penny = pile does NOT contain.

Next time: **Why 3 times?**

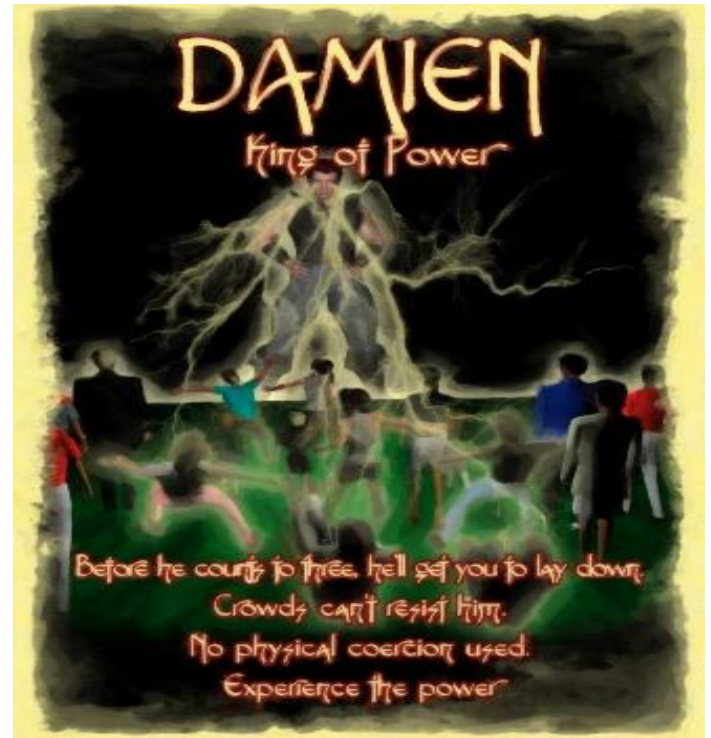


**Check out our website:**

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

### 2023 OMS Officers

**President** – Steve Lindeman..... [amazinglindy@gmail.com](mailto:amazinglindy@gmail.com)  
**Vice President** – Bruce Jacoby..... [bruce@colorfulmagic.com](mailto:bruce@colorfulmagic.com)  
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**Executive Director** - Dave Arch ..... [dave@sandler.com](mailto:dave@sandler.com)



## Side Show Spoofery

The posters could be seen all over town. The world-renowned hypnotist Damien had made an outlandish claim. As you can see from the poster, he promised to successfully get EVERYONE in the audience to lay down!

The theater was packed that night as the house lights dimmed. Onto the stage walked the imposing person the audience had been eagerly waiting to see. A pinpoint spot lit him as he stood on the stage and solemnly asked everyone to stand, be completely quiet and look into his eyes. Everyone complied. Not a sound could be heard in the theater.

He was about to fulfill the poster promise. "One," he said in his deep resonant voice. "Two," he counted as an anticipatory hush fell over the crowd.

Then he dramatically turned on his heels, walked off the stage into the wings, out the stage door - getting into his Uber to be driven to the airport. Yet later that evening as one audience member after another went to bed, no one could claim that this man of mystery hadn't fulfilled his promise.



### Money Mentalism

Anyone in the audience removes an American coin from their pocket. It can be either a penny, quarter, nickel, or dime. They have a totally free choice. You ask them to concentrate on the name of the President that appears on the coin. Letter by letter you successfully tell them their thoughts even though there is no way you can see the coin!

Thank you, Karl Fulves, for bringing this short impromptu piece of mentalism to our attention.

Have a spectator remove an American coin from his pocket and look at the President's picture on the coin. Remind him or her as to who is on which coin. Roosevelt is on the dime, Lincoln is on the penny, Washington is on the quarter, and Jefferson is on the nickel.



Only use the last names of the Presidents as you remind the spectator whose picture is on each coin. The reason for this will be apparent as the routine progresses.

For the routine to work you need only remember the letters N-I-L in that order.

Close your eyes and pretend to think psychic thoughts. Then say, "The President you are looking at . . . his name contains the letter 'N'." If the spectator says no, reply, "I meant that his first name, Franklin, contains two 'N's. His name is Roosevelt." You will be correct.

If the spectator says yes to "N", say, "there's also an 'I'" If the spectator says no, reply, "I meant that you see only one eye because he's standing sideways in the picture. It's President Jefferson, isn't it? You will be correct.

If the spectator says yes to "I", say, "I see what look like an 'L'." If the spectator says no to "L", reply, "Now that I think of it, that "L" is really the number one, which stands for our first President, George Washington." You will be correct.

If the spectator says yes to L, say, "The letters N, I, L are really the first three letters of his name in reverse order. You're thinking of Abraham Lincoln, aren't you?" You will be correct.

As soon as you get your first NO answer, you know the name of the President.

Probably similar to Kenton Knepper's K.E.N.T. impromptu card trick, its greatest impact arguably might be found in a series of mentalism from the stage where this is used as a warm-up with the mentalist staying on stage and working with someone in the back row of the audience.





## COLLECTIONS UNCORKED

*A Magical Evening*




### COLLECTIONS UNCORKED: A MAGICAL EVENING

March 24, 2023

6:00 P.M.

Criss Library  
University of Nebraska at Omaha



This magical evening includes multiple food stations with exceptional wine pairings. During the event, guests will have the opportunity to experience live magic, and interact with the recently acquired Omaha Magical Society book collection!

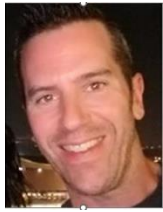
Tickets are \$100 per person. The proceeds will go to the UNO Library Friends, who in turn, provide scholarships for UNO students.

Scan the QR code or visit the URL to learn more about this event and purchase tickets.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
402.554.2640 | [library.unomaha.edu/cu](http://library.unomaha.edu/cu)

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### Magifest 2023 by Jered Schaugaard

This is an excerpt of Jered's review. To read the interesting full 8-page write-up check this link: <https://bit.ly/3jLJRkE> In his write up Jered gives detailed vivid descriptions of the events from his perspective. He includes many links to videos and podcasts.

A caravan of Nebraska magicians descended on Columbus, Ohio, for Magifest 2023.



The next morning, we met for breakfast. Doing our impressions of non-intrusive paparazzi, we called out all of the "celebrity" magicians that walked in and out while we ate, sipped coffee, and planned our afternoon. We saw several, but of note, were **Shoot Ogawa** and **Lance Burton**.

There is a little fireplace nook with some comfy seating, just outside the bar, where groups of magicians were already jamming. We stopped in and jammed for a bit. **David Williamson** made an appearance and we had a great conversation with him; what a genuinely humble guy.

As it drew closer to the five o'clock hour, a line began to form for the opening of the Dealer's Room. At five, the doors opened and a thousand magicians stormed in (this might sound like hyperbole, but it's not.)

The **Charles Greene** historical lecture started at 5:30pm. **Michael Huot**, the creator of the popular effect SOCKS, lectured at 7:00pm. At 8:00pm, **Mark James**, an English magician and creator of my favorite magic podcast, *Talking Shitick* (now discontinued), performed his latest

working show. Easily my favorite part of the convention. He performed some classics, told jokes, and juggled cigar boxes. His energy was on spot and the crowd loved it. Later that evening (I think) a few of us had a long conversation with him, where he teased thoughts about his next day's lecture. **Peter Turner**, another English magician, well known for his alternative appearance and his even more alternative approach to mentalism, took the stage at 9:30pm. Throughout the convention, whenever **Peter Turner** sat down at a jamming table, crowds gathered. I heard from our own OMS President that his impromptu performances were extraordinary.

**Kyle Purnell** kicked off Friday morning's events. The Magifest Session started at 1:00pm. It featured **Charles Greene**, who explained some of his pet effects, as well as special guest author **Margalit Fox**. She presented a 45-minute presentation on her best-selling book, *The Confidence Men*, the true story of two men who used mentalism to escape a POW camp. (**Steve Osborn** wrote a book review for the Flash Paper.) There was also a presentation from the Ghana High School Magic Program, which featured magic from students with disabilities.

**Mark Calabrese**, card-cheating expert and noted expletive-linguist, began his lecture at 3:30pm. The **Matt Pritchard** Experience started at 5:30pm and promised to be an interesting look at online, viral videos of magic illusions and in my opinion, Matt really delivered. At 8:00pm, our Vanishing Inc. hosts, **Joshua Jay** and **Andi Gladwin** sat down and interviewed Magifest Guest of Honor, **Lance Burton**. The **David Gerard** mentalism show started at 9:30pm. The ad copy said, "Experience this high-energy show!" and it was not wrong. **David Gerard's** show was tight, well-rehearsed, and a good example of how a professional corporate magician tailors classics for the masses. At 11:00pm, **Chris Ramsay**, well known for his social media presence, recreated his popular YouTube bit, You Flash, You Lose. Running concurrently, **Mark Calabrese** performed bar magic until 12:30am. This seems like a late night, but there were people jamming until the wee hours of the morning, like three and later/earlier.

### Saturday, February 28, 2023

A Magifest favorite, **Mark James'** lecture began at 10:30am. **Paul Gertner** took the stage at 1:30pm. I





wasn't completely sure what the lecture was going to be on, but it ended being a detailed walk through of his not one, not two, but five *Fool Us* performances (fooled them twice). I found the extremes, in which he went to try and fool Penn and Teller, interesting. At 3:30pm, **David Gerard** lectured on the marketing side of the business of magic. 2022 Parlour FISM Champion, **Shoot Ogawa**, lectured at 5:30pm.

Without a doubt, the Gala show is something that everyone was looking forward to. Hosted by the vibrantly talented **Lucy Darling**, the show was a who's who of FISM champions: **Ruben Vilagrاند**, European FISM 2021 Champion of Invention, Mortenn **Christiansen**, FISM 2022, Champion of Comedy Magic, **Erik Tait**, FISM 2022, 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner, **Paul Gertner**, **Shoot Ogawa**, FISM 2022, Champion in Parlor, and finally, **Jun Woo Park**, FISM 2022, Champion of Manipulation



The Gala show wrapped up and once again, **Mark Calabrese** took over the bar for what appeared to be another night of killer bar magic.

This wrapped up the formal events of Magifest 2023. The real magic of a magic convention is the communal euphoria created by a thousand magicians gathering in one place. If you've never been to one, I've heard AbraCORNdabra is a pretty good place to cut your teeth.

If you want to get a verbal review of events, be sure to check out **Scott Wells' *The Magic Word*** podcast. You can hear a short interview with our very own Joe Cole (18'13").

*Magic Word, Day Three Report (Magifest 2023)*

[736: Magifest 2023 - Day Three Report — The Magic Word \(themagicwordpodcast.com\)](https://themagicwordpodcast.com/736:Magifest2023-DayThreeReport)

## The Club's Video Vault



With over 100 videos, the club online video library may be overwhelming. So, during 2023 we want to highlight one or two of the videos each month for your consideration. Here are two.



**Theron Christensen** teaches his routine for *The Miser's Dream* in this first one. Watch his handling honed by years for performing this classic.



**Ryan Chandler** shares his work on *The Chop Cup* again perfected by years of performances both on the street and on stage.

If you're a 2023 member of The Omaha Magicial Society, you have a link and password for accessing the club's video library. If not, you can become a member of the organization here:

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/membership> or let us know if you've lost your link or password.





## Omaha Magical Society - S.A.M. Assembly #7 Facebook Features

### Some snippets for those who don't visit Facebook

#### Magic in the Hospitals:

**Nebraska Med** is up for a show for 6-8 kids and parents and bedside visits of 4-6 rooms. Right now, it's a one-off show. Regular visits would entail background check, training etc. So right now, we have an opportunity to do at least this one show and can discuss more down the line. They say Saturdays won't work for them and have offered three dates. Tuesday March 7, Wed March 8, or Wed Mar 15. I'm thinking maybe 5-6 magicians could do a parole show and some room to room.

**Children's Hospital** also just offered. Tues, Mar 21 at 2pm. This is a show broadcast from their auditorium to patient rooms with some patients attending if they are able.

Please feel free to text me or email me [osborn@cox.net](mailto:osborn@cox.net) and let me know who is willing and available. Should be fun and the kids will love it! - **Steve Osborn**



I had lunch with **Steve Nespor** yesterday, and he mentioned to me a two-year old email he ran across in which we both were celebrating the fact that the club had achieved twenty members for that year. As we now know, this year the club has broken through the 50-member milestone.



I like this graphic not only because it certainly gives a picture to the growth we've seen but also depicts an accurate picture of so many people playing a role in the growth. We have a core of over twenty people who consistently give of their time and or

finances to keep the club moving forward. THANK YOU to each of them.

Please welcome with me our newest members this month **CHARLIE LINK** from Omaha and **MIKE BITTERS** from Council Bluffs. - **Dave Arch**

REZA has invited anyone from The Omaha Magical Society to meet him for a Meet and Greet before his show from 4:00 - 4:45 PM at the Lied Center in Lincoln on Saturday, February 18th.

If you can come, just meet at the front door of the Lied Center a little before 4:00 PM that day.

I've heard that many from the club are planning to



attend the show.

You can watch his promo video at

[REZALIVE.COM](http://REZALIVE.COM)

**Reza - World Class Touring Illusionist**

Reza is as one of today's most highly sought-after entertainers in the touring illusion industry and spectacular performances.



**Joe Stevens** has passed away. Owner of Steven's Magic Emporium in Wichita, Kansas, he had more gentleness and integrity than any dealer I had ever met.

He was the first to professionally develop and widely market

magic video lectures on VHS tapes - setting the stage for today's online streaming videos.

You can read more about him from our club website here: <https://bit.ly/3ReNUII> - **Dave Arch**



## Monday Night Magic

**Monday February 20th 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Cross Training Center  
5030 N. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE

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

13405 Marinda ST.  
Omaha, NE 68144

